



NEWS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Maryland State Police Cadet Loses His Life in Fatal Crash

(Hughesville, Maryland) - Maryland State Police are investigating a fatal crash that claimed the life of a Maryland State Police Cadet, and left another man with serious injuries, early this afternoon in Charles County.

Neal Chaney Slater, 20, of the 2950-block of Carrie Lee Lane, Mechanicsville, Md., was pronounced dead at Prince George's Hospital Center. He was flown there by Maryland State Police Med-evac, "Trooper2".

Harold Eugene Reisinger, 54, of the 1400-block of Redwood Circle, La Plata, Md., was taken to Prince George's Hospital Center with serious injuries. He was flown by Maryland State Police Med-evac, "Trooper 7".

The preliminary investigation indicates that at about 1:00 p.m., Slater was operating a 2002 Acura, southbound on MD Route 5, south of Homeland Drive in the left lane of two. According to witnesses, he came upon a vehicle stopped in the left lane of two, in which the operator was waiting to make a left turn. In an attempt to stop, Slater began to brake and skidded to the left, into the left lane of northbound traffic.

Reisinger, who was operating a 1999 Chevrolet Tahoe northbound in lane one, collided with the right side of the Acura. Both vehicles came to a rest in the left northbound travel lane.

"Cadet Slater was an outstanding cadet, who I personally encouraged to join the Maryland State Police," Colonel Thomas E. Hutchins, Secretary of the Department of State Police said. "He was a young man with a strong work ethic who was committed to doing his best in every mission he undertook. He would have made an excellent Maryland State Trooper. He will be greatly missed by his fellow cadets and all the Maryland State Police family."

Cadet Slater joined the Maryland State Police on October 29, 2003. He was assigned to the Upper Marlboro Scale House where he worked in the stationary operation for three months before being assigned to a roving patrol. His unit performed commercial vehicle weighing operations, as well as noise and emission testing and enforcement.

During his career, Cadet Slater readily volunteered for a variety of additional duties. He worked undercover making underage alcohol buys. He assisted with role-playing at the MSP Training Academy and in classes taught by Captain Bill Dofflemyer at the Leonardtown Campus of the College of Southern MD.

Although Cadet Slater had ended his State Police tour of duty today, his work day was not done. He was headed to work at farm where he was helping a local farmer.

No charges have been filed at this time. The crash investigation is being conducted by members of the

Maryland State Police CRASH Team. Investigators will be presenting evidence to the Charles County State's Attorney's Office to determine if any charges will be placed.

Personnel from the Charles County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene and assisted. Members of the Maryland State Highway Administration also assisted with road closures. Route 5 was closed for about three and a half hours for documentation at the scene.

This investigation is continuing...

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