

Press Release

State of Maryland
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services



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Taking Traffic Safety to a Higher Level

*Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions to Graduate 112 Officers
as Traffic Safety Specialists on Sept. 1 in Sykesville*

TOWSON, MD (August 31, 2010)-- The Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (PCTC) will award 112 officers with the Traffic Safety Specialist designation on Wednesday, September 1 at 10 a.m. The ceremony will take place at the Public Safety Education and Training Center, 6852 4th St. on the grounds of Springfield Hospital Center in Sykesville.

In collaboration with the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association and the Maryland Sheriff's Association, this new program was developed by PCTC through the support and coordination of the Maryland State Highway Administration's Safety Office. Launched in 2009, the Traffic Safety Specialist program provides a statewide designation to police officers who have attained certain levels of training, proficiency and expertise in various disciplines of traffic enforcement. Officers who have attained the varied levels of this designation will be awarded a certificate and uniform ribbon at the awards ceremony.

A committee of police executives and highway safety officials consider applications and make final determinations as to the eligibility of officers that have applied for recognition. Members of the committee represent the Maryland Sheriff's Association, the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, the Maryland Crash Reconstruction Committee, the Maryland Highway Safety Office, and the PCTC. Eligible coursework and training include topics such as Advanced Topics in Crash Reconstruction, Detecting the Drugged Driver, False and Fictitious Identification, and Legal Aspects of Search and Seizure during traffic stops.

Only fourteen officers successfully completed the required coursework, training, and the pre-requisite two years experience to be awarded the designation in 2009. In 2010, with enrollment in the program exceeding 300 participants, many more officers completed the necessary requirements for TSS-1 designation. Four officers completed additional training and submitted highway safety projects for consideration by the committee, necessary step for the TSS-2 designation.

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“The officers who are being awarded this highly coveted designation recognize that Traffic Safety *is* Public Safety,” said Talbot County Sheriff Dallas Pope. “The coursework and the training recognized by this program will pay huge dividends for my agency and for the Maryland residents that I am charged with protecting.”

“The sheer volume of interest among officers, as evidenced by enrollment numbers in this program, shows the need for recognizing these highly trained men and women assigned by their law enforcement agencies to tackle new and complex highway safety issues in their communities,” said Tom Gianni, Deputy Chief of the Maryland Highway Safety Office.

The Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions are vested with the authority to set standards of initial selection and training for all governmental law enforcement, correctional and parole and probation and juvenile justice officers in the State of Maryland, and to otherwise upgrade the professionalism of these officers.

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