



NEWS RELEASE

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TROOPER IS FIRST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IN FLORIDA TO RECEIVE HIGHWAY SAFETY AWARD

~Local trooper garners national accolade ~

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Lt. Bill Leeper of the Florida Highway Patrol’s Troop G in Jacksonville recently received the prestigious International Association of Chiefs of Police *J. Stannard Baker Award*, which recognizes his lifetime achievement in the field of traffic safety. The award is the highest and most prestigious individual award that the IACP bestows for traffic safety.

“We congratulate Lieutenant Leeper for his outstanding work educating the residents and visitors of North Florida about traffic safety. His professionalism and dedication to public safety has made a positive difference in the lives of many people,” said FHP Director Colonel John Czernis. “To be recognized at the national level reiterates the importance of his efforts and the continuing commitment of the FHP to the safest possible driving environment.”

The Association recognized Leeper for his 32 years of work as an innovator and a leader in highway safety at the local, state and national levels during an October ceremony at the annual IACP Conference in Denver. He is the first law enforcement officer in the state of Florida to receive the award. The *J. Stannard Baker Award* annually recognizes individual lifetime contributions to highway safety. The IACP selects law enforcement officers for their sustained, continuous, career-spanning and innovative contributions to highway safety. The association presents the award in collaboration with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Northwestern University’s Center for Public Policy.

Lt. Leeper has served as Troop G’s Public Affairs Officer for the past 15 years and has spearheaded numerous traffic safety campaigns to educate motorists. He helped develop the Nassau County Community Traffic Safety Team and currently serves as chairman, and he is the president-elect of the Northeast Florida Safety Council.

The Florida Department of Transportation’s Safe and Sober Campaign named Leeper *State Traffic Officer of the Year* for 1995-1996, and the Florida Law Enforcement Public Information Officers Association named him *Public Information Officer of the Year* for 2008. In August 2009, the Florida Public Relations Association chose Leeper as a Grand Image Award winner for his *Battle of the Belts* program. He is a graduate of Columbia College of Missouri where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts.

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