



**Report Managed and Directed by:**

Chief Amanda Smith

**Report Compiled and Produced:**

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## Introduction from the Chief

2021 proved to be a transformative year for the NJ State Park Police. With retirements in 2020, came the opportunities to promote. A total of three new Lieutenants were promoted and six Sergeant promotions were underway for 2022. A complete Command Restructure took place once the Lieutenant promotions became effective and a streamlined, statewide mindset was applied to the department. This internal reshaping was necessary to facilitate the growth needed to meet the changes we see in our profession and how we interact with our communities and visitors. Our mission statement remains the same, but how we fulfill that mission has changed to better serve the residents of NJ and all the visitors on state managed lands.

## New Jersey State Park Police Mission Statement

It is the mission of the New Jersey State Park Police to protect the Natural Resources and Historic Treasures of our State Parks, Forests and Historic Sites and the safety, security, and well-being of all who visit them.

## Organization & Personnel

<b>Retired</b>	<b>Left the Department</b>
Lt. Carmel Capoferri	Officer Lucas Derflinger
Lt. Scott DiCesare	
Sgt. Chris Walder	
Sgt. Dominic DeGeorge	
Sgt. David Mann	

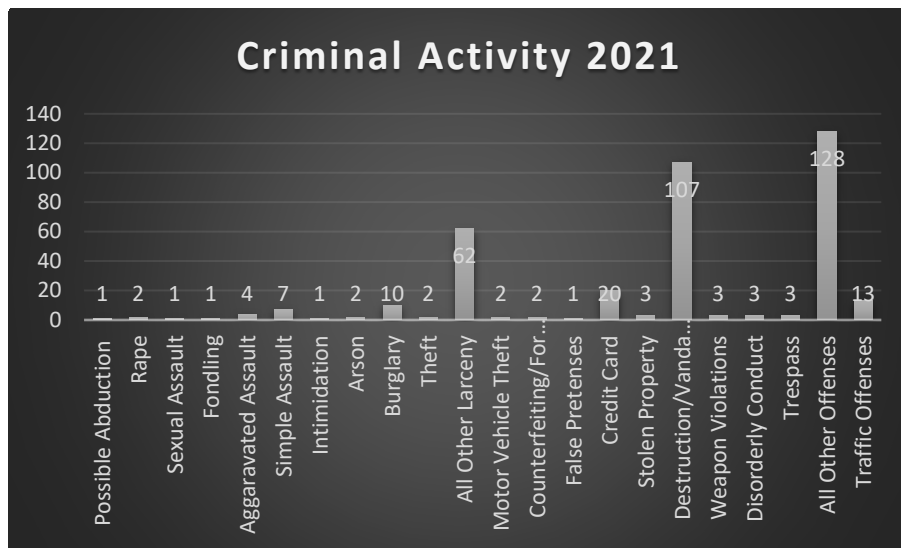
In 2021 we started hiring and promoting personnel to backfill positions. A new recruitment video was created by Sgt. Tim Kasony, <https://youtu.be/c5hBqGhUSo4>



## Calls for Service/Criminal Activity

Calls for Service 2020	Calls for Service 2021
14,920	14,488

NJSPPP Stats	2020	2021
Incidents	689	700
Arrests	87	88
Accidents	66	61
Citations	6,161	3,230



### Search and Rescue

Over the course of a year NJSPPP respond to many calls for search and rescue. These events range from utilizing a few Officers to multi agency efforts using various search and rescue equipment. **In 2021, NJ State Park Police handled 111 Search and Rescue missions within State Parks.**



# Command Staff Restructuring

## **A Change in Organization**

This year the State Park Police underwent a transformation in the way the command staff was structured. A statewide perspective was needed to bring the entire organization together as one unified team. The previous structure with three districts lent itself to a mentality of three separate departments. The new, statewide structure will help create more cohesion, reduce internal competition for resources, and streamline major processes within the department.

### Command Staff

Chief Amanda Smith

Administrative Lieutenant Michele Sharp

Fiscal Lieutenant Jessica McCauley

Professional Standards Lieutenant Douglas Lemyre

Operations Lieutenant Steven Stoker

Patrol Day Lieutenant Thomas Norton

Patrol Night Lieutenant George Fedorczyk

Three new Lieutenant's were promoted this year; Lt. Michele Sharp, Lt. Steven Stoker, and Lt. Douglas Lemyre. We are looking forward to their contributions to the command staff and welcome their new perspectives and fresh ideas.

Six new Sergeants were promoted in early 2022. The process for the promotions started in 2021. The new Sgt.'s are Sgt. Matthew Pittore, Sgt. Steve Franzone, Sgt. Heidi Correa, Sgt. Karl Mott, Sgt. Jeffrey Dankanich and Sgt. Amy Webb. Congratulations and best of luck in their new leadership roles within the department.

## Patrol Organizational Chart

<b>Administrative / Field Sergeant</b>							
Trenton HQ Admin Sgt T. Kasony 790		MTC Admin Sgt Correa 831		Field Operations Sgt K9 D. Beard 757			
S/O T. Vardenaga SO15		S/O C. Serdinsky SO16		S/O S. Loutraris SO17			
<b>Detective Unit</b>							
Detective SGT J. Cidoni 804							
Det. <b>VACANT</b>		Det. <b>VACANT</b>		Det. Sbarra 876		Det. Madden 850	
<b>SOUTH</b>							
<b>ZONE 1</b>		<b>ZONE 2</b>		<b>ZONE 3</b>		<b>ZONE 4</b>	
Parvin / Fort Mott		Belleplaine/Cape May		BTB/Double Trouble		Bass River	
<b>Wharton</b>				<b>SQUAD C</b>			
SQUAD A – 7a – 7p				SQUAD B – 7a – 7p			
SGT	B. Calloway	799	SGT	A. Hambleton	839	7A	A. Webb 827
Z1	J. Curcio	701	Z1	J. Drawdy	745	7A	J. Stinson 835
Z2	E. Ritter	795	Z2	A. Cockerham	782	12P	K. Przybyszewski 868
Z3	W. Beck	787	Z3	T. Liccione	761	<b>SQUAD D</b>	
Z4	B. Robeson	771	Z4	P. Bender	796	7A	M. Farrelly 854
12P	R. Maxie	824	12P	C. Edwards	864	7A	C. Amicone 858
12P			12P	M. Costelow	881	12P	B. Wentzell 874
							P. Kelly 837
<b>CENTRAL</b>							
<b>ZONE 1</b>		<b>ZONE 2</b>		<b>ZONE 3</b>		<b>ZONE 4</b>	
Allaire /Cheesequake		Round Valley		Spruce Run/Voorhees		D&R / Washington Xing	
<b>Island Beach</b>				<b>SQUAD C</b>			
SQUAD A – 7a – 7p				SQUAD B – 7a – 7p			
SGT	M. Pittore	843	SGT	J. Clancy	830	7A	K. Mott 802
Z1	A. Brown	817	Z1	<b>VACANT</b>		7A	J. Winter 834
Z2	<b>VACANT</b>		Z2	R. Galeano	740	12p	T. DiGiantomasso 862
Z3	G. Truelove	841	Z3	A. Torres	777	<b>SQUAD D</b>	
Z4	G. Hendrickson	825	Z4	J. Jackson	780	7A	C. O'Neill 865
12P	S. Worth	829	12P	B. Witte	858	7A	J. Hoover 785
12P	R. VanArsdale	859	12P			12P	D. Farnkopf 851
							D. McDermott 861
<b>NORTH</b>							
<b>ZONE 1</b>		<b>ZONE 2</b>		<b>ZONE 3</b>		<b>ZONE 4</b>	
High Point/Stokes		Hopatcong		Worthington/Swartwood		Wawa /Ringwood	
<b>Liberty</b>				<b>SQUAD C</b>			
SQUAD A – 7a – 7p				SQUAD B – 7a – 7p			
SGT	B. Palicia	783	SGT	C. Gervald	786	7A	J. Salerno 813
Z1	V. Ward	867	Z1	S. Viggiano	767	7A	B. Todaro 723
Z2	M. Laver	833	Z2	J. Cruz	772	12P	B. Serna 773
Z3	J. White	823	Z3	W. VanHeteren	791	<b>SQUAD D</b>	
Z4	L. Essner	853	Z4	C. Struck	726	7A	M. Spadaro 872
12P	A. Kara	870	12P	E. Kruegel	715	7A	K. Kriete 764
12P			12P	J. Maurer	852	12P	L. Levinstone 860
							S. Conte 880
<b>MIDNIGHTS</b>							
SQUAD E – 7p – 7a				SQUAD F – 7p – 7a			
SGT	J. Dankanich	828	SGT	S. Franzone	776		
District 1	M. Gulden	855	District 1	S. Harlow	869		
District 2	P. Moynihan	750	District 2	<b>VACANT</b>			
District 3	L. Ratti	860	District 3	J. Matulewicz	882		

## Specialized Units

### Canine Unit

It was a busy year in our Canine Unit. Three canines retired: Canine Zico, Canine Roma, and Canine Karma. A new Canine (Ranger) went through training and is now partnered with Officer Kriete and a new Canine is being sought to replace Canine Kelly when she retires. We are also in the process of reintroducing Bloodhounds to our Canine Unit.

Our current Canine teams are:

<u>Sergeant Beard</u>	<u>Officer Kriete</u>
Copper – Cadaver detection Prime – Explosives and Patrol	Zico – Explosives and Patrol (retired) Ranger – Explosives and Patrol (new)
<u>Officer Hendrickson</u>	<u>Officer Mott</u>
Ringo – Explosives and Patrol	Kelly – Narcotics and Patrol

### Canine Deployments

2020	2021
75	242



*Officer Mott & Canine Kelly*



*Officer Hendrickson & Ringo*



*Ofc. Kriete & Canine Ranger*

## Specialized Units (cont.)

### Detective Bureau

The Detective Bureau in State Park Police is always busy with cases that include illegal dumping, assaults, missing persons, burglaries, vandalism, and more. Each Detective carries a very large case load, **averaging 62 cases per year** for each Detective. They also complete most of the background checks for new hires and continue to be a wealth of information for the Officers in the department.

### Note Worthy Cases in 2021

#### Motor Vehicle break ins



Detectives dealt with numerous motor vehicle break ins and stolen credit card usage. The detectives were able to identify four suspects mostly through tattoos, even though they wore masks. All five suspects were taken into custody by Detectives and later released by the courts. Upon their release, the same suspects repeatedly broke into motor vehicles around the State. State Park Police Detectives were able to give numerous other police departments information that would help their cases and lead to arrests. The same five suspects were again taken into to custody by State Park Police Detectives and placed in county jail and were eventually released.

#### Sexual Assault at D&R Canal State Park

Detectives are working with the Middlesex County Prosecutors office on a Sexual assault at D&R Canal State Park. DNA tied this suspect to one other sexual assault that occurred several months earlier in Bridgewater Twp. Detectives put up cameras and are assisting with tips that came into the hotline. As of today, the suspect has not been identified and may have fled the country.



#### UFO Detector Found in Wharton SF

UFO Detector discovered & rendered safe by NJSPP K9 Team. This UFO Detector Site Device was located near Carranza Road in Wharton State Forest. It was carefully rendered safe by Sgt. Beard and Canine Prime with assistance from Detective John Cidoni. This case was posted on the State Park Police Facebook Page and received over 100,000 engagements.



## Community Policing

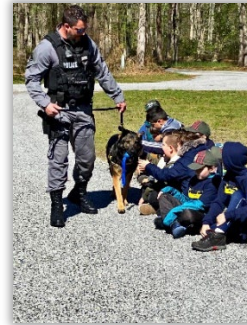
### Every Litter Bit Helps – Clean Up Event

Ofc. Richard Maxie, Southern District Community Outreach Specialist, organized a cleanup event in Brendan T. Byrne State Forest. This event brought together many different groups such as the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, PB Venom Jeep Club, Burlington County K-9 Search & Rescue, and State Park Staff with Park Police. It was a huge success and participants were able to fill at least 2 dumpsters with trash and debris from the State Forest.



### Youth Engagement

Officer Karl Mott the Community Outreach Specialist for District 2 spent some time with a boy scout troop camping in Allaire State Park. Officer Mott and his canine partner, Kelly, were able to tell the Scouts what Park Police do and how we help protect people and the natural resources in the State.

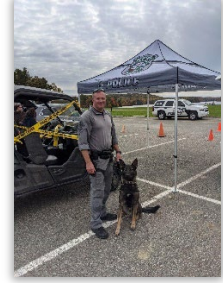


Officer Amicone participated as a guest speaker at The Square Circle Sportsman's club, during their 1st Annual Youth Turkey Hunt. Officer Amicone taught the youth hunters firearms safety while in the field as well as safe and legal firearms transportation.

## Trunk or Treat

This was the third annual Trunk or Treat event hosted by the State Park Police. Located at the Atsion Recreation Area in Shamong Twp., Wharton State Forest. State Parks staff also assisted with the event that saw over 200 nearby community residents. Other community partners joined including the local volunteer fire department and Burlington County Canine Search and Rescue organization. Our sister agency, F&W Bureau of Law Enforcement joined in!

A new Trunk or Treat event was also held at Wawayanda this year!



## State Park Police Toy Drive – 18th annual

Another great year for the State Park Police toy drive! **Over 2,250 toys and 26 bikes** were donated to the Pleasant Mills Church near Batsto Village. The donations helped give over 100 local children a merry holiday in and around the Mullica Township area.



## National Night Out

We expanded our community networking by participating in **three** National Night Out events hosted by our law enforcement partners at Ewing Twp., Lumberton Twp., and Brigantine.



## Pass It Along – Thanksgiving Food Drive

Every year Detective Steve Franzone rallies the department and runs this initiative with this daughter's Girl Scout Troop to provide Thanksgiving dinners and meals to families in need. This year, together we provided complete Thanksgiving dinners for 8 families and extra food was donated to Benny's Bodega.



## Cookie Drop

This year the NJ State Park Police participated in the Italian American Police Society on NJ cookie distribution to the Camden Promise Charter School. 125 boxes of Girl Scout cookies and juice boxes were delivered to the summer program. Detective Sbarra coordinated the NJSPPP efforts.



## Coat Drive

NJ State Park Police hosted the first annual Coat Drive this year, *Spread the Warmth*. Donation boxes were placed throughout the state and over 100 coats were collected to benefit homeless veterans. Chief Smith and our Community Outreach Specialists coordinated the donation with members of the Center for Development & Civic Engagement of the VA NJ Health Care System.



## Special Olympics Torch Run

Members from the NJ State Park Police participated in two sections of the Law Enforcement Torch Run which raises funds for the Special Olympics. In the North, Officer Mauer ran a section with Butler PD and in the South, Detective Sgt. (now Lt. Stoker) and retired personnel Greg Langan and Bill Scott ran a section in Atlantic County.



## Canine Unit Community Appearances



Officer Mott and Canine Kelly attended the Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs fishing tournament at Leonardo State Marina. They had a great day connecting with the community and being a part of the fishing excitement!



The Canine Unit participated in a special donation escort in Rutherford NJ for the Love Holds Life Children's Cancer Foundation. The Officers met with Mahogany Venson, family, and community to show support.



## Officer of the Month

New in 2021, was the Officer of the Month recognition program. This program highlighted the great work of one (or more) Officers who went above and beyond. Nominations are accepted throughout the month from co-workers or supervisors. The recognition is also featured on social media.

### **January Officer of the Month – Officer Ratti**



Officer Ratti received this recognition for assisting a park patron who fell on the ice while he was ice fishing at Aeroflex Lake in Kitatinny State Park. Mr. Jones, retired Air Force, wrote a letter of appreciation for the actions that Officer Ratti took that day to assist him. Detective Steve Franzone nominated Officer Ratti.

### **February Officer of the Month – Officer Jackson & Detective John Cidoni**



In January 2021 Ofc. Jackson took a report of a dumping of roofing materials in the Duck Island section of D&R Canal State Park. Det. Cidoni and Det. Hambleton conducted a follow up investigation at Magic Roofing and Siding in Ewing Twp. While on scene they spoke with the owner of Magic Roofing, Luis Alvarado who advised his employee, William Rivera of Trenton illegally dumped the roofing materials on Duck Island after completing a roofing job Cherry Hill, NJ in December 2020. They followed this up by speaking to Rivera who admitted to the dumping. The site has already been cleaned up by

NJ Light Rail Maintenance contractor Alstom. Det. Cidoni contacted NJ Transit and Alstom and they advised the cleanup cost \$3,485.55 and they would like restitution. Det. Cidoni charged Rivera with the Dumping of Solid Waste, the Transportation of Solid Waste and Dumping in a State Park.

### **March Officer of the Month – Sgt. Salerna & Officer Serna**



For March, the Officer of the Month Recognition went to Sgt. Salerna and Ofc. Serna for the apprehension of a suspect that broke into the Liberty Science Center on Tuesday March 23, 2021. While apprehending the suspect, both the Sergeant and Officer sustained injuries but were successful in subduing the subject while not elevating the level of force. Their experience, training and professionalism helped bring this incident to the best possible conclusion.

### April Officer of the Month – Officer Richard Maxie



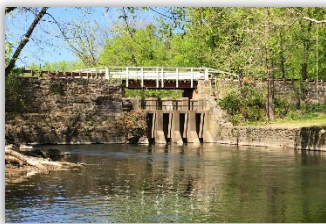
The Officer of the Month recognition for April was given to Officer Richard Maxie for his outstanding efforts in the Community Policing Specialist role for District 1. He has taken over the annual District 1 Toy Drive and created new initiatives such as the Trunk or Treat event and the clean-up event *Every Litter Bit Helps*. Ofc. Maxie also participates in events held locally, hosted by other police departments or community organizations.

### May Officer of the Month – Detective Steve Franzone & Detective Heidi Correa



Det. Franzone and Det. Correa worked numerous MV burglaries that included stolen credit cards. Video was obtained of a subject wearing a mask while using the stolen credit cards. Still pictures were put out on TRAX APBnet. A subject was eventually identified and taken into custody who matched our suspect. His ID was confirmed through tattoos on his neck. The suspect was Mr. Roman Rosario out of Paterson NJ. Detectives went back through all unresolved MV Burglaries and Mr. Rosario was eventually charged by both Detectives, clearing 11 State Park Police cases.

### June Officer of the Month – Officer Brody Wentzell



Officer Wentzell was awarded June Officer of the Month for saving 6 people tubing in the canal at D&R State Park. Officer Wentzell found 4 adults and 2 children on tubes being sucked into the canal lock tunnels. He sprang into action and using electrical cords from the maintenance shop he used them as a safety rope to pull everyone out of the water and up the embankment.

### July Officer of the Month – Officer Charles Sbarra



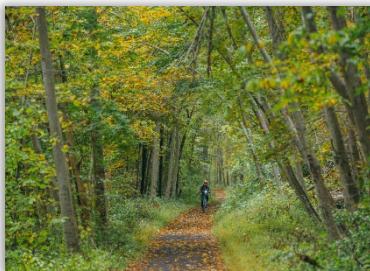
While on patrol in Wharton State Forest, Ofc. Sbarra discovered a motor vehicle accident with very serious injuries to the driver on Rt. 542 near the entrance to Batsto in Washington Twp. Ofc. Sbarra was able to provide critical and immediate medical assistance to the injured driver. NJ State Police responded to the scene and due to the severity of the driver's injuries, the driver was flown via medivac from a Landing Zone setup at Wading River Tree Farm on Turtle Creek Road to Atlantic Care in Atlantic City. Due to Ofc. Sbarra's quick response, he undoubtedly helped the driver receive immediate, urgent medical care.

## August Officer of the Month – Officer Thomas Digiantomasso



Ofc. Digiantomasso was recognized as the August Officer of the Month. Throughout the summer, numerous letters and emails from the public and from Park Service staff have been received giving accolades to Ofc. Digiantomasso for his dedication and professionalism. From assisting stuck motorists to supporting visitors who lost loved ones, Ofc. Digiantomasso has been providing professional services with compassion to the visitors and other employees at Island Beach State Park.

## September Officer of the Month – Detective Steve Franzone



State Park Police responded to the Sussex Branch trail parking area on a report of a motor vehicle break in. Detective Steve Franzone, guided by past incidents, went to the Walmart in Ledgewood and spotted a vehicle identified in past burglaries with two occupants inside. He conducted a motor vehicle stop and both occupants, Mr. Andy Fernandez-Baez and Ms. Estefoni Cabada-Paulino, were charged accordingly in numerous motor vehicle burglaries by several police agencies.

\*Officer of the Month for remainder of the year was suspended and transitioned to an Employee Spotlight program for 2022.

## First Employee Spotlight feature



Ofc. Kriete was featured as our first Employee Spotlight. The feature contains a short bio on the Officer and his career within the NJ State Park Police. It is featured on our social media page.

This feature also highlights both Ofc. Kriete's Canine partners. Zico retired in 2021 due to age and Ranger is his new partner. Ofc. Kriete retains ownership of Zico.

Ofc. Kriete is a certified scent and patrol canine trainer and is also a part of the NJ Detect and Render Safe Task Force. He is also in charge of the maintenance and deployment of the NJSPP marine vessels.

## Awards & Accolades



First New Jersey Global War on Terrorism Service Medal Awarded to Sgt. (now Lt.) Michele Sharp!  
New Jersey Gov. Philip Murphy presented the New Jersey Global War on Terrorism Service Medal for the first time at a ceremony at the National Guard Armory at Lawrenceville, NJ, March 10, 2021. The medal is awarded to New Jersey residents who served in at least one of the following Operations: Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom, Nomad Shadow, New Dawn, Inherent Resolve, Freedom's Sentinel, and Odyssey Lightning.



Officer Kriete and Officer Hendrickson both received the Police Chief's Commendation from Stevens Institute of Technology Campus Police Department in Hoboken, NJ. Both canine teams responded and participated in a homicide investigation of a graduate student. The suspect was apprehended through the efforts of multiple law enforcement agencies. On April 1, 2021, they were awarded individually, and the department received an award for their involvement.



Officer Wentzell and Officer Todaro were given NJ State PBA Life Saving Awards at the awards banquet held in Atlantic City. It was the first time personnel from the NJ State Park Police were recognized at this event! Officer Wentzell saved tubers from the canal at D&R Canal SP and Officer Todaro saved a woman who jumped in Morris Canal at Liberty State Park. They are pictured here with the NJSPP Officers Union representatives.



## 2021 NJSPS Highlights



*Ofc. Hoover with whale skull, ISBP*



*Ofc. Laver w/ NJSP, boat OPS on Lake Hopatcong*



*Ofc. Conte Police Academy graduation*



*Juneteenth Event Liberty State Park*



*Sgt. Beard with K9 display at IBSP Event*



*Axon BWC Trial & Training at MBSP*

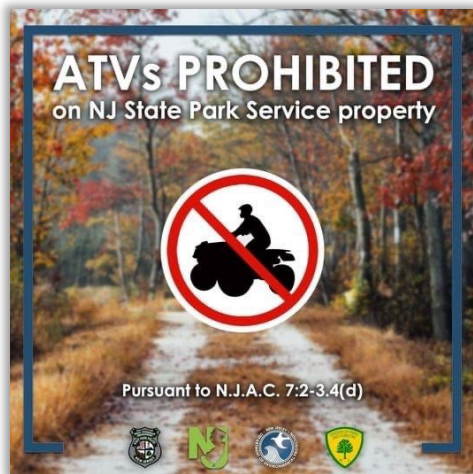


*Firearms Requalification at Ghost Lake Range*

## ORV Enforcement and Initiaves



Assistant Commissioner Ray Bukowski brought NHR Chiefs together to strategize ORV Enforcement across state managed lands. The first strategy session was held at Coyle Field and attendees included (from left to right) Chief J. Sean Cianciulli of Bureau of Law Enforcement, Assistant Commissioner Ray Bukowski, Chief Amanda Smith of State Park Police, and Chief Greg McLaughlin of Forest Fire Service. Working as a unified team, they pulled together their talent and resources to enhance resource protection for the residents of New Jersey.



The State Park Service and State Park Police collaborated on new signs and social media messaging to clearly illustrate the prohibition of ATVs on State Park property.

In 2021, NJ State Park Police initiated over **200 ATV monitoring actions** and **62 ATV patrols**. Out of the total calls for service in 2021, **278** were for illegal ATV activity.

Fines for ORV use in State Parks increased in 2021. The violations bureau schedule and the ORV penalties for parks violations (NJAC 7:2-3.2(a), -3.4(d), and -3.5(b)) are **now \$250 plus court fees**.

Internally Chief Amanda Smith started the following initiatives:

- Wrote a new ORV Enforcement policy for the NJSPP.
- Created a collaborative ORV damage spreadsheet shared with State Park Service to identify areas to concentrate patrols in.
- Started the process to modify the WARN DEP to report ORV use.
- Helped to identify stakeholders to participate in the mapping process to ensure all perspectives are considered on the issue.
- Began planning new OPS with the Operations Lt. for 2022.

## 2021 Accomplishments

2021 saw a continuation of the Covid pandemic and sweeping police reforms. With the Covid variant Omicron, the State Park Police saw staffing reductions over 25% for a few weeks. Many new or revised reporting requirements from the NJ Attorney General's Office are now embedded within policy among other reporting requirements. With the continued challenges we maintained a forward, progressive momentum in goal achievement. Some of our accomplishments are listed below:

- The NJSPP are back on the **CSC Law Enforcement Exam** list. This list will enable us to hire new, diverse candidates in a streamlined manner even during possible hiring freezes. The Security Officer hiring program will be phased out with the newly formed list from CSC.
- **Body Worn Camera** grants totaling over \$320,000 will be used to purchase a Body Worn Camera for all sworn law enforcement personnel in the department. We completed the testing of three different BWC systems and have chosen a BWC vendor in conjunction with our sister agency in F&W. Purchase and policy implementation will be realized in 2022.
- **Fiscal program restructuring** occurred this year to make the fiscal process within NJSPP as transparent as possible. A master fiscal log was created for all of the command staff to view, request, and research spending needs and future trends in real time. Approximately 80% of all NJSPP spending occurs on vehicle repairs and maintenance. Other expenditures include uniform and equipment purchases, training costs, building security and maintenance fees, different software fees integral to operations (POSS, DMS, Guardian Tracker, etc.), office supplies, ammunition, community policing materials, State Police radio fees, etc.
- A **new CAD System** will be implemented in 2022. Our current system is no longer supported by the vendor and in need of updating. The new system will be a vast improvement and will support **E-Ticket**, which leads to another necessary upgrade in our technology. An invitation to join the NJSP system was the catalyst for this improvement.
- We ordered **eight new patrol vehicles** to help replace some of the aging fleet. With continued dedication to purchasing new vehicles every year, we will be able to realize a fleet replacement program. With current production issues, we hope to receive these vehicles in 2022. **Five new, fully outfitted patrol trucks** were put into the field in 2021.
- **Promotions and new hires** were a focal point in 2021. Due to major attrition over the last two years (largely retirement driven), NJSPP had major gaps in the Command Staff and in the field. Coupled with Covid issues, this led to major stressors and pressure on existing staff. All administrative staff that were sworn law enforcement were put back into patrol. **Three Lieutenants** were promoted in 2021 and **six Sergeants** were promoted in early 2022. Onboarding of new diverse talent continues.