



WASHINGTON STATE PATROL  
**Annual Report**

**2021**

# LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

Greetings and thank you for your interest in the Washington State Patrol. As the Chief of this fine agency, I am always happy to share our stories, statistics, and successes, as well as our challenges and responses each year in this annual report.

Much like the previous year, 2021 was a very busy and unique year for our agency, industry, and our state. The impacts of the pandemic, coupled with a distinctly contentious time in America, led to particularly unique challenges that the people of this agency faced with courage and determination. We celebrated our 100th year of service in 2021, and that same courage and determination will be needed again and again as we begin our second century of service to this great state.

The historic increase in civil strife we saw during 2020 spilled into 2021 with the events of January 6th at both our national and state capitol buildings. This led to unprecedented increases in security resources applied to our Capitol Campus. The largest in the country, our campus is also one of the most beautiful and has been protected by this agency for many decades. We also protect the rights of free speech and assembly as the campus hosts tens of thousands of visitors each year and is a working facility to thousands of state workers each and every day. Everyone who uses the campus has the right to be safe as well and that will always be a primary focus. I am happy to say that while it began in conflict, the year proceeded peacefully. Our personnel, along with other public safety partners, did a fine job of navigating tense times with firm grace so that the people, places, and processes of our democratic systems could be safe and sustained.

The pandemic impacted our agency in many ways, most significantly with the loss of Trooper Detective Eric Gunderson, who passed away from the disease in late September. His line of duty death became the 32nd loss we have suffered in our more than 100 years of service to the state. Earlier in the year, Trooper Renee Padgett's 2018 passing was ruled a line of duty death as the cancer that claimed her life was caused by exposure to carcinogenic materials during an investigation into illegal wrecking yard activities years before.

What an honor it was to have known and served alongside both of these true public servants and fine law enforcement officers. We were all enriched by their service and humbled by their sacrifice.

Other impacts of the pandemic ranged from teleworking for many of our non-public-facing staff members to a significant loss of personnel due to separation associated with the vaccine mandate. Like every other workforce and every other organization, we had a challenging year navigating this deadly disease. But we met our responsibilities, treated one another with respect, followed the law, and we continued boldly forward on our avenue of service.

I am immensely proud of the work done by both our commissioned and civilian staff during these historic times. I appreciate the hard work and dedication each of our approximately 2,000 staff members provide. I also appreciate the work done to diversify our ranks and was heartened to see smiling faces reflecting every corner and every community of our beautiful state in the January graduation of a new class of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers and the June graduation of a new class of Troopers.

As we begin a new year and a new century of service, our people will continue to safeguard Washington roadways, protect and assist travelers, and enable the state's commerce. We will continue to investigate crime, pursue the guilty, protect the innocent, and support the response of our state to dangers and hazards. Together, we continue our 'Service with Humility.'

Sincerely,  
Chief John R. Batiste



# ABOUT WSP

## MISSION

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) makes a difference every day, enhancing the safety and security of all people and communities by providing the best in public safety services

## VISION

To be the best public safety agency in the United States

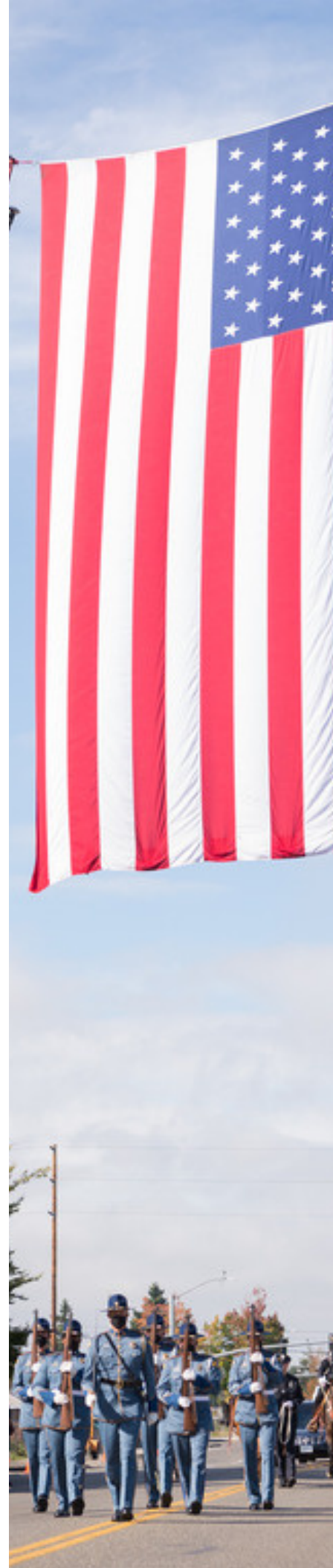
## MOTTO

Service with Humility

## VALUES

Every employee is a critical member of a team committed to earning the trust and confidence of the public through:

- Strong leadership
- Effective partnerships
- Professional excellence
- Acting with integrity and accountability
- Respecting and protecting individual rights
- A culture of continuous improvement



# WSP AT A GLANCE

**926** Commissioned Employees

**1,057** Civil Service Employees

**40** Canines and Handlers

**10** Commercial Vehicle  
Enforcement Officers  
Graduated

**28** Troopers  
Graduated/Commissioned

**1,816** Vehicles Deployed

**18,000+** Miles of State Highway  
Patrolled



**Website:**  
[www.wsp.wa.gov](http://www.wsp.wa.gov)



**Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/WashingtonStatePatrol](http://www.facebook.com/WashingtonStatePatrol)



**Twitter:**  
[www.twitter.com/wastatepatrol](http://www.twitter.com/wastatepatrol)

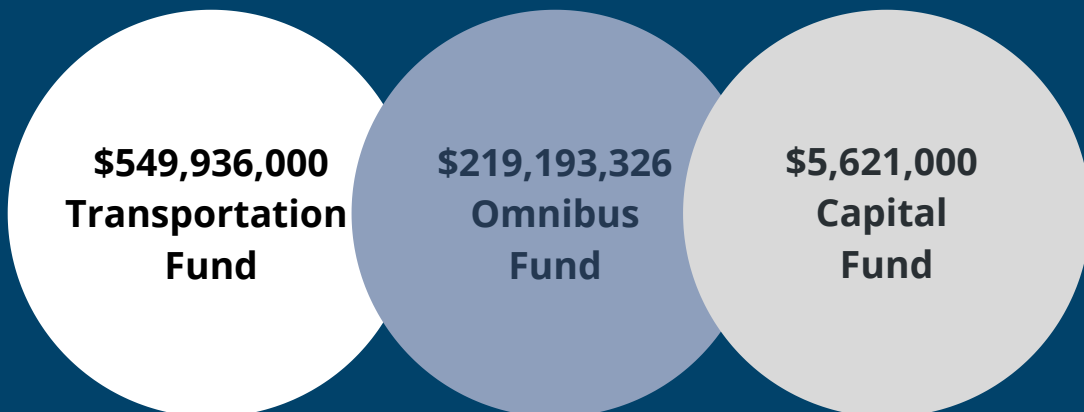


**Instagram:**  
[www.instagram.com/wastatepatrol](http://www.instagram.com/wastatepatrol)



**Blog:**  
[www.wspinsideout.wordpress.com/](http://www.wspinsideout.wordpress.com/)

WSP manages a budget of  
**\$774,750,326**





# KEY MEASUREMENTS

## Troopers

Made **414,504** contacts  
Answered **309,495** calls for service  
Investigated **35,395** collisions  
Arrested **11,155** impaired drivers



## Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers and Troopers:



Contacted **94,846** violators  
CVD Troopers contacted **26,039** passenger vehicles  
Performed **89,056** Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) Safety Inspections  
Performed **26,021** CMV Safety Inspections at the Ports of Entry  
Placed **10,866** commercial vehicles out of service  
Performed **15,138** School Bus Inspections

## Major Statewide Violations



**18,063**  
Distracted Driving



**11,155**  
DUI



**1,342**  
Felony Warrants



**15,848**  
Following too Close



**9,618**  
HOV



**2,797**  
Hit and Run



**7,093**  
Left Lane



**4,812**  
Misdemeanor  
Warrants



**20,922**  
Seatbelt



**3,523**  
Negligent Driving



**975**  
Reckless Driving



**1,644**  
Move Over



**265,054**  
Speed

# KEY MEASUREMENTS

**Crime Laboratory Division** - completed **26,896** requests:

**181** crime scene related cases  
**3,878** DNA cases completed  
**27** questioned documents cases  
**8,466** NIBIN cases  
**1,386** latent fingerprint cases  
**4,131** seized drug cases  
**306** materials analysis cases  
**8,025** offender samples received  
**496** firearms requests

**Toxicology Laboratory Division** - received a total of **15,954** cases:



## Sexual Assault Kits

For the past several years, the Crime Laboratory Division has been working to reduce the statewide testing backlog of Sexual Assault Kits as well as developing the forensic capacity in personnel, equipment and lab space to be able to turn around all new submissions in a shorter period of time. Backlog reduction strategies included improving our process efficiencies and outsourcing older kits to accredited commercial laboratories so we could focus on the new kits that arrive each day. While pandemic related delays complicated the process, steady progress has been made including the hiring and training of new forensic scientists, new equipment installed and calibrated, and the opening of the new High Throughput Lab in Vancouver.

# KEY MEASUREMENTS

## Auto Theft Task Force

**526** stolen vehicles recovered



**130** auto theft arrests

## Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit

**issued**

**9** Amber Alerts

**2** Endangered/Missing Person Alerts

**50** Silver Alerts

## Interagency Bomb Squad

responded to

**320**

bomb calls

EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES

AMMUNITION DISPOSALS

BOMB THREATS



**VIN Inspectors**  
completed

**30,369**

VIN inspections statewide

## Special Investigations Sections

conducted:

- **2** child exploitation operations resulting in:  
**7 total arrests**
- **30** new Missing and Exploited Children cases, which included:  
**39 total arrests**

**Detectives**  
investigated

**158** felony injury collisions

**456** non-traffic criminal investigations

**338** other criminal investigations



# KEY MEASUREMENTS

## Fire Training Division

**3,983**

students taught

**194**

courses conducted

**65**

departments/agencies serviced

## Fire Prevention Division

**4,267**

fire service-related certifications issued

**3,235**

industry licenses/certifications issued

**2,609**

fire and life safety inspections

**27**

mobilizations authorized



**25%**

increase in WSP investigated collisions



**11%**

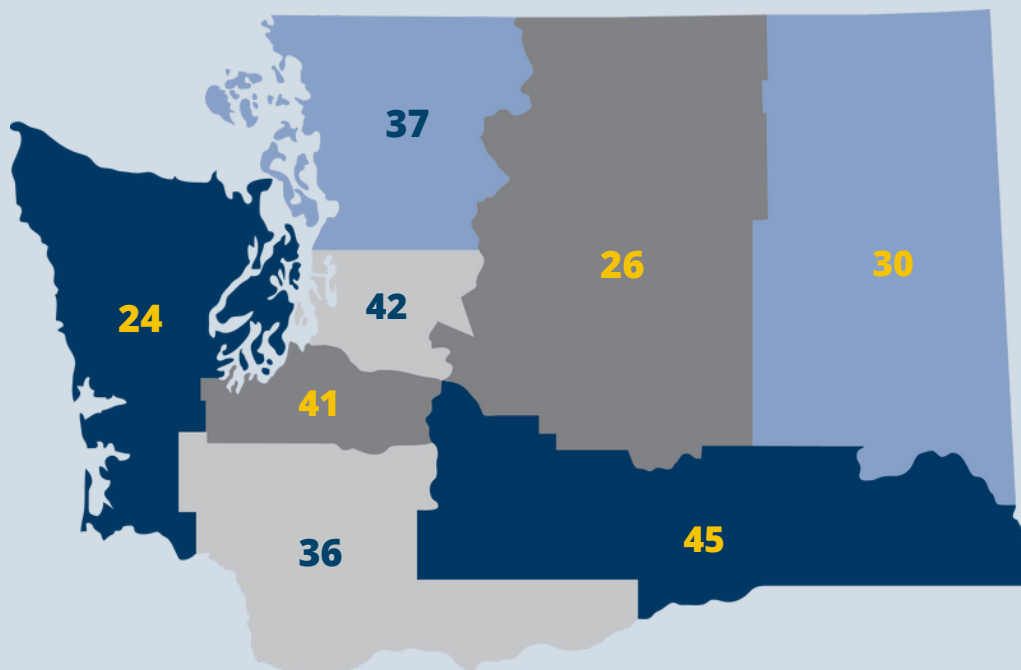
decrease in WSP investigated DUIs



**28%**

increase in WSP investigated fatality collisions

## FATALITIES BY DISTRICT



# YEAR AT A GLANCE

## Emphases, Partnerships, and Education Patrols

Throughout the year, WSP conducted focused efforts and patrol emphases. These emphases continuously support our agency's goal of making people safe on Washington roadways.

For specific emphases as detailed below, extra personnel supplements the efforts of those that are on regular duty.

- **Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over**
- **Distracted Driving**
- **Click it or Ticket**
- **Move Over, Slow Down**
- **On the Road, Off the Phone**
- **Rail Safety Week**
- **WSU Thanksgiving Break**
- **Street Racing**
- **Secure Your Load**
- **Hog Wild Motorcycle Emphasis**
- **Operation Sober Handle**
- **I-5 Alive**

## Western States Traffic Safety Coalition

WSP partnered with 10 other western region states on joint emphasis patrols and public relations campaigns aimed at making roadways safer. In June, the coalition focused on speed enforcement for summer drivers. In December, the focus was impaired driving during holiday season. The message was clear, when it comes to safety, we are all in this together!



# YEAR AT A GLANCE

JAN

Political demonstrations & threats to disrupt legislative opening lead to unprecedented security measures on Capitol Campus

Human Resource Division announces aggressive hiring campaign for 2021 seeking both Trooper Cadets and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers

FEB

Trooper Steve Houle is killed in an avalanche

The September 4, 2018, passing of Trooper Renee Padgett is formally recognized as a line of duty death

The first list of Missing, Murdered, and Indigenous Persons was posted on the external website

MAR

The new High Throughput Lab was shared with the public via a blog and video

Posted first WSP job on Facebook to attract applicants and advertise hiring

APR

WSP's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) launches new website with information on agency's DEI efforts and commitments

WSP resumed proactive patrols on state routes within the Yakama Nation Reservation

WSP participated in an agency wide DEI study which made specific recommendations for recruitment, retention and training. In response, HRD introduced several new initiatives

MAY

Chief signs 30X30 pledge to improve the representation and experiences of women in law enforcement by the year 2030

Firearms Background Division was established with the WSP

JUN

WSP's Criminal Records Division rolls out new system making processing of criminal records more efficient after a rigorous six - year development effort

Posted for pride day for the first time in agency history

"Never defeated, 100 completed," 28 new troopers of the 114th Trooper Basic Training Class (TBTC) could be heard chanting at their graduation ceremony held at the WSP Academy



# YEAR AT A GLANCE

JUL

WSP becomes the 27th law enforcement agency in the world to hold the title of a "Tri-Arc" Agency - the premier accreditation level in law enforcement operations, training, and communications

The first annual DEI pulse survey conducted to gauge the sentiments of employees about DEI work and needs

Several new police accountability bills went into effect in Washington, changing some of the ways police officers can interact with the public, pursue suspects, and the equipment available to them in their work

AUG

The first "Meet Our Recruiters" video was posted

WSP personnel spent over 200 hours refurbishing an old Puyallup Fair Barn into a WSP Exhibit Hall

SEP

WSP opened a new Centennial Exhibit Hall at the Washington State Fair. Over 50,000 people visited the greatly expanded facility

WSP celebrated 100 years of service

Detective Gunderson dies in the early morning hours on September 26th after a courageous battle with the Covid-19 Virus contracted while in service to the state of Washington

OCT

WSP loses over 150 employees to resistance to the vaccine mandate through separations, transfers, and early retirements

Trooper Detective Gunderson is laid to rest with full honors

NOV

WSP hosted an agency-wide training, "How to Beat Your Own Unconscious Bias" that also included tips on being an inclusive leader for command and executive staff

Posted for Native American Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Day

An upgrade of our Land Mobile Radio system was completed. The upgrade keeps the WSP statewide radio system up to date, improves reliability, security, and allows the ability to adopt new features and functionality

DEC

Washington State University releases years-long study on traffic stop and enforcement data, showing no evidence of systemic bias by WSP

Posted a blog and video that showcased cadets learning how to detect impairment and run field sobriety tests

# HIGHLIGHTS



## Fallen Heroes Wall

On June 8, 2021, Chief Batiste was joined by Governor Jay Inslee as the new 'Wall of Heroes' was unveiled on the ground floor of the Helen Sommers Building in Olympia.

Commemorating the 100th anniversary date of the agency's formation by the state legislature in 1921, the permanent memorial offered a personalized tribute to each of the 31 individuals who died in the line of duty during our first century of service.



## New Fairgrounds Exhibit

WSP enjoyed September at the Washington State Fair where a newly expanded and renovated exhibit hall was filled with memorabilia and exhibits spanning 100 years of service. The site offered interactive displays for kids as well as vehicle and uniform displays. Current outreach programs like the WSP Tribal Liaisons were also highlighted. Over 50,000 individuals visited the display in the Fair's 23 day run.



## Homeward Bound

Using high visibility commercial vehicle trailers, WSP's Homeward Bound program partnered with Kam-Way Trucking to highlight time progressed images of missing children. Administered by the Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit, three children highlighted on the trailers over the years have been recovered.

This year Sofia Juarez and Asia Wilbon were featured on the trucks.





# HIGHLIGHTS



## 114th Trooper Basic Graduation

June 30, 2021, saw 28 new Troopers graduate from the 114th Trooper Basic Training Class. They were sworn in by Chief Justice Steven Gonzáles and received their commission cards from Chief Batiste.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the graduation was held on the WSP driving course.

## 15th CVEO Basic Graduation

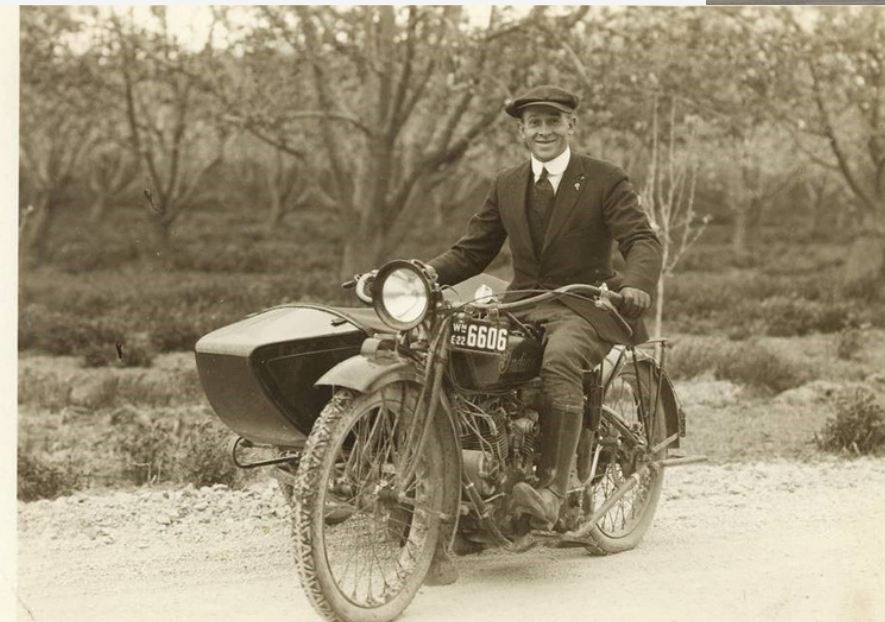
On January 14, 2021, 10 new Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers graduated from the 15th CVEO Basic Training Class. Eight Troopers also graduated from the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance training.

These dedicated professionals work to protect infrastructure, prevent accidents, promote safe travels and save lives.



## Centennial

WSP celebrated its first hundred years of service with multiple events and projects. The efforts included a media campaign, a parade of vintage and modern WSP vehicles, as well as the construction of the Wall of Heroes located at the agency headquarters in Olympia and replicated at the WSP Centennial Exhibit at the Washington State Fair.





# MEETING THE CHALLENGES



## Civil Unrest

The year started with significant political protests on the Capitol Campus leading to unprecedented security measures. Over 750 National Guard troops were called in to join WSP Troopers from every district to protect the people, places and processes of state government.

## 30x30 Pledge

In May, the Chief signed the 30x30 Pledge – a series of low and no-cost actions addressing recruitment, assessment, hiring, retention, promotion, and agency culture designed to improve the representation and experiences of women in law enforcement.



## Vaccine Mandate

Covid-19 impacted Washington residents and our state employees in many ways.

The loss of Trooper Detective Eric Gunderson, who contracted the disease prior to the vaccine mandates, was felt by all. While almost every state agency faced some resistance and separations associated with the mandate, by year's end, over 98.5% of WSP employees received the vaccine.



# MEET OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM



**CHIEF JOHN R. BATISTE**



**ASSISTANT CHIEF  
SCOTT A. MCCOY**

**COMMERCIAL VEHICLE  
ENFORCEMENT BUREAU**



**ASSISTANT CHIEF  
DANIEL J. ATCHISON**

**FIELD OPERATIONS  
BUREAU**



**INTERIM STATE FIRE  
MARSHAL**

**CHAD L. CROSS  
FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU**



**DIRECTOR  
DR. FIONA J. COUPER**

**FORENSIC LABORATORY  
SERVICES BUREAU**



**ASSISTANT CHIEF  
MARC W. LAMOREAUX**

**INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES  
BUREAU**



**ASSISTANT CHIEF  
SHANNON I. BENDIKSEN**

**TECHNICAL SERVICES  
BUREAU**

# MEET OUR BUREAUS

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

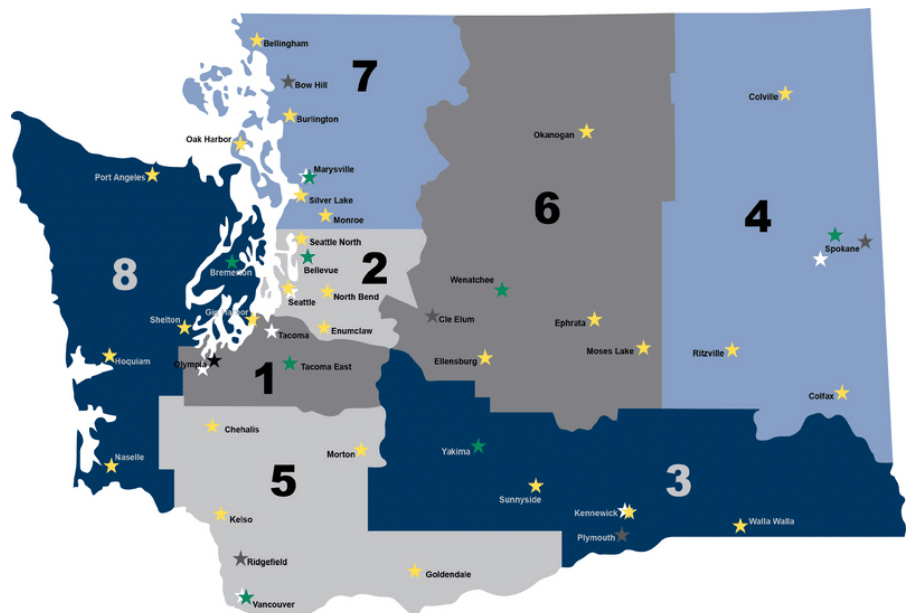
Under the direction of Chief John R. Batiste, the Office of the Chief oversees the day-to-day operations of the agency.

- [Budget and Fiscal Services](#)
- [Department Psychologist](#)
- [Government and Media Relations](#)
- [Labor and Policy](#)

## FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU

The Field Operations Bureau (FOB) oversees headquarters and eight geographic districts, each facing unique characteristics and challenges. The bureau is responsible for traffic law enforcement, collision investigation, and motorist assistance on over 18,000 lane miles patrolled.

- [FOB Headquarters](#)
- [District 1](#)
- [District 2](#)
- [District 3](#)
- [District 4](#)
- [District 5](#)
- [District 6](#)
- [District 7](#)
- [District 8](#)
- [Chaplaincy Program](#)



## COMMERCIAL VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau (CVEB) is responsible for promoting and educating the safe travel of commercial vehicles, enhancing safe transportation of school children and protecting the state's infrastructure. CVEB oversees the department fleet, facilities and all equipment throughout the agency while being good stewards of public funds.

- [Commercial Vehicle Division](#)
- [Motor Carrier Safety Division](#)
- [Property Management Division](#)

# MEET OUR BUREAUS

## **FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU**

The Fire Protection Bureau (FPB) is dedicated to the protection of life, property and environment from the devastation of fire. FPB consists of two divisions, whose services include fire incident reporting, data collection, fire inspections, fireworks and sprinkler licensing, mobilization resource coordination, and firefighter training.

- [\*\*Fire Prevention Division\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Fire Training Division\*\*](#)

## **FORENSIC LABORATORY SERVICES BUREAU**

The Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau (FLSB) provides a wide range of forensic science expertise to city, county, and state law enforcement, medical examiners and coroners.

- [\*\*Crime Laboratory Division\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Impaired Driving Section\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Toxicology Laboratory Division\*\*](#)

## **INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU**

The Investigative Services Bureau (ISB) provides overall administrative and support services to the traffic and investigative programs of the department, as well as to many other state agencies.

- [\*\*Criminal Investigation Division\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Criminal Records Division\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Firearms Background Division\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Homeland Security Division\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Investigative Assistance Division\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Office of Professional Standards\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Special Operations Division\*\*](#)

## **TECHNICAL SERVICES BUREAU**

The Technical Services Bureau (TSB) provides diverse support services to the entire agency, as well as other law enforcement and government agencies throughout the state, and members of the general public.

- [\*\*Communications Division\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Electronic Services Division\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Human Resource Division\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Information Technology Division\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Risk Management Division\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Training Division\*\*](#)



# TROOPER RENEE PADGETT

On February 12, 2021, Chief Batiste announced that Trooper Renee Padgett's 2018 passing had been officially ruled a line of duty death and her name had been approved for inclusion to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC. Trooper Padgett's name was subsequently dedicated on May 13, 2021, at the 33rd Annual Candlelight Vigil during National Police Week and she is now listed as the 30th member of the Washington State Patrol to die in the line of duty.

Renee passed away on September 4, 2018, in Renton, Washington following a long and courageous battle with cancer. The development of the cancer resulted from exposure to toxic chemicals during an investigation of illegal practices at a wrecking yard years earlier.

She served the Washington State Patrol and the citizens of Washington State for 27 years and is survived by her wife, Marcella Egan, her children Gedeon Rene Padgett Lagasse and Olivia Rochelle Padgett Lagasse, and her sisters Nicole A. Cook of Kennewick, Washington and Jaclyn L. Padgett of Boise, Idaho.

Renee began her distinguished WSP career on March 11, 1991, as a Trooper Cadet assigned to Gig Harbor. She began training with the 73rd Trooper Basic Training Class on July 29, 1991, and received her commission on December 20, 1991, assigned to Bellevue. On September 16, 2003, Trooper Padgett became a Wrecking Yard Trooper and remained in Bellevue for the rest of her career.

She was an innovator and received numerous awards during her career including in 2006, when she was recognized for her role in a very successful Problem Oriented Policing (POPS) project, Homeward Bound, which helped find missing children in Washington State. That program continues today with commercial trailers rolling through British Columbia, Mexico and the western United States adorned with photos and time advanced representations of children, some of whom have been missing for years. Dozens of missing children have been highlighted and in at least three cases, publication has assisted in recovery.



# DETECTIVE ERIC GUNDERSON

**On September 26, 2021, the Washington State Patrol lost Trooper Detective Eric Gunderson after a courageous battle with the Covid-19 Virus contracted while in service to the state of Washington. He was 38 years old at the time of his passing and had served the Patrol for nearly 16 years. He died peacefully surrounded by family, friends and love. Eric is survived by his wife Kami, and son's Blake and Brayden.**

**Eric was the 32nd member of the Washington State Patrol family to die in the line of duty in the agency's 100 years of service to this state. He began working for the Washington State Patrol on October 24, 2005, and was commissioned on April 16, 2008. Eric was the Technology Liaison in the Criminal Investigation Division (CID), located in District 1.**

**In his role he helped all CID detectives, Field Operations Bureau (FOB) Collision Technical Specialist (CTS), Collision Reconstruction Troopers, and the Crime Lab Division (CLD) Crime Scene Response Team (CSRT) with technology questions, training and troubleshooting. Eric was also a member of the WSP Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.**

**Eric was well regarded for his understanding and embrace of available technologies in law enforcement. An early adopter and enthusiast of unmanned aerial technology, his work with unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) has been chronicled in media stories across the nation. His pioneering work allowed the state to shorten the time of road closures during collision investigations and of specific note, his work after the 2017 Amtrak passenger train derailment in DuPont gained wide acclaim and appreciation for its precision and value. Eric traveled around the country representing the WSP as the premiere agency in the world for UAV usage.**





