

### **Troop One: S/Tpr. Brandon Stokes:**

S/Tpr. Stokes joined the South Carolina Highway Patrol in July 2008 and was assigned to Troop 1, Post A (Sumter/Clarendon). Since becoming an SC State Trooper in 2008, S/Tpr. Stokes has distinguished himself as one of the top enforcers in Troop 1, Post A. He always has one of the highest totals in cases made, warnings issued, DUI arrests, and seatbelt violations. S/Tpr. Stokes maintains a sharp appearance and always displays a positive attitude while on duty. He is also a positive influence on the members of his team as well as all troopers of Troop 1, Post A. He is dedicated to removing impaired motorists from our roadways as well as aggressive drivers and violators of motor vehicle laws.

On July 14, 2012, S/Tpr. Stokes attempted to stop a motorist on US 521 North of Sumter, for speeding and a lane change violation. Once the motorist came to a stop and S/Tpr. Stokes began to interview the driver, he realized that the driver was possibly under the influence of alcohol and removed the driver from the vehicle to investigate further. Once Stokes completed his interview and field sobriety tests on the driver, Stokes attempted to place the driver under arrest for driving under the influence. During the handcuffing process, the driver of the vehicle began to resist and a struggle ensued between the driver and S/Tpr. Stokes. The two ended up in a ditch on the roadside, continuing to struggle. After repeated attempts to subdue the suspect, Stokes drew his firearm and warned the suspect that he was going to shoot him. The suspect then continued to choke S/Tpr. Stokes with one hand and struggle over possession of the firearm with the other. In fear of his life, S/Tpr. Stokes discharged his firearm twice, killing the suspect.

After the incident, S/Tpr. Stokes was placed on administrative leave for four months, which is the normal procedure after a use of force incident, while the investigation took place. During S/Tpr. Stokes' four month administrative period, he continued to display a great attitude and excellent work ethic, even though he was restricted to administrative work only. When he returned to work, he displayed the same outstanding commitment and hard work.

S/Tpr. Stokes is a resident of Camden, SC and he is married to Mrs. Loree Stokes. S/Tpr. Stokes has one step daughter, Ms. Tinley Gardner. S/Tpr. Stokes is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys hunting and fishing.

### **Troop Two:**

Senior Trooper William C. Bishop is being recognized as the Troop Two trooper of the year for the consistent example and commitment to our mission on every shift. There is no doubt that his excellent work ethic and thousands of contacts averted property damage, prevented many injuries, and most importantly, saved countless lives.

Throughout 2012, Senior Trooper Bishop's enforcement activity was at or near the top in Post B in most categories including weapons violations that were serious enough to be transferred to ATF for investigation and prosecution.

Senior Trooper Bishop was born in Greenwood, South Carolina, where he attended public schools and graduated from Ninety Six High School and Spartanburg Methodist College, earning

an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice in 2003. S/Tpr. Bishop began his law enforcement career with Greenwood City Police Department and also worked with the Greenwood County Sheriff's Department and has been assigned to Greenwood since joining Patrol in 2008.

Senior Trooper Bishop is married to Gina Cooley Bishop and they have one child, William Banks Bishop. The Bishops are members of Southside Baptist Church. He is active in his community, volunteering his time to participate in various fundraisers for the South Carolina Special Olympics. S/Tpr. Bishop also volunteers and assists with the "Hunters with Special Needs" program.

### **Troop Three:**

Lance Corporal Michael D. Looney became a member of the South Carolina Highway Patrol in January 2006. He is currently assigned to Troop Three, Post A (Anderson).

Lance Corporal Looney is a valuable asset to the South Carolina Highway Patrol. He serves as a resource and an example for the other Troopers in Anderson County. He performs his job well and has outstanding people skills. He is dedicated to the mission of the Highway Patrol and comes to work every day ready and willing to do whatever is needed to perform his job well.

Looney's willingness to go the extra mile in order to do his job was evident on November 14, 2012. Lance Corporal Looney received a BOLO from dispatch that an armed robbery had just occurred near Clemson Blvd. Almost immediately he noticed a vehicle traveling from the area that the robbery occurred. He attempted to stop the vehicle. At that point, the vehicle accelerated and he gave pursuit. The passenger in the fleeing vehicle leaned from the window and fired at least three rounds from a shotgun at Lance Corporal Looney.

The pursuit traveled down several roads and at one point, the passenger got out of the vehicle and aimed the shotgun again at Lance Corporal Looney. The pursuit ended on I-85 where the violator was forcibly stopped and arrested.

The suspect has since also confessed to robbing another store previous to this crime. Therefore, Lance Corporal Looney solved two crimes. Lance Corporal Looney has had previous experiences such as these. In 1980, while an officer for the City of Anderson, Lance Corporal Looney apprehended a robbery suspect moments before he planned to rob the Fast Fare in Anderson. He also is consistently at the top of the county in activity and is a very reliable and outstanding Trooper.

### **Troop Four:**

L/Cpl. Jamie E. Greene is the Troop Four nominee for the 2012 Trooper of the Year. L/Cpl. Greene is a 16-year veteran with the South Carolina Highway Patrol and is currently assigned to Troop Four / Post A (Cherokee/Union). He has consistently made an effort to keep our highways safer for the motoring public and to reduce traffic collisions and fatalities on our highways. This is validated with his enforcement efforts as well as the professionalism he displays in dealing with the public.

Lance Corporal Greene is a diligent and consistent leader in his enforcement activity. He has an excellent work ethic and is well respected by his supervisors, fellow troopers, and other law enforcement officers. He is a reliable and dedicated employee whose positive attitude sets an example for other Troopers to emulate. L/Cpl. Greene lost his father in a motor vehicle collision several years ago in Spartanburg County and truly wants to make a difference in educating the public on traffic safety issues. Lance Corporal Greene turned this terrible tragedy into a motivational tool that stirs him each to save lives on our roadways.

L/Cpl. Greene is a member of the Highway Patrol Honor Guard and the Highway Patrol Peer Team. As a Peer Team member, L/Cpl. Greene has compassionately assisted troopers and other law enforcement officers who have been involved in critical incidents. His compassion and sense of honor for our current and fallen troopers was also displayed in the use of his talents as an artist to complete portraits of two of our fallen troopers -- Patrolmen Charles Steele and Corporal J.R. Clinton. The portraits were presented to family members during each of the Highway Dedication Ceremonies.

Lance Corporal Greene and his wife, Hope, have two sons Ellis & Warren and a daughter, Patterson. They are active members of The Episcopal Church of Incarnation in Gaffney.

### **Troop Five:**

S/Tpr. William Aaron McInville has been a trooper since January 2010, and upon patrol school graduation was assigned to Troop 5/Post B. McInville has always maintained a high level of professionalism. While on patrol in Florence County on June 3, 2012 S/Tpr. McInville conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle on U.S. 52 North at Cashua Drive. The vehicle had disregarded a traffic control device and nearly caused a collision. McInville activated his blue lights and the vehicle pulled into the median. Immediately the driver and rear seat passenger exited the vehicle.

The female was carrying a two 2-year-old child who was not breathing. The child was limp. S/Tpr. McInville contacted the Florence TCC via radio and requested EMS. He then carried the child to the rear of his patrol vehicle and sat him on the trunk. McInville could feel a pulse but when he checked, the child was not breathing. He immediately began to give the child abdominal thrusts and after several, the child began breathing. The child spit out a piece of candy, which had caused him to choke. S/Tpr. McInville gave the child to his father and continued to monitor his breathing. The child was then transported to McLeod Regional Medical Center Emergency Room by Florence County Emergency Medical Services. The child was kept overnight and released the following day.

A physician from McLeod Regional Medical Center called later and commended McInville for the assistance he gave to the family. He stated that -- in his opinion -- the child would not have survived or would have at least sustained brain damage considering the time it would have taken to get to the hospital from the point that S/Tpr. McInville made contact with the family.

Before joining the SCHP, S/Tpr. McInville was employed with the Florence Police Department for three years. He was also employed with the City of Florence Fire Department for five years, and the Timmons ville Rescue Squad. S/Tpr. McInville is married and has one child.

### **Troop Six:**

Troop Six is proud to nominate L/Cpl. R.G. Elliott II, for the Trooper of the Year for 2012. Lance Corporal Elliott has served the citizens of South Carolina as a Trooper for 13 years. He was assigned to Newberry County out of patrol school and served there for a year before transferring to his current assignment of Berkeley and Charleston Counties. L/Cpl. Elliott's hometown is Wando and he currently resides in Moncks Corner. His dad is Retired Sergeant R. G. Elliott Sr., which means he has been in and around the Highway Patrol his entire life.

L/Cpl. R.G. Elliott II was selected as the 2001 Trooper of the Year for Berkeley County, Troop Six and as the 2001 Trooper of the Year for the entire state as well. A single heroic action where he rescued a man from a burning vehicle earned him that recognition but this time, his attention to detail during his everyday duties is what deserves the attention and recognition. He treats the public he serves with care and respect.

L/Cpl. Elliott has been a model of consistency since he began his career, making at least 1,000 cases every year. In 2012, L/Cpl. Elliott was again among the top performers in Troop Six. He was chosen by his supervisors to be a Field Training Officer in 2012 for the third time. His previous two trainees emulate his exceptional work ethic and extensive job knowledge. L/Cpl. Elliott has assisted his supervisors on numerous occasions with trooper's time management, collision report approval/rejection, providing guidance to less experienced troopers, assisting in major/fatal collision investigations, and the overall operation of Post A when supervisors were not available.

He is a highly motivated Trooper who displays determination and energy to work ahead, overcome obstacles, and fulfill responsibilities. He has an excellent reputation in the community and he has earned the admiration and respect of his peers, supervisors, and the public he serves.

He is a member of the South Carolina Trooper's Association, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Association, a member of Masonic Lodge # 95 (Etiwan) in Mt. Pleasant and Wando Baptist Church.

He can be found frequently assisting a neighbor or friend with yard work, vehicle maintenance, providing a few dollars or anything else they might need...all without any thought of personal gain from helping others.

### **Troop Seven:**

The Troop Seven Trooper of the Year is L/Cpl. J. L. Fortner. L/Cpl. Fortner is a 10-year veteran of the Highway Patrol. He transferred to Troop Seven in December 2011 from Troop Three. When he arrived in Aiken County, it was obvious that L/Cpl. Fortner possessed a true passion for

removing impaired drivers from our roadways. This passion leads him to research current events, trends, and traffic patterns in Aiken County, helping him develop a personal enforcement plan.

L/Cpl. Fortner has been consistent in his DUI apprehension throughout his career. With this type of case load, he spends countless hours in case preparation and prosecution. He cares about each individual case and makes sure that the prosecutor has the necessary evidence and information to successfully try each DUI.

Over the year, L/Cpl. Fortner has been back to Spartanburg County many times to prosecute and handle DUI cases that were pending from his time in Spartanburg County. L/Cpl. Fortner has become a leader and a mentor for most of the troopers in his Post.

### **Troop Eight:**

The Troop Eight nominee for Trooper of the Year is L/Cpl. Darryl "Bucky" Giddings of the Region IV Motor Unit. He demonstrates a superior working relationship with his co-workers and is well-rounded and well-liked. He always produces exceptional activity and is the first to offer a helping hand to his supervisor - from specials to administrative duties. L/Cpl. Giddings joined the Highway Patrol in 1991 and became a Motorcycle Officer in 1997. Prior to joining the Highway Patrol L/Cpl Giddings served his country in the United States Coast Guard from 1987 until 1991.

For the last five years, this trooper has coordinated and implemented a safety event at Homewood Elementary School in Conway that has since become an annual event that the faculty, staff and students all look forward to each year. This trooper spends countless hours bringing local agencies together to participate in educating elementary students in various career choices and safety presentations.

In addition, he works with the local Drug Enforcement Unit for the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit and is always eager to take on any task assigned to him; much of this is done during his off-time.

He is a family man and loves sharing stories about his family. He coaches soccer, enjoys fishing, camping, cooking and repairing computers. He and his wife, Gina, reside in Conway. They have four daughters, Breanna 17, Danielle and Ashtyn, 11 and Chelsa Ann, 4.

### **Troop Nine (MAIT):**

On April 27, 2011, L/Cpl. M.E. Duncan responded to a Hit and Run collision involving a vehicle and a pedalcyclist and was assigned as the lead investigator on the case. The only debris was some amber lens pieces that he collected as evidence. He was able to put the amber lens pieces together and find a part number. Through diligent research on the internet and other sources, he was able to determine that the part was common on a Datsun pick-up truck made in the early 1970s. L/Cpl. Duncan obtained a list of vehicles matching that description and sent it to Troop 3, Post D (Spartanburg County) for troopers to check. L/Cpl. Duncan responded to anything the Troop needed in the course of this investigation. The pedalcyclist survived several days after the collision, but L/Cpl. Duncan was never able to interview him prior to his death. Throughout the

year, L/Cpl. Duncan followed up on every lead that was received and relentlessly pursued the goal of apprehending the suspect. During the course of the investigation, he interviewed approximately 20 people and examined multiple vehicles.

On April 11, 2012, L/Cpl. Duncan was following up on a lead at a residence in Spartanburg County and was able to get a confession from the driver of the Datsun pick-up truck who was subsequently arrested by the Troop. On November 6, 2012, 18 months from the date of the collision, the defendant pled guilty to leaving a scene with death and was sentenced to 13 years. Because of his expert skills as an investigator, his outstanding dedication to his profession and his dogged determination to crack the case, he was able to identify the driver and bring closure to the family.

### **Troop 11/Training:**

The SCHP Training Unit's nominee for the 2012 Trooper of the Year Award is Sergeant Everick Patterson. Prior to joining the South Carolina Highway Patrol, Patterson served 10 years on active duty in the United States Army as a Military Police Criminal Investigator. Patterson continues to serve as a member of the Army Reserves where he has achieved the rank of Command Sergeant Major.

Patterson graduated from Highway Patrol Basic 70 in 1997 and was assigned to Lexington County. He was promoted to corporal in Highway Patrol Training Unit on December 17, 2009 and to Sergeant / Basic Training Coordinator on July 17, 2011. Since his assignment to training, Sergeant Patterson has successfully completed Basic Instructor Development, Defensive Tactics Instructor, Taser Instructor, Pursuit Driving Instructor, National Safety Council Defensive Driving Instructor, Advanced DUI Instructor and Speed Measurement Device Instructor.

Sergeant Patterson's military experience was evident in the way he led SCHP Basic 91 during drill and ceremony and physical fitness training. Sergeant Patterson revised the grading and evaluation criteria for the Basic 91 Field Training Officer Program. The newly implemented format evaluates the trainees on specific job functions to ensure the trainees are exposed to and given training on critical job tasks.

Sergeant Patterson has exceptional leadership qualities and sets high standards for trainees during the basic classes. Sergeant Patterson has earned the respect of the trainees, his peers, supervisors and SCCJA staff members.

### **Telecommunications**

### **Blythewood TCC:**

TCO Trena Tramel came to work with the Department of Public Safety on August 2, 2006. She attends the St. Andrews Road Church of Christ. She was a student of Murray State University in Kentucky where she studied Occupational Safety and Health Business Administration.

On August 14, 2012, TCO Tramel was working the Richland Radio when A113 TFC Groubert advised her that he was attempting to stop a vehicle that had just pulled out from him and was getting onto I 20 EB from SC 277. TCO Tramel was able to remain calm and keep her composure during the pursuit even after Trooper Groubert advised shots fired. TCO Tramel logged every transmission..

TCO Tramel always has a good attitude and always comes to work with a smile on her face. She is always eager to assist the troopers and motoring public in any capacity necessary. TCO Tramel always has a true concern for the safety of our troopers and law enforcement in general. TCO Tramel's Computer Aided Dispatch Records are always very detailed and packed with all information required and more.

TCO Tramel's has an excellent attitude, genuine concern for officer safety, and unselfish dedication to the job.

### **Florence TCC:**

The Florence TCC TCO OF YEAR nominee is Dawn R. Peacock. She has been a telecommunications operator in the Florence TCC since August 2, 2009. Peacock came to us with prior communications experience having previously worked at Dillon 911. TCO Peacock is the epitome of a Highway Patrol TCO who effectively and efficiently ensures the safety of field personnel and the motoring public; yet, she smiles and laughs while possessing the passion and seriousness about her job that demonstrates a sincere enthusiasm for the work of a Telecommunications Operator.

She was a fast learner and quickly excelled in all aspects of the on-the-job training program while later meeting the requirements for her certifications (CAD and others). Peacock is inquisitive, attentive, and tenacious when it comes to her work ethic when facing any challenge in dispatching calls for service. She exhibits a solid understanding and knowledge of what it means to follow established protocol and standard operating procedures in the Florence Center. TCO Peacock provides information, insight, and training to new hire TCOs and she has trained other TCOs. She maintains accurate and complete CAD, NCIC, and fatality records as they are packed with information to ensure compliance with established protocol. Because of her background in NCIC with warrant entry, she serves as an assistant Terminal Agency Coordinator for Florence TCC. She willingly assists other TCOs by answering telephones, calling wreckers, running driver licenses or motor vehicle tags, completing NCIC hit confirmations, and relieving them for breaks. Her thorough knowledge and application of skills ensures the safety of all Patrol personnel on her radio console by checking on them during their traffic stops. Her impeccable communication skills (professionalism, politeness, and business etiquette) enable her to positively impact working relationships with uniform staff, the general public, and her coworkers.

### **Charleston TCC:**

On Thursday, March 8, 2012 around 2117 hours, the Charleston Telecommunications Center received a call from a passing motorist about a possible sighting of a body part in the roadway on Interstate 95 in Dorchester County. The caller had advised that there was a bad collision around the 110-111 mile marker on Interstate 95 and they believed that the body part could be related to that collision. At the time, help from the Dorchester County Sheriff Office was requested to assist due to the unit assigned to the interstate being busy. At the time, no further information was provided by the Sheriff's Office or any other passing motorist.

TCO Garrett was one of the TCOs on duty that night when the call was received and due to the nature of the call it was not something she could forget about. The next day when TCO Garrett spoke with her father, Sheriff Garrett of Clarendon County, she learned from their conversation that there was a bad collision in Clarendon County where one subject lost their life. TCO Garrett also found out not all the subject's remains were recovered at the scene. TCO Garrett could not help but wonder if these two incidents were related and to help ease her mind she called Corporal Chris Martin, who was the supervisor for Troop 6 Post B the following night, and explained the information she had to him.

Corporal Martin, based on the information provided by TCO Garrett, went out and checked the interstate. From a statement provided by Corporal Martin, he was successful in locating the body part on Interstate 95. After further investigation, it was confirmed that this call was indeed related to the fatal collision reported in Clarendon County.

TCO Garrett is an asset to the Charleston Communications Center. She is reliable, good hearted, and takes her job very seriously. TCO Garrett's co-workers, both fellow TCOs and Troopers, always have kind words to say and highly praise her work ethic. This incident is one example of how TCO Garrett dedicates herself to her job and how she always tries to do the right thing. .

### **Greenville TCC:**

TCO Casey Partain has been a telecommunications operator since May 17, 2008. TCO Partain does an excellent job and strives to do her best every day. She is knowledgeable and is a hard worker. She is well-respected and liked by her co-workers, and is always a pleasure to work with. TCO Partain is a Communications Training Operator, and has trained several new operators throughout her career with DPS.

On November 13, 2012, TCO Partain received a call from a lady stating she was being followed by someone who didn't like her, and the person following them had a gun. TCO Partain was taking the information to BOLO it when the caller started screaming frantically. TCO Partain began to talk to her and get her calmed down enough to find out what was going on. At that time, TCO Partain found out that the passenger in the caller's vehicle had been shot by the man following them. She immediately conferenced the call to EMS and got an ambulance headed to the scene. She also got the sheriff's office and troopers en route to the scene. TCO Partain remained calm and did a great job getting the assistance to the caller in distress.

TCO Partain is quick to assist any other operators in the room and maintains a positive attitude. TCO Partain is married, and has three children. She has twin boys, Austin and Tyler, and a daughter Chloe. She attends Guthrie Grove Church.

**Greenwood TCC:**

TCO Tiffney Moton came to DPS in 2007 and excelled in her training for Telecommunications. She was quick to learn the job and eager to start a career with the Highway Patrol. She immediately made friends in the center and got along with all operators. But Tiffney came in and set the stage for all new operators to learn and excel and be part of a well working team. In fact when TCO Moton began her family, everyone in the center was involved in naming the baby and keeping up with her progress. She had a son, KJ, who became the center baby. In 2009, TCO Moton left DPS to be with her family more, however, it did not take long for her to realize that she had left her other family back at DPS. She called to say she wanted to come back to work with us. The center as a whole was thrilled.

TCO Moton came back in 2010 and picked up where she left off. She always has a smile ready and is quick to lighten the mood in the center. She is a natural leader and will help everyone. TCO Moton is a hard worker and is very thorough in what she does. She does not hesitate to tackle tough jobs and is willing to learn more daily. She comes in on her days off to help out and is quick to let us know to call her if we need her to come in. She is confident on the radio and cares about what she is doing. She is an invaluable employee that everyone enjoys working with. Sometimes it's the employee that accomplishes so much every day that stands out the most. TCO Moton goes the extra mile in her daily activities and is a pleasure to supervise.