

Delaware State Police Continue Their 100th Anniversary Celebration with Centennial Tribute



The Delaware State Police are continuing their 100th Anniversary Celebration with a Centennial Tribute. The ceremony will occur on **April 28, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. on the Legislative Mall** located at 411 Legislative Avenue in Dover. There will be elected officials in attendance who will speak and help commemorate the DSP's 100 years of service to our citizens and visitors. This event will occur rain or shine. In the case of inclement weather, the event will be held indoors at Legislative Hall.



There will be parking available on Water Street and the surrounding area. A media staging area will be available on Legislative Mall close to the intersection of Legislative Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

The event is open to the public and all are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Senior Corporal Jason Hatchell

Released: 032023 1129

-End-

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Troopers Arrest Man for Felony DUI Following Pursuit

The Delaware State Police have arrested 48-year-old **Rodney Hearn** of Georgetown, Delaware for felony DUI and other

offenses following a vehicle pursuit that occurred early this morning in Bridgeville.

On March 20, 2023, at approximately 1:23 a.m., a trooper on patrol observed a silver 2004 Kia Spectra turn left onto Coverdale Road from Mill Park Drive. The driver of the Kia failed to properly signal, and the trooper attempted to stop the car on Coverdale Road at Seashore Highway. However, the driver did not stop on command and began speeding away northbound on Chaplains Chapel Road. The trooper pursued the Kia until it came to a stop on Tuckers Road west of Oak Road. The driver, identified as Rodney Hearn, was subsequently taken into custody without incident. Hearn showed signs of impairment and was found to be in possession of drug paraphernalia and approximately .38 grams of crack cocaine that he had attempted to destroy. Computer checks showed that Hearn has three prior convictions for DUI.

Hearn was taken to Troop 5 and charged with the following offenses:

- 4th Offense DUI (Felony)
- Disregarding a Police Officer Signal (Felony)
- Tampering With Physical Evidence (Felony)
- Possession of a Controlled Substance
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Numerous traffic violations

Hearn was arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 3 and committed to Sussex Correctional Institution on \$15,211 cash bond.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Senior Corporal Leonard DeMalto

Released: 032023 1058

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Delaware State Police Investigating School Threat

The Delaware State Police is aware of a social media post that threatens the safety of Gunning Bedford Middle School on March 20, 2023. The DSP takes threats to any school very seriously and has initiated proactive safety measures to ensure the safety and security of all students and staff. Families are encouraged to keep the lines of communication open with their children and share any critical information with school administrators or the DSP.

The Delaware State Police Troop 2 Criminal Investigations Unit continues to investigate this threat. Troopers ask anyone with information regarding this incident to contact Detective A. Desiderio by calling (302) 834-8475. Information may also be provided by sending a Private Facebook Message to the [Delaware State Police](#) or contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-847-3333.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of a crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and need assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit / [Delaware Victim Center](#) is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll-free hotline at 1-800-VICTIM-1 (1-800-842-8461). You may also email the Victim Services Unit at DSP_VictimServicesMail@delaware.gov.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Sergeant India Sturgis

Released: 031923 1836

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Delaware State Police Investigating Homicide

The Delaware State Police is investigating a homicide that occurred this morning in Newark.

On March 19, 2023, at approximately 5:53 a.m., New Castle County Police Department responded to a possible traffic accident on Old County Road. When officers arrived, they located an adult male victim suffering from a gunshot wound inside a vehicle. An examination of the scene revealed that the shooting occurred near the 2400 block of Old County Road, which is within the jurisdiction of the Delaware State Police. The victim was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The victim's identification is being withheld until notification is made to the family. No suspect information is available at this time.

The Homicide Unit is still actively investigating this incident. Detectives are asking anyone with information regarding this case to contact Detective D. Grassi by calling 302-365-8441. Information may also be provided by sending a Private Facebook Message to the [Delaware State Police](#) or contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-847-3333.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Sergeant India Sturgis

Released: 031923 1346

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***Update – Victim Identified* Homicide Unit Investigating Shooting, Suspect in Custody**

The Delaware State Police have identified the victim of the homicide that occurred on March 16, 2023, in Felton as **Charles Kupidowski**, 36, of Harrington, Delaware.

[Homicide Unit Investigating Shooting, Suspect in Custody](#)

[Delaware State Police Conducting Criminal Investigation](#)

The Homicide Unit is still actively investigating this incident. Detectives are asking for anyone with information regarding this case to contact Detective M. Csapo by calling 302-741-2729. Information may also be provided by sending a Private Facebook Message to the [Delaware State Police](#) or contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-847-3333.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Senior Corporal Leonard DeMalto

Released: 031823 0952

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Delaware State Police S.O.A.R. Searching for Wanted Sex Offender

The Delaware State Police Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration Unit (S.O.A.R.) is currently looking for the following **wanted** [sex offenders](#) after they either failed to register or re-register at their current address. If anyone knows the location of these individuals, please call 302-672-5306. Information may also be provided by contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-847-3333.

Click on each image to see the complete

profile

STREET , THOMAS T



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Registration Information

Risk Level:	Tier 2 (Moderate Risk)
Verified On:	July 6, 2022
Registered Since:	June 19, 2012
In Prison:	No
Convicted Out of State:	No
Repeat Offender:	No

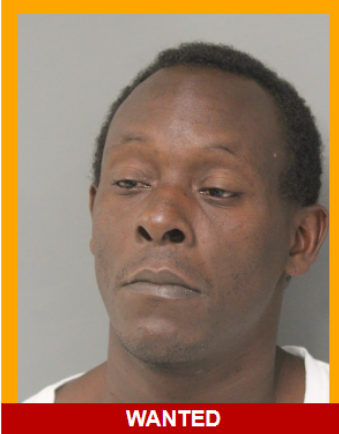
Police Agency of Jurisdiction

Police Agency:	TROOP 7 STATE POLICE
Address:	19444 MULBERRY KNOLL ROAD LEWES , DE 19958
Phone:	3026445020

Identification Information

Birth Date:	July 14, 1993 (age 29)	Height:	5' 11"
Gender:	Male	Weight:	180 lbs.
Race:	Black/African American	Eye Color:	Brown
Skin Color:	LIGHT BROWN	Hair Color:	BLACK

BROWN , JULIUS



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Registration Information (Homeless)

Risk Level:	Tier 2 (Moderate Risk)
Verified On:	January 3, 2023
Registered Since:	June 4, 2002
In Prison:	No
Convicted Out of State:	No
Repeat Offender:	No

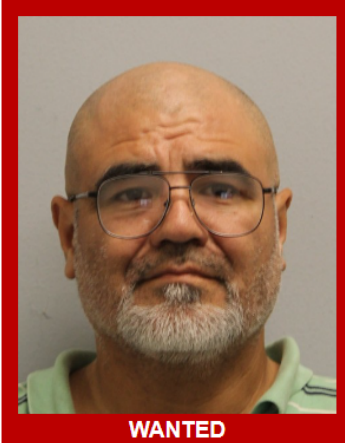
Police Agency of Jurisdiction

Police Agency:	DSP HEADQUARTERS
Address:	PO BOX 430 Dover , DE 19903
Phone:	3026592341

Identification Information

Birth Date:	August 22, 1982 (age 40)	Height:	5' 7"
Gender:	Male	Weight:	185 lbs.
Race:	Black/African American	Eye Color:	Black
Skin Color:	BLACK	Hair Color:	BLACK

SALINAS JR, CARLOS



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Registration Information

Risk Level:	Tier 3 (High Risk)
Verified On:	November 14, 2022
Registered Since:	May 28, 2013
In Prison:	No
Convicted Out of State:	No
Repeat Offender:	Yes

Police Agency of Jurisdiction

Police Agency:	TROOP 4 STATE POLICE
Address:	23652 SHORTLY ROAD GEORGETOWN , DE 19947
Phone:	3028565850

Identification Information

Birth Date:	October 9, 1969 (age 53)	Height:	5' 10"
Gender:	Male	Weight:	200 lbs.
Race:	WHITE	Eye Color:	Brown
Skin Color:	MEDIUM	Hair Color:	BLACK

BARLOW , JIMMY R



WANTED

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Registration Information (**Homeless**)

Risk Level:	Tier 2 (Moderate Risk)
Verified On:	August 12, 2021
Registered Since:	November 25, 2009
In Prison:	No
Convicted Out of State:	No
Repeat Offender:	No

Police Agency of Jurisdiction

Police Agency:	DSP HEADQUARTERS
Address:	PO BOX 430 Dover , DE 19903
Phone:	3026592341

Identification Information

Birth Date:	November 22, 1990 (age 32)	Height:	5' 10"
Gender:	Male	Weight:	175 lbs.
Race:	Black/African American	Eye Color:	Brown
Skin Color:	LIGHT BROWN	Hair Color:	BLACK

SAUCEDO , JUAN



WANTED

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Registration Information

Risk Level:	Tier 2 (Moderate Risk)
Verified On:	June 22, 2022
Registered Since:	December 12, 2005
In Prison:	No
Convicted Out of State:	No
Repeat Offender:	No

Police Agency of Jurisdiction

Police Agency:	TROOP 3 STATE POLICE
Address:	3759 SOUTH STATE STREET CAMDEN , DE 19934
Phone:	3026974454

Identification Information

Birth Date:	December 12, 1991 (age 31)	Height:	6' 2"
Gender:	Male	Weight:	240 lbs.
Race:	WHITE	Eye Color:	Brown
Skin Color:	MEDIUM BROWN	Hair Color:	BLACK

RUSSELL , HERSHALL L



WANTED

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Registration Information (Homeless)

Risk Level:	Tier 2 (Moderate Risk)
Verified On:	January 11, 2023
Registered Since:	May 22, 2007
In Prison:	No
Convicted Out of State:	No
Repeat Offender:	Yes

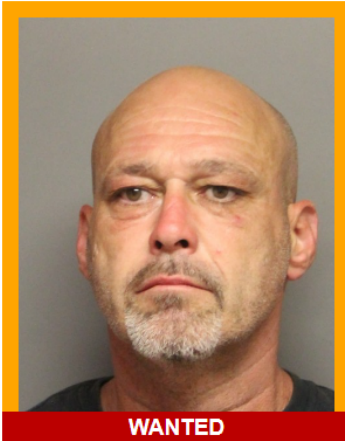
Police Agency of Jurisdiction

Police Agency:	DSP HEADQUARTERS
Address:	PO BOX 430 Dover , DE 19903
Phone:	3026592341

Identification Information

Birth Date:	February 2, 1967 (age 56)	Height:	6' 0"
Gender:	Male	Weight:	240 lbs.
Race:	Black/African American	Eye Color:	Brown
Skin Color:	DARK BROWN	Hair Color:	BLACK

SOMMERS , PAUL



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Registration Information (**Homeless**)

Risk Level:	Tier 2 (Moderate Risk)
Verified On:	February 3, 2023
Registered Since:	January 5, 2005
In Prison:	No
Convicted Out of State:	No
Repeat Offender:	Yes

Police Agency of Jurisdiction

Police Agency:	DSP HEADQUARTERS
Address:	PO BOX 430 Dover , DE 19903
Phone:	3026592341

Identification Information

Birth Date:	March 15, 1970 (age 53)	Height:	5' 11"
Gender:	Male	Weight:	210 lbs.
Race:	WHITE	Eye Color:	Hazel
Skin Color:	MEDIUM	Hair Color:	Bald

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Sergeant India Sturgis

Released: 031723 1716

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Homeless Sex Offender Notification

The following person is **not wanted**. This is a Homeless [Sex Offender](#) Public Notification. If you have information that the

listed person is occupying a residence, please call 302-672-5306. Information may also be provided by contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-847-3333.

Click on the image to see more details

KEVIN WOODS



Risk Level: Tier 2 (Moderate Risk)
Verified On: March 14, 2023
Registered Since: September 28, 2014
In Prison: No
Convicted Out of State: No
Repeat Offender: No

Police Agency: DSP HEADQUARTERS
Phone: (302) 659-2341
Address: PO BOX 430
Dover, DE 19903

Date of Birth: May 08, 1986 (age 36)
Gender: Male
Race: Black/African American
Skin Tone: DARK

Height: 5' 8"
Weight: 190 LBS
Hair Color: BLACK
Eye Color: Brown

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Sergeant India Sturgis

Released: 031723 1605

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Update – Victim Identified
Delaware State Police

Investigating Single Vehicle Fatal Collision

The Delaware State Police have identified the victim who died in a single-vehicle fatal accident that occurred in Felton on March 2, 2023, as **Michael Ibach**, 75, of Frederica, Delaware.

[Delaware State Police Investigating Single Vehicle Fatal Collision](#)

The Delaware State Police Troop 3 Collision Reconstruction Unit continues to investigate this collision. Troopers are asking anyone who witnessed this collision to please contact Master Corporal J. Lane by calling 302-698-8457. Information may also be provided by sending a Private Facebook Message to the [Delaware State Police](#) or contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-847-3333.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Senior Corporal Jason Hatchell

Released: 031723 1047

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Homicide Unit Investigating Shooting, Suspect in Custody

The Delaware State Police Homicide Unit is investigating a shooting that occurred yesterday afternoon in Felton that left one man dead. The suspect has been identified and has been taken into custody in Maryland.

On March 16, 2023, at approximately 4:17 p.m., troopers responded to a shooting that occurred on the 200 block of Reeves Crossing Road in Felton. Upon their arrival, troopers found a 36-year-old man in the roadway who had been shot in his upper body. EMS personnel attempted to treat the victim but he was later pronounced dead at the scene. Identification of the victim is pending notification to his family and relatives.

Detectives from the Homicide Unit assumed the investigation and learned that the suspect, identified as 36-year-old **Steven M. Smith** of Centreville, Maryland, had an ongoing dispute with the victim. Smith drove to Reeves Crossing Road to confront the man, and when he arrived he began shooting at him with a rifle. After the shooting Smith fled to his residence in Centreville.

Smith was later taken into custody without incident at his home in Maryland by the Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office. Smith is currently incarcerated in Maryland and will be extradited to Delaware to face charges of Murder First Degree and Possession of a Deadly Weapon During the Commission of a Felony.

[Delaware State Police Conducting Criminal Investigation](#)

The Homicide Unit is still actively investigating this incident. Detectives are asking for anyone with information regarding this case to contact Detective M. Csapo by calling

302-741-2729. Information may also be provided by sending a Private Facebook Message to the [Delaware State Police](#) or contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-847-3333.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Senior Corporal Leonard DeMalto

Released: 031723 0935

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Delaware State Police Announce 2022 Trooper and Civilian Employee of the Year

Colonel Melissa Zebley, Superintendent of the Delaware State Police, announced the winners of the **2022 Trooper of the Year and Civilian of the Year Awards** at a ceremony on Friday, March 10th, 2023. To help recognize the significance of the ceremony, Governor John Carney, Secretary of Safety and Homeland Security, Nathaniel McQueen Jr., Colonel Melissa Zebley, and President of the Delaware State Troopers Association, Sergeant Troy Pezzuto, were in attendance to offer congratulatory remarks.

Trooper of the Year

The Delaware State Police Trooper of the Year Award is given annually to one sworn employee who is recognized by their peers as having outstanding character and integrity and whose actions or performance significantly exceeded expectations during that calendar year.

This year, twelve Troopers were nominated. Out of those worthy nominees, the Executive Staff selected **Corporal Thomas Leonardi, as the 2022 Trooper of the Year**, for his outstanding efforts and contributions to the Division and the citizens of the State of Delaware. Corporal Leonardi is assigned to Troop 2 Patrol.

Corporal Leonardi has been with the Division for 4 years, having served two years prior with the Delaware River & Bay Authority. Throughout 2022, he encountered various challenges facing law enforcement in the 21st century. While these challenges were daunting, Corporal Leonardi persevered through these difficult times while maintaining a professional appearance and attitude. Corporal Leonardi has the leadership skills of a “seasoned” Trooper at an early stage in his career, which is reflected in his daily work habits as he comes to work with drive and determination. He has established himself as a very dependable police officer, often going “beyond the call of service,” and is the epitome of the core values of the Delaware State Police.

Trooper of the Year Nominees:

Corporal/1 Jeffrey Baldwin – Troop 9

Corporal Hunter Bordley – Troop 1

**Detective Kimberly Haley – Troop 4 Criminal Investigations
Unit**

**Detective Bridget Harris – Troop 2 Criminal Investigations
Unit**

Trooper First Class Michelle Keane – Troop 3

Corporal Kevin Kelleher – Troop 6

Detective John Messick – Criminal Intelligence Section

Corporal Hunter Raymond – Troop 5

Detective Anthony Tillman – Troop 3

Corporal Brandon Triantos – Troop 7

Corporal Thomas Vincent – Troop 4

Civilian of the Year

The Delaware State Police Civilian of the Year Award is given annually to one civilian employee whose service with the Delaware State Police has been outstanding throughout the course of that calendar year.

This year, nine Delaware State Police civilian employees were nominated for the award. The Executive Staff of the Delaware State Police selected **Information Technology Client Services Manager, Marissa Warren, as the 2022 Civilian of the Year.**

Marissa began her career with the Delaware State Police as a Digital Evidence Technician seven years ago. During that time, she was the sole person responsible for managing DSP video evidence. She was later promoted to Client Services Manager where she took on the enormous task of building out the DSP Body Worn Camera program. This involved coordinating the testing and deployment of new Axon BWCs to hundreds of sworn Troopers across the entire State, building a team of Digital Evidence Technicians and Digital Evidence Supervisors, working with DSP leadership to develop system policies for the

standardization of deployment, and creating new standard operating procedures for Information Technology support. Marissa's tireless work ethic and attention to detail has resulted in a smooth and successful deployment of BWCs. In addition to all of this, Marissa emerged as a valuable member of the DSP Wellness Committee.

Civilian of the Year Nominees:

Ms. Jennifer Bastianelli – Criminal Intelligence Section

Mr. Scott Ferguson – Troop 6

Mrs. Monica Holmes – Human Resources

Mrs. Patricia McSweeney – State Bureau of Identification

Mr. Marty McWilliams – Human Resources

Mrs. Donna Newth-Showell – Troop 6

Mrs. Ashley Parker – RECOM

Mrs. Kelly Tush – Troop 2

In addition to the Trooper and Civilian of the Year, the following recipients were also presented with the following awards:

Life Saving Award:

Awarded to any member of the Delaware State Police or allied partner who engages in any lifesaving or first aid effort that results in saving a life

Cpl/1 Derek Balaguer, Cpl/1 Corey Bastianelli, TFC Schatzschneider Billy-Attoh, Tpr. Troy Bowden, Cpl/3 Todd Buchert, TFC Anthony Carter, Tpr. Steve Collins, Mr. Garfield Daniels of DelDOT, TFC Cameron Drake, Tpr. Daniel Fezza, Corporal Jennifer Hastings, TFC Casey Hofmann, Trooper Shane Horn, Corporal/1 David Huynh, Officer First Class James Kiser of NCCPD, Tpr. Hunter Lecates, Cpl/3 Robert Lewis, Cpl Richard Link, Cpl/1 Kevin Logue, Cpl/1 Rosendo Luna, Tpr. Megan Marino, Sgt. Christopher Martin, Mr. David Moran of DelDOT, Cpl Mitchell Moyer, Cpl/1 Daniel Myers, Cpl/2 Christopher Nicholson, Cpl/1 Frank Ofner, Cpl/1 Kyle Ogden, Cpl/2 James O'Neil, Cpl/3 Brian Page, TFC Nick Panissidi, Mr. Andres Ramirez of DelDOT, Cpl/1 Andrew Rosner, Tpr. Ryan Santmyer, Cpl William Schuele, Cpl Douglas Schwartz, Tpr. Lauren Skonezney, Mr. Derrick Smith of DelDOT, Cpl/1 Michael Spudis, Tpr. Domenica Trace, Tpr. Nathaniel Valenti, TFC Thomas Vincent, TFC Brian Whitehead, and Tpr. Jerome Williams

Exceptional Performance Award:

Awarded to any member of the Delaware State Police who performs significantly above what would be expected in an area or event that is within their normal realm of responsibilities

Cpl/1 Robert Alexander, Cpl Jared Balan, TFC William Beinke, Cpl Jermaine Cannon, TFC Michael Efelis, Cpl/3 Troy Frey, Cpl/3 Brian Greene, Cpl/3 Thomas Guarini, Cpl Dean Johnson, Cpl Michael Lipp, Special Agent Kristopher Long of FBI, Tpr. Megan Marino, Tpr. Alexander McCabe, Sgt. Andrew Mitchell, Cpl Mitchell Moyer, TFC Ryan Nowakowski, TFC Nicholas Panissidi, Lt. Troy Ralston, Cpl Jodi Salyer, Tpr. Ryan Santmyer and Cpl William Schuele

Superintendent's Citation Award:

Awarded to any member of the Delaware State Police or allied partner who has participated or assisted in any randomly unique event or situation of an exceptional nature

Tpr. Arlen Kilmartin

Valor Award:

Awarded to any member of the Delaware State Police for an extraordinary act of outstanding courage resulting from a situation whereby they are faced with the overwhelming possibility of serious harm to themselves but perform their duty in a courageous and commendable manner

Cpl Daniel Korenyi

Cameron Logan Award:

Awarded annually to two Delaware State Troopers who exemplify dedication and commitment to DUI enforcement

Cpl William Schuele and Cpl Thomas Vincent

Congratulations to all award nominees and recipients! The award ceremony highlight video will be posted on the [Delaware](#)

[State Police YouTube Channel](#). While you're there, subscribe so you will be notified of new video releases!

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Sergeant India Sturgis

Released: 031623 2000

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