

**OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
BLUE MAX "ACE" PROGRAM**

Year	Cases	Recovered Vehicles	Arrests	Bolts	ACEs	Recovered Value
1995	1,017	1,440	953	507	16	\$4,563,000
1996	1,037	851	717	454	15	5,301,000
1997	980	779	667	387	8	5,717,000
1998	1,029	810	607	448	9	5,397,000
1999	1,031	853	647	431	10	5,907,000

1972-1999 Grand Totals

- Cases: 40,855
- Recovered vehicles: 35,847
- Arrests: 26,747
- Bolts: 16,516
- ACEs: 559
- Recovered value: \$153,277,000

1999 Blue Max Recipient

Tpr. James D. Myers - Piqua District Headquarters, Dayton Post

Tpr. James D. Myers was named the 1999 Highway Patrol Blue Max winner for recovering 13 stolen vehicles with on-the-spot apprehensions of 17 suspects. The recovered vehicles had a total value of \$187,000. One of the incidents involved a stolen 1998 Chevy valued at \$35,000. Tpr. Myers initiated a probable cause search which revealed illegal drugs valued at \$200,000. Three suspects were taken into custody without incident.

Tpr. Myers began his Highway Patrol career in November 1991 as a member of the 121st Academy Class and was assigned to the Springfield post. While at Springfield, he was awarded a 1992 Certificate of Recognition. Three years later, he transferred to the Dayton post where he went on to earn an ACE Award in 1996.

Originally from Columbus, Tpr. Myers has attended DeVry Institute of Technology and Ohio University. He currently resides in Springfield with his wife Bennette and their seven-year-old son, James.

1999 ACE Award Recipients

Tpr. Larry R. Barrett - Piqua District, Wapakoneta post

Tpr. Larry R. Barrett earned an ACE Award in September 1999 for recovering five stolen vehicles valued at \$24,200 and apprehending nine suspects, seven of whom were juveniles. One of the vehicles he is responsible for recovering was a 1991 Isuzu valued at \$15,000. Another of the recoveries involved a suspect who attempted to flee, but lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a ditch. Subsequent search of the suspect revealed drug paraphernalia.

Tpr. Barrett started his career with the Patrol as a member of the 124th Academy Class and, upon graduation, was assigned to the Wapakoneta post. A year later, he was reassigned to Fremont, before transferring back to Wapakoneta in 1996. While at Wapakoneta, he was awarded a Certificate of Recognition.

A veteran with almost seven years of service, Tpr. Barrett resides in Waynesfield. He has a five-year-old son, Samuel.

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Tpr. Robert L. Franks - Columbus District, Granville Post

Tpr. Robert L. Franks is a November 1993 graduate of the Patrol's 125th Academy Class. He was assigned to the Wilmington post where he remained until 1996 when he transferred to Granville, his current assignment. Tpr. Franks earned an ACE Award in December 1999 by recovering five stolen vehicles valued at \$77,100 and apprehending seven suspects. His first stolen car recovery involved a 1995 Ford L90 valued at \$42,000. A registration check revealed a stolen entry of the vehicle and its tractor, which was valued at \$10,000. One suspect was taken into custody.

Tpr. Franks is a lifelong resident of Newark. He and his wife, Christina, have three sons: Jared, 10; Sean, 7; and Nicholas, 3.

Tpr. Nathan P. Grose - Columbus District, Delaware Post

Tpr. Nathan P. Grose earned an ACE Award on November 1 by recovering five stolen vehicles valued at \$61,000 and apprehending seven suspects. One of the recovered vehicles was a 1995 Chevy S-10 Blazer valued at \$15,000. The officer ran a check through LEADS and found the vehicle was reported stolen by the Defiance Police Department. One suspect was taken into custody.

Tpr. Grose joined the Highway Patrol in 1997 and trained with the 128th Academy Class. He is currently assigned to the Delaware post.

Tpr. Grose and his wife, Amy, reside in Marion.

Tpr. Harold T. Myers - Piqua District, Springfield Post

Tpr. Harold T. Myers became a member of the Highway Patrol on November 6, 1992 when he graduated with the 123rd Academy Class. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the Springfield post, where he was voted 1996 District Trooper of the Year; 1995 and 1996 Post Trooper of the Year; and earned the 1996 Blue Max and ACE Award.

Tpr. Myers earned an ACE Award by recovering five stolen vehicles valued at \$25,500 and apprehending five suspects. One of the recoveries involved a 1993 Ford Explorer valued at \$10,000. While on patrol, Tpr. Myers observed a vehicle and suspect matching a radio broadcast for a murder. He initiated a felony stop and took one suspect into custody.

Prior to joining the Patrol, Tpr. Myers served in the US Marines, where he was awarded a Good Conduct Medal.

A lifelong resident of Xenia, Tpr. Myers and his wife, Beverly, have two children: Emma, 11; and Lucas, 6.

Tpr. Robert R. Patton - Wilmington District, Hamilton Post

Tpr. Robert R. Patton is a July 1978 graduate of the Highway Patrol's 103rd Academy Class. Assigned to the Hamilton post since that time, this is Tpr. Patton's eighth ACE Award. During his almost 22-year career, he has been awarded a Certificate of Recognition in August 1992; has earned the 1979, 1980, 1983, 1990, 1991, 1995 and 1996 ACE Award; and earned the 1993 Proficiency Award. Originally from Lebanon, Ohio, Tpr. Patton has studied criminal justice at Wilmington College. He and his wife, Lana, have four children: Christopher, 24; Jacob, 19; Joseph, 12; and Christopher, 11. Prior to joining the Patrol, Tpr. Patton served in the U. S. Army.

Tpr. Patton earned an ACE Award when he recovered five vehicles valued at \$22,700 and apprehended six suspects. One of the stolen vehicles he recovered was a 1993 Ford valued at \$9,000.

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Tpr. Scott A. Robinson - Wilmington District, Hamilton Post

Tpr. Scott A. Robinson earned an ACE Award on August 3, 1999 by recovering five stolen vehicles valued at \$42,200 and apprehending six suspects, two of whom were juveniles. One of the vehicles recovered was a 1985 Porsche valued at \$10,000. A check of the vehicle, observed parked and unoccupied at a rest area, revealed it to be stolen. The suspect was located in the rest area and taken into custody. He later admitted to taking the vehicle from the owner but denied harming him. The victim had not been heard from for nine days and the incident was investigated as a homicide.

Tpr. Robinson is a member of the 125th Academy Class. He graduated in 1993 and was assigned to the Hamilton post where he was awarded the 1997 Health and Physical Fitness Award. Tpr. Robinson currently resides in Hamilton, Ohio.

Tpr. Rebekka C. Ruzicho - Columbus District, West Jefferson Post

Tpr. Rebekka C. Ruzicho recovered five vehicles valued at \$10,100 and apprehended six suspects to earn an ACE Award. Her first recovery was a 1991 Buick valued at \$4,000. An NCIC check of the vehicle showed an active stolen vehicle entry from Michigan. The suspect vehicle was stopped and one suspect was taken into custody.

Tpr. Ruzicho joined the Patrol in November 1997 as a member of the 129th Academy Class and was commissioned to the West Jefferson post. A resident of Columbus, Tpr. Ruzicho graduated from The Ohio State University with a bachelor of arts degree in criminology.

Tpr. Jason L. Snodgrass - Piqua District, Springfield Post

A member of the 127th Academy Class, Tpr. Jason L. Snodgrass was commissioned to the Springfield post upon graduation on November 17, 1995. He resides in South Charleston with his wife, Valerie, and their two children: Preston, 6; and Austin, 2.

Tpr. Snodgrass earned an ACE Award for recovering five stolen vehicles valued at \$13,100 and apprehended eight suspects. One of the recovered vehicles was a 1991 Ford valued at \$5,000. The suspect vehicle was stopped for a traffic violation and the driver was subsequently arrested for driving with no operator's license. A search of the suspect revealed several rocks of crack cocaine and marijuana.

Tpr. Shawn M. Whiley - Bucyrus District, Sandusky Post

Tpr. Shawn M. Whiley is a June 1992 graduate of the Patrol's 122nd Academy Class. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the Sandusky post, where he was voted 1999 Post and District Trooper of the Year; and awarded the 1999 Health and Physical Fitness Award.

Tpr. Franks earned an ACE in October 1999 by recovering five stolen vehicles valued at \$22,800 and apprehending six suspects. His third stolen car recovery involved a 1998 Ford Taurus valued at \$20,000. Tpr. Whiley was dispatched to the scene of a one-vehicle crash and during the investigation it was revealed the driver was intoxicated and the vehicle was stolen. The suspect was taken into custody without incident.

Originally from Milan, Tpr. Whiley has studied engineering at Terra Tech College. He and his wife, Lisa, currently live in Norwalk.