

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Allison Laflamme, Agency of Transportation
802-498-8079, Allison.Laflamme@vermont.gov

AOT State Highway Safety Office Congratulates DRE Ambassador Award Winners

Barre, Vt. – The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) State Highway Safety Office (SHSO) congratulates Ted Minall and Bill O’Leary on receiving the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Ambassador Award at the annual International Association of Chiefs of Police Drugs, Alcohol, and Impaired Driving 2020 virtual conference. The DRE Ambassador is awarded to an individual who is not a certified DRE yet has made significant contribution to the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program (DECP).

Ted Minall worked for the New York City Police Department for 24 years, including four years as a lieutenant in the NYPD Narcotics Division. After his family move to Vermont, he served as Chief of Police in the City of Vergennes for four years. From 2004 to 2011, he served as the Regional LEL for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In 2011, Ted accepted the position of Chief of Vermont’s Highway Safety Office (formerly the Governor’s Highway Safety Program) and remained in that position until November 2014. Ted is currently the contracted Regional LEL for NHTSA Region 1. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps with combat service in the Republic of Vietnam.

Bill O’Leary has been a member of NHTSA’s Enforcement and Justice Services since October of 2009 and has developed the curricula for NHTSA’s Impaired Driving Enforcement Programs; overseen the Standard Field Sobriety Test (SFST), Advance Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement and DRE Programs; coordinated SFST Assessments; and been responsible for other related duties. Before he worked at NHTSA, he spent nearly 30 years with the Vermont State Police, the last five years of which were as the Commander of the Traffic Safety Section. He was also a Prescription Fraud Investigator for three years and commanded VSP’s Hostage Negotiation Unit. He is a former NHTSA SFST Instructor and helped start the DECP in the State of Vermont in 2006.

Vermont’s DRE program began in 2005 and continues to expand throughout the state. Currently, the program has 55 active certified DREs with plans to expand to areas of the state with emerging or reoccurring impaired driving incidents. Data, intelligence, and information will serve as a foundation of future strategies for geographic deployment of DREs within the state. Currently, the State Highway Safety Office funds the Criminal Justice Training Council \$278,698 to manage the statewide DRE program, and it also funds four other agencies a total of \$85,000 for statewide DRE call-outs and training.

The State Highway Safety Office thanks Ted and Bill for their great work helping to save lives on Vermont roadways and congratulates them on this prestigious honor.

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