

## **Colorado State Patrol Protects the Capitol**

**by Brian Keller**

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The Colorado State Patrol Executive Security Unit is responsible for law enforcement and security for the Colorado Capitol, adjacent State buildings, the surrounding grounds, and Veteran's State Park.

In 2000, the Executive Security Unit established a mountain bike team to enhance law enforcement efforts and security at the Colorado Capitol and surrounding areas. Having the mountain bikes has proven to be an extremely effective way of providing rapid and effective law enforcement services to the area.

The Colorado State Troopers who are assigned to the bike team have all been IPMBA trained and certified. Jess Leyba, PCI #838, is the current instructor. This specialized training allows the troopers to maneuver quickly through tight spaces such as parking spaces and alleys, where attempting to maneuver a vehicle would take much more time or be impossible. Troopers are able to navigate flights of stairs and quickly respond to calls for service. When large numbers of people are at the Capitol for a rally or protest, the Troopers are able to negotiate their way through the crowds efficiently and are therefore better able to monitor the activities within those crowds. The State Patrol bike unit has also been involved in joint patrols with the Denver Police Department bike unit.

One application for the bikes have proven to be especially beneficial is drug interdiction. Since the inception of the bike team at the Capitol, drug arrests have increased and drug-related problems in the area have decreased. Officers are able to closely monitor areas where drug dealing is a problem and in many cases are able to ride up to suspected dealers before they can react and attempt to flee. Troopers have also had to pursue drug dealers who have attempted to run after being caught in the act. Having the mountain bikes has been extremely helpful in these situations.

The Colorado State Patrol Executive Security Unit is an excellent example of how effective mountain bikes and IPMBA techniques can be if put to good use.

*Brian, a Colorado native, joined the Colorado State Patrol in 1999. In October of 2003, he transferred to the Colorado State Patrol Executive Security Unit. He is trained as a dignitary protection specialist. He successfully completed the IPMBA Course in August 2006 and joined the bike team at the Colorado Capitol. He can be reached at [briantank@msn.com](mailto:briantank@msn.com).*

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