

# COMMERCIAL VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

In 1926, in order to control the load limits specified by law and to protect the people's investment in the highways, the Missouri State Highway Department employed five "weight officers" and equipped them with portable scales, motorcycles with side cars, uniforms, and side arms.

On March 10, 1942, the chief engineer of the Highway Department recommends to the commission the transferring of the "weight officer" duties to the Highway Patrol. Colonel Stanley Ginn advised he would be willing to employ each of the present weight officers as scale house operators at a monthly salary of \$125.

June 1, 1942, The Missouri State Highway Patrol took over the operation of the 12 weight stations formerly operated by the Maintenance Division of the State Highway Department. Superintendent M. Stanley Ginn announced the 12 civilian weigh clerks were employed to assist in the operation of these weight stations. Weight station operations were placed under the direct control of the troop in which they reside.

Weight Inspector James D. "Doc" Harris joined the Patrol on May 1, 1948. During a 2005 interview he said he had three days off each month and worked 10-hour shifts at scale F-1. The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division was not yet created, thus he reported to a zone sergeant. *"The weigh station was a 24-hour operation. When I went to work out there, it was very busy clear through the night."* Many unusual incidents occurred while Doc was working at F-1. On at least four occasions, trucks crashed into the scale house when their air brakes leaded down while parked at a rest stop unattended on a nearby hill. Another truck missed the weigh station but went headlong into the pit where the platform scales sat. (The scale mechanism had been removed for repairs.)

Doc said the most unusual truck case was one that was over length, over width, and overweight. It was a tractor and flatbed trailer hauling two barges from the Missouri River in St. Louis, to Kansas City. It had no permits of any kind, weighed about 112,000 pounds, was wider than the entire roadway, and was on U.S. Highway 40, which was a two-lane road. (Doc was the first senior chief inspector and retired September 1, 1982.)

On January 20, 1953, David E. Harrison is designated lieutenant. He would coordinate and supervise the operation of all weight stations, among other duties. August 1, 1953, Lieutenant D.E. Harrison was assigned to the Division of Safety and Administration to supervise weight station operations and building maintenance.

October 1, 1954, weight inspectors were assigned cap badges numbered from one to sixty-three.

January 1, 1955, Superintendent Hugh H. Waggoner announced that Thomas E. Whitecotton was returning to the Highway Patrol at the rank of captain. He was placed in charge of the Division of Weights and Commercial Vehicles.

February 1, 1960, Commercial Vehicle Inspectors D.L. Hendrix and N.J. Freeman were transferred from Kirkwood to Jefferson City. They were assigned to work throughout the state with a Dodge truck equipped with four scales, ramps, and a three-way radio.

In 1961, the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division consisted of a division director, assistant division director, eight non-commissioned officers, eight patrolmen, and seventy-seven civilian inspectors. The division operated 18 weigh stations and seven portable units throughout the state. The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division operated 20 weigh stations and nine portable units in 1963. In 1965, the division operated 25 weigh stations and 12 portable units. Two portable units were added in 1966. This brought the total to 14 statewide.

In 1967, the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division operated 26 weigh stations 14 portable units and employs 149 civilian inspectors. The division, in 1968, operated 32 weigh stations and 15 portable units, and employed 163 civilian inspectors. In 1971, these numbers changed to 35 weigh stations and 15 portable units. The division employed 151 civilian inspectors. The weigh stations numbered 37 in 1972. At this time, 15 portable units were used and 156 civilian inspectors were employed.

During 1975, the division operated 38 weigh stations and 15 portable units, and employed 161 civilian inspectors. In 1978, the division operated 40 weigh stations and 15 portable units, and employed 13 uniformed officers and 181 weight inspectors.

On June 5, 1979, Governor Joseph P. Teasdale signed House Bill 454, creating "commercial vehicle inspectors" with limited powers of arrest.

A special Commercial Vehicle Safety Inspection Program funded by the federal government was conducted during 1981. Nearly 5,000 commercial vehicles were inspected by CVE personnel in the program.

In 1983, Legislation became effective in March giving the Patrol authority to enforce the Department of Transportation's Code of Federal Regulations regarding hazardous materials. On July 1, an officer assigned to the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division was designated a hazardous materials coordinator.

The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division began monitoring the shipments of radioactive materials on Missouri highways in 1985. Special equipment was purchased to do this work.

Construction of the new C-4 East and West Weigh Stations at Foristell, MO, was completed in January 1995. The "Superstation" is equipped with the latest technology allowing inspectors to weigh commercial vehicles as they pull off the highway to pre-screen the vehicles for compliance with axle, tandem, gross weights, and more. Those vehicles in which the computers detect problems

can be driven into the new fully-enclosed inspection building for further investigation.

On June 12, 1994, Governor Mel Carnahan signed Senate Bill 475, creating "commercial vehicle officers". Qualified commercial vehicle inspectors, who successfully completed the required training, became commissioned commercial vehicle officers and continued to enforce Missouri's commercial vehicle regulations. This bill allowed the "newly created" commercial vehicle officers to carry a firearm and other defensive equipment. Nine Commercial Vehicle Officer Schools lasting six weeks were held over a three-year-period for current employees. The class dates are as follows:

**Course Dates (Number Of Employees Graduating)**

July 10 - August 18, 1995 (19)  
September 3 - October 13, 1995 (21)  
October 16 - November 28, 1995 (19)  
February 26 to April 5, 1996 (19)  
July 15 - August 23, 1996 (20)  
September 30 - November 8, 1996 (20)  
July 14 - August 22, 1997 (20)  
October 20 - December 5, 1997 (19)  
February 16 - March 27, 1998 (9)

After the 1998 CVO School was completed, the school became 12 weeks long and trained new employees. In October 2007, commercial vehicle enforcement inspectors were hired and trained. Fifteen commercial vehicle enforcement inspectors graduated from training on January 4, 2008. A second class of inspectors (13) graduated September 5, 2008.

Commercial vehicle enforcement is the oldest statewide law enforcement division in Missouri, dating back to 1926. The direction and responsibilities of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division have grown significantly throughout the years. In the beginning, personnel were simply enforcing the size and weight of commercial vehicles.

The division has grown to enforce many additional state and federal rules and regulations. Commercial vehicle officers and inspectors must be able to understand many state laws. These include, but are not limited to: laws pertaining to driver's license, vehicle license, fuel tax, operating authority, motor vehicle inspection for trucks and buses, and many Missouri Department of Transportation rules and regulations. Missouri's central location also requires a commercial vehicle officers and inspectors to be familiar with the driver's license and vehicle license requirements of all states and our neighboring countries of Mexico and Canada.

The division has assumed the responsibility of enforcing federal safety and hazardous material regulations by participating in the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program. The goal of the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program is to reduce commercial motor vehicle-involved accidents, fatalities, and injuries through consistent, uniform, and effective CMV safety programs. The primary

role of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division is to conduct driver/vehicle inspections. These inspections may range from a driver only inspection to inspecting a shipment of radioactive waste. Commercial vehicle officers also have received drug interdiction training through the Drug Interdiction Assistance Program. This training has resulted in the seizure of many shipments of cocaine and marijuana, some of which have been quite large.

CVO Steve Wilmesherr, Troop C, was named DPS Employee of the Month for August 1998. He was named State Employee of the Month for October 1998. He received this recognition when his instincts caused him to call for a trooper during a commercial vehicle inspection. The driver consented to a search of the tractor-trailer, and 1,819 pounds of marijuana, 1,467 pounds of cocaine, and 4.4 pounds of heroin were seized from the trailer —over \$122 million in illegal drugs. CVO Wilmesherr and Sergeant Sean B. Moore, both of Troop C, interdicted the largest combined shipment of illegal drugs in the nation to date.

CVO Donald J. Hardway, Troop A, earned the 1999 Missouri MCSAP Commercial Vehicle Inspector of the Year award. As such, he represented Missouri at the Challenge '99 International Inspector Competition in Tampa, FL. At that competition, he earned first place in the Hazardous Materials/Dangerous Goods category.

Commercial vehicle officers are trained to inspect commercial vehicles traveling on Missouri's highways. In addition, CVOs have been trained in commercial vehicle drug interdiction. In 1999, CVOs assisted in the seizure of 28,353 pounds of marijuana, 394 pounds of cocaine, three weapons, and \$352,020 in cash.

In 2000, CVO Sprv. I Thomas W. Cross, Troop I, was instrumental in the seizure of 1,394 pounds of cocaine at the Phelps County Sheriff's Department drug interdiction checkpoint. Sheriff Don Blankenship requested CVO Cross' assistance due to his knowledge of commercial vehicles. CVO Cross spoke with the driver and then asked to check the load. He found what appeared to be a false compartment in the front of the truck. Further investigation revealed he was correct, and the bundles of cocaine were hidden within. The two drivers were arrested and the trailer seized. This seizure was instrumental in furthering an ongoing drug investigation of major drug traffickers on the East Coast.

DPS Director Gary Kempker awarded CVO Freddie R. Perkins, Troop C, the DPS Meritorious Service Award on November 9, 2000. CVO Perkins was recognized for his distinguished performance during a commercial vehicle inspection. His attention to detail resulted in 5,252 pounds of marijuana being seized.

The 2003 Missouri Inspector Competition was held on May 14, 2003. Commercial Vehicle Officer II Travis Ellis, Troop A, won the Level 1 Vehicle Inspection and Level 3 Driver Inspection categories, which placed him as the first place "Overall Winner" of the competition. Commercial Vehicle Officer Supervisor Terry W. McCameron, Troop E, won the Hazardous Material and Cargo Tank Inspection category.

A Missouri House of Representatives Resolution recognized CVO Sprv. Ron O. Abmeyer, CVO Sprv. Randy G. Cobb, CVO Larry E. Masterson, Trooper Jason N. Crites, Sergeant Reggie M. Walker, Sergeant Rick J. Sanders, and K-9 Ado, all of Troop E. These employees were recognized for their drug interdiction success at E-2 North weigh station. In a period of eight days beginning February 8, 2004, this group seized over 2,500 pounds of marijuana.

CVO Sprv. Timothy W. Giesert, Troop C, and CVO Kenneth L. Shewey, Troop H, competed in the 2004 Missouri Inspector Competition in June 2004. Inspectors attending the competition attend training and then compete. The exercises include a written examination, personal interview, non-bulk hazardous material package inspection, and driver, cargo tank, and motorcoach inspections. CVO Sprv. Giesert earned an award in the category of "Hazardous Material and Cargo Tank Inspection". CVO Shewey earned the "Motorcoach Inspection" and "Second Place Overall Winner" awards.

In 2005, the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division partnered with the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNOD) to establish a Preventative Radiological Nuclear Detection Program within the Patrol. This enhanced the Patrol's radiation detection capabilities at the weigh stations, in the portable scale units, and (later) commercial vehicle enforcement trooper vehicles.

Commercial Vehicle Officer Supervisor I J. David Brooks and Commercial Vehicle Officer II Ricky L. Talbert, both of Troop D, shared the 2005 Civilian of the Year Award for their success in drug interdiction while performing their duties. In 2005, these employees were directly involved in 10 major drug interdictions, and responsible for seizing over 9,763 pounds of marijuana, 15 kilos of cocaine, and \$70,000.

In May 2006, the Patrol began using the "I-Site" system from Cardinal Scale Manufacturing Company. This technology allows scale technicians to assess potential problems at a scale house without driving great distances. The system allows for diagnosis using the Patrol's computer network. If repairs necessitate a technician visiting the scale house, they are better prepared. Stations online include D-4 East in Joplin, E-2 in Steele, and E-3 in Caruthersville. Other scale sites will be added in the future.

Alert commercial vehicle officers played an instrumental role in a drug seizure of record proportion. On March 30, commercial vehicle officers assigned to the Post D-4 East stopped a tractor-trailer for inspection. The violations they found and conflicting statements of the driver and co-driver led the officers to call for a trooper. He obtained consent to search the load of automobiles the tractor-trailer was hauling. As a result, 12 kilograms of cocaine and 40 cans of PCP were seized. Each can contained a gallon of PCP. This is the largest seizure of PCP on record in the United States.

December 1, 2006, the position of commercial vehicle enforcement trooper specialist became effective. Members holding this position formed teams of four. Their primary duty is commercial vehicle enforcement, which will be accomplished using portable scale units and through inspections of vehicles,

drivers, and cargo. The CVE trooper will also have criminal investigation and homeland security duties. There are currently 28 commercial vehicle enforcement troopers statewide, which are assigned to the nine troop headquarters.

In March 2007, scale house E-2 North in Steele, MO, and E-3 West in Caruthersville, MO, were equipped with the "I-Site" system. This allows scale technicians to assess potential problems at a scale house using the Patrol's computer network.

In April 2007, the E-1 North weigh station was leveled. This weigh station was located on Interstate 57 in Charleston, MO. The station had been closed two years prior. It was torn down because I-57 leads to inbound scales when entering Illinois and Arkansas. This scale had been in service since 1979.

On November 15, 2009, 40 commercial vehicle officers completed the 600-hour Peace Officer Standard Training (POST) course.

On May 28, 2010, 40 commercial vehicle officers completed the 600-hour Peace Officer Standard Training (POST) course.

On January 13, 2011, Post C-5 South, located on Interstate 55 at Bloomsdale, MO, opened for commercial vehicle enforcement operations. The old C-5 South, located at Barnhart, was torn down due to the construction of a new highway interchange.

On September 12, 2011, Post C-2 East, located on Interstate 44 at St. Clair, MO, reopened for commercial vehicle enforcement operations. The old facility was destroyed the previous year after it was struck by an intoxicated driver.

May 20, 2011, the division welcomed 11 new commercial vehicle inspectors when they graduated that day from training.

Ten commercial vehicle stops resulted in the seizure of 870 pounds of marijuana, 44 pounds of cocaine, and \$1,094,345. Inspections totaled 84,839 for the year.

March 30, 2012, the division welcomed 12 new commercial vehicle inspectors when they graduated that day from training.

As part of the Patrol's Radiological Nuclear Detection Program, the CVE Division assisted Major League Baseball with security at this year's All-Star event from July 5-10, 2012, in Kansas City, MO. CVE Division personnel screened all concession and vendor vehicles that entered the Truman Sports Complex to deliver goods.

In 2012, enforcement efforts included: Seven commercial vehicle stops resulted in the seizure of \$376,910 and 1,518.5 pounds of marijuana. Inspectors completed 86,802 commercial vehicle inspections, which resulted in the issuance of 44,676 citations.

On April 26, 2013, the division welcomed 11 new commercial vehicle inspectors when they graduated that day from training.

In 2013, inspectors completed 75,346 commercial vehicle inspections, which resulted in the issuance 37,862 citations and 34,313 out-of-service violations. Enforcement efforts included the seizure of 200 pounds of marijuana.

On March 28, 2014, the division welcomed nine new commercial vehicle inspectors when they graduated from training that day. This was the 7th CVI class.

In 2014, inspectors completed 74,709 commercial vehicle inspections, which resulted in the issuance of 34,975 citations and 32,286 out-of-service violations. Enforcement efforts included the seizure of 748 pounds of marijuana and three kilos of cocaine.

On March 13, 2015, 13 commercial vehicle inspectors graduated from the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy. The 8th Commercial Vehicle Inspector Class completed 10 weeks of intensive training and filled current vacancies located throughout the state.

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In early 2015, the CVE Division began to replace the platform scales at Post H2 South on Interstate 35 in Harrison County, and at Post H4 South on Interstate 29 in Atchison County. Both scales had been in use for several years and had outlived their life expectancy.

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On November 6, 2015, six commercial vehicle inspectors graduated from the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy. The 9th Commercial Vehicle Inspector class completed 10 weeks of intensive training and filled current vacancies located throughout the state.

In 2015, inspectors completed 68,656 commercial vehicle inspections, which resulted in the issuance of 30,681 citations and 29,602 out-of-service violations. Enforcement efforts included the seizure of \$67,000 in the trunk of a car on a car hauler; 816 pounds of marijuana in a straight truck; 65 pounds of marijuana located in a tractor trailer; and 15 pounds of marijuana seized from a Greyhound bus during 2015.

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On August 5, 2016, 13 commercial vehicle inspectors graduated from the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy. The 10th Commercial Vehicle Inspector class completed 10 weeks of intensive training and filled current vacancies located throughout the state.

In 2016, enforcement efforts seized 66 pounds of cocaine in the trunk of a car on a car hauler. In addition, inspectors completed 74,826 commercial vehicle inspections, which resulted in the issuance of citations and 31,101 out-of-service violations.

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The 11th and 12th commercial vehicle inspection classes both graduated in 2017. The inspectors completed 11 weeks of intensive training and filled current vacancies located throughout the state.

In 2017, the CVE Division broke ground on two new inspection facilities. The first building was constructed at Post H4 South on Interstate 29 in Atchison

County. The new facility opened for use in November 2017. As part of an ongoing effort to utilize the states resources more efficiently, Post H4 North located on Interstate 29 in Atchison County was closed permanently in November 2017. In November 2017, the CVE Division broke ground on a second inspection facility at Post H2 South on Interstate 35 in Harrison County. This facility opened in January 2018. A new scale was installed at Forstell, Post C4W, in May 2017.

In May 2018, a new scale was installed in Mayview, MO (Post A3-E).

Commercial Vehicle Officer II Jay L. Gregory, Troop G, represented the Patrol at the North American Inspectors Championship from August 15-18, 2019, in Columbus, Ohio. He earned the Team Award with inspectors from other states.

Effective August 2018, current commercial vehicle inspectors could be reclassified as commercial vehicle officers after successfully completing POST certification training. Ten commercial vehicle officers graduated with the 7th CVO Class on November 21, 2018.

In 2019, the CVE Division graduated two classes of new CVOs. The 8th CVO Class, who already carried a post license, completed six weeks of training. The 9th CVO Class was comprised of 17 CVIs who were transitioned to CVOs. The class graduated in October 2019, after 17 weeks of POST training.

The CVE Division completed two major construction projects in 2019. A new inspection building was completed at Post C5 South (Bloomsdale) located on Interstate 55 in Ste. Genevieve County. The CVE Division also replaced the aging platform scale at Post E1 South on Interstate 57 in Mississippi County.

In 2020, the CVE Division was able to graduate one new CVO class. The 10th CVO Class completed 21 weeks of training and the class was comprised of six new hires and six CVI incumbents who were transitioned to CVOs. One major construction project was completed in 2020. The CVE Division replaced the aging platform scale at Post E2 North on Interstate 55 in Pemiscot County. The new scale opened on January 14, 2020.

In 2021, the CVE Division was able to graduate two CVO classes. The 11th CVO class completed 22 weeks of training and filled vacancies in Troops A and C. The 12th CVO Class completed 22 weeks of training and filled vacancies in Troops A and E. The CVE Division added the position of CVE program specialist. This new position focuses on recruiting qualified applicants, education, and outreach. One major construction project was completed in 2021. The CVE Division replaced the aging weigh station building and constructed a new inspection building at Post D4, located in Joplin. The new buildings opened December 2021.

### **Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division Directors**

<i>Director</i>	<i>Years Assigned</i>	<i>Division</i>
Lt. David E. Harrison	January 20, 1953 — January 1, 1955	Division of Safety & Administration



		(Weight Stations/Bldg. Maint.)
Capt. Thomas E. Whitecotton	January 1, 1955—1964	Division of Weights & Commercial Vehicles
Capt. John A. Berglund	1964—1965	Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement
Capt. John L. Petty	1965—January 1, 1977	CMVE
Capt. Charles D. Whitehead	January 1, 1977— July 1, 1979	MVI & CMVE
Capt. Jessie M. Luker	July 1, 1979— May 1, 1981	Driver & Vehicle Regulation
Capt. Oliver C. Schepers	July 1, 1981— November 1, 1984	Commercial Vehicle Enforcement
Capt. John W. Sartor	November 1, 1984— August 1, 1991	CVE
Lt. Donald L. Wells	August 1, 1991— September 1, 1992	CVE
Capt. Donald L. Wells	September 1, 1992— July 1, 1994	CVE
Capt. Lawrence L. Buschjost	July 1, 1994— February 1, 1998	CVE
Capt. E. Dwight Hartung	February 1, 1998— August 1, 2003	CVE
Capt. James D. Whitfield	August 1, 2003— August 1, 2005	CVE
Capt. Londell Jamerson	August 1, 2005— November 1, 2013	CVE
Capt. David E. Earney	November 1, 2013 — February 1, 2018	CVE
Lt. Kevin C. Kelley, acting director	February 1, 2018 — September 1, 2018	CVE
Captain David Hall	September 1, 2018 — December 1, 2018	CVE
Lt. Kevin C. Kelley, acting director	December 1, 2018 — January 1, 2018	CVE
Capt. Kevin C. Kelley	January 1, 2019 —	CVE