



THE INFORMER

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE ASSOCIATION

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GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY HELD FOR STATEWIDE DRIVER TRAINING FACILITY

BLACKSTONE — The reality of a new driver training facility for Virginia law enforcement officers moved one step closer to fruition as the official groundbreaking for the \$15.7 million project was held at Ft. Pickett on July 30.

Lt. Col. Donald Martin was among those state and local officials who broke out the ceremonial shovels and dug up the first clumps of dirt for the long-awaited ceremony.

Work on the initial phase of the project began in August. The Army Corps of Engineers is donating more than \$5 million worth of work on the project through Operation Alliance. Approximately 100 soldiers from Fort Bliss, Texas, will work on the facility for the next couple of years.

The federal government already has donated 700 acres for the facility, which will encompass approximately 400 acres. The other 300 acres will be reserved for a firearms shooting village, similar to the FBI's Hogan's Alley.

The Army Corps of Engineers will grade the land, do the initial grading of the track and install the culverts — all at no cost to the Commonwealth, Martin said.

Depending on subsequent funding from the General Assembly, the project will be completed in stages. The proposal includes a 1.5-mile practical highway course, two skid pan control areas, a serpentine course, a precision driving course, an urban simulation course, a one-mile off-road course and maintenance facilities. The plans also

call for an 11,500 square foot administration and classroom building attached to a 14,000 square foot dormitory. A 3,000 square foot cafeteria building will be connected to the administration building and dormitory by a covered walk way. A 1,200 square foot, three-story control tower will overlook the training facility.

A fully trained staff of VSP employees will operate the track.

Opinions about the need for a Statewide Driver Training Facility vary.

Critics of the facility say the track, which some have labeled "The Road to Nowhere," is a costly project that should not be built during this time of fiscal belt-tightening in Virginia.

Proponents say the track, a project which has been discussed since the mid-1980s, is long overdue. Law enforcement officers train repeatedly with their firearms, yet an officer is far less likely to use his weapon over the course of his career than he is to get injured



Close Up of Course Sketch.

PHOTO BY CORINNE GELLER, VSP PIO

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MEMBERSHIP:

Since taking office in March, I have been asked this question a number of times – what is going on with the Association?

First let me tell you what I said back in December of 2001 when I was running for president of the Association. I quote, "I believe the VSPA should be focused in three key areas: pay, retirement and benefits, but I also understand these tremendous tasks cannot be accomplished by "The Board" alone. It can only be done through our members contacting our friends in the legislature and informing them of our concerns, through our lobbyist and the use of our P.A.C. funds."

What have we done to achieve these goals? In May and June, the VSPA attended the Republican and Democratic caucuses and a fundraiser for a fall-en law-enforcement officer. There we talked with the following Delegates: David Albo, Vincent Callahan, Charles "Bill" Carrico, Jeannemarie Devolites, H. Morgan Griffith, Joseph Johnson, Terry Kilgore, Ryan McDougle, Michelle McQuigg, Richard Saslaw, Kenneth Stolle, Walter Stosch, Jackie Stump, William Wampler and Vivian Watts. We informed them of our concerns and made arrangements to talk to them in more detail about our issues.

In July, the VSPA met with Senator John Chichester, Delegate William Howell-Next speaker of the House, Attorney General Jerry Kilgore, and Secretary of Public Safety John Marshall. We discussed with them our issues that have an impact on the State police employees, the retirees, and the Department. We are now in the process of scheduling more meetings with other legislators during the month of August to discuss our concerns.

The VSPA has increased our P.A.C. funds, and we are currently working with Bill Elwood, our lobbyist, to define our Legislative strategy for the next session. We are now in the process of putting together our legislative agenda. We will be mailing our agenda to the membership in September,

with the expectations that all of our members will contact their legislator and educate them to our current status of our poor pay, benefits and retirement. Without this membership's participation there is a good chance that these issues will not be addressed.

The VSPA has met with the Superintendent about issues the membership has brought to our attention. The Superintendent's solutions to these issues created the following opportunities for personnel to include:

- Allowed outside employment (security details at Dulles and National Airports, Virginia Nuclear Power Plants and Highway Safety Zones)
- Created permanent shifts in certain divisions
- Allowed personnel to work 16 hour shifts; eliminating the 12 hour rule (which allowed working only an additional 4 hours)
- Changed the residential requirement from road miles to air miles
- Improved promotional testing-established a committee that would evaluate and create a promotional system in which the employees would have confidence
- Addressed sworn employee's pay inequities
- Provided regrades for C.E.V.O.s and secretaries
- Provided pagers for on call Troopers

This board has increased our fund raising efforts. We have renegotiated our contract with Civic Development Group (CDG) and our direct mail campaign with LEAD marketing has been a tremendous success. Those two efforts will increase our income this year more than \$300,000.

We have streamlined our merchandise purchasing. We are only doing business with the vendors that support the VSPA. Thanks to our merchandise committee Chairman, 7TH division Rep. Mark Coslett, we have cut the number of our vendors to four. The committee is now in the process of evaluating the number of items in our inventory and is making decisions on



Ed Haith

items we will keep and the ones we will discontinue.

We have asked SSA Howard Cook to chair the conference committee. He has been hard at work planning 2003's event. If last year's contributions to the conference hold true this event will cost very little or we could break even. Start making your plans to attend the conference in March 2003 at Virginia Beach — it is going to be great time!!!

As you can see, we have gotten off to a great start establishing an outstanding working relationship with our legislatures and the Department, this is due to the hard work of your VSPA Board and staff. We expect this to continue as we address our critical concerns of pay, retirement and benefits. As I alluded to earlier, we cannot accomplish our goals without your involvement in contacting and educating our legislatures. Your experiences and circumstances based on the poor pay, benefits, and retirement needs to be personally expressed because it is the only way the lawmakers will completely understand where we are affected on a personal basis by their legislative decisions.

Have a great summer!!!
Sincerely,

Ed Haith

Ground breaking ceremony, continued from page 1

PHOTOS BY CORINNE GELLER, VSP PIO

or cause someone else to be injured in an automobile accident. Law enforcement officials drive their police vehicles daily. They are involved in numerous accidents and occasional chases.

The potential for injury in a crash is much more likely than a shooting incident.

As is the potential for litigation in automobile accidents that occur as the result of improper training.

Ron Bessent, who works for the Department of Criminal Justice Services, said not only could there be lawsuits from innocent victims who have been injured as the result of inadequate training, but there also could be lawsuits from the families of law enforcement officers killed or injured in a crash due to inadequate training.

"It's pretty much the same old story of being reactive as opposed to proactive," he said in an interview in the Spring issue of "Your Virginia State Trooper" magazine. "... The state should provide as many resources as possible to keep these guys safe out there. We see this as a critical need. It's time for Virginia to take the leadership role. Usually the state is creative and futuristic in our thinking; but, with this issue, we've been beating our heads against a wall."





A dump truck hauling shoulder stone overturned June 18 near Lancaster Court House on Route 3. Trooper Chuck Davis responded to the accident, which forced the road to close for over an hour. No serious injuries were reported.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RAPPAHANNOCK RECORD ROBB HOFF

STUARTS DRAFT 7-ELEVEN GIVES 30 TROOPER TEDDIES TO VSPA

Trooper Doug Brydges, Area 17, told the folks at the 7-Eleven in Stuarts Draft about the Virginia State Police Association's Trooper Teddy program. Excited about the program, the employees raised \$270 to buy 30 "Trooper Teddies" to donate to the Association's program.

The money was raised in-house through a couple of raffles and a donation jar.

"It was truly a community effort," said Carolyn Bragg of 7-Eleven. "Our staff was pleased with the response – so we'll probably do it again next year!"



GOT SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?

Contact the VSPA and let us know how we can help.

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IS HIGHWAY PROJECT A BLUE-LIGHT SPECIAL?

By Chris Dovi

Q. Why use police at the head of construction projects? It looks to me like a waste of money since they already put construction ahead signs up. – J. Alley

A. OK. Please tell me you're not serious.

For exercise, I'll expound upon your thesis and postulate that these troopers are likely just sitting on their duffs, listening to the radio and watching traffic.

Surprise. They are. But that's their job description regardless of where they park.

And by taking up posts in front of VDOT workers rather than skulking near darkened tree lines, these troopers are putting themselves in harm's way to protect road crews.

You're right that work zones are usually marked with warning signs.

I'm right when I say the reading comprehension skills of the average motorist aren't worth gambling lives. Can you say "Speed Limit 55"?

With the presence of troopers, and specifically with the presence of their flashing blue lights, they "heighten the alertness of drivers," said Corinne Geller. She dutifully defended trooper work zone assignments. I don't think she needs to.

Many of these troopers have had the proof of their effectiveness hit them square in the trunk.

Drunk and tired drivers weaving their way through work zones have eaten trooper bumpers more often than is worth counting. Alcohol and lack of sleep cause people to steer toward what they're looking at. That

hood ornament turns into a gun sight aimed right for the nearest orange vest.

Without troopers, "many more drivers might have plowed through workers," Geller said.

Not to beat this dead horse, but you also must remember that not all work zones are stationary. Rather than have VDOT workers constantly moving warning signs, a trooper tails them in a blue light-bedecked patrol cruiser - which comes standard with wheels, unlike most signs.

You may also note that posting troopers in the work zone does NOT preclude them from whipping out and snagging your tail for speeding. □

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Letters to the Editor

NLEOMF APPRECIATIVE OF DONATION FROM VSPA

Thank you so very much for the generous \$1,000 contribution you recently made to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF).

I am extremely pleased and proud that so many caring individuals and organizations are doing so much to support our important mission. Your donation has helped to ensure that: New names can be added to the Memorial, important repairs and improvements can be made to the monument; and we can continue our vital efforts to prevent future law enforcement fatalities.

Your donation also brings us closer to our major long-term goal of building the National Law Enforcement Museum on a site directly across the street from the Memorial. This Smithsonian-type facility will greatly enhance our ability to tell the story of law enforcement's immeasurable contribution to our nation – a contribution that has been marked by incredi-

ble acts of heroism and extreme sacrifice.

Please know that your special gift will be put to very good use and will always be remembered. Thanks!

Craig W. Floyd
Chairman

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION THANKS VSPA FOR DONATION

On behalf of the American Heart Association, I want to sincerely thank the Virginia State Police Association for its donation in the amount of \$100. We really appreciate this show of generosity and support of the mission of the American Heart Association.

Cardiovascular disease is the nation's Number One Killer, claiming nearly 1 million lives each year. Since its beginning in 1924, the American Heart Association has been the premier voluntary health organization dedicated to the reduction of disability and death from heart disease and

stroke. The AHA supports this mission through scientific research, professional and public education, community programs and public awareness. Gifts such as this help in so many ways!

Once again, thank you. Together we can make a difference in the health of our community.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Vail
AHA Area Director

Letters To The Editor Welcome

The Informer wants to hear from you.

Send letters to the editor:

Attention Tammy Poole
VSPA

6944 Forest Hill Avenue
Richmond, VA 23225
or via email
vspaeditor@aol.com

KRIMESITE IMAGER NEW TOOL FOR FINGERPRINTING

By Michael Jenkins

Finding fingerprints just got faster and cleaner thanks to the purchase of seven state-of-the-art Krimesite Imagers.

The imager is used to find fingerprints on just about any surface through the use of reflective ultra-violet rays. The technology detects and digitally photographs latent fingerprints on everything from documents to soda cans to walls. It can be used in broad daylight or total darkness, indoors or outdoors.

From vehicles to large crime scenes, the imager can drastically reduce the time it would take for investigators to search and locate fingerprints and other evidence.

"It'll be beneficial, particularly in burglaries where we sometimes seize hundreds of things that a burglar may have moved around," Special Agent Tom L. Embry, Chesapeake General Investigations Division, told The Virginian-Pilot in a recent article on the imager.

Embry was one of about 40 of the Department's forensic technicians trained July 31 to use the Krimesite

Imager. Each of the seven State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation offices is equipped with an imager. There are only seven local law enforcement agencies in Virginia with them.

The Department purchased the Krimesite Imagers with the help of a \$25,000 grant from the Insurance Fraud Division. Sirchie Finger Print Laboratories, Inc., in North Carolina, manufactures the Krimesite Imager. □



Goochland County Sheriff James L. Agnew presenting SA Tom Kaschak with the Goochland County Rotary Club's 2001 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. This was the first time the Rotary Club had ever presented the award to a law enforcement officer outside the sheriff's department. Kaschak was awarded for his investigation into the county's July 2001 murder-for-hire by a member of the "Bloods" New York City street gang. Kaschak's hard work and dedication led to the arrests and convictions of the two murderers, and the arrest of a third man.



UPDATES NEEDED

The Virginia State Police Association wants to hear from you. We need feedback on whether you prefer receiving six newsletters per year or four by mail and two on-line versions only. And, if you have family members who are in the military, please send us information on them and a photo as well. Mail to VSPA, 6944 Forest Hill Ave., Richmond, VA 23225, attention: Tammy Poole. Or send e-mails to: vspaeditor@aol.com

VIRGINIA PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP TO VSP FAMILY MEMBER

Robert B. Northern Jr., son of Virginia State Police Lt. Robert B. Northern, has received a \$1,000 Project Exile Foundation Merit Scholarship from the Virginia Public Safety Foundation.

Northern, a graduating senior at Atlee High School, is one of 29 children of Virginia Public Safety Officers who shared \$35,000 in scholarships based on their scholastic achievement, character, personal and career goals, extra curricular activities, community and school service.

The Virginia Public Safety Foundation is an organization of concerned

Virginians who raise funds not only for the scholarship program, but also for immediate financial assistance when a line of duty death occurs, grief counseling services, and education assistance for the surviving children and spouses of the public safety officers. The Foundation also honors the bravery and heroism of active officers all over Virginia with the Commonwealth Valor Awards. □

"HEROES OF 2001" STAMP UNVEILED

Virginia State Trooper Michael Middleton of Area 45 helped unveil the U.S. Postal Services new "Hero" stamp at a ceremony in Leesburg, Va., on June 7. The new stamp is being sold as part of a campaign to provide assistance to the families that suffered losses from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The stamp is the second in U.S. history to have its net proceeds earmarked for specified purposes.

The "Heroes of 2001" semipostal stamp, a non-denominated (45 cent value) stamp, was issued June 7 in New York, New York. The stamp was designed by Derry Noyes of Washington, D.C., and photographed by Thomas Franklin of Bergen County, N.J.

In honor of the American heroes who responded to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Heroes of 2001 semipostal stamps offers the public a way to provide assistance to the families of emergency relief personnel who died or were permanently disabled in the line of duty.

The net proceeds from the sale of this stamp will go directly to the Federal Emergency Management Agency in accordance with the provisions of the 9/11 Heroes Act of 2001. - Lucy Caldwell, VSP PIO.



Trooper Michael Middleton unveils the new stamp at the Leesburg post office.



Trooper Middleton buys a sheet of the new Heroes stamp.

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE ASSOCIATION AUXILIARY

The VSPAA was formed on March 31, 1989. From its inception the Auxiliary has been a non-political organization with the main emphasis being placed on the support and well being of families and the Association. Members in individual divisions and areas pool together their resources to provide police families with the physical and emotional support during times of illness, emergencies or other tragedies.

The Auxiliary supports its financial needs through yearly membership dues and the sale of Auxiliary merchandise. Currently the VSPAA is seeking to further serve its members,

increase participation and membership as well as continue to support the Association.

If you are interested in becoming a

member of the Virginia State Police Association Auxiliary, please contact Darlene Himelright, 9035 Mount Eagle Road, Ashland, VA 23005.

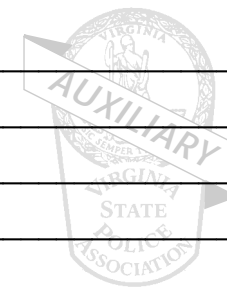
VIRGINIA STATE POLICE ASSOCIATION AUXILIARY

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



THE 29TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT RAMADA PLAZA RESORT OCEANFRONT IN VIRGINIA BEACH 3/21—3/22/03

Now that summer's over, it's time to pack away your flip flops and shorts. But don't pack them too far out of sight. You're going to need them for the 2003 VSPA conference.

The 29th annual conference will be March 21 and 22 at the Ramada Plaza Resort Oceanfront in Virginia Beach.

The buzzword for the 2003 VSPA Conference is discount. To increase statewide participation, the Association has decreased the conference registration fee to \$100 (a savings of \$50 per couple). The room rates are less, too. The cost of a standard room is \$75.

Though the weather may still be a bit too cool to get in the water, there are many things to do at the beach.

"Friday night's theme is Cheeseburger in Paradise," said Howard Cook, a member of the conference committee who is helping to organize the conference. "Wear your Hawaiian shirts, khaki shorts and docksiders. The DJ is Larry Inge from West Point. This will be a casual get-together."

On Saturday, the semi-formal dinner dance will have a new band. Jukebox Heroes from New Jersey, which played at Gov. Mark Warner's inauguration, will perform.

"This is a show band, which means they'll do different things for different sets."

The conference committee is still planning events, but Cook said there will be a couple of workshops, similar to those at The Homestead.

"Mike Kernbach will be there and we'll have the business meeting," he said.

The location of the March meeting is the Ramada Plaza Resort Oceanfront, located on a semi-private beach in the north end area of Virginia Beach. There are 246 guest rooms. All rooms have private balconies, refrigerators, microwaves, voice mail, modem access, coffee & coffee makers, hair dryers, irons and ironing boards.

There are two restaurants in the resort. The Gus' Mariner Restaurant is an award-winning seafood restaurant in a casual elegant atmosphere with a breathtaking view. Gus' is a full service restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. A locals' favorite, it was voted one of the top 50 seafood restaurants in the country.

The 57th Street Pub has a casual atmosphere, offering an outside deck area in season and a cozy fireplace in the winter. The pub begins serving

lighter fare at 4pm with a full service bar open until midnight or 1 a.m., depending on the season.

RESORT AMENITIES

- Indoor/outdoor pool with Jacuzzi
- Exercise room with Sauna
- Concierge in season
- Direct tee-time booking from front desk at top local golf courses
- Volleyball
- Sailing and Fishing Charters nearby
- Bicycle and Kayak rentals in season
- Kid's Cove children's program in season

RAMADA PLAZA RESORT OCEANFRONT

5700 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
Main Switchboard: (757) 428-7025
Reservations: (800) 365-3032
Guest Fax: (757) 428-2921 Sales Fax: (757) 321-2468
Sales Office: (800) 685-5105 or (757) 428-4752
www.ramadaplazavabeach.com

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

VSPA Second Vice President Roy Kyle is in charge of the annual golf tournament. Arrangements have not yet been made, but for more information or to sign up, contact Roy at (266) 429-2470 or via email at Rlkyle@naxs.com. □



VIRGINIA TOP COP FITNESS CHALLENGE

PURPOSE

To promote fitness among Virginia's criminal justice officers, and develop a method to recognize those that excel in this area.

PREMISE

Using a points system, measure the fitness levels of participating officers throughout the state. The tests would conform to those identified in the LawFit program developed to enhance officer fitness.

By promoting a competition to determine Virginia's TOP COP, officers already involved in fitness will have an opportunity to be recognized for their efforts. Additionally, this program may encourage other officers to become interested in fitness and strive to attain the goal of becoming one of Virginia's TOP COPS.

AWARDS

TOP COP

1. State recognition as the most fit officer (male and female) as designated by framed certificate.
2. Major award cash award (\$1,000 top prize for male and female winners provided by the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute, \$200 for six second place finishers by gender and 3 age groups, and \$50 for third place finishers).
3. Gold championship ring for winners.
4. Miscellaneous smaller items such as a golf shirt, hat, etc.
5. Recognition by commending resolution from the General Assembly.

TOP 6 SCORERS (BY GENDER AND AGE GROUP)

1. State recognition of their level of achievement by framed certificate.
2. Trophy with place designation.
3. Golf shirt and hat with recognition of fitness achievement.
4. Cash prize as mentioned above.

TOP SCORERS - 30%

- Certificate.
- T-shirts and hats
- Other items as acquired.

REGIONAL WINNERS

The top male and female scorers at each of the five regional competition sites will be recognized with a certificate of achievement, trophy, and a Top Cop golf shirt.



AGENCY RECOGNITION

The agency or agencies that have the most officers represented at the competition will be recognized and awarded a framed certificate of achievement for outstanding commitment to officer fitness.

MEASUREMENTS

Competition will be based on a series of fitness tasks that will translate into points scored. The tests will be age adjusted to provide fair competition for all officers. The tests are as follows:

1. The current DCJS ability course.
2. Sit-ups, one-minute timed.
3. Pull-ups to failure (dead hang, hands away).
4. One repetition maximum benchpress; points awarded based on percentage of body weight lifted.
5. Sit and reach.
6. 1.5 mile run.

All tests will be administered regionally under the supervision of

DCJS staff or designated fitness leaders at the following locations:

- Virginia Tech. & State University 10/01/02
- George Mason University 10/15/02
- University of Richmond 10/7/02
- Norfolk State University 10/21/02

In the event of a tie for the top score, the officers will test again one time in a head-to-head competition supervised by DCJS staff only. If after this competition two or more officers tie, the award designation will be shared and each will be designated Virginia's TOP COP.

BENEFITS

- Provide recognition to officers who achieve above-average levels of fitness.
- Promote overall wellness/fitness within the criminal justice community.
- Reduce health-related deaths and disabilities for officers.
- Reduce insurance and other associated cost to localities from health related lost work time, disabilities, or in-service deaths.
- Provide a positive avenue for interaction with the media, corporate partners, and community.
- Provide positive PR for the agency, training, and law enforcement in general.

Please submit any questions, comments, or suggestions to Ron Bessent at (804) 786-7802. □



TOP COP FITNESS CHALLENGE REGISTRATION FORM

DCJS STANDARDS AND TRAINING

Please fill out form completely and return one week prior to competition date.

EVENT INFORMATION

Event Name: **Top Cop Fitness Challenge**

Location: Va. Tech 10/1/02 UR 10/7/02 GMU 10/15/02 Norfolk SU 10/21/02

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Rank: _____ DOB: _____ Name: _____

Social Security Number: _____ Agency: _____

Complete Address: _____

Work Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ Hours you can be reached: _____

Certified Law Enforcement Officer or Academy Instructor: Yes No

MISC. INFORMATION

Sex: Male Female Shirt size: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ Ring Size: _____

Gym Shorts: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___

Do you require special accommodations under provision of the Americans with Disabilities Act? Yes No

If yes, please state the nature of the accommodations required: _____

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

I authorize that I have examined _____, and that he/she is physically able to compete in the Top Cop Fitness Challenge. I further recognize that the competition consists of physical activities involving running, jumping, bending, crawling, lifting heavy objects, sit ups, pull ups, and flexibility.

Signature of doctor: _____ Date: _____

Print name and address of doctor: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Mail this form to:

**Standards and Training
Department of Criminal Justice Services
Attention: Dale Kastelberg
805 East Broad Street, 9th Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219
804-786-0410
804-786-7802 or 804-786-3192**

Or fax to:

Additional information:

NEW CHILD SAFETY SEAT LAW CREATES PROBLEMS FOR SOME VEHICLES

The new child safety seat law that went into effect in Virginia this summer has some parents searching for creative ways to be in compliance. "Basically the new law raised the age of children required to be in some type of restraint device. From birth until their sixth birthday, children must be in either a child safety seat or a booster seat complete with a lap and shoulder belt combination. After their sixth birthday until the age of 16, they must wear a seat belt. It's pretty straightforward," said retired Virginia State Police Lt. Zeb Saunders, Child Passenger Safety Instructor for the Transportation Safety Training Center at Virginia Commonwealth University.

The problem discovered since the implementation of the new law, he said, is that not all vehicles have enough (or, in some cases, any) lap/shoulder belts.

"If you only have lap belts - say in the back of the vehicle - you cannot use a booster seat. The booster seat may be used only with the lap/shoulder belt

combination. Most children outgrow their convertible seats, which are good for toddlers through 40 lbs. Then it becomes a problem trying to find the appropriate booster seat and seatbelt combination."

For some people, the cost is almost prohibitive. However, there are three things that parents or caretakers can do to be in compliance, Saunders said.

"If you only have a lap belt in your vehicle, check with the auto manufacturer to see if a retrofit shoulder strap is available. Many manufacturers did make them for older models. Vans made prior to 1991 and autos prior to 1989 may need the retrofit shoulder strap."

Even today, the shoulder strap is not mandatory in all seating positions, Saunders said.

"I know that the Ford Taurus has it and the new Chevy Caprice that the troopers drive has it in the rear center position."

If a retrofit shoulder strap is not

available, parents should see if they can buy some type of restraint device that does not require the shoulder strap.

"Right now, the Britax Laptop Shield is the only thing available on the market. Unfortunately, the company is going to suspend manufacturing after Sept. 1. On that date, all safety seats must be LATCH-compatible and have lower anchors. This means you do not use the seatbelt to install safety seats. The goal is to get away from that. This also means that the laptops are running into a problem meeting the new federal standards."

The third alternative is to get something called a "by-harness" or a full harness from a company called E-Z-On products.

"This company, out of Jupiter, Florida, makes custom devices. Many of these are for children with special needs, but they make the harness for less than \$50. The telephone number is (800) 323-6598." □



Trooper Keith Martin, Area 48, was one of a dozen troopers assigned to work security on June 11 for the 2002 Network Economy Summit in Reston. Trooper Martin is shown meeting former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Giuliani addressed the group on "Leadership in times of crisis." Photo by Lucy Caldwell, VSP PIO.

CUSTOM GIFT ITEM AVAILABLE THROUGH CRAFTSMAN

Handmade wooden boxes made of cherry with the Virginia State Police Association seal are available by special order from Mountain View Woodcrafts, 1147 Walker Mountain Road, Arrington, VA.

These boxes make excellent gifts and retirement awards. They may be personalized with the VSPA member's name and rank.

For more information, please call (434) 263-4209. □

Request service with hat in hand

MAGISTRATE SCOLDS ADORNED TROOPER

By Mark Bowes
Times Dispatch Staff Writer

RICHMOND — Hats apparently are unwelcome attire in the Chesterfield County magistrate's office - even if you're an on-duty state trooper.

One of Virginia's finest got that message recently when a magistrate refused to cooperate with him, state police said, unless he first sat down and took off his standard-issue hat.

The trooper, George Crespo, had brought a woman into the magistrate's office for suspected drunken driving and was seeking a warrant for her arrest. But Magistrate Danny Holt, apparently bothered by the trooper's hat and his refusal to sit down, wouldn't budge, police said.

After a brief impasse, the trooper called his supervisor to intervene. The magistrate then wrote the warrant, police said.

Chesterfield Chief Magistrate William Bradham declined to talk about the dispute, as did Holt.

Officers welcome to leave hats on

COUNTY MAGISTRATE HAS TO PERMIT THEM

By Mark Bowes
Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

RICHMOND — Hats of the police officer kind are again welcome in the Chesterfield County magistrate's office.

Virginia State Police and Chesterfield Chief Magistrate William Bradham apparently have settled a dispute about whether troopers should wear their standard-issue hats inside the county magistrate's office.

After the two sides met with Chesterfield Chief Circuit Judge Michael C. Allen, an agreement was reached that troopers can again wear their hats, said Capt. Lenmuel S. Terry, commander of the Richmond division office of the state police.

"I don't know what all went into that decision, but the end result was that they can wear their hats," Terry said.

Allen declined to comment on the decision, but through a court representative said he was pleased the matter had been resolved. Several efforts to reach Bradham

"It's internal and it's under investigation," Bradham said.

Officials from the state police and the magistrate's office are to meet in hopes of resolving the matter.

"I don't know what the issue was with respect to why this particular magistrate insisted on the trooper removing his hat," said Capt. Lenmuel S. Terry, commander of the Richmond division office of the state police.

"It's such an unimportant issue, particularly when you're taking someone in who has been arrested and have to deal with such a petty matter," Terry said. "At that juncture, it's just amazing to me that the trooper would have to deal with something of that nature at that time."

Terry was reluctant to talk further about the incident for fear of driving "a wedge between the two entities."

"If there's a problem, let's get the problem resolved in a manner that our folks and the magistrates can still work together," he added.

Bradham said the magistrate's office has a policy on wearing hats, but it is not in writing.

Magistrates are judicial officers with limited legal authority. Their primary duties include making an initial finding that probable cause exists to arrest a suspect or to issue a search warrant. They also usually set bail immediately after a defendant is arrested.

After making an arrest, officers often take their prisoners to a magistrate to have them formally charged.

Chesterfield police Maj. Andy Scruggs said he's unaware of any similar problems county officers have had with the magistrate's office involving their hats. Henrico County's magistrate's office has no prohibition on wearing hats, said Chief Magistrate John Mehfoad.

"It's a new one on me," Terry said of a no-hat rule.

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yesterday were unsuccessful.

The issue caused a stir in late May when a state trooper and a Chesterfield magistrate butted heads over the trooper's hat.

Trooper George Crespo, with a handcuffed prisoner in tow, entered the magistrate's office with his hat on and asked Magistrate Danny Holt to write an arrest warrant.

But Holt refused to cooperate until the officer removed his hat and sat down, police said.

After a brief impasse, the trooper called his supervisor to intervene.

Holt then wrote the warrant for Crespo's prisoner, a woman arrested in connection with drunken driving.

After making an arrest, officers often take their prisoners to a magistrate to have them formally charged. Magistrates are judicial officers with limited legal authority. Their primary duties include making an ini-

tial finding that probable cause exists to arrest a suspect or to issue a search warrant.

Holt's action irritated state police, whose troopers apparently had never before encountered resistance to the wearing of hats.

"It's just amazing to me that the trooper would have to deal with something of that nature at that time," Terry said in May.

Police said the last thing troopers need to worry about when bringing in prisoners - some of whom are dangerous or disorderly - is their hats. "It's a safety issue," Terry said.

But several area residents sided with the magistrate after the dispute first surfaced in May.

Several telephoned or e-mailed the newspaper, saying officers should be required to take off their hats, if for no other reason than good manners. Some said entering a magistrate's office was not unlike entering a courtroom, where wearing a hat is considered disrespectful.

Road Rage Study Has Drivers Seeing Green

'FLASH' SYSTEM COULD GO NATIONAL

By Mike Gangloff
Roanoke Times

CHRISTIANSBURG — Here amid the New River Valley's worst traffic tie-ups, researchers are testing an emerald antidote to road rage - "the Flash," a blinking green light they hope will soothe traffic-jangled nerves.

"I think we're going to put Christiansburg on the map," said Scott Geller, a veteran Virginia Tech psychology professor with a seemingly boundless enthusiasm for driving-safety projects. The National Institutes of Health recently awarded \$100,000 to Geller and a team of Tech and Radford University researchers to distribute green lights that drivers can use to communicate with one another.

The idea is a simple variation on the headlight blinks that truck drivers have used for decades. Volunteers will get a green light to put in their vehicles' back windows and a push button switch to blink it. One blink means "Please," as in "Please let me into that lane," two blinks means "Thank you," and three blinks means "I am sorry."

The goal is to defuse a moment often linked to road rage, that moment when one driver cuts in front of another.

"We find that person who has been cut off assumes intention," Geller explained.

The copyrighted 1-2-3 system - or "intervehicular courtesy communication code," as Tech doctoral student Chris Dula, who works with Geller, termed it - soon will be promoted on "Use the Code" billboards and other advertisements throughout the region, Geller said. In October, if all goes as planned, the Flashes will start flashing.

The idea prompted merriment, but also some concern at a Christiansburg Town Council meeting.

"While you're trying to remember all that crap, you're going to rear-end somebody in front of you," Councilman Mike Barber said.

Still, council members said they supported the project.

Christiansburg was picked because of its proximity to Blacksburg, Radford and Interstate 81 - and because the often-snarled U.S. 460 commercial strip offers "a lot of traffic that could cause negative emotions," Geller said.

If the project demonstrates that the Flash works, it could become a nationally distributed project, Geller said. Researchers set up a company, Positive Driving Systems, to promote the Flash.

The NIH award came after three years of trying to find money for what originally was called "the Road Rage Reducer," Geller said. Geller has been involved in numerous safety projects

over the years, perhaps most prominently in a series of seat belt awareness campaigns.

Researchers want to recruit 120 Christiansburg drivers to carry the Flash, plus similar numbers for a group who will blink their hazard lights in the 1-2-3 code and a control group who won't flash any messages. Members of all three groups will be asked to keep logs of their driving experiences and of the emotions they felt while on the road.

A bad-driving record may actually make someone more qualified to participate.

"We certainly are looking for drivers who are prone to being emotional," Geller said. "We would like those people who do weave in and out of traffic, who do get impatient. Because those are the people who might have to flash, 'I'm sorry.'"

Drivers will receive \$30 to \$50 for several months' participation in the project, Dula said. There also will be telephone surveys to gather residents' opinions of area roads.

To sign up or for more information about the project, call (540) 231-8145.

Mike Gangloff can be reached at 381-1674 or mikega@roanoke.com □

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Wiley Horn 13 years old of Fredericksburg shown in the VSPA sponsored soap box race car. He raced at the Rappahannock Regional Soap Box Derby in downtown Fredericksburg on June 1, 2002 and did pretty good. This time the Fredericksburg police dept. entered as did the Stafford County sheriff's office.

SIXTH ANNUAL VSPA GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFITS BRISTOL OFFICER'S FAMILY

The Sixth Annual Virginia State Police Association golf tournament to benefit the Emergency Relief Fund was held June 28 at the Clear Creek Golf Club in Bristol.

More than \$11,000 was raised in this tournament. Proceeds from the tournament were presented to Katelyn and Laken Edwards, daughters of Bristol Police Officer Stephen T. Edwards. Edward died on April 12, 2002.

The Emergency Relief Fund was created to provide emergency relief to members of the Department of State Police and other law enforcement officers and their families who experience a personal crisis and have nowhere else to turn.

This event would not have been possible without the generous help from the sponsors for this year's tournament. The Virginia State Police Association would like to thank this year's contributors for their generous support, which allows us to provide assistance to those in need.

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John and Jennifer Thornburg
Larry Mullins and Tony Overbay
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Ron Addison
Chris Dixon
Stephanie Daniels



STATE POLICE PROVIDE "SAFE PLACE" FOR TROUBLED YOUTH

RICHMOND - Since July, a distinctive, daffodil-yellow sign displaying the silhouette of a hug greets all visitors at the Virginia State Police headquarters in Richmond. To the common visitor it might just be another sign, but to a troubled youth it means help is at hand.

The Department broke new ground July 15 when it announced its partnership with the national, non-profit organization Safe Place. Virginia State Police is the first state police agency in the U.S. to participate in the at-risk youth assistance program.

Safe Place is a nationally recognized organization that provides safe locations for teens if they are stranded, running away or having problems at home. Family Lifeline, a non-profit

human services organization, coordinates the Safe Place program in Richmond and Chesterfield County.

"As of July there were 551 reported missing children and teenagers in Virginia," said Col. W. Gerald Massengill. "They represent 551 reasons for this new initiative. With every state trooper and supervisor in Central Virginia trained to utilize Safe Place services, we are creating more than 250 new ways for those troubled youth to seek out the help they need."

State Police personnel are also appreciating the benefits of the new collaborative effort.

"Prior to this partnership, it could take hours to help a runaway or at risk youth find the assistance he or she needed. Now shelter, counseling,

substance abuse treatment, or whatever that troubled teen may need is only a telephone call away and the trooper is back on the road," said Massengill.

Personnel in Division I, SPHQ and the Safety Division received training on the program during their spring area meetings. Safe Place signs are displayed at SPHQ, Division I headquarters, Safety Division headquarters, and Area 6, 8 and 61 offices in the Metro-Richmond area.

Massengill hopes to eventually include other State Police offices and personnel as the Safe Place program expands outside the Richmond Division. □



The row of speakers includes Lt. Col. Martin, Secretary John Marshall, keynote speaker Lt. Gov. Tim Kaine and Col. Massengill.



Trooper L. Parker, representing 7th division, is presenting a check to her sister Sandy Cofer of the Northern Virginia 4-H club. The check amount was for \$500 from the VSPA to cover costs of 29 classes places first through sixth, Championship and High Point ribbons. The event was held on June 2, 2002 at Frying Pan Park in Fairfax County. The event generates between 100 and 150 entrants.

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VIRGINIA STATE POLICE ASSOCIATION

2002 MEMBERSHIP FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE ENTIRE FORM. THIS FORM HELPS US KEEP YOUR RECORD UP TO DATE.

{Please Print} Last Name _____ MI _____ First Name _____

Social Security No.: _____ - _____ - _____ Sex: Male Female Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: Home { } _____ Work { } _____ E-Mail: _____


Marital Status: Married Single No. Of Dependents: _____ Birthday: _____

Division No.: _____ {where you work} Area No.: _____ {where you work} Rank: _____

Status of Employment: Full-Time (Must be a full-time VSP employee to join the Association)

Date you estimate for retirement: _____ or Retirement Status: Regular Retirement Retired on Disability

I. MEMBERSHIP STATUS (Please check one):

- Annual Membership Dues: \$120.00
- New Membership Dues: **\$10.00 Enrollment Fee** +  see prorated schedule at the bottom of the form.
- Retired Membership Dues: \$120.00 {This amount is paid **until** the member receives his/her *Severance Grant*}
- Retired Membership Dues: \$60.00 {This amount is paid **after** the member has received his/her *Severance Grant*}

II. METHOD OF PAYMENT (Please check one):

- Enclosed is my check, payable to VSPA in the amount of \$ _____ Check No. _____
- MasterCard or Visa charge \$ _____ ; Account No. _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____
- My dues are currently being deducted from my paycheck. (Effective 01-01-02 payroll will increase dues from **\$2.50 a pay period to \$5.00**)
- I would like my dues deducted in equal amounts of \$10.00 per month from my paycheck. *Should I decide to stop my payroll deduction; I will contact the Virginia State Police payroll department, and the VSPA to note the change.*
Signature _____
- Please check here if you do **NOT** want your dues to be utilized by the Political Action Committee.

 **Prorated dues:** ~ Available **ONLY** to those joining for the first time:

January	\$120.00	April	\$90.00	July	\$60.00	October	\$30.00
February	\$110.00	May	\$80.00	August	\$50.00	November	\$20.00
March	\$100.00	June	\$70.00	September	\$40.00	December	\$10.00

Dues for subsequent years are \$120.00, regardless of when paid. In addition to the prorated dues listed above, first - time members must pay a one-time enrollment fee of \$10.00.

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