

Motor Carrier Division 2002 Annual Report

Homeland Security

Helping to ensure the security of our homeland continued to be a primary focus for the Motor Carrier Division in 2002. The Motor Carrier Division (MCD) applied for and received a federal grant to be used to enhance safety and security of commercial vehicle operations at Michigan's three international borders (Detroit, Port Huron, Sault St. Marie). Funding from this special grant is being used to purchase high technology equipment for detecting explosives or narcotics. This grant also provides for a greater enforcement presence through scheduled overtime patrols at the borders.

Fatal Truck Crashes in Michigan Decline

The U.S. Department of Transportation reported a significant decline in the number of persons killed in Michigan as a result of a crash involving a truck. In 2001, Michigan had 115 fatal truck crashes, a 16 percent drop from 2000 when there were 137 large truck fatal crashes in Michigan. The number of persons killed in crashes involving large trucks declined by a similar margin (15 percent). Michigan's reduction was significantly better than the national average.



14th Motor Carrier Recruit School

On June 7, 2002, 19 probationary Motor Carrier Officers graduated from the 14th Motor Carrier Recruit School, bringing the division to near full strength. Mr. Joseph Clapp, Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration ushered Michigan's newest Motor Carrier Officers into their new careers with his keynote address.

Automated Officer's Daily Report

Development of an automated Officer's Daily Report was completed. Using this paperless system, officers complete their daily report at the roadside or weigh station using a laptop computer. Data is electronically uploaded to a server in Lansing. Supervisors can review and approve dailies from a remote location and using Crystal Reports software, data can be retrieved from the database in the form of canned or custom reports. This system is also expected to provide a more accurate method for doing cost allocation.

Enhanced Mobile Enforcement

In keeping with the Motor Carrier Division's strategic shift toward more mobile enforcement, three weigh stations were demolished (EB & WB New Baltimore and NB Pontiac) and officers were redeployed to road patrol assignments. Additional road patrol positions were created at Flint, Detroit, and Lansing. In addition, for the first time an officer was assigned to the Lakeview Post in Montcalm County, and one to the newly established satellite office in Midland County. These assignments were made in an effort to increase efficiency and reduce officer response times.

Education and Enforcement

During 2002, the Motor Carrier Division, in partnership with Roadway Express, provided training in commercial vehicle enforcement to 192 local law enforcement officers. Commercial Motor Vehicle Adjudication training was also offered to judges, magistrates, and prosecutors throughout Michigan.

Enforcement activity for 2002, included 52,480 truck inspections completed, 49,230 citations issued, 327 criminal arrests, and 656 fugitives taken off Michigan's streets.

New Technology

Using a special grant from the Michigan Truck Safety Commission, the Motor Carrier Division purchased eight portable Infra-Red cameras which are used to detect defective brakes on trucks. The Infra-Red cameras measure the differences in heat given off by the brakes, thus indicating if they are functioning properly or not. This instrument alerts the inspector to brake defects that would otherwise go undetected.



School Bus Inspection Program

The number of school buses passing inspection increased to 15,423 in 2002 (84.9 percent) an improvement over the 83.0 percent that passed in 2001.

Bus Inspection Report for School Year 2001-2002	Buses		School Districts & Contractors	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Inspected by MSP/MCD	18,170			
Passed Inspection	15,423	(84.88%)		
Red-Tagged	1,800	(9.91%)		
Yellow-Tagged	947	(5.21%)		
Re-inspected by a VSI	1,136			
Not inspected	0			
Reported this Cycle			856	
Received a Certificate of Excellence for a 100% passing rate			250	(29%)

Definitions:

- **Passed Inspection:** The bus was found to have no defects the first time it was inspected during the school year.
- **Yellow-Tagged:** The bus was found to have a defect that required repairs to be made within 60 days, but still could be used to transport pupils to and from school and school-related events.
- **Red-Tagged:** The bus was found to have a defect that prevented the bus from being used to transport pupils to and from school and school-related events until repairs were made.

Motor Carrier Officer of the Year

Ofcr. Daniel Litzner of the St. Ignace Post, was selected as the 2002 Motor Carrier Officer of the Year.

Michigan’s Motor Carrier Inspector of the Year

Officer Steve Blankenship of the Metro South Post, competed to win the Honor of being the 2002 winner of Michigan’s Inspector Challenge.

Motor Carrier Division Employee of the Year

Ms. Karen Thornburg of Motor Carrier Division Headquarters, was named the Division’s Employee of the Year for 2002.

Motor Carrier Division Leadership Award

Sgt. Geraldine Burton of the Bridgman Post, was selected to receive the Division’s coveted Leadership Award for 2002.

