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Behavioral Issues Focus of International Motorcycle Safety Conference

by Joey Syner, Traffic Safety Programs

March 1-4, 2001. Orlando, Fla. More than 450 people representing 22 countries and 46 states participated in the 2001 International Motorcycle Safety Conference in Orlando. NHTSA joined with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and the German Institute for Motorcycle Safety as a co-sponsor.

The 2001 conference was the second of a two-part conference. The German Institute for Motorcycle Safety conducted the first part of the conference in September 2000 in Munich, Germany focusing on vehicular issues. The second part of the conference, *The Human Element*, focused on behavioral issues critical to motorcycle safety.

To open the conference, Rose McMurray, Associate Administrator for Traffic Safety Programs (TSP), joined Roger Hagie, Chairman of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Board of Trustees; Tim Buche, President of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation; and Robert Rasor, President of the American Motorcyclist Association in welcoming the participants to the conference. A consistent and key message expressed by all four opening speakers was the release of the *National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety*, its role in improving motorcycle safety, and how the *National Agenda* provided the underlying foundation for the conference.

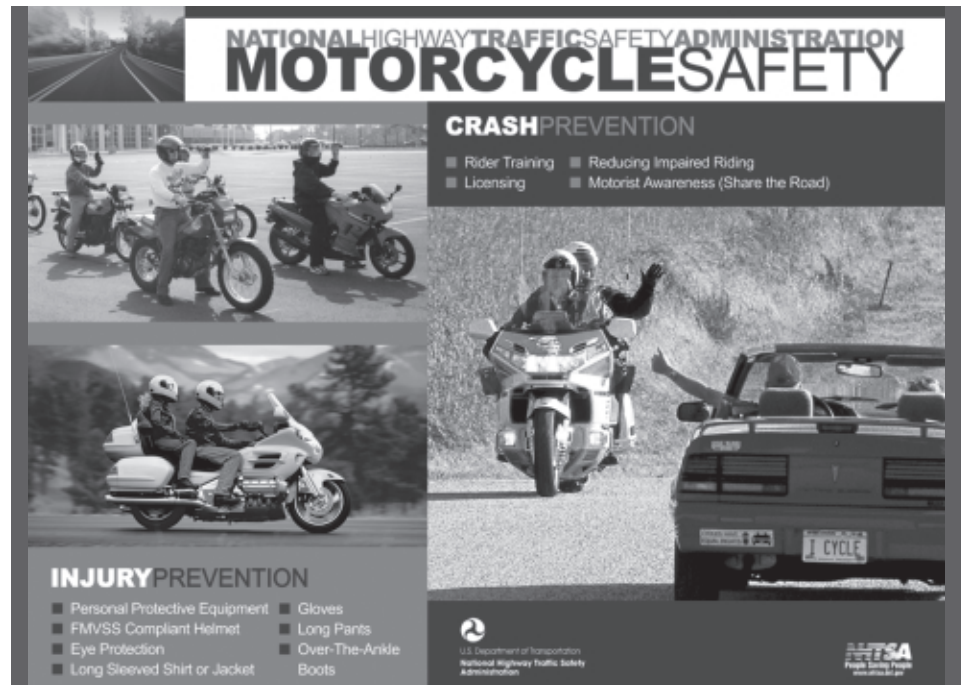
The conference's program was divided into four categories of motorcycle safety concerns. The *Crash Investigation* category addressed the latest thinking on motorcycle crash research and highlighted opportunities for future projects. The *Impaired Rider* category discussed the ongoing problems of impaired riding and how best to address them. The *Rider Choices, Skills, and Attitudes* category highlighted the latest research and thinking on motorcyclists' skill levels and their attitudes toward motorcycle safety. Finally, the *Rider Education Program* category showcased the current best practices

in motorcycle safety programs and discussed areas of improvement to meet the needs of today's motorcyclists.

Joey Syner, TSP's motorcycle safety program manager delivered the opening

keynote conference presentation. He spoke on impaired motorcycle riding and provided results of focus groups addressing why motorcyclists ride after drinking. Later in the

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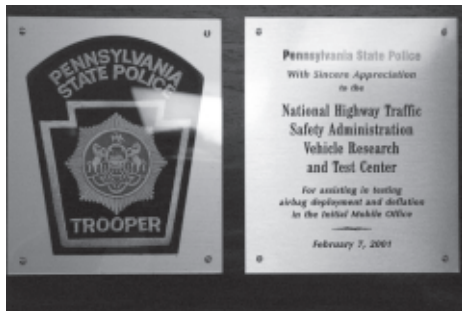
Nebraska and Arkansas Sign .08 Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) *Per Se* Laws

Nebraska and Arkansas are the first states to enact .08 BAC laws this year, as well as the first since October 2000 when Congress established a sanction for states without such laws. On March 1, Nebraska's Governor signed their .08 BAC law, which will become effective on September 1, 2001. On March 6, Arkansas's Governor signed their .08 BAC

law, which will become effective 90 days following the close of the legislative session. Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, and Oklahoma have passed .08 BAC laws in one or both houses of their respective state legislatures this session. Currently, 19 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have .08 BAC *per se* laws in effect. ■

Vehicle Research and Test Center Receives Kudos From Pennsylvania State Police

When the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) became concerned that the “gadgets” they mounted in the patrol vehicles might interfere or become projectiles from deploying air bags in a collision, the VRTC agreed to help them with an analysis. They brought a cruiser to VRTC along with a group of officers and managers. VRTC set up high speed video and deployed the air bags multiple times and provided them with the video footage. It was determined that their “mobile office” arrangement in the vehicle did not interfere with the air bag inflation. PSP sent the following letter to Mike Monk, Director, VRTC:



Earl Hardy Receives Special Recognition Award

The Association of Law Enforcement Emergency Response Trainers (ALERT) presented Earl Hardy, Highway Safety Specialist in NHTSA’s Traffic Law Enforcement Division with a special recognition award. Earl’s insight and commitment has led the agency to partner with ALERT in the establishment of a law enforcement driver training seminar focusing on police pursuits.

According to the Fatal Analysis Reporting System, over the past five years, 1721 deaths resulted from vehicular pursuits. 65 percent of the victims were occupants of the violator vehicle, 34 percent were occupants of another vehicle or pedestrians, and 1 percent were law enforcement officers or occupants of the law enforcement vehicle. The ALERT training is scenario-based, allowing law enforcement driver trainers the ability to review their own procedures for safely initiating, managing and terminating pursuits. The workshop will be delivered in at least 12 locations in 2001 with more anticipated in 2002. Congratulations Earl! ■

Regional Administrator Receives Distinguished Service Award

by David Seiler, TSP



Troy Ayers, Regional Administrator for Region IV, received the distinguished service award from the National Sheriffs’ Administration at their Mid-Winter Conference, held March 1. Troy was recognized for obtaining 100% participation by sheriffs (736) in all 8 states within his region for the *Buckle Up America/America Buckles Up Children* campaigns. The NSA has adopted the safe transportation of children as a major highway safety initiative for sheriffs. To date, 19 states have 100% of their sheriffs signed up to support the two mobilizations in May and November. Congratulations Troy! ■



OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER

March 5, 2001

Mr. Michael W. Monk
Director, Vehicle Research and Test Center
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
10820 State Route 347
Building #60, P.O. Box B37
East Liberty, Ohio 43319-0337

Dear Mr. Monk:

Thank you for the assistance provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in the testing of the Pennsylvania State Police first mobile computing platform. The professionalism displayed by your personnel at the Vehicle Research and Test Center, and your state-of-the-art facility itself, are examples of why NHTSA is considered the foremost authority in vehicle safety testing in the world.

In procuring equipment for the Department, including the Initial Mobile Office, the primary focus was officer safety. The position of the Mobile Office Team concerning the safety of the mobile computing platform was clear – if the solution was not 100% officer safe, it would not be selected. Several solutions were not considered because of their failure to comply with airbag safety requirements. Pennsylvania State Police personnel were actively involved in the design of the mount configuration to ensure the equipment did not impede the deployment or deflation of the driver or passenger airbags.

After the design of the Initial Mobile Office was complete, assistance was requested from your agency in testing its compatibility with the vehicle airbags. On February 7, 2001, personnel from the Pennsylvania State Police traveled to your facility with a patrol vehicle equipped with an Initial Mobile Office. NHTSA personnel conducted repeated deployments of the airbags under controlled conditions, using high-speed video recording equipment to capture airbag movements. The completion of the testing, and video documentation of the tests, provided our personnel with the necessary proof that the mounting solution does not adversely effect deployment or deflation of the airbag system.

Without use of your facility and the participation of your highly professional staff, the testing of this equipment and recording of the results, would not have been possible. NHTSA's testing of the Initial Mobile Office was an invaluable service to the Pennsylvania State Police. Your efforts have helped to ensure that the men and women of the Department will continue to work in the safest environment possible.

Again, my sincere thanks for assisting in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Colonel Paul J. Evanko
Commissioner

Muhammad Ali Visit Surprises Region IV Office

by Dan Robinson and Ken Quintana

On February 6, NHTSA Region IV staff received a wonderful "surprise" visit during Black History Month from one of this country's most famous athletes, Muhammad Ali. During a visit to his physician in Atlanta, Muhammad Ali visited the office of his longtime friend, Dan Robinson. Dan became

acquainted with Ali during his tenure as Chief of Police in Lincoln Township, Michigan which is the home of Muhammad Ali. While visiting Emory Hospital, Muhammad Ali agreed to make a surprise visit to meet the staff in the NHTSA Region IV office. Upon his arrival, news of Ali's presence in the building spread very quickly and soon the Region IV office was overwhelmed with

visitors. This was an exciting day in the Atlanta Regional office. Ali spent two hours shaking hands and exchanging banter with federal employees. Muhammad Ali touched the hearts of his many fans during his visit to the Atlanta Federal Center. After the visit, Region IV staff received letters and phone calls from the visitors expressing their appreciation of the Region IV staff for sharing this "once in a lifetime experience." Ali's graciousness and caring attitude toward the NHTSA staff and other federal employees showed why he truly is "THE GREATEST OF ALL TIME." ■



Myra Wootson, Belinda Jackson and Ken Quintana with Muhammad Ali.

NHTSA Region III and FHWA's Eastern Resource Center Team Up To Provide U.S. DOT Employees with Bystander Care Training

By Stephanie Hancock

On February 22, 2001 NHTSA Region III and FHWA's Eastern Resource Center teamed up to present a Bystander Care workshop. The workshop goal was to give U.S. DOT employees information, training, and the confidence to provide life-saving bystander care at the scene of a crash, thus increasing the chances of survival for crash victims. All U.S. DOT employees in the City Crescent Building in Baltimore were invited to attend the training. NHTSA Region III Regional Administrator, Dr. Beth Baker, and FHWA Program Assistant and Harford County Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Susie Taylor, served as instructors for the workshop. At the conclusion of the workshop, Dr. Baker effectively incorporated the "Buckle Up America!" message by saying "My hope is that as we become more and more successful with our BUA effort, you will never need to use what you've learned here today."

More than 24 people attended the workshop and received a bystander care kit for



their personal car. Kits were also provided for all the government owned vehicles. The kits, provided by the Pennsylvania Highway Safety Office, include two sets of gloves, a rescue breather, two large gauze bandages, a bystander care reminder card with a copy of the Good Samaritan law, and postage paid feedback card.

Workshop participant and FHWA employee, Laverne Hicks said, "This training was great, now I know what to do and how to help someone if I come upon a crash scene." Workshop evaluations indicated that the

training was well received. Due to the requests of many employees who were unable to attend the workshop, NHTSA Region III staff plans to conduct a second workshop.

Immediately following the training, NHTSA Region III hosted a brainstorming and planning session for statewide and regional bystander care initiatives with representatives from the Region III state highway safety offices. At this meeting, Dr. Baker promoted the idea of implementing the Bystander Care Program regionally and requested support for a proposed Federal Employee Bystander Care Program. Region III states were very receptive to both ideas. Dr. Baker has designated a member of her staff as the Region III Bystander Care Coordinator, she will be responsible for moving this initiative forward. ■





Recent People Saving People/Teamwork Leadership Challenge Awards

Phyllis Alston, NOA
William Snyder, NOA
Christopher Cook, NCC

In recognition for assisting in the development of NHTSA OCR's Compliance Review Program.

Samuel Daniel, NPS
Han-Sun (Bob) Chan
Carolyn Felder, NSA
Donna Gilmore, NRD

For processing a high volume of Title VII EEO Complaints during the FY 1999–2000.

Christopher Cook, NCC
Joyce Jones, NTS
Wendi M. Wilson-John, NSC

In recognition for assisting in NHTSA's Combined Federal Campaign for 2000.

Peggy F. Proctor, NTS

In recognition for stepping in to assist in getting the TSP contract process started and ensuring all procurement actions were processed on a timely basis.

Karen Scott, NTS

For providing her expertise in putting together the 2001 Edition of NHTSA's Traffic Safety Materials catalog.

Rhonda Williams, NTS
Ruth Esteban, NTS
Lester Jones, NTS
Peggy Proctor, NTS
Cheryl Schuler, NTS

For working beyond the normal call of duty to ensure the success of Traffic Safety Program's Combined Federal Campaign.

Tina Foley, NOA

For her effort in coordinating the re-write of "This is NHTSA".

Regional Support Staff Retreat Held in Washington, D.C.

A retreat for regional support staff was held in Washington, D.C., January 9–10, 2001.

Participants included: *front row, left to right* — Myra Wootson, R-IV; Joyce Chapman, R-X; Lisa Postlethwaite, R-VIII; Brian Huynh, R-IX; *middle row* — James Grant, R-IV; Sharon

Spann, NSC; Beatrice Petrina, R-II; Elaine Scott, R-VI; Delores Stevens, R-V; Vanessa Johnson, R-III; Sharon Blackmon, R-VII; Paula Flynn, R-I; *back row* — Alice Stevens, R-VI; Ellen Rubio, R-II; Peggy Barker, NSC Retreat Coordinator; and Ron Filbert, NSC.



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Kathryn Henry
Editor

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If you would like to submit articles or photographs, please address them to NHTSA/OPACA, attention Kathryn Henry, NOA-42, 400 7th Street, SW, Room 5232, Washington DC 20590. (202) 366-9550. FAX: (202) 366-5962. Internet address: khenry@nhtsa.dot.gov

Behavioral Issues Focus of International Motorcycle Safety Conference

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conference, Joey also gave a presentation discussing law enforcement's role in addressing impaired riding.

Dr. Linda Cosgrove presented results of the evaluation of the motorcycle helmet law repeals in Texas and Arkansas. Other staff members attending the conference were Maria Vegega, Chief, Safety Countermeasures Division; Marvin Levy, Office of Research and Traffic Records; Maura Butler, Office of Communications and Outreach; Rae Tyson, Office of Public and Consumer Affairs; and J.J. Liu and Joe Scott, Office of Safety Performance Standards.

At the conference, TSP unveiled its new motorcycle safety exhibit developed in partnership with several state motorcycle rider training programs and motorcycle manufacturers. It showcases the agency's comprehensive approach to motorcycle safety by reducing crashes, mitigating injuries, and rapid emergency response.

According to Rose McMurray, the 2001 International Motorcycle Safety Conference "provided participants an excellent opportunity to keep abreast of national and international motorcycle safety research and rider issues. I also enjoyed seeing the enthusiasm and interest in the *National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety*. This document will serve as a guide to the agency as we carry out our own motorcycle safety program," she said.

The Conference is conducted every 10 years and examines research conducted since the last conference, as well as the challenges facing motorcycling. ■

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Build up your weaknesses until they become your strong points."

— Knute Rockne, 1888–1931
American Football Coach