



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

2015 Mark Losey Distinguished Law Enforcement Service Award



**Colonel Paul Pride, Superintendent
Ohio State Highway Patrol**

Colonel Paul A. Pride, a 26-year veteran of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, is nationally known for his work to reduce traffic-crash deaths. His tenure as superintendent is marked by several innovative initiatives. His latest, the Trooper Shield program, is meant to reduce traffic-related fatalities and increase criminal patrol efforts.

In 2006, drug overdoses became the leading cause of injury and death in Ohio, surpassing traffic fatalities. It became evident that drug couriers were using Ohio's interstates to move product in and out of communities and across the state. As heroin abuse reached epidemic proportions in 2012, Colonel Pride felt officers could make strides in targeting the method of transport.

Under the Trooper Shield program, the basic traffic stop acts as a gateway to identify criminal operations, with officers being urged to spend more time with traffic violators and look more closely to identify cues of illegal activity.

To help in the effort, Colonel Pride increased the number of canine officers and instituted a program to allow troopers to receive specialized training on criminal patrol operations. Each patrol district was also assigned a criminal patrol lieutenant to oversee crime enforcement efforts in each region. The patrol adopted a multifaceted approach to combat drugs and drug-related crime using a reallocation of resources, targeted enforcement, specialized officers and statewide initiatives.