



Let Us Hear Your Story

2013 Looking Beyond the License Plate Program Winning Stories

***2013 IACP Annual Conference
October 20 – October 22, 2013
Philadelphia, PA***

This program recognizes law enforcement officers whose observations of a license plate resulted in the apprehension of a suspect or the resolution of a crime.

3M

Grand Prize Winner

Trooper Eric Randazzo
Pennsylvania State Police

Trooper Eric Randazzo of the Pennsylvania State Police was travelling on a local road in Swiftwater, Pa., when he observed a motorcycle merge onto the road not far from him. He routinely ran the rear license plate, which revealed that the motorcycle's registration had been expired for more than five years. Randazzo signaled for the rider to pull over, but observed the operator throw a clear plastic bag on the road before stopping. It was not only discovered that the rider had a suspended license, but when Trooper Randazzo retrieved the plastic bag thrown from the motorcycle, it was filled with methamphetamine. The rider was arrested, and later provided the address where the drugs were purchased.



Trooper Randazzo began to conduct surveillance on the residence where the drugs came from, which resulted in two additional traffic stops, three arrests, and the name of the drug dealer. A search warrant for the home was obtained, resulting in the seizure of crack cocaine, methamphetamine, narcotics weighing and packaging materials, and a safe containing \$26,000. The dealer was later arrested by U.S. Marshalls because he was on active federal probation for a previous Drug Enforcement Agency arrest in the 1990s.

The dedication, tenacity and self-initiative shown by Trooper Randazzo helped to take a significant amount of drugs and money off the streets in Monroe County, Pa., making the community a safer place to live.

"3M's selection of Trooper Eric Randazzo as the 2013 Looking Beyond the License Plate Award recipient is certainly appreciated by the Pennsylvania State Police. Trooper Randazzo, like all of the men and women of the Pennsylvania State Police, work hard each and every day to protect and serve the residents and visitors of the Commonwealth out of a sense of duty. It is a source of great pride and encouragement to us all when that hard work is recognized by an award such as this. We are proud of Trooper Randazzo and applaud 3M for their support of law enforcement!"

Major Edward C. Hoke, Director
Pennsylvania State Police , Bureau of Patrol

Honorable Mentions

Officer Adam M. Schur and Officer Cheryl L. Hurley Chicago Police Department

Officers Adam Schur and Cheryl Hurley of the Chicago Police Department were on patrol when they noticed a pickup truck with a rear license plate that did not look right. When they stopped the truck and took a closer look, they found that the plate was altered, with the numbers and letters hand painted on it. Officers Schur and Hurley decided to conduct a more thorough investigation and the truck was impounded.

The next day, it was found that the truck had been reported stolen a few weeks prior, and a description of the suspect who stole it matched the truck's passenger. The driver was arrested for criminal trespassing to a vehicle, while the passenger was charged with possession of a stolen vehicle, along with five additional felony charges.

Trooper Sean W. Long Missouri State Highway Patrol

While on patrol, Trooper Long noticed a Chevrolet pickup truck with no rear license plate and a passenger vehicle plate on the front. A quick computer check revealed that the front license plate was actually registered to a Ford passenger car. After stopping the vehicle, Trooper Long was in the process of verifying the driver's identity when the driver fled on foot. After a short pursuit, the driver was arrested. It was later determined that he had three felony and two misdemeanor warrants out for his arrest. Additionally, stolen property found in the pickup truck led to the closing of six burglary cases in Missouri and Kansas.

Sergeant Robert J. Blain and Officer Jason Robles Houston Police Department (Texas)

A murder investigation at an apartment complex led Sergeant Blain and Officer Robles to search surveillance video of the crime scene. The video showed two vehicles carrying five suspects enter the complex, followed by the victim's car an hour later. While one vehicle had an unreadable license plate, the front license plate of the second car revealed that it had recently been registered to someone at a local address. Surveillance was arranged and the suspect that the vehicle was registered to was brought in for questioning. During the interrogation, the identities of the other four suspects were revealed. Charges were filed and all five murder suspects were taken into custody.

Trooper Wayne T. Brosam
Iowa State Patrol

Trooper Brosam initiated a traffic stop on February 17, 2013, for speed and registration violations. The 28-year-old male and 13-year-old female occupants of the vehicle were unable to positively identify themselves and provided different and conflicting information. The trooper reviewed his cruiser's video/audio system, which yielded a discussion between the two occupants concerning providing false names. The occupants were taken into custody, and Brosam's further inquiries revealed that the male had a permanent protective order against him in relation to the female and was being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Belcourt, North Dakota, Police Department actually was in the process of making computer entries relative to the female's being a missing person and the vehicle's being stolen and the issuing of an Amber Alert on the female.