

# 1987

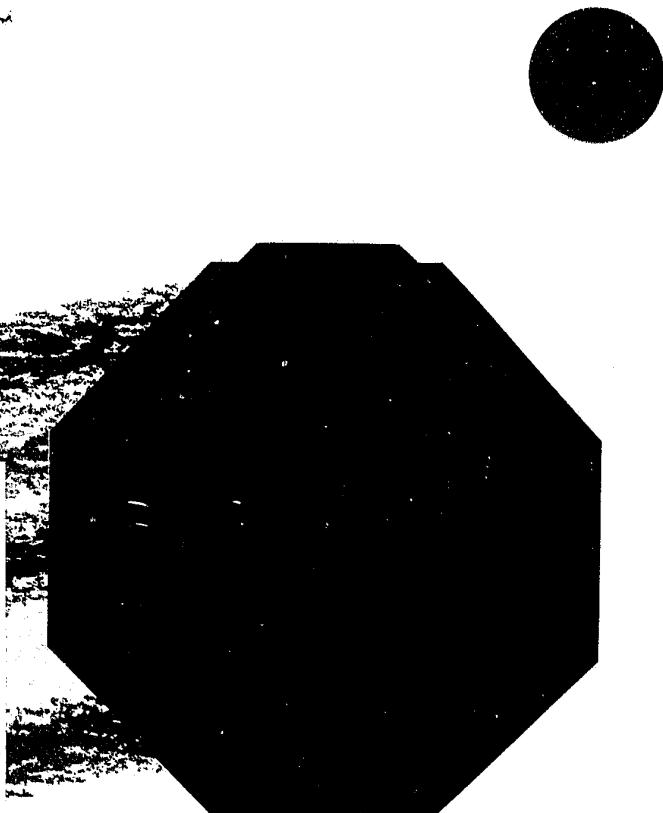
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# ANNUAL REPORT

**THE NEW YORK STATE POLICE  
PROUDLY SERVING ALL THE PEOPLE  
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

# Annual Report

New York  
State Police  
For the Year  
1987



*Director of Criminal Justice*  
**John J. Poklemba**



*Director of Criminal Justice*  
**Lawrence T. Kurlander**  
(Resigned December, 1987)



*Governor*  
**Mario M. Cuomo**



*Superintendent*  
**Thomas A. Constantine**

# Superintendent Constantine's First Year

The year of 1987, which marked the 70th anniversary of the New York State Police, was filled with remarkable advances as well as unprecedented tragedy.

The 10th Superintendent in NYSP's history, Thomas A. Constantine, who had been nominated by Governor Cuomo December 9, 1986, was confirmed by the State Senate on February 24.

The new Superintendent was the first in 30 years to rise through the ranks and was praised by the Governor for his "broad law enforcement experience, absolute integrity, and demonstrated dedication to professional and progressive law enforcement".

Superintendent Constantine immediately launched plans to improve the Division — ranging from expanded service to the public to raising morale of troopers and investigators — with a series of innovative programs, and a top-to-bottom review which promises widespread enhancement of benefits to citizens and State Police members and civilian employees.

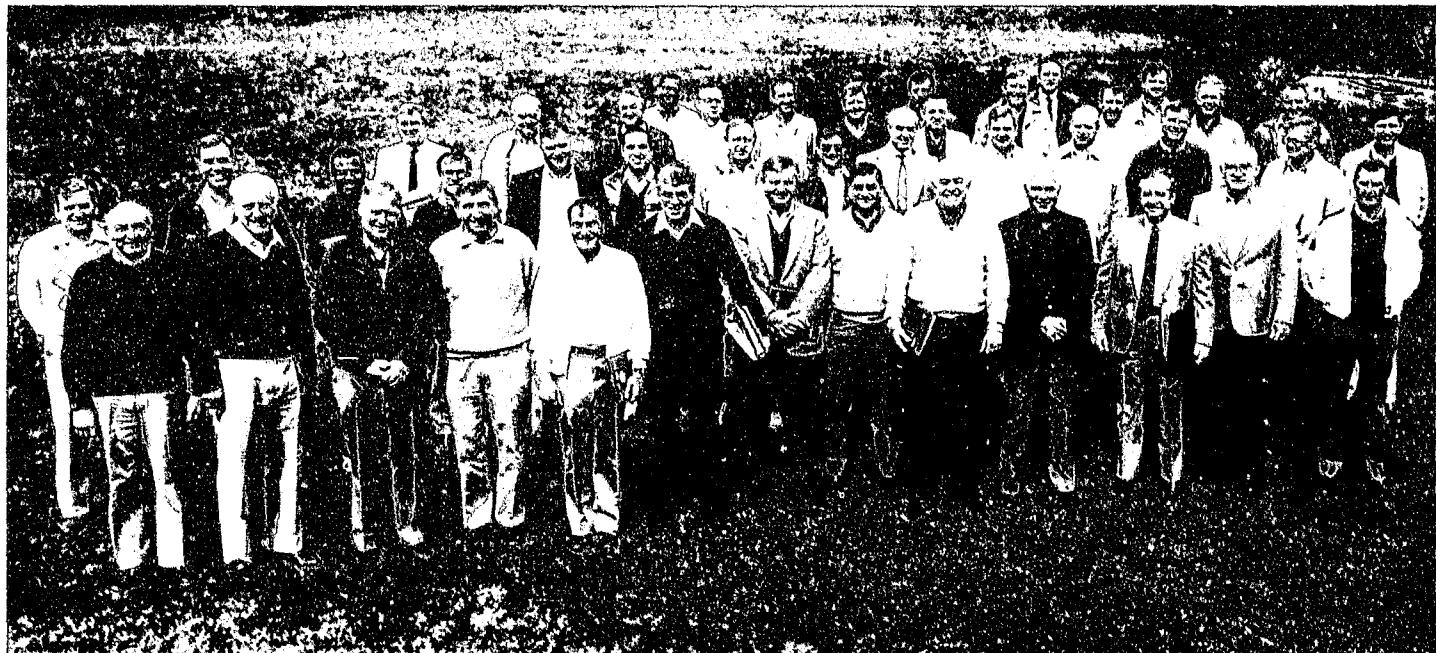
Unfortunately, the year will also be remembered for calamity: the deaths on duty of three troopers in a six-month span and the disastrous collapse of a Thruway bridge followed by an extraordinary effort by the Division to recover bodies and help restore normalcy.

NCJRS

JUL 20 1988

ACQUISITIONS

# The Rensselaerville Project



**A**n Era of 'Change' was anticipated from the moment, early in his administration, when the Superintendent ordered a sweeping Division-wide review of all operating procedures.

Secluded for three days at the Rensselaerville Institute in Albany County, the Division's top executives engaged in a scalpel-like dissection and evaluation of operations which was followed by months of exhaustive study.

Identified as the critical areas most in need of attention if SP is to meet the needs of society were:

1. Entrance criteria and programs (recruitment, selection and training).
2. Quality of service and discipline.
3. Career development and promotional systems.
4. Deployment of personnel.

The Division began to anticipate the fruits of the long and thoughtful study, the initial impact of which was expected to be felt in 1988.

Concluded one officer involved in the project: "Those three days in May coupled with a year-long study will significantly change the course of the New York State Police."



The Trooper

USPS 619-180

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# Thruway Bridge Collapses

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The April 5 collapse of the Thruway bridge spanning the Schoharie Creek set in motion the most difficult assignment of the year for the State Police — in terms of sheer tragedy, the dislocation of established traffic patterns, and the breadth of services required to counter chaos.

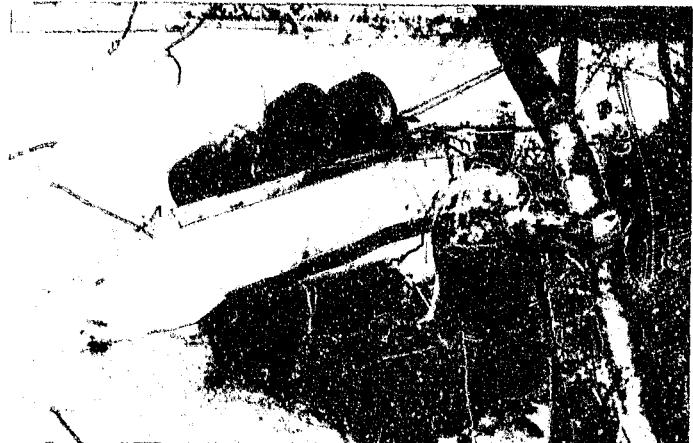
Once the span gave way, plunging a dozen travelers into the abyss to be swept away in the raging creek, troopers were hurtled into round-the-clock attempts to create a semblance of order, a herculean task that didn't end until the reopening of the overpass in December.

The drain on SP resources was all-encompassing, as Division Scuba divers, helicopters, horses, communications personnel, the mobile response team, and public information officers joined an army of troopers.

The immediate need to search for bodies and to redirect thousands of travelers was compounded by the influx of world media, the unanswerable anguish of families and friends of the victims, and the need to restore calm in a wide area around the severed Thruway.

Once the initial impact of the crisis was alleviated, and the lengthy search for the drowning victims was concluded, patrols continued the burdensome assignment of detouring traffic along secondary roads and bridges. Troopers from Troop T (Thruway) and Troop G, Loudonville, bore the brunt of the arduous months from the moment the sequence of tragedies began.





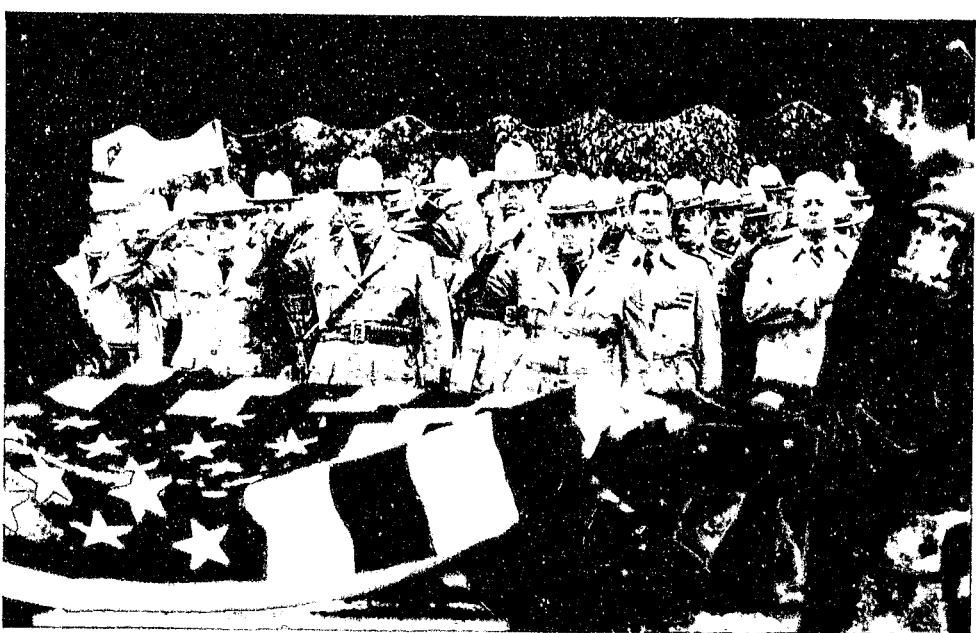
## Loss of Three Troopers

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Trooper Robert G. Dunning

The loss of three troopers within less than six months was described by the Superintendent as "a terrible blow...that clearly reflects the multiple dangers faced by our troopers".

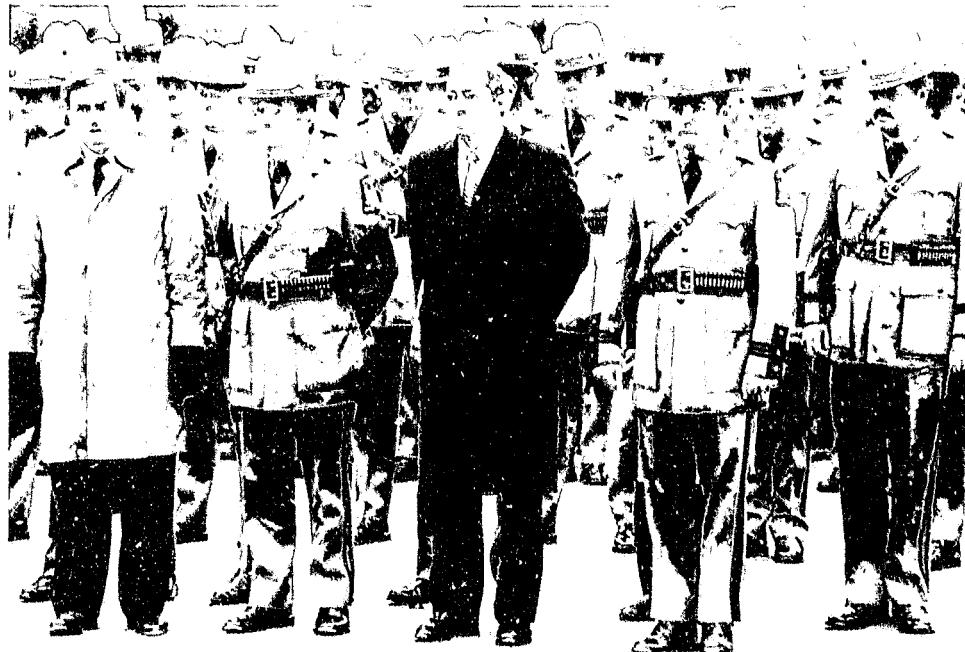


*Buffalo News photo by Ron Moscati*

### TROOPER KURDYS' FUNERAL

**First, Trooper Robert G. Dunning** of Troop K was fatally shot on June 14 while investigating a report of menacing in Dutchess County. In a subsequent shootout, Sgt. Robert G. Garzetta suffered a gunshot wound and the trooper's killer took his own life. Trooper Dunning, a 22-year veteran of the State Police, left a wife, three children and three stepchildren; two Dunning brothers are State Police investigators.

A sports car clocked by radar traveling at more than 90 miles per hour along the Thruway in Genesee County on September 15 struck **Trooper Alvin P. Kurdys** of Troop T as he was attempting to wave it to the side of the road. The 18-year-old driver was later indicted for manslaughter. A 17-year State Police member, Trooper Kurdys was survived by his wife and two children.



*Photo by The New York Times*

### TROOPER CONSORTE'S FUNERAL

The third tragic death was that of **Trooper Thomas J. Consorde** of Troop L on November 23 in Suffolk County. The trooper was removing warning flares from the trunk of his patrol car in the aftermath of an accident when he was struck from behind by another vehicle. His wife and one-year-old son survive.

Governor Cuomo attended all three funerals to join mourners led by Superintendent Constantine and his Executive staff.



**Trooper Alvin P. Kurdys**



**Trooper Thomas J. Consorde**

# Narcotics Enforcement

The New York State Police today fields some 300 members dedicated to narcotics enforcement following the addition of 85 investigative personnel during fall.

The beefed-up assault on those who trade in illicit drugs continues a mandate by Governor Cuomo issued during his 1986 appearance at the Academy to announce restructuring and expansion of the Division's narco enforcement.

Said the Superintendent during a 1987 address: "The Division's new narcotics enforcement program has begun to show an encouraging trend in both the quality and quantity of seizures."



*Inspecting cocaine seized in shutting down a "factory" operated by Colombians on a Herkimer County farm are Assistant Deputy Superintendent David M. Luitweiler of the BCI and Major Edward Cass of Troop D.*



*Superintendent Constantine is flanked by Deputy Attorney-General Arnold I. Burns and Senator D'Amato as he accepts a replica of a \$540,000 check, presented to NYSP by the Department of Justice as its share of assets seized during a series of drug trafficking cases.*

The State Police commitment is three-fold:

- Each troop, excluding the Thruway troop, operates a narcotics unit, and in each case its size was doubled, by the Spring of 1987, from the original numbers.
- With much of the state's narcotics traffic passing through New York City, the multi-agency Drug Enforcement Task Force carries a major commitment of NYSP personnel. This serves the dual purpose of reducing the flow of illegal drugs to upstate areas.
- The third portion of the program is represented by the Statewide Investigations Unit (SIU), with primary responsibility for organized crime investigations, and its special relationship with the Statewide Organized Crime Task Force (OCTF), with interest in both narcotics activities and organized crime groups. Major investigations have included Colombian cocaine cartels, and narcotics interdiction focused on drug couriers which began on the Thruway and in 1987 spread to other major interstate arteries.

An important support service added during 1987 was the introduction of the Statewide Narcotics Indexing Program (SNIP) under which participating law enforcement agencies register and exchange information concerning active narcotics law violators. The system is operated from the Crime Analysis Unit at Division Headquarters.

# Two Major Seminars.

## Homicide

No greater tribute could have been paid to Col. Henry F. Williams, the late commander of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, than the seminar named in his honor which brought more than 130 of the nation's leading homicide investigators to the State Police Academy November 11-14.

Unique in concept and prestigious in attendance, the gathering provided a platform for leading specialists in the various disciplines involved with solutions of murder, and a sounding board for an exchange of information and ideas.

After a concluding banquet honoring Col. Williams, led by his widow, Lavonne, and Superintendent Constantine, one seminar participant exclaimed, "This was something!"



A sketch of Col. Williams is examined by his wife, Lavonne, and Superintendent Constantine.



The Superintendent exchanges views with homicide seminar participants Capt. H.R. Block of the Texas Rangers and Tpr. John Holtz of the Pennsylvania State Police. Associated Press photo by Dave Jennings.

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## AIDS

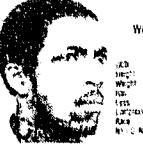
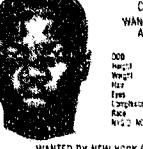
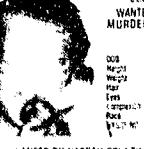
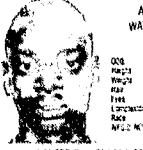
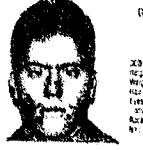
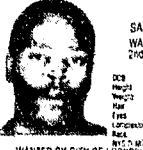
Another seminar of major importance — an AIDS symposium — attracted 150 members of 25 law enforcement and health-related departments to the Academy on July 20. They were given this message: "There's no need for hysteria. Just protect yourselves."

Said Dr. David Axelrod, the State Health Commissioner, who was one of a large and distinguished array of knowledgeable speakers: "It's the single most important public health issue we are confronting today."

Superintendent Constantine, the keynoter, told the crowd: "We are faced with the prospect of having to make critical decisions to protect the public and our employees from this dreaded affliction while carrying on our sworn duty. However, we need to keep our fears within rational parameters and not pass into a state of paranoia."

# The "12 Most Wanted"

A program initiated by the Governor in mid-1984, the "12 Most Wanted" list of the state's most notorious criminals, has been responsible for the capture of 26 felons, including six during 1987. The program employs an updated photo-flyer, the sixth edition of which was distributed in June. Calls continue to come in over the state's toll-free hotline: 1-800-262-4321.

1-800-262-4321		NEW YORK'S 12 MOST WANTED				1-800-262-4321	
	WILLIAM PETER FISCHER WANTED FOR MURDER 2ND DEGREE (TWO COUNTS)		DONOVAN ROWE WANTED FOR MURDER 2ND DEGREE		CHRIS WILLIAMS WANTED FOR MURDER OF A PAROLE OFFICER		JOSEPH NAPOLITANO WANTED FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SEVERE 2 COUNTS
<small>WANTED BY THE NEW YORK STATE POLICE WE ARE ASKING YOU TO FORWARD THIS FLYER TO YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT OR FEDERAL AGENCIES. THEY WILL BE ABLE TO HELP ARREST THESE CRIMINALS.</small>		<small>WANTED BY THE ROCHESTER POLICE DEPT. ALVIN HAS FACILITATED THE ROCHESTER AND NEW YORK CITY METROPOLITAN AREA.</small>				<small>WANTED BY NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPT. WILLIAM AKA JOSEPH TATE AND ALVIN A NEW YORK STATE PAROLE OFFICER CONSIDERABLE ARMED AND DANGEROUS.</small>	
	NAZAH MUSLLIM WANTED FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER OF A POLICE OFFICER AND ROBBERY 1st DEGREE		JERRY GRIFFIN WANTED FOR RAPE 1st DEGREE TRESPASS 3rd DEGREE & SODOMY 1st		ARNOLD HARRIS WANTED FOR MURDER 2nd DEGREE		RAFAEL A. COLLADO WANTED FOR MURDER 2nd DEGREE
<small>WANTED BY THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPT. MICHAEL AKA DUSTY DUSTY BEEF BROTHERS ARMED AND DANGEROUS. HE IS BELIEVED TO BE IN THE MANHATTAN AREA.</small>		<small>WANTED BY THE SYRACUSE POLICE DEPT. GREGORY KATHLEEN TURNER OF EAST SYRACUSE WAS FOUND DEAD ALCOHOLIC.</small>				<small>WANTED BY YONKERS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND WESTCHESTER COUNTY DPS ADOLFO HARRIS AKA TEAS HARRIS IS BELIEVED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE SALE OF HEROINE IN THE NEW YORK CITY AREA.</small>	
	ROBERT M. DIRAFFAELE WANTED FOR MURDER 2nd DEGREE		EDWARD E. NYE WANTED FOR BAIL JUMPING SODOMY 3rd DEGREE		SAMUEL J. HUSTON WANTED FOR MURDER 2nd DEGREE 2 COUNTS		PEDRO ESTRADA WANTED FOR SEVEN COUNTS OF HOMICIDE
<small>WANTED BY BUFFALO POLICE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL AREA. HE MAY BE FOUND IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA.</small>		<small>WANTED BY NY STATE POLICE TROOP X NY STATE POLICE HAVE RELEASED AN INDEX IN THE A.P.N.Y. LAST WEEK. IT AREA VEHICLES FROM ADAMS ST. CAR BURGLARY</small>				<small>WANTED BY CITY OF LOCKPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT MISTON AKA JESSICA. HE WAS LAST SEEN IN THE CANTER AREA IN NOVEMBER OF 1983. HIS CRIMINAL HISTORY INCLUDES ARRESTS FOR BURGLARY AND ASSAULT.</small>	
NEW YORK STATE POLICE - VIOLENT FELONY WARRANT SQUAD				NEW YORK STATE POLICE - VIOLENT FELONY WARRANT SQUAD			

## Laboratory Expansion

Westward expansion of forensic laboratory services became a reality on May 13 with the opening of the State Police Western New York Regional Crime Laboratory in Olean, Cattaraugus County.

A ceremony attended by 200 celebrated the beginning of services at the fourth lab within the NYSP system, which includes the Headquarters Laboratory in Albany and regional facilities in Newburgh and Binghamton.

One unique feature, the first of its kind in the system, is a forensic garage which enables the staff to conduct examinations of vehicles involved in major crimes and hit-and-run accidents.



# SPSP Enters Second Decade

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Some 200 underprivileged boys and girls 9-12 years old marked the beginning of the second decade of the State Police Summer Program (SPSP). It's an educational vacation with troopers that serves to instill trust and friendship in law enforcement officers.

Fully funded by the Trooper Foundation through contributions by individuals, civic organizations and businesses, SPSP has opened its doors to more than 1,700 children since its inception.

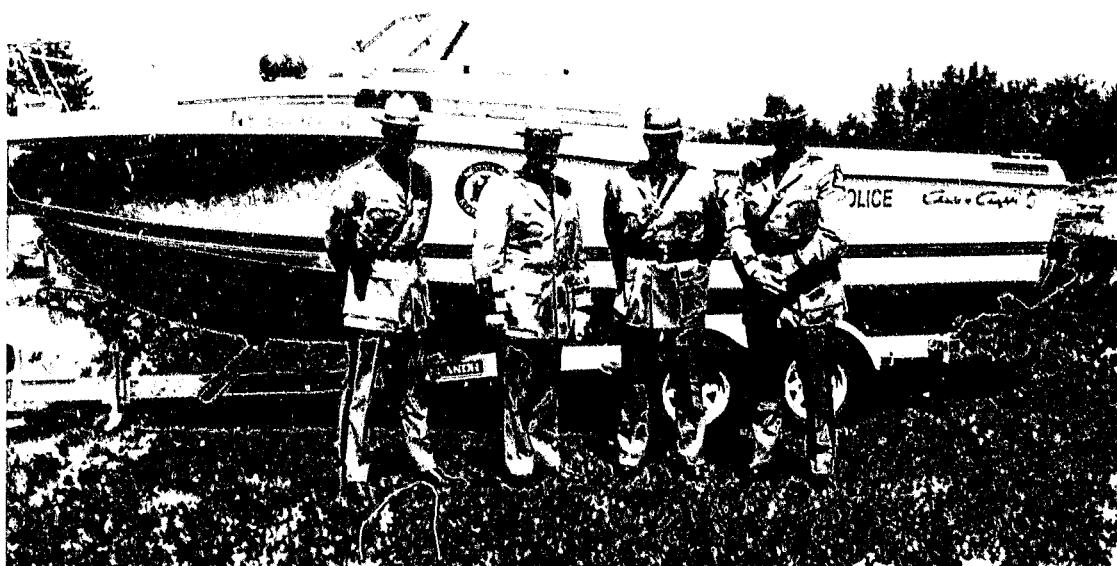


## Policing The State's Waterways

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A new wave of naval operations commenced May 14 when the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation turned over three new marine patrol boats to the State Police during the celebration of National Police Week.

The enlarged fleet of eight vessels enabled some 26 uniform personnel to operate on seven major bodies of water between Memorial Day and Labor Day to assure a safer boating and recreational environment.



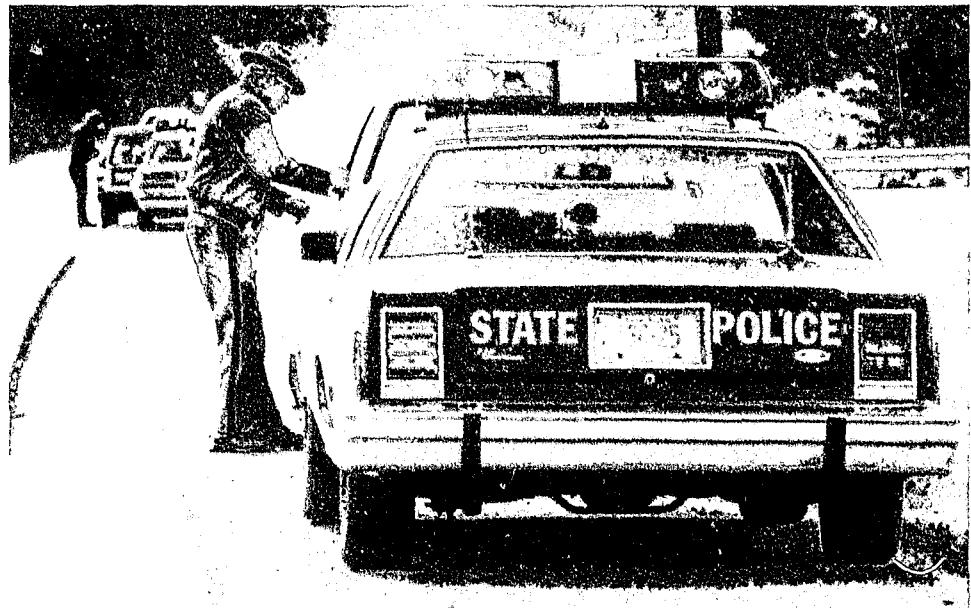
# Enforcement By Saturation

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The word "saturation" took on new meaning in highway patrol initiatives in the latter part of the year with the beginnings of two new programs — Saturation DWI and Saturation Speed Enforcement.

By concentrating major manpower and equipment on selected sections of heavily-traveled roads within a specific time frame, troopers have been able to exert a deterrence to serious accidents.

The effort against speeders began November 20 following test programs in July and October, while the drunk driving alert focused on the Christmas-New Year holiday period.



*Binghamton Press photo by Nell Seiler.*

## Graduation Addresses

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Governor Cuomo and Superintendent Constantine teamed up March 13 and September 10 to address graduation ceremonies of basic school classes at Convention Hall, Albany.

The Governor, who has spoken before all 10 commencements during his five-year administration, reiterated his long-standing commitment: "In every way we can, we will continue to help you do the hard work you have chosen. We will not let you fail — or even be weakened — because of the lack of training, or a lack of equipment, or a lack of personnel."



**Governor Cuomo**



Superintendent Constantine

Manifest evidence of the Governor's pledge was the March class, which completed the second largest hiring in State Police history. During fiscal 1986-87, classes totaling 630 were budgeted, helping to push end-of-year strength to a record 3,879, while the authorized strength was increased to 4,165 to assure future growth.

In his first graduation address as Superintendent, delivered on the 25th anniversary of his speaking as class representative of his 1962 recruit class, Superintendent Constantine pointed to his own appointment as another example of the Governor's commitment: "He chose one of us, someone from the ranks."

The Superintendent continued: "I intend to continue to earn that confidence and I am counting upon each of you to share the responsibility of preserving the fine traditions of the State Police."



Honor Graduates

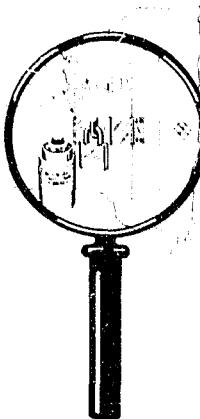
## Countering Product Tampering

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The State Police became the state's clearinghouse for all consumer product tampering cases at year's end, the first program of its kind in the United States.

Under a bill signed by Governor Cuomo in July, all of the state's law enforcement and regulatory agencies are required to report tampering cases within five hours of notification to the State Police Consumer Product Tampering Data Base in Albany.

The law further provides that NYSP coordinate all tampering cases, establish standardized investigative procedures, operate a 24-hour product tampering phone hotline, and develop training programs; 30 SP investigators have completed a prototype training program.



# Trooper Examination

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More than 15,000 men and women flocked to 26 of the state's major population sites on June 13 to compete in a written examination for trooper openings. Some 30,000 persons had been eligible to take the test.

At a March 2 news conference at the Academy, the Superintendent introduced more than 50 recruiters who then fanned out to scour the state for the leading candidates; their efforts paid off, especially with a substantial participation by minorities and women, specific targets of the recruiting drive.

The first class from the new list will be taken in March, 1988.



*Superintendent Constantine announces a new trooper exam and statewide recruiting effort to the media.*

# Bravery is Recognized

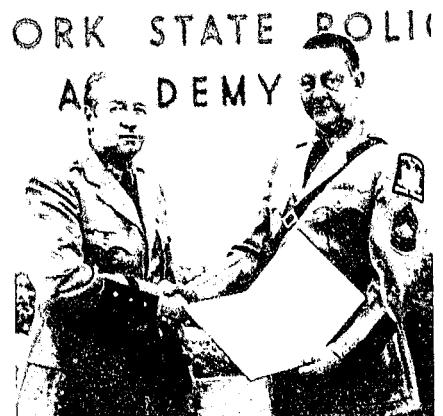
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The highest State Police award for bravery — the Brummer Award — was bestowed on Zone Sergeant Edward Van Kluyve, who risked his life to prevent a woman armed with an icepick from committing suicide by jumping from a Thruway bridge spanning the Hudson River.

Two Thruway Authority employees who assisted in the rescue were named for special heroism recognition.

Presentation of the Brummer Award May 12 was the highlight of the annual Awards Day ceremonies, at which 12 State Police members were also singled out for Superintendent's Commendation Awards and the Troop C Bureau of Criminal Investigation received the Superintendent's Unit Citation Award for resolving a double homicide.

## Awards Day Winners



Z/Sgt. Edward Van Kluyve, the Brummer Award winner, with the Superintendent.

## Crimes Against Children

To assist in the prevention and investigation of crimes against children, the Child Abuse and Exploitation Unit was established within the Special Projects Group at Division Headquarters during the year.

The unit was founded on the heels of legislation mandating child abuse notification to law enforcement agencies for cases which do not fall within parameters of the Department of Social Services.

A prestigious recognition in the area of child protection was bestowed by the National Center For Missing and Exploited Children on Investigator Edmund W. Girtler; he received the National Child Protection Award For Law Enforcement for developing the "Project Safe" outreach/referral program as an alternative to prostitution and pimp harassment.



Members of the Child Abuse and Exploitation Unit. Photo by Legislative Gazette.

# Other Highlights

These were among the other highlights of 1987:

- An October 14 graduation ceremony following six months of training raised the State Police shepherd corps to 37, the highest level since the program was founded in 1976 with three Army-trained dogs. In addition to tracking capabilities, shepherds can detect bombs and drugs, and are used for building searches, crowd control and protective assignments.
- A change in policy now allows State Police members to become active members of volunteer fire departments and ambulance/rescue squads.



Hollywood moves to New York State.



Superintendent Constantine "pitches" at a Mets-Expos game on Police Day in Montreal.

- Superintendent Constantine tossed out the first pitch when the Mets and Expos met at Montreal on Police Day, celebrated by NYSP and the Surete du Quebec PD.

- The last survivor of the 232 "camp men" who founded the State Police in 1917 by pitching tents while training outside Syracuse died in July at the age of 93. He was Charles O. "Chuck" Green of Fairport.



J. Bruce Stauffer, new president of the Trooper Foundation, receives a Superintendent's letter of appreciation.

- J. Bruce Stauffer of Syracuse became president of the Trooper Foundation, which supports non-budgeted State Police activities, succeeding founding President Warren B. Surdam of Schenectady.

- As New York State became more of a mecca for major motion picture productions, State Police personnel played important roles in assisting filming companies and in assuming on-screen roles. Cases in point: Academy Award nominee "Ironweed" and the Steve Martin-John Candy comedy "Planes, Trains and Automobiles".

- The Forensic Sciences Unit, which supports State Police field investigations with scientific expertise provided by 16 specialists, became a fully functioning part of the office of the assistant deputy superintendent for the BCI.

- At year's end, the law enforcement community looked forward to the conversion in 1988 to the new Statewide Automated Fingerprint Identification System (SAFIS) which, among other technological advancements, makes crime-scene fingerprints a practical means of solving crimes in the absence of other leads; SAFIS is a joint state-local effort, with substantial State Police involvement.



*Governor Cuomo inspects the State Emergency Management Office in Albany during a snowstorm emergency. SEMO's multi-agency staffing includes State Police.*



*Governor Cuomo marches past a protective State Police cordon to his second-term inauguration ceremony.*



*The NYSP contingent at the St. Patrick's Day parade in NYC is led by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Superintendent Constantine and Attorney-General Robert Abrams.*

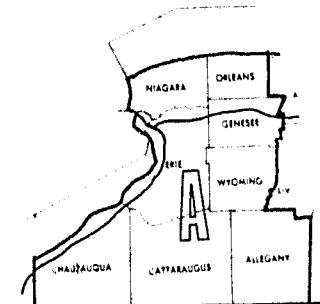
- A central depository for evidence and analysis to detect and capture serial killers will become fully operational and available to all law enforcement agencies in 1988. Known as HALT — Homicide and Lead Tracking — the computerized tracking system which examines unsolved homicides will work in partnership with a similar network (VICAP) developed by the FBI on a national level.

- More than 500 inspections were conducted by troopers attached to the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) during three days in August as part of the largest federally-coordinated truck inspection in the eastern corridor. Brake flaws proved the predominant violation.

# TROOP A (Western New York)



*Two troopers and the Troop A Public Information Officer join two Buffalo Bills stars in an anti-drug crusade.*



**Headquarters: Batavia**

**Counties Served:**

Allegany  
Cattaraugus  
Chautauqua  
Erie

Genesee  
Niagara  
Orleans  
Wyoming

- The electrocution by lightning of three campers in their tents at a nationally-known amusement park, originally suspected as a triple homicide, set off a difficult investigation.
- *Two troopers narrowly escaped death when they were sideswiped by a truck whose driver had fallen asleep; they were assisting two trucks hauling away a tractor-trailer involved in an accident.*
- The theft of \$30,000 stashed in shoebox by an old, blind woman led investigators to Virginia through a computer hit, resulting in the arrest of the two thieves and return of most of her life savings.
- *A boiler room operation which defrauded small investors around the country of \$400,000 by selling purportedly valuable Morgan silver dollars at up to 20 times their value was broken up jointly with the Organized Crime Task Force and the Attorney-General's Office.*
- An investigator donned the uniform of a delivery service and brought a package of cocaine to an address after the contents had been sniffed out by a drug dog; surveillance and an arrest of two brothers followed.
- *A responding trooper tried to rouse a moribund baby without result. Its death led to an investigation during which the babysitter was charged with murder for asphyxiating the toddler, apparently because she couldn't control its crying.*

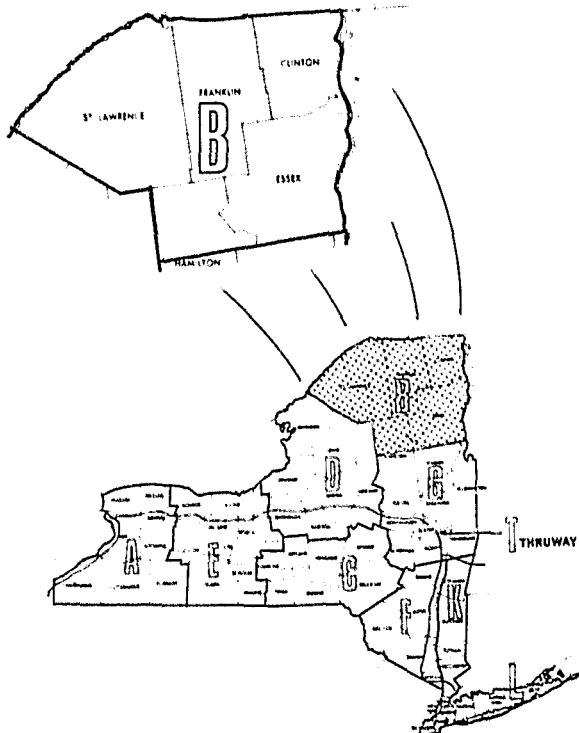
# TROOP B (North Country)



*The last of 300 slots is removed from an Indian Reservation.*



*Confiscated fireworks.*



**Headquarters: Ray Brook**

**Counties Served:**

Clinton  
Essex  
Franklin

Hamilton (upper)  
St. Lawrence

- Only months away from retirement, a senior investigator talked a suicidal youth away from the edge of a bridge and then was injured in a successful struggle to keep him from jumping to his doom.
- *Narcotics investigators joined U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and U.S. Customs in the surveillance of two motels, concluding in a series of arrests and the seizure of \$1.2 million in cocaine, part of a Montreal-to-Florida connection.*
- A detail of 200 troopers and investigators executed search warrants at the request of an Indian reservation's tribal council and confiscated more than 300 slot machines and other devices generating \$7 million annually in illegal gambling profits.
- *The routine check of a truck parked along a highway by a lone trooper determined its cargo consisted of 21,000 cartons of untaxed cigarettes, yielding evidence of an international traffic in bootlegged cigarettes. The State Tax Department joined in a major investigation.*
- A woman lying on the side of the road, who told a trooper she was a victim of a hit-and-run driver, was rushed to a hospital; investigation determined that she had been treated 68 times in a little more than a year for similar imaginary accidents.
- *Spurned after being a live-in lover for three weeks, a man doused his former girlfriend's apartment with gasoline and was surprised by her return just before he could set off a conflagration, then was arrested by two troopers.*

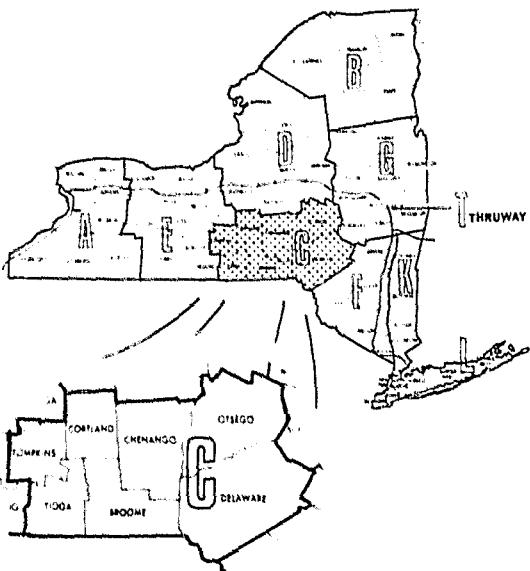
# TROOP C (Southern Tier)



A homicide suspect is escorted after arraignment.  
Ithaca Journal photo by Robyn Wishna.



Investigators show off merchandise bought at bargain prices from thieves prior to arrest during a sting operation.



**Headquarters:** Sidney

**Counties Served:**

Broome  
Chenango  
Cortland  
Delaware

Otsego  
Tioga  
Tompkins

- Twice within a month, patrolling troopers drove through sudden dense smoke drifting across highways at night, and in both instances they responded to house fires in time to rouse and evacuate sleeping occupants, saving numerous lives.
- A novel sting operation in the form of a phony business staffed by three undercover investigators led to 27 arrests. Known as "OPM" (Other People's Merchandise), it attracted thieves who, in clandestine meetings, sold stolen goods at 28 cents to the dollar. The haul over six months filled one room at a State Police installation.
- A trooper was forced to fire a disabling shot at a man who racked and pointed a shotgun in his direction. Shortly before, the gunwielder had struck a deputy attempting to arrest him for drunk driving, and then smashed his windshield with a rock after a chase.
- When troopers stopped a speeding car, they smelled marijuana and noticed a plastic straw with white powder behind the ear of one occupant. Cocaine and grass were found in various parts of the car, even inside the heating duct.
- A massive and lengthy search was undertaken when a youth on a group ski trip wandered from his motel and disappeared in extremely cold and snowy weather. The case remained active for three months until his body was recovered under a log; he had drowned.
- A pitbull settled down in a back yard to court two female dogs, and the frightened homeowner summoned a dog control officer. When he was almost bitten, he called for State Police assistance, and when the animal charged, the trooper had no alternative but to fire a fatal bullet.

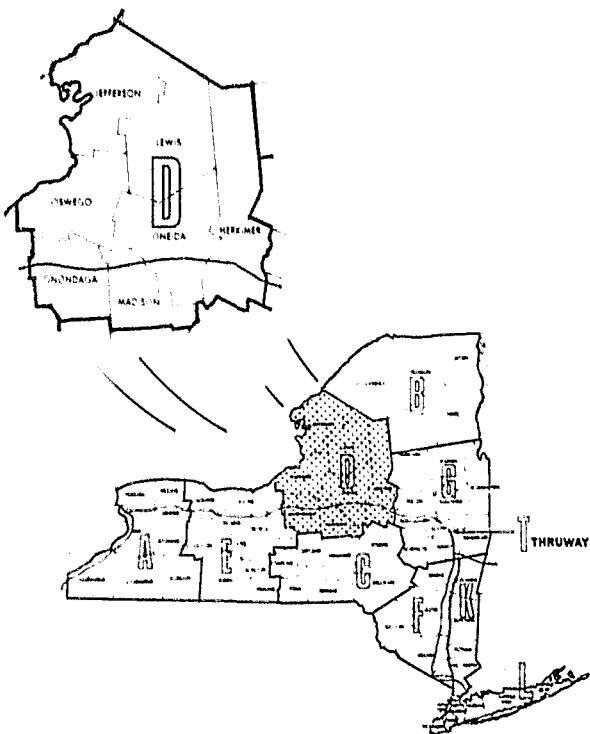
# TROOP D (Central New York)



A lost kid tag secures a youthful visitor to the State Fair.



Troopers strive to save a boy who drowned in Oneida Lake. Oneida Daily Dispatch photo by Gene Giese.



**Headquarters: Oneida**

**Counties Served:**

Herkimer  
Jefferson  
Lewis  
Madison

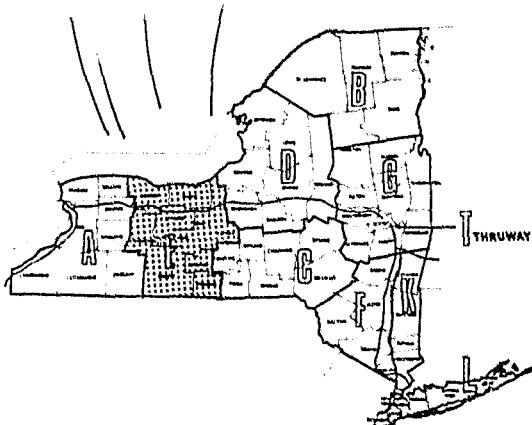
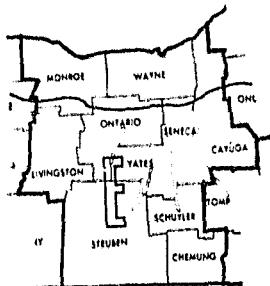
Oneida  
Onondaga  
Oswego

- Having gunned down a village police chief and an acquaintance, a man led two troopers and an off-duty investigator on a wild chase, at the tail end of which he refused to surrender and began firing; he was felled by five rounds but survived to stand trial.
- A survivalist who lived alone without heat, electricity or running water one day took one of his guns and began shooting at cars. Two troopers, attempting to calm him with conversation, were confronted with a large hunting knife and employed a deceptive maneuver to disarm him after being kept at bay for some time.
- Three accidents on successive days the week before Christmas claimed six lives, with unsafe speed on slippery roads a contributing factor in all three cases. Traffic considerations and investigations required extensive time and effort.
- Among the most bizarre murders of 1987 was the shooting of a prominent neurosurgeon at his front door by a man dressed in a delivery uniform. Three days later, the owner of a uniform shop and former patient who apparently blamed the doctor for botching a back operation, killed himself before he could be arrested.
- Perched on a restraining fence atop a gorge in a state park, a young man despondent over his recent arrest for impersonation threatened to jump. However, two hours of negotiations with two troopers and an investigator lured him to safety and a trip to a psychiatric center.
- A punctured windshield and five bullet holes dotting their patrol car door served as mute evidence of the dangers faced by two troopers in arresting a car thief who, at the tail end of a chase in which he crashed into a power pole, emptied his gun before being captured.

# TROOP E (Finger Lakes Region)



*Hand-held radar with digital readout is demonstrated.*



**Headquarters: Canandaigua**

**Counties Served:**

Cayuga  
Chemung  
Livingston  
Monroe  
Ontario

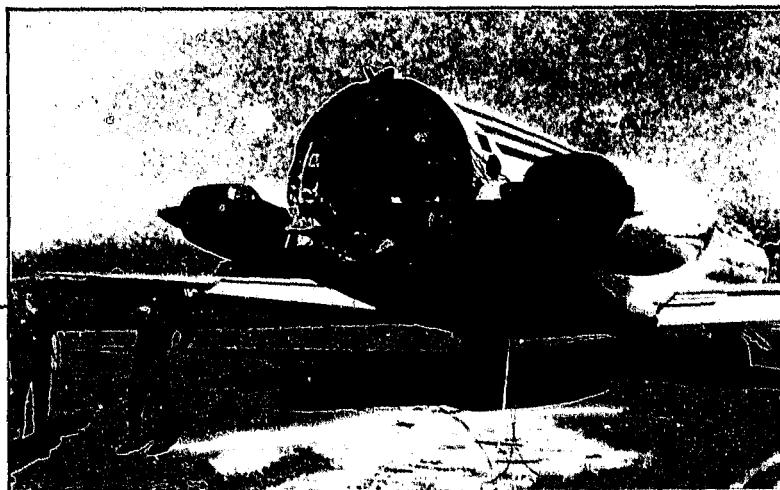
Schuyler  
Seneca  
Steuben  
Wayne  
Yates

- The negotiating skills of an investigator and the 25-year experience of a zone sergeant prevailed in a marathon six-hour session at the end of which a suicidal man beset by family troubles loosened a noose from around his neck and climbed down from the top of a 35-foot tree.
- A multi-agency investigation keyed by the State Police zeroed in on two brothers who had firebombed a police department investigator's home fearing he had targeted them in a series of crimes. Their arrest resolved three arsons and 18 burglaries.
- An armored van containing \$400,000, stolen from a shopping plaza, was recovered with most of the cash gone, leading to a widespread search. When they were finally caught, one of the two culprits turned out to be an employee of the armored car service.
- A month after the arrest of a man for murdering his estranged wife, the victim's brother, who lived nearby, became a prime suspect in another killing with drug overtones. It wasn't until almost a year later, while he was in jail on unrelated forgery charges, that the brother confessed to the murder as investigators were cementing the case against him.
- A huge marijuana field, which when harvested yielded 2,100 pounds, flourished under an intricate irrigation system employing a piped water supply and sophisticated fertilizers as well as rubber snakes and a dog run for a doberman to scare off intruders. The owner was tracked to Arizona and arrested.
- Seemingly ordinary Vehicle and Traffic stops can mushroom into major arrests, as when one trooper stopped a speeder who was a cocaine courier en route to closing a deal, and another stopped a car at night without headlights on and discovered the operator was a burglar and sex offender sought in California.

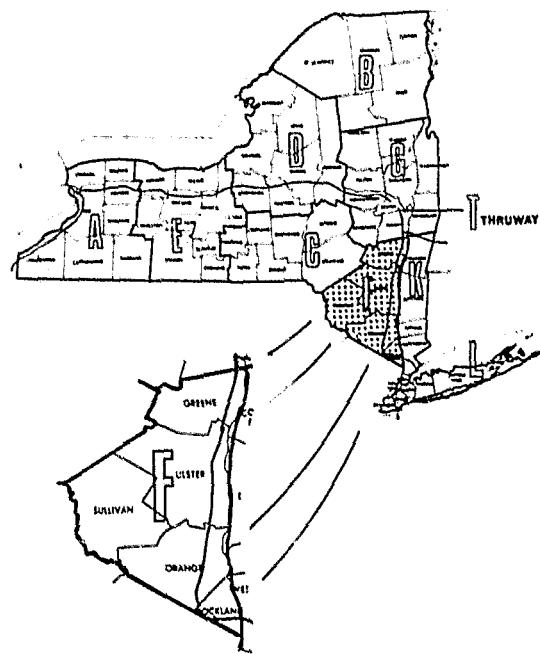
# TROOP F (Mid-Hudson Region)



A special circuit breaker is relayed to a hospital to restore electricity and water pressure.



Investigation follows a collision of two planes at Stewart Airport in which no one was hurt.



**Headquarters: Middletown**

**Counties Served:**

Greene  
Orange  
Rockland

Sullivan  
Ulster

- Three people stranded on the roof of their submerged pickup truck during spring floods were rescued by two troopers who secured a safety line on dry land and then swam to attach the rope to the vehicle; one occupant, a non-swimmer, was carried to safety.
- A partially unclad man found shot to death execution-style in a remote target-practice area led State Police on hundreds of interviews that uncovered the murderer, who had gained revenge because his victim had failed to pay a \$20 drug debt.
- An illegal dog fighting arena set up in a remote barn was raided by a large detail which discovered that 32 pitbulls, trained to fight to the death, were on hand to entertain a throng. Four of those arrested were policemen and firemen who were suspended by their departments.
- A speeding luxury car stopped by a trooper was occupied by three revolutionary terrorists carrying defaced handguns, explosives, masks and propaganda. On arriving at the State Police station, two slipped their handcuffs and tried unsuccessfully to overpower a trooper.
- A complex insurance fraud tied to the arson of an unoccupied house came to light when a purported hireling said he received a \$200 down payment to torch the structure; later when he was wired with a recording device, investigators heard the son of the owner say he wanted the building destroyed so his retired father could gain insurance money, though the father had no knowledge of such a scheme.
- A variation of the old pyramid scheme was toppled with the arrest of six conwomen who lured investors into a "corporation" at the vice-presidential level for a \$1,500 fee with the promise of eventual promotion to chairman through a succession of lucrative moves.

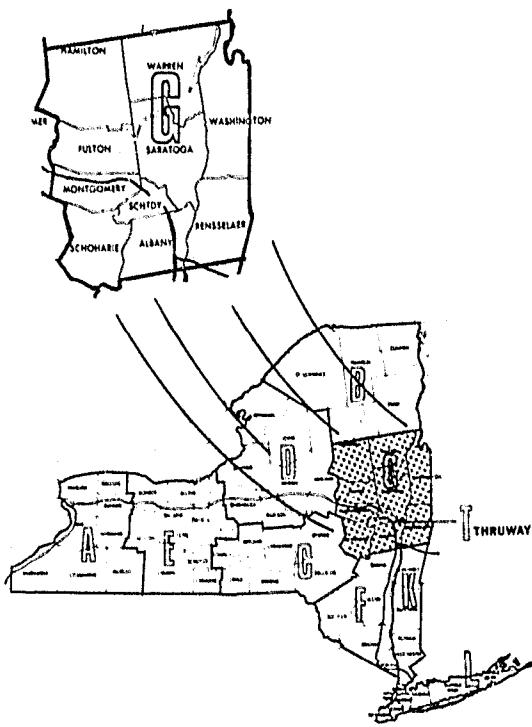
# TROOP G (Capital District)



*Investigating an accident on the Northway.*  
Capital Newspapers photo by Fred McKinney.



*Troopers join in commemoration of Domestic Violence Awareness Week. Troy Record photo by Mick McMahon.*



**Headquarters: Loudonville**

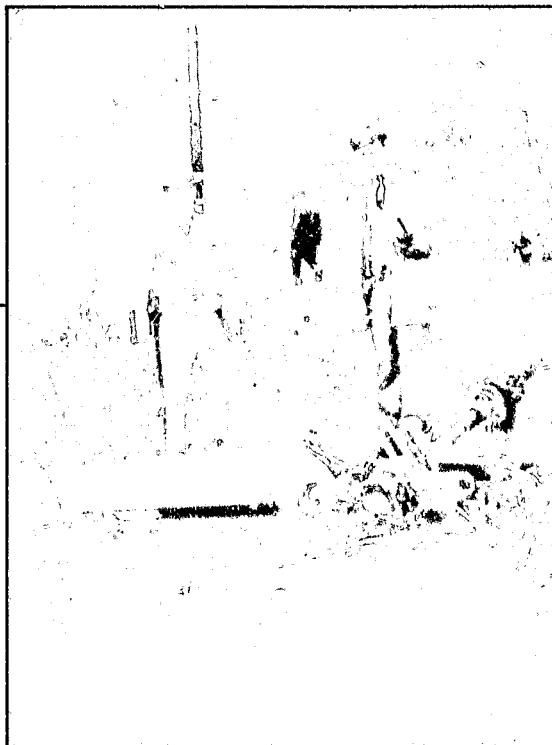
**Counties Served:**

Albany  
Fulton  
Hamilton (lower)  
Montgomery  
Rensselaer

Saratoga  
Schenectady  
Schoharie  
Warren  
Washington

- A Rape Task Force spearheaded by the Troop G Major Crimes Unit was formed to ferret out a molester who had assaulted 24 women during apartment burglaries. Stake-outs of apartment complexes requiring a daily average of 25 police officers finally snared a parolee who had twice served prison sentences for similar crimes.
- Two troopers arrived seconds after two tractor-trailers collided and while one attempted desperately to free a trucker wedged behind his wheel the other rerouted Interstate traffic. Their investigation determined that one operator, who was drunk, had backed along a driving lane causing the crash; he was indicted for criminally negligent homicide.
- When a SUNY honors student bludgeoned his mother to death with a hammer, he tried to flee by first taking a bus and then hitchhiking cross-country, but a State Police-coordinated nationwide alert and investigation snared him on a Wisconsin highway.
- A barricaded man with a rifle who held a local police department at bay for 10 hours was contacted telephonically by a trooper who in a half-hour conversation calmed him and then together with other officers went to his front door and convinced him to surrender peacefully.
- A killer who pumped four bullets into his former girlfriend was spotted driving erratically 90 minutes later and was quickly traced to a picnic area where he was seized while lying on a bench with his rifle at his side ready to fire.
- Three drug dealers made the mistake of selling a pound of pure cocaine to State Police narcotics specialists at the tail end of a three-month investigation. After the arrest, a warrant-approved search of a house uncovered coffee cans, cassette tapes and cigarette packs doctored to carry vials of cocaine for concealed sales.

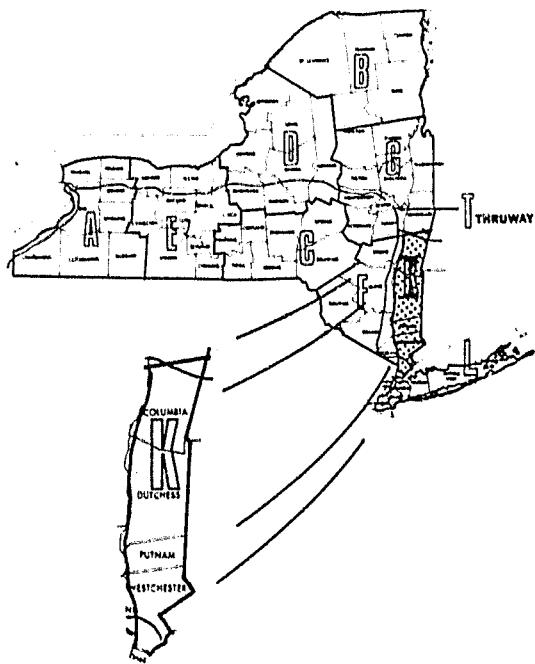
# TROOP K (Lower Hudson Region)



Scattered remnants of a helicopter that crashed are examined.



A car rolled over, ejecting the driver. North County News photo by Stan Giltner.



**Headquarters: Poughkeepsie**

**Counties Served:**

Columbia  
Dutchess

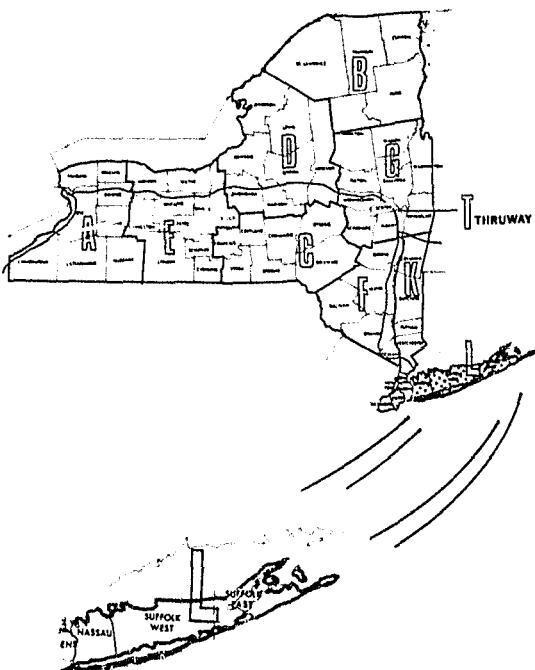
Putnam  
Westchester

- Two hours after a woman's body with multiple stab wounds was found in her car outside a weight control center, a patrolling trooper spotted a pedestrian with a bandaged hand. His alertness led to questioning, a polygraph test, and a search which uncovered the blood-spattered clothes worn during the homicide.
- *A power outage stranded 50 skiers on lifts at a resort and catapulted a detail, joined by firemen, into a 2½-hour rescue mission as temperatures dropped to the low teens. Injuries were limited to minor frostbites.*
- A 30-hour manhunt by more than 200 State Police and local departments, with corrections officers, tracked down three escapees (two of them murderers) who used shoestrings for a rope to scale the prison wall. One was tracked to a railroad platform, another to a canvas-covered boat, and the third was found sleeping in a parked car.
- *A series of molestations of women along an Interstate highway came to an abrupt end when a hysterical victim, who had been approached by the man after her car became disabled, was aided by a trooper who then apprehended the inebriated assailant attempting to flee.*
- On their way home, two investigators took a detour to look for a robber who had just held up a bank. Finding his abandoned car, they commenced a search which led to a business area and into a store where they made the arrest without incident; the loot was recovered nearby.
- *A series of checking account irregularities uncovered a kiting scam using corporate names and accounts in several banks. The investigation led to the Virgin Islands and back, and the culprit was unexpectedly captured at a restaurant while sitting near two State Police members who recognized him from a "wanted" flyer.*

## **TROOP L (Long Island)**



*A safe containing \$285,000 is carried away during a drug raid.*



## **Headquarters: Farmingdale**

**Counties Served:**

## Nassau

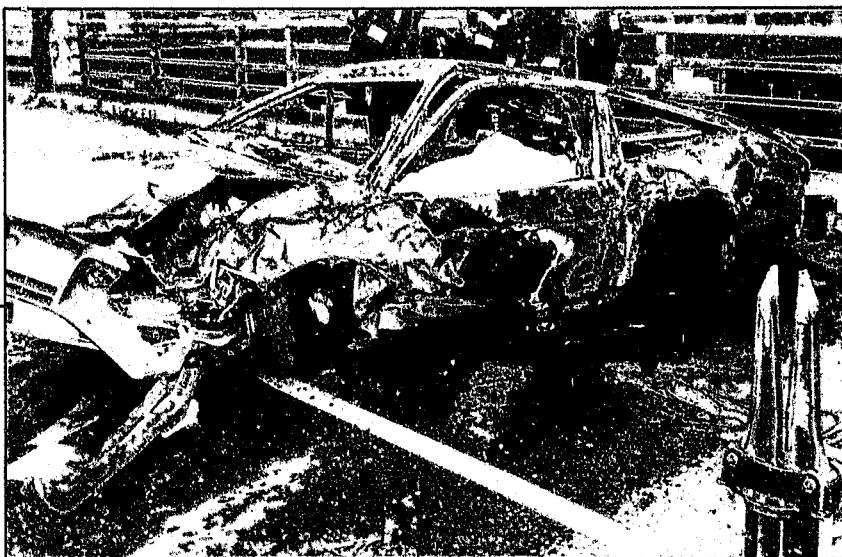
Suffolk



*State Police, the Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Customs display a cache of seized cocaine.*

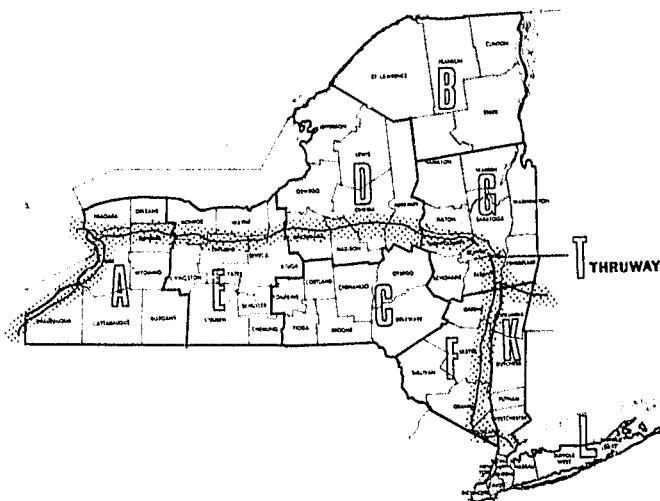
- Pressures caused by the October stock market crash were believed to have played a role in the strangulation and bludgeoning death of a magazine executive by her husband, an investment analyst. Discovery of her tarpaulin-covered body in a drainage ditch led to an investigation during which the husband's activities at the time of her disappearance first came into question.
  - A tractor-trailer in which 412 pounds of cocaine were secreted among a cargo of beer was intercepted at a toll-bridge to abruptly halt a Florida-to-Long Island run and to complete a one-month investigation into an independent trucker's movement of illicit narcotics.
  - A convicted robber who made good a prison escape by climbing three barbed wire-topped fences was recaptured with the help of sheriff's deputies as he and a friend, who abetted his flight, hid in attic insulation inside a barricaded house. The four-day hunt, punctuated by numerous road-blocks, came to an end when an investigator developed a lead on the hideaway.
  - The most ironic and among the most tragic accidents of the year investigated by State Police claimed the lives of a young couple on the eve of their marriage. In order to celebrate without fear of having to drive after too many drinks, they hired a limosine, whose driver, who also perished, had been drinking, carried marijuana, and was going too fast for conditions.
  - During a TV show about sexual abuse, a 16-year-old girl suddenly told her mother, "that's what Daddy does to me", setting off a delicate investigation which led to the arrest of her stepfather, an armed security guard, as he completed his tour of duty. The girl suffered molestation for more than two years fearing she wouldn't be believed.
  - The roundup of 28 members of a violent drug ring, many of them tossing weapons and narcotics through windows as they were captured, concluded a year-long inquiry which started with the discovery of a woman's body rolled in a rug and dumped in the woods. Operating at a dozen locations, the conglomerate had done \$100 million in business in the three months before the arrests.

# TROOP T (Thruway)



*This fatal crash at nearly 90 mph came during a heated argument by the occupying couple.*

- During one month, a trooper singlehandedly made a major impact on drug movement along the Thruway with the arrest of two speeders carrying a large amount of marijuana, followed by the investigation of a minor accident which disclosed, through a computer check, that the driver was wanted on a narcotics charge which led to the discovery of a major shipment of cocaine.
- Among the most bizarre accidents of the year was the pile-up of four tractor-trailers after one lost a set of dual wheels and the others then collided. One trucker dove to safety, and another had to be rescued from his flaming cab and airlifted by the State Police to a burn center.
- An abandoned car found on the main span of a bridge led a detail of uniformed personnel to the center of the superstructure where a man bent on suicide hovered 90 feet above the roadway. Precarious negotiations lasting 20 minutes succeeded in saving his life.
- A stolen car reported to be heading east from Buffalo to be sold piecemeal at a chop shop was intercepted and the four occupants were accused of 16 felonies in addition to the automobile theft.
- A kilo of cocaine was found secreted under a spare tire after a security check of a service area disclosed a parked van with the driver hunched over a dollar bill decorated with a mound of white powder. One trooper, fluent in Spanish, overheard a conversation between the occupants which widened the scope of the ensuing investigation.
- While the recoveries of stolen cars dot every year's summary of Thruway events, a young trooper scored a coup when he intercepted a bus stolen in Georgia and headed for a New York destination; the thief at the wheel was a lovesick swain rushing to see his girlfriend.



**Headquarters: Albany**

**Area Served:**

Thruway

# Specialized Services

## Aviation



Aerial speed surveillance.

A Mayday call from a pilot whose plane had crashed in remote, dense Vermont woods just over the state line brought an NYSP helicopter to the general area, where an electric homing device pinpointed the precise location; that was followed by a rescue and trip to a medical center. An emergency flight saved the life of a saw mill worker whose arm was drawn into a shredder and who recovered after amputation at a hospital.

These are two of 1,624 police missions flown by the 20 Division pilots operating six helicopters and three fixed-wing planes from airports in Albany, Syracuse, Newburgh and Rochester, with a Buffalo site scheduled to open in early 1988. (During 1987, the Albany site shifted to a new 9,000 square-foot hangar and office facility.)

Included were 236 life-saving Medevac assignments involving inter-hospital transports and 29 on-scene extrications of critically-injured persons followed by flights to hospitals.

In the third year of participation in a federally-sponsored marijuana eradication program, the Unit accounted for detection and destruction of 7,500 plants with a street value of more than \$3 million.

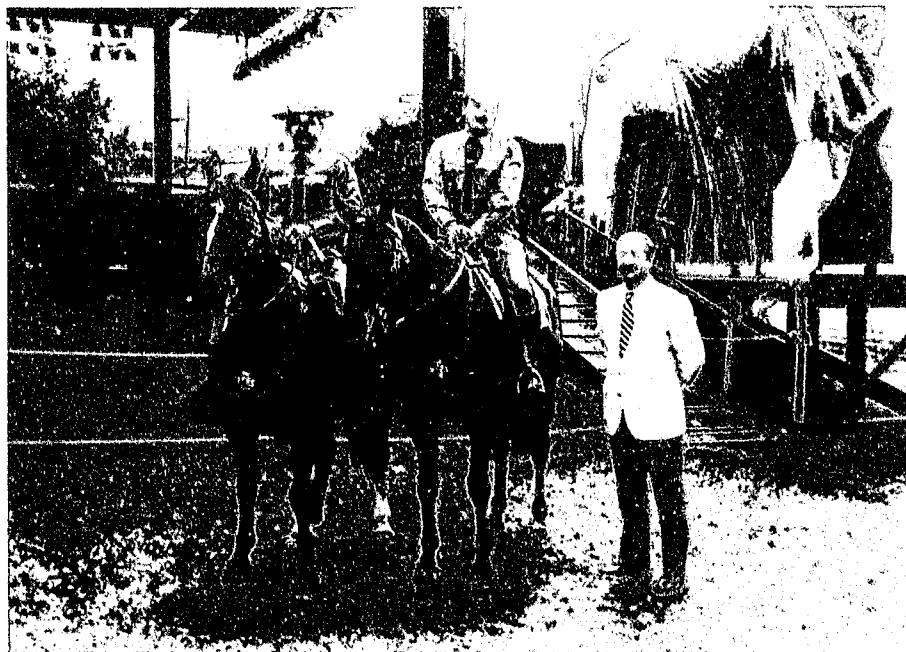
Two new federally-funded Cessna 206 craft were dedicated to an interstate highway safety program. Observation from aloft resulted in 2,905 Vehicle and Traffic Law arrests, 2,840 for speeding; among those stopped were 512 vehicles equipped with radar detectors.

Missions included searches for five downed airplanes resulting in nine fatalities, and support in the aftermath of the Thruway bridge collapse.



Delivery of a new Cessna 206 is accepted by F/Dep. Supt. Edmond S. Culhane, left, and Col. Gary Preston, right.

# Mounted Patrol



*On the set of "Ironweed".*

Nationwide recognition for the SP Mounted Patrol came from an unexpected source — filming of the celebrated movie "Ironweed", in which six equestrians acted as 1901 National Guard cavalry during a riot scene.

The six mounts represent the entire unit, with two other horses now in training at permanent stables at the State Fairgrounds in Syracuse.

The six uniformed horsemen are the core of a growing unit, whose aim it is to have two troopers at each troop trained and available for mounted duty. To that end, as the patrol completed its fourth full year since reactivation, a new school for prospective equestrians was scheduled for late winter.

Of the 145 details logged during 1987, coverage of 140 miles of shoreline to search for missing travelers following the April Thruway collapse was the most dramatic. Another search for a missing person took the patrol over 120 miles of North Country trails for three days.

Other searches included those for escapees, felons, bodies, lost persons, evidence and downed planes, while special events worked by mounted members ranged from festivals and parades to the State Fair and 28 county fairs.

SP horses were transported 30,000 miles throughout the state for details. Men and horses are trained in all mounted police skills, crowd and traffic control, search techniques, escorts and diversified patrol activities.

# Canine Corps

The uncanny tracking ability of the Division's 37 German shepherds (the highest number since the program was started 11 years ago) was demonstrated by "Skiff", who led his handler through Saratoga County woods in search of a hidden cache of contraband. The canine sniffed his way to the spot where a suitcase was buried — it contained a machine gun and two handguns, believed to have been used in numerous New York City homicides.

Training has also sensitized the dogs to drugs, as illustrated when "Hughes" identified a mailed package at a SUNY campus that contained cocaine, despite the efforts of the sender to throw off the scent by the addition of talcum powder. Another shepherd, "Gaines", was instrumental in locating \$500,000 worth of pure cocaine during a raid in St. Lawrence County.



Criminals have difficulty eluding the persistent trackers. "Cahill" traced two grocery store robbers over fields to an apartment house, right to the unit in which they had holed up.

Shepherds responded to 1,438 calls during the year.

The amazing capability of NYSP bloodhounds to follow nearly undetectable scents came to the fore at Staten Island when "Sasha" arrived on the scene nearly a day after a 12-year-old girl disappeared. The hound tracked from the residence 25 blocks to the grounds of a state hospital, almost to the spot where the girl had been buried after strangulation (bloodhounds won't go near a body). The killer was quickly located.

Bloodhounds are kennelled at three troops for statewide assignments, while shepherds live at their handlers' homes.

# Scuba Divers

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A snowmobiling trapper who plunged through ice while making a return crossing of a remote pond sent several Division Scuba divers on a treacherous mid-winter descent into frigid waters. Limited visibility was compounded by the dangers of searching beneath ice, in this case of having to wander long distances from the aperture. The body was finally recovered 200 feet from the snowmobile, indicating a fierce struggle for survival that failed.

All of the state's waterways are working places for the 58 State Police divers, who volunteer for the assignment. They are regular patrol troopers with all troops except Troop L and the Thruway, who slip out of their grey uniforms into diving gear when the call is sounded.

The most difficult task of 1987 was scouring the Schoharie Creek for bodies following the collapse of the Thruway span. The center span was turned upside-down by the force of the raging water, resulting in a maze of twisted and torn supports which divers searched carefully. Seven tons of concrete were moved by divers, who rigged a half-mile of 50-ton cable and three-quarters of a mile of line during the hunt.

This is a sample from among 967 dives conducted during the year:

- A suicide who had placed rocks in his coat pocket to assure success led to a week of underwater sled searching at depths of 120 feet, requiring divers to decompress prior to surfacing.
- The blood-spattered trousers of a man accused of assaulting an elderly couple was recovered from the Oswego River. Evidence in another case, a stolen handgun, was sifted from a creek.
- The body of a sports diver, who ran out of air while exploring a shipwreck in the St. Lawrence River, was recovered, as were the remains of a child reported missing in 1984, from a lower New York body of water.

An 18-foot airboat donated by an Albany family and an underwater video system capable of being line-dropped to 130 feet were two pieces of equipment added during 1987.



*Troy Record photo by Mike McMahon.*



*Troy Record photo by Tom Killips.*

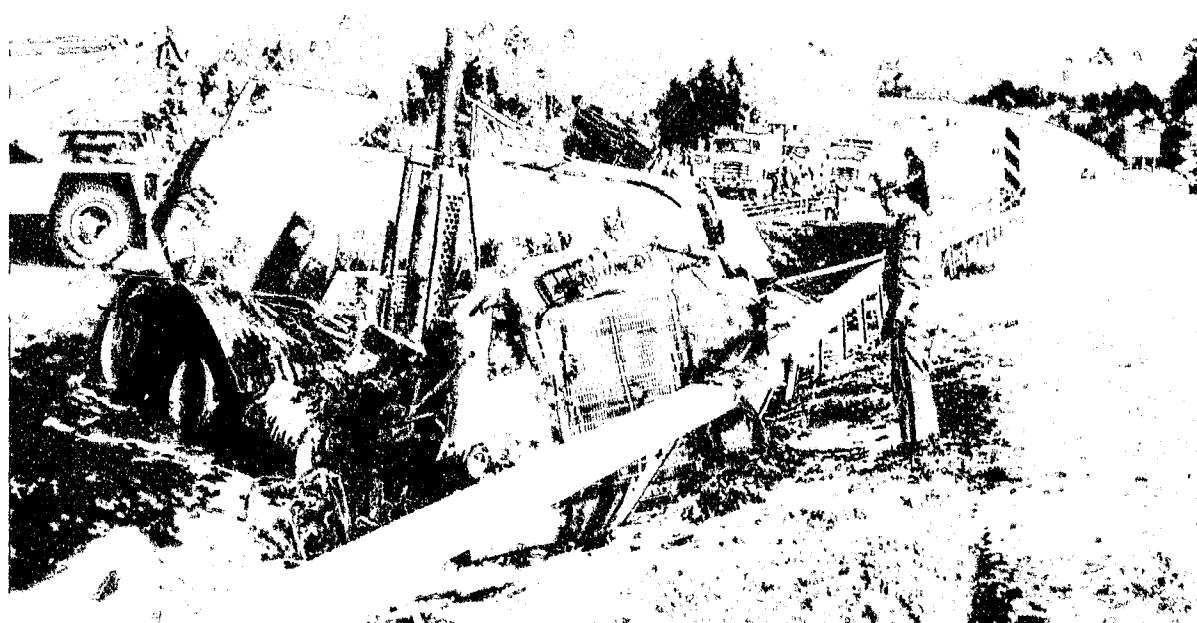
# Various Specialized Services

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These are examples of other specialized service areas within the New York State Police:

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS UNIT** — Now in its fourth year, the Haz-Mat Unit checks the state's roadways for health hazards posed by accidental spills and by violators of safety and Haz-Mat transportation regulations. In 1987, the unit responded to 300 incidents and accidents.

**MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** — The 16-member unit, in its second year of operation, works closely with the Department of Transportation in conducting roadside safety inspections of commercial motor carriers.



*A hazardous materials emergency on the Northway.*

**TRUCK SCALES DETAIL** — Enforcing commercial vehicle size and weight laws as mandated by federal regulations, scalesmen weighed 194,000 behemoths of the road, measured 185,000, and accounted for \$3 million in fines during the year.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND DISPOSITION** — Known as "T-SLED", it's a traffic ticket accountability and highway safety management information program operated jointly by NYSP and the Department of Motor Vehicles, serving 800 law enforcement agencies and 4,000 magistrate courts.

**MOBILE RESPONSE TEAM** — The MRT provides State Police with a means to contain and control serious emergencies and high-risk situations. The team responded to nine incidents in 1987.

**THE VIOLENT FELONY WARRANT SQUAD** — The VFW helps round up heinous criminals in serving warrants for all law enforcement departments and with the Division of Criminal Justice Services oversees the "12 Most Wanted" list.

# Support Services

## The Crime Laboratory

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For the first time in the state's history, a murderer was found guilty despite the absence of a corpse or a confession. A missing person's car, found burning along a rural road, yielded blood, bone fragments, wood chips and fibers which were submitted to the State Police Crime Laboratory. Carpeting from the suspected brother's van was scraped, and the association of evidence was the key to a lengthy trial which concluded in a finding of fratricide.

The case was one of nearly 16,000 — an increase of 2,800 — to confront some 100 professional employees of the growing Laboratory system. A Western Regional Laboratory at Olean was opened early in 1987, joining regional laboratories at Newburgh and Binghamton operating as part of the system headquartered at Albany.

Noteworthy among the 1987 statistics was an increase in homicide submissions from 96 to 118, a 21 percent jump in burglary cases, a nearly 15 percent increase in rapes and a four-fold jump in criminal tampering. Driving while intoxicated cases advanced six percent to 2,176.

These are among the experts attached to the Laboratory:

- Toxicologists, who trace bodily toxins and conduct alcohol tests of suspected drunk drivers and inebriated criminal suspects and victims.
- Criminalists, who examine arson and explosives residue, footwear and tire prints, and analyze paint, glass and toolmarks.
- Firearms examiners, who review weapons used in crimes and others possessed illegally.
- Serologists, who identify bodily fluids such as blood and semen in rapes and other sexual crimes.
- Drug analysts, who processed nearly 8,000 submissions to continue their statistical leadership role in identifying controlled drugs and prescriptions which may have been abused.
- Documents examiners, who analyze assorted written and typed records ranging from forgeries to death threats.



# Training

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The largest hiring of troopers in 25 years was completed during 1987, requiring the use of dual Academies to conduct basic school.

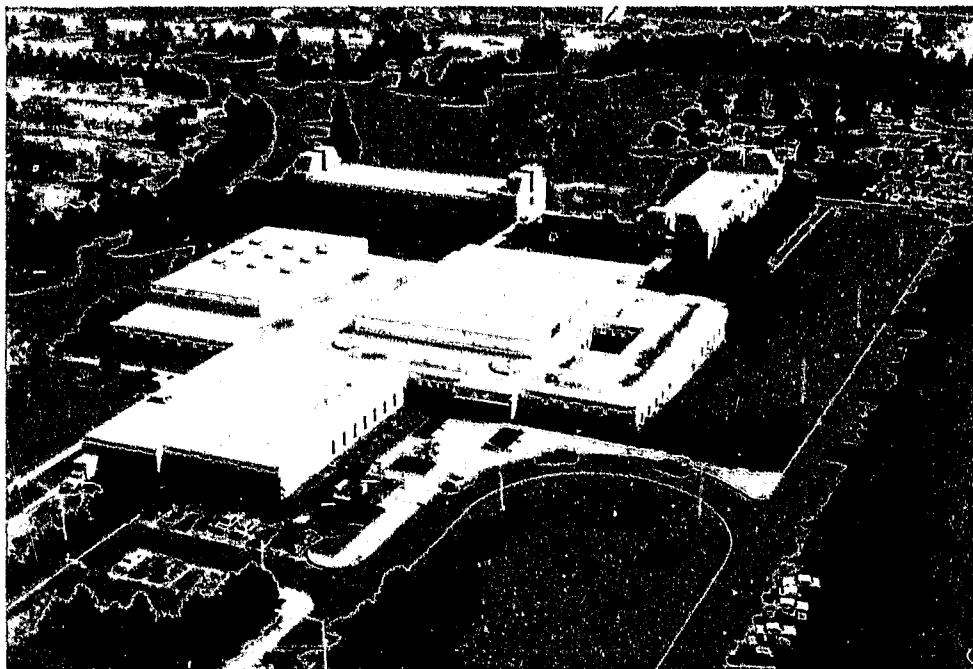
For the first time since the Albany training site was opened in 1970, a second facility was needed to accommodate the extraordinary influx of recruits. With a first-day enrollment of 315 of two classes overtaxing the 210-bed Albany Academy, SUNY-Brockport became a twin-Academy for one class that graduated in March and another that began later that month, with 255 graduating on Sept. 10.

The SUNY extension was not required when 160 recruits were sworn in on Sept. 1, with graduation scheduled for March, 1988.

The Academy was the site for such outstanding events as the Col. Henry F. Williams Homicide seminar, and conferences on AIDS and product tampering.

In-service training touched on a range of subjects such as weight enforcement and the transportation of explosives, NYSPIN terminal operations, and Mobile Response Team and Mounted Patrol activities.

Specialized training included a Hispanic language seminar to familiarize officers with various Colombian dialects. Other sessions focused on management development and instructor development in such diverse areas as firearms, defensive tactics, and emergency vehicle operations, as well as programs for hostage negotiators, the Protective Services Unit and Public Information and Crime Prevention officers.



Four basic schools for 114 newly-appointed commissioned and non-commissioned officers, and a school for 13 newly-promoted sergeants were conducted, as were three two-week schools for BCI entrants. A four-week emergency medical technician basic course was completed by 29 members, while 21 civilians enrolled in a three-week communications specialist course.

Stipend training programs were administered throughout the state for the three SP bargaining units. A total of 586 supervisory personnel, 756 BCI members and 642 troopers were trained in hostage negotiations, kinesic interviews and highway drug interdiction respectively.

The 11-year-old State Police Summer Program provided 200 children ages 9-12 with educational one-week vacations. Private funding coordinated by the Trooper Foundation fully supports the program.

Many outside agencies conducted training at the Academy. Included were two sessions of the SUNY public safety officers basic school, a seminar for 50 coroners, and stress seminars for Thruway Authority employees. Other agencies benefiting from Academy courses included the U.S. Justice Department, the Governor's Office of Employee Relations, the State Departments of Health, Motor Vehicles and Narcotic Enforcement and the Division of Parole.

Range qualifications were conducted for the FBI, U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization Services and the State Department of Taxation and Finance.

# Personnel



*United Press-International photo by Ray Hoy.*

The authorized law enforcement strength of the Division increased 110 to 4,165 during the year. At the end of 1987, the actual strength of law enforcement personnel stood at 3,879 with 286 positions vacant.

Three hundred seventy-five members were promoted or designated during the year as follows: one Superintendent, two first deputy superintendents, three deputy superintendents, one chief inspector, five assistant deputy superintendents, two deputy chief inspectors, six staff inspectors, 10 majors, 17 captains, 19 lieutenants, two technical lieutenants, two first sergeants, 10 zone sergeants, 30 sergeant-station commanders, 47 sergeants, seven technical sergeants, 49 senior investigators, 161 investigators, and one director of employee assistance program.

The attrition among law enforcement personnel totaled 334, including 178 service retirements, 13 disability retirements, 138 resignations, and one dismissal; four members died, three of them on duty.

Authorized civilian positions were increased in 1987 to 918, compared to 873 the previous year, in a continued effort to free uniform personnel for road duty. At the end of the year, actual strength of civilian personnel stood at 843 with 75 vacancies. There were 98 civilian appointments during the year, 55 to permanent positions. There were 15 retirements, 58 resignations and one death. Twenty-eight civilians were promoted.

During the year, on-duty injuries totaled 756.



*Superintendent Constantine swears in a class of recruit troopers on their first day at the Academy.*

# Public Information

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*"Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment nothing can fail; without it, nothing can succeed."*

Abraham Lincoln



The New York State Police Public Information Office provides the citizens of our state timely, accurate information about our activities. This information is disseminated in a number of ways but mainly through the media.

Media personnel throughout the state have praised the State Police for providing up-to-date information on a variety of topics, including, but not limited to, current criminal activity, traffic safety, crime prevention, etc.

Public information and crime prevention officers were regular visitors to schools, service clubs, Parent-Teacher Associations and other civic gatherings with a clear and concise message on public safety.

Media relations courses are taught to in-service schools and recruit classes by public information officers. The Trooper magazine has retained its position as the number one publication of its type in the United States. The magazine is used extensively as a news source and training aid by many other agencies and the news media.

Public information and crime prevention officers realize that good community relations is a primary requisite for any successful police department. They are active throughout the community in a variety of functions.

The Public Information Office will continue to be a conduit for prompt and accurate information to the public and fully assume our ever-expanding role in establishing worthwhile community programs.



A trooper as Santa helps Matilda Cuomo, the Governor's wife, stage a Christmas party at the Executive Mansion. Capital Newspapers photo by Arnold LeFevre.



# Communications

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For 10 days after the Thruway bridge collapsed, one of the two sophisticated emergency communications vehicles maintained by NYSPP and the Disaster Preparedness Commission provided round-the-clock radio, telephone, and data services, including satellite communications, for the multi-agency detail at the Schoharie Creek.

Arrests by the hundreds resulted from good communications work. Here are two unusual examples:

- A trooper at Division Headquarters helped coordinate information criss-crossing Canada and the United States after a New Brunswick Province patrolman was fatally shot 25 miles from the border. A broad-ranging exchange of messages enabled the communicator to assist the Maine State Police to develop a primary suspect who was arrested when he stepped off a plane in Boston.
- A hit-and-run accident in which two motorcycle riders were injured was resolved when a communications specialist linked information from an eyewitness and other reports and helped direct a local police department to a damaged car being repaired in a body shop.

An on-line operator certification program, developed by Communications and Electronic Data Processing staffs, identifies and maintains certification levels for more than 15,000 NYSPIN terminal operators. It is being acclaimed as the "best and most innovative" program of its kind.

The NYSPIN Quality Control Staff completed a revised manual during 1987, which was distributed to more than 1,200 statewide locations.

# Electronic Data Processing

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The New York State Police Information Network (NYSPIN) installed its 700th enforcer terminal during the year while upgrading its communications modem with units capable of quadrupling message transmission speeds.

More than 190 million data exchanges were transmitted, which translates into more than a half-million messages daily. Included were transactions involving the Department of Motor Vehicles, National Crime Information Center, the Division of Criminal Justice Services and the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, as well as NYSPIN data base inquiries.

The NYSPIN Improvement Project continued its two-year study to identify problem areas. Since its inception in late 1986, more than 200 law enforcement/criminal justice agencies have been visited and 1,000 comprehensive questionnaires have been completed by NYSPIN users.

As the New York State Police Management Information Network (MIN) grew to more than 200 units, two of the many new applications added were:

- Logging of consumer product tampering cases under legislation signed by Governor Cuomo. During the first three months the system was available, 30 complaints were reported.
- The Homicide Assessment and Lead Tracking system (HALT), which collects and analyzes data relating to serial murders. Nationwide and state information are correlated.

# Planning & Research

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In 1987, Planning and Research was involved in 433 projects, one of the more significant being its role in the Executive Planning Conference held at Rensselaerville. P&R actively assisted the Superintendent and the conference facilitator in preparing and conducting the conference as well as providing a number of other essential services necessary for its success.

The following categories represent the Section's major responsibilities: computer systems development, staff studies, statistical reporting, suggestion evaluation, manual maintenance, equipment evaluation, questionnaires and surveys, grants, special projects, speech writing, and forms management.

Two innovative inter-agency programs were designed to support expanded Division response to serious crimes in New York. In 1987, the Legislature made the Division the lead agency in consumer product tampering cases. A computerized data base on the mainframe was designed to record, track, and analyze all such consumer cases.

P&R designed a microcomputer data base system which tracks referrals from the Department of Social Services to law enforcement agencies through the NYSPIN system. The data base system tracks these referrals to eliminate duplication of investigations by agencies with concurrent jurisdictions.

New applications on the Division's mainframe computer MIN system resulted in the development and implementation of an on-line executive memorandum system, registry of member-owned firearms, and a personnel complaint reporting system.

Systems were developed on the microcomputer to process inter-troop transfers and promotions, to automatically dial emergency phone numbers from stations equipped to process cellular 911 calls, and to assist Division executives in making decisions on deployment of personnel.

A three-year research and evaluation project resulted in the installation of facsimile transmission equipment in every troop headquarters and at Division Headquarters.

Another accomplishment included the assembly and distribution of crime scene kits for placement in every Division vehicle.

# Central Records

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Within the Central Records Section, records of all criminal arrests and investigations are filed, searched and retrieved for authorized purposes. All records reflecting the day-to-day administration of the Division are filed here, as well as all records concerning the various classes of firearms licenses, and the firearms possessed, manufactured, bought and sold, by the licensees. It's the reference source for all personnel requiring previously-stored information for investigative or administrative purposes, and provides information concerning lost, stolen, and recovered property for interested persons.

Such records require constant attention with regard to updating criminal investigations, sealing in accordance with appropriate adjudications, retention for specified time periods, and eventual purging as permitted by law. The responsibility for maintaining such records demands an efficient method of storage and retrieval, as well as appropriate safeguards against such information being utilized to intimidate or embarrass.

Some of the more pertinent statistics concerning the record-keeping functions of the Division are:

- At the close of 1987, the Soundex criminal case index retrieval system contained 1,766,946 separate cards, and the administrative correspondence files contained 88,000 cards. A total of 1,415 requests for verification of lost or stolen property were processed for claimants, and 216 claims of persons who were killed, injured, or lost personal property as a result of a crime and made claims to the Crime Victims Compensation Board were verified.
- During the year, 111 requests were handled under the Freedom of Information Law by this section.
- During the year, 7,727 requests for information from authorized agencies and individuals concerning files were processed with appropriate responses made.
- On Dec. 31, there were 900,217 pistol licenses applications on file. The total record of firearms now on file is 4,965,121 which includes 201,133 processed during 1987.

# Counsel's Office

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In 1987, the Division Counsel's Office directed the majority of its efforts towards its legislative program. Eighteen bills were proposed, 10 of which were signed into law.

Legislation signed into law included a bill which will make prosecution of those in possession of "video poker" machines easier, an amendment to the Public Health Law which will assist in forfeiture proceedings in narcotics cases, and an amendment that permits questioning of juveniles at their homes in their parents' presence. Another amendment allows police to direct an operator of a vehicle carrying hazardous waste or materials to move the vehicle up to five miles to a safe inspection place. In addition, Penal Law Article 265 was amended to make possession of defaced rifles and shotguns unlawful.

Over 500 hours were devoted by the Division lawyers to training members and law enforcement officials from New York and other states.

Division lawyers reviewed and commented on 108 bills which were passed by the Legislature and requested by the Governor for review.

At the conclusion of 1987, approximately 239 civil cases (not including trooper car accidents) were pending against the Division and its members. Ten cases were settled during the year for a total of \$158,958, one of the lowest payout figures in years. Sixty of 108 new civil cases involving the Division and its members were disposed of during the year.

The immediate availability policy for field inquiries continued for the more than 300 requests for legal assistance.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

### CALENDAR YEAR 1987

Miles Traveled	<u>69,534,736*</u>
Monies Received and Remitted to State Treasury (Fees for copies of accident reports and photographs, state vehicle accident claim settlements, salvage of old equipment, etc.)	\$ <u>502,524.</u>
Value of Property Recovered	\$ <u>3,882,905.</u>
Sale of Unserviceable Vehicles by Office of General Services	\$ <u>828,695.</u>

\*Includes Thruway Mileage of 8,299,580

## CRIMINAL OFFENSES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 1987

Offenses	Known Or Reported		False Or Unfounded		Cleared By Arrest		Closed By Investigation	
	Felonies	Misd. & Lesser Offenses	Felonies	Misd. & Lesser Offenses	Felonies	Misd. & Lesser Offenses	Felonies	Misd. & Lesser Offenses
Aggravated Harassment	4	4831		111	1	1157		3529
Agriculture and Markets Law	18	606		85	18	101	12	404
Alcoholic Beverage Control Law		338		35		185	1	120
Animals (Crimes Only)	5	286		56	2	53	1	176
Arson	363	2	49	1	83		215	1
Assault	1299	685	37	47	759	470	123	124
Bail Jumping	151	555	1	2	119	389	6	65
Bribery	51	17			47	12	2	3
Burglary	9842		1137		2262		5939	
Coercion	5	26			5	10		14
Conservation Law	11	3769		250	11	1373	10	2134
Conspiracy	85	106	2		79	104		1
Controlled Substance	1645	8272	23	68	1497	7786	123	115
Criminal Mischief	1181	13116	19	670	474	2360	655	10042
Criminal Nuisance		124		5		51		67
Criminal Trespass	4	9923		775	4	2327		6810
Criminal Usury	1	10		1				9
Custodial Interference	11	118	3	35	7	16	2	62
Dangerous Weapons	768	1299	13	35	593	1160	14	44
Disorderly Conduct	5	16959		638		2955	5	13369
Education Law	4	60		1	2	45		13
Election Law		6				2		4
Embezzlement	118	123	4	4	96	101	9	9
Escapes and Absconding	326	138	7	2	206	102	41	31
Extortion	5	1	1	1			2	
False Report	2	382		7	4	277		67
False Written Statement	14	240		2	13	213	1	13
Family Court Act	3	5391	2	161	1	1395		3842
Federal Offenses	282	464	8	3	251	416	13	45
Fireworks		1333		53		524		740
Forgery and Counterfeiting	2965	341	50	15	2330	287	279	33
Fraud	566	8699	15	142	426	7035	72	1505
Gambling	116	155	3	4	107	141	4	6
General Business Law	4	155	1	9	2	93		43
Hindering Prosecution	11	40			9	38	1	1
Homicide:								
Murder	41		3		28		2	
Manslaughter	29		9		15		3	
Criminal Negligence:								
Auto	367		221		38		71	
Other	20		11				6	

Offenses	Known Or Reported		False Or Unfounded		Cleared By Arrest		Closed By Investigation	
	Felonies	Misd. & Lesser Offenses	Felonies	Misd. & Lesser Offenses	Felonies	Misd. & Lesser Offenses	Felonies	Misd. & Lesser Offenses
Kidnapping	28		13		8		7	
Labor Law	9	18			2	9	5	7
Larceny - Theft	1795	16928	122	1439	481	6459	1255	8934
Loitering		580		10		176		397
Mental Hygiene Law		2327		77		1464		784
Motor Vehicle Theft	566	763	116	192	169	127	272	435
Navigation Law	0	50		2		20		28
Obscenity and Indecent Material	1	24		1	1	21		2
Obstructing Governmental Administration	7	308		2	7	302		2
Offenses Against Family	44	2247	26	143	8	1588	7	469
Offenses Against Public Order	9	621	1	20		162	8	438
Ordinances	0	479		2		337		140
Parks and Recreation Law	0	261		1		213		47
Parole and Probation Violations	666	471	1	1	648	453	1	15
Perjury	6	2			5	2	1	
Possession of Burglar Tools	0	143		1		141		
Prison Contraband (Promoting)	341	330	4	4	132	132	9	39
Prostitution and Vice	4	40		1	4	36		
Public Drug Intoxication	0	22				7		15
Public Health Law	3	395	2	18	1	248		129
Rape - Forcible	218		44		122		32	
Rape - Attempts	19		5		12		4	
Real Property Law		30				13		17
Robbery	244		24		112		115	
Sex Offenses	2266	938	157	67	1710	700	209	131
Simple Assault	29	9078	1	390	22	4304	3	4366
Stolen Property	646	897	24	32	532	765	42	56
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	51	1473	1	233	43	545	1	684
Unlawful Imprisonment	42	138	5	19	27	94	5	20
*EID	17487	1342	17311	1087	1	11	175	245
All Others (Not Listed)	588	5282	13	123	499	2687	48	2422
<b>TOTAL - ALL OFFENSES</b>	<b>45391</b>	<b>123757</b>	<b>19489</b>	<b>7084</b>	<b>14035</b>	<b>52194</b>	<b>9811</b>	<b>63263</b>

\*Electronic Intrusion Devices

NONCRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE CALENDAR 1987\*

Classification Of Investigations	Matters Reported	False Or Unfounded	Converted To Criminal Case	Closed By Investigation
Accidents:				
Airplane	70	28		42
Hunting	63		4	52
Navigation	32	5		27
Train	26			25
Miscellaneous	4908	47	3	4858
Animals (No Crime Involved)	4773	57	25	4714
Applicants (Division Only)	934			1141
Death, Natural	1010	6		1004
Drowning	41	1		42
Firearms and Weapons (No Crime Involved)	347	11		323
Fires, Floods, Other Disasters	579	49	3	529
Lost and Missing Persons	2469	189	16	2267
Property - Lost and Found	3194	69	5	3160
Suicide (Include Attempts)	489	48	12	419
All Other	71944	640	57	71174
<b>TOTAL*</b>	<b>90879</b>	<b>1150</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>89777</b>

\*Vehicle and Traffic Data reported separately

INVESTIGATIVE ACTION SUMMARY, CRIMINAL AND NONCRIMINAL  
CALENDAR YEAR 1987

SUMMARY - UNITS OF WORK

Accident Investigations	57726
Other Vehicle And Traffic Investigations	8948
Vehicle And Traffic Arrests	698917
Assists To Motorists	108791
Criminal Cases Reported	169148
Lead Investigations	15187
Noncriminal Investigations	90879
Posted Property Investigations	6300
Total	1155896

# VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DATA

## Hazardous Violation Arrests

Violation	Number Of Arrests	Percent Of All Hazardous Arrests
Alcoholic Beverages	1430	0.3
Backed Unsafely	1662	0.3
DWAI Drugs - Misdemeanor	294	0.0
DWI - Misdemeanor	15452	1.1
Drove Median Strip	1026	0.2
Motor Vehicle Equipment Infraction	8836	1.8
Equipment - Misdemeanor	77	0.0
Fail To Comply	1020	0.2
Fail To Dim Lights	1069	0.2
Fail To Keep Right	5957	1.2
Fail To/Improper Signal	3863	0.8
Fail To Stop/Railroad	33	0.0
Failed To Yield Right Of Way	5649	1.1
Following Too Close	4249	0.9
Hitchhiking	288	0.0
Illegal Turns	2805	0.6
Improper Lane Usage	6099	1.2
Improper Passing	8497	1.7
Inadequate Brakes - Misdemeanor	768	0.2
Insecure Load - Misdemeanor	209	0.0
Insufficient Lights	27273	5.5
No Red Flag - Lights	298	0.0
Obstructed Vision	4046	0.8
One-Way Traffic	369	0.1
Parking Infraction	2967	0.6
Pass Red Light	4117	0.8
Pass School Bus	357	0.1
Pass Stop Sign	965	0.2
Pedestrian Infraction	32	0.0
Reckless Driving - Misdemeanor	965	0.2
Speeding Infraction	333499	66.8
Speeding/Conditions	5866	1.2
Speeding - Misdemeanor	54	0.0
Unsafe Tires	9897	2.0
Other Hazardous Infractions	39384	7.9
Other Hazardous/Bicycle	86	0.0
Other Hazardous/MC	47	0.0
Total Hazardous Violations	499505	100.0

### Nonhazardous Violation Arrests

Violation	Number Of Arrests	Percent Of All Nonhazardous Arrests
Emergency Lighting Infraction	806	0.4
Inadequate Signal Equipment	1943	1.0
Insurance/Misdemeanor	5932	3.0
Left Scene Accident	29	0.0
Left Scene Accident/Misdemeanor	347	0.2
License Infraction	20476	10.3
License/Misdemeanor	220	0.1
Littering	1613	0.8
Muffler Infraction	6986	3.5
Lic. Sus. - Revoked/Misdemeanor	19312	9.7
Reg. Sus. - Revoked/Misdemeanor	962	0.5
Oversize Vehicle	6132	3.1
Overweight Infraction	11701	5.9
Registration Infraction	30229	15.2
Registration/Misdemeanor	5	0.0
Excess Smoke	267	0.1
Vehicle Inspection Infraction	68656	34.4
Vehicle Inspection/Misdemeanor	28	0.0
Other Nonhazardous	4507	2.3
Other Nonhazardous/Misdemeanor	32	0.0
Local Laws - Ordinance	66	0.0
East Hudson Parkway		
Authority Rules/Regulations	3719	1.9
Transportation Law	10199	5.1
Thruway Violations	170	0.0
Truck Mileage Tax Law	5075	2.5
Total Nonhazardous Violations	199412	100.0
Total Traffic Arrests	698917	

### Vehicle And Traffic Law

Pending Beginning Of Period	Total All Arrests	Convictions	Dismissals	Closed By Invest.	Pending End Of Period	Percent Convicted, Cases In Court
325114	698917	504776	*91875	40815	333098	85.

\*This includes 17816 Dismissals - Notice of Correction - Lights - which accounts for 19.4% of Dismissals.

### Accident Analysis

Year	Total Accidents	Fatal Accidents	Personal Injury Accidents	Property Damage Accidents
1987	57726	489	17686	39551
1986	55436	434	17508	37494

### Speeding Arrests

Year	Total Speed	Radar	Percent Of Total Speed	Patrol	Percent Of Total Speed
1987	339419	253726	74.8	85693	25.2
1986	329160	251776	76.5	77384	23.5

(Speeding represented 49% of all V&T Arrests in 1987)

### Intoxicated Driver Violations

Year	Total DWI Arrests	Total Chemical Tests			Total Refusals	Convictions DWI	Convictions DWAI	Convictions Lesser Charge
		Breath	Blood	Urine				
1987	15452	12181	338	1	1322	5721	6218	3158
1986	15102	12851	494	2	1311	11522	1310	3102

**ACCIDENT CAUSES**

<b>Principal Causes Of Accidents</b>	<b>Fatal</b>	<b>Personal Injury</b>	<b>Property Damage</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent Of Total</b>
<b>- HUMAN -</b>					
Alcohol Involvement	127	2030	1767	3924	6.8
Backing Unsafely	2	173	1882	2057	3.6
Driver Inattention	11	1132	1908	3051	5.3
Driver Inexperienced	8	386	469	863	1.5
Drugs (Illegal)		29	22	51	0.0
Failure To Yield Right Of Way	32	1812	3134	4978	8.6
Fell Asleep	21	703	775	1499	2.6
Following Too Close	3	1895	3103	5001	8.7
Illness	4	33	26	63	0.1
Lost Consciousness	1	64	30	95	0.2
Passenger Distraction		55	59	114	0.2
Passing/Lane Usage Improper	75	1519	3549	5152	8.9
Pedestrian Error/Confusion	30	289	50	369	0.6
Physical Disability	1	15	12	28	0.0
Prescription Medication		6	7	13	0.0
Traffic Control Device	13	333	459	805	1.4
Turning Improperly	3	215	759	977	1.7
Unsafe Speed	106	3481	5738	9325	16.2
Other Human Causes	29	1115	2811	3955	6.9
<b>Total Human</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>15285</b>	<b>26560</b>	<b>42320</b>	<b>73.3</b>

<b>Principal Causes Of Accidents</b>	<b>Fatal</b>	<b>Personal Injury</b>	<b>Property Damage</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent Of Total</b>
<b>- VEHICULAR -</b>					
Accelerator Defective	1	32	43	76	0.1
Brakes Defective	1	113	230	344	0.6
Headlight Defective		4	10	14	0.0
Other Lighting Defects	1	24	51	76	0.1
Oversize Vehicle		5	80	85	0.2
Steer Failure		89	151	240	0.4
Tire Failure/Inadequate	1	252	577	830	1.4
Tow Hitch Defective	1	8	66	75	0.1
Windshield Inadequate		1	4	5	0.0
Other Vehicular Causes	1	217	1208	1426	2.6
<b>Total Vehicular</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>2420</b>	<b>3171</b>	<b>5.5</b>

<b>Principal Causes Of Accidents</b>	<b>Fatal</b>	<b>Personal Injury</b>	<b>Property Damage</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent Of Total</b>
<b>- ENVIRONMENTAL -</b>					
Animal's Action	5	674	7858	8537	14.9
Glare	1	34	90	125	0.2
Lane Marking Improper/Inadequate		2	19	21	0.0
Obstruction/Debris		157	629	786	1.4
Pavement Defective		28	47	75	0.1
Pavement Slippery	5	603	1481	2089	3.6
Shoulders Defective/Improper		15	16	31	0.1
Traffic Control Device Improper		5	9	14	0.0
View Obstructed/Limit	1	76	224	301	0.5
Other Environmental Causes	5	62	189	256	0.4
<b>Total Environmental</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1656</b>	<b>10562</b>	<b>12235</b>	<b>21.2</b>
<b>Total Causes</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>17686</b>	<b>39542</b>	<b>57726</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Accident Arrests**

<b>Principal Causes Of Accidents</b>	<b>Accident Arrests For This Violation</b>	<b>Percent Of Total</b>
Speed/Too Fast For Conditions	4193	13.6
Failed To Keep Right	2810	9.1
Failed To Yield R.O.W.	3470	11.2
Following Too Close	2548	8.3
Improper Passing	1148	3.7
Backing Unsafely	884	2.9
Had Been Drinking	2608	8.4
Improper Turning	541	1.8
Unsafe Equipment	160	0.5
Unsafe Tires	636	2.1
Improper Parking - Stopping	200	0.6
Pedestrian Violations	9	0.0
Reckless Driving	250	0.8
Passed Stop Sign	386	1.3
Defective Brakes	183	0.6
Failed To Signal	136	0.4
Lights - Improper Use - Defective	159	0.5
Passed Red Light	239	0.8
Driving While Impaired (Drugs)	39	0.1
Other Hazardous Violations	2451	7.9
Nonhazardous Violations	7829	25.4
 Total	30879	100.0

INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY - VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC

<u>TYPE OF INVESTIGATION</u>	<u>NUMBER CONDUCTED</u>
Department Of Transportation (Re: Traffic Signals, Speed Zones, Other Controls)	1289
Suspension & Revocation Orders For Department Of Motor Vehicles	7187
Fatal Accident Scene Review	472
Total Investigations	8948