

Harry J. Corbitt



Harry J. Corbitt served 25 years with the New York State Police (NYSP) before his retirement in 2004. Governor David A. Paterson asked him to return to service as Superintendent of the Division of State Police where he was subsequently confirmed by the NYS Senate and appointed on April 16, 2008. Superintendent Corbitt has the honorable distinction of being the first African-American in the history of the State Police to hold the agency's highest rank.

Superintendent Corbitt joined the State Police on February 20, 1978 and served as a trooper in Troop E until 1984. In 1984, promoted to the rank of Sergeant, he served at the New York State Police Academy. In 1988, Corbitt was appointed to the position of Zone Sergeant, where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant later that year. As a Lieutenant, he was assigned to Traffic Services at Division Headquarters, and thereafter, to the State Police Academy. In 1991, promoted to Captain, where a short two years later, he assumed command of Troop T as the Major on the New York State Thruway. In 1994, he became a Staff Inspector assigned to Employee Relations, where he focused on the issue of racial profiling. He served as an advisor to the US Department of Justice for developing manuals and training materials for other police agencies including the Ethics and Integrity Manual. Corbitt became Deputy Superintendent for Employee Relations in 1997, and in 2001, became Deputy Superintendent in charge of Internal Affairs. There, he instituted a computerized system of tracking negative behaviors that provided the agency with information to ensure that NYSP employees provided quality public service.

During his tenure with the New York State Police, Superintendent Corbitt contributed to a number of innovative changes for the agency. For example, he traveled throughout the state to improve community relations and to educate citizens about the valuable role the agency performs. He directed the development of a suicide awareness and prevention training program for agency employees and established a military and veteran's assistance program. He was responsible for the improvement of the NYSP victim's programs by incorporating both specialized child abuse and sex crimes into one Special Victims Unit.

Superintendent Corbitt authorized the expansion of the former regional Mobile Response Teams (MRT) into a full time, full service operation and appropriately renamed it the Special Operations Response Team (SORT). He was also responsible for the authorization of the purchase, distribution, and training needed in the Uniform Patrol Rifle Program. A notable change also involved his assessment and revision of the Executive Services Detail for the Governor of New York State.

Notably, Superintendent Corbitt has appeared on national panels conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and served as a member of the Advisory Board for the Center of American and International Law Institute for Law Enforcement Administration.