



The official monthly publication of the Alabama Department of Public Safety

The **BLUE LIGHT**

February 2007

The Honorable Bob Riley
Governor

Colonel J. Christopher Murphy
Director

Lt. Colonel Robert Goodner
Assistant Director

Major Patrick Manning
ABI Division

Major Roscoe Howell
Administrative Division

Major F.A. Bingham
Driver License Division

Major Cary Sutton
Highway Patrol Division

Major Ken Hallford
Protective Services

Major Charles Andrews
Service Division

Major Glenda Deese
Special Projects

Class 2006-D

Adds 30 to Trooper Ranks



Alabama welcomes the addition of 30 new Alabama state troopers who sworn into service Jan. 25 as Col. J. Christopher Murphy, Department of Public Safety director, commissioned the new troopers during graduation ceremonies in Montgomery. In welcoming the

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DPS Family Remembers

Trooper Jennifer Jacobs



Trooper
JENNIFER JACOBS

More than 800 people, in large number members of the law enforcement community, gathered at Webb's New Freedom Church Jan. 18 to say farewell to Tpr. Jennifer Jacobs.

Jacobs, 30, who had been assigned to the Dothan State Trooper Post, was fatally shot in Ozark Jan. 11 as a result of an apparent domestic dispute involving her ex-husband.

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Retail Association Honors Thompson as Law Enforcement Officer of the Year



Trooper
DWIGHT THOMPSON

Tpr. Dwight Thompson of the Decatur Post was named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the Alabama Retail Association at a January luncheon in Hoover honoring Alabama's law enforcement officers.

Also recognized among the 24 LEO nominees were Sgt. James A. Morrison, Driver License, Birmingham; Cpl. Christopher B. Robertson, Driver License, Decatur; Cpl. Jessie Williams, Driver License, Dothan; Tpr. Jonathan Dees, Driver License, Mobile; and Tpr. Ronni Fetty, Driver License, Opelika.

Thompson, 26, of Elkmont, was nominated by Sgt. Tim White of the Decatur Post, who described Thompson as a "model trooper" who already has received two the department's highest honors, the

Life Saving Medal and the Director's Citation.

Whether it is saving the life of a drowning child, linking a traffic stop to a series of vehicle thefts, helping an area SWAT team diffuse a domestic disturbance gone awry, or teaching students how simple math is used in accident investigation, Thompson does his job with "professionalism and strong enthusiasm," White said.

On April 22, 2006, while Thompson was making a routine traffic stop, occupants of another vehicle informed him some children were in trouble at a nearby pond. The trooper followed them to the irrigation pond of a nearby nursery, where a hysterical mother

pointed out the bodies of two children floating face down near a cap-sized canoe.

Thompson threw off his duty belt, uniform shirt and ballistic vest, jumped in the water, and pulled a 5-year-old boy to safety. He'd started after the second victim when other emergency personnel who had arrived on the scene took over. Unfortunately, the 8-year-old girl and her father drowned in the boating accident. Thompson received Public Safety's Life Saving medal for saving the boy's life and his heroic efforts at the scene.

On March 4, 2006, Thompson stopped a tow truck on Interstate 65 in Limestone County for im-



Alabama Retail Association members at LEO awards ceremony held at Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa.



Capt. Harry Nail (left) and Capt. Steve Wolfe (right) with LEO nominees Fetty, Williams, Thompson, Morrison, Dees and Robertson at Alabama Retail Association luncheon honoring ARA 2006 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

proper lighting. Aware that many disabled vehicles had been stolen from roadsides in Limestone County, Thompson discovered the tow-truck driver did not have permission from the vehicle's owner to remove it from the interstate.

Thompson notified the Athens Police Department, which later discovered 25 stolen vehicles at the suspect's home. For helping the Athens and Huntsville police departments and the Limestone County Sheriff's Department solve 28 stolen vehicle cases, Thompson received the Director Citation for exceptional meritorious service.

In presenting the award to Thompson, ARA Chairman Ken Hubbard told the trooper and other law enforcement officers, "Retailers throughout the state are grateful that you have our backs."

Hubbard, chairman of Birmingham-based Western Supermarkets, said retailers rely heavily on local law enforcement to provide safety, security and support for their businesses. For that reason, the ARA each year singles out one of more than 13,000 law enforcement officers in the state for the LEO award.

When Thompson learned of his nomination, he said, "Oh, boy! How wonderful it is to be acknowledged for the work you really enjoy. I strive to represent the citizens of this state and department to the best of my ability while promoting safety on Alabama's highways."

Courtesy Nancy King Dennis, Alabama Retail Association

Remembering Tpr. Jennifer Jacobs, continued from Page 1

DPS Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy underscored that those gathered for Jacobs' memorial service weren't there only to mourn her loss, but also to celebrate all that she had accomplished. "She earned her badge," said Murphy, and "I was proud to be her colonel."

Cpl. Jimmy Helms of the Dothan Post paid tribute to Jacobs and offered encouragement to her family. Helms spoke fondly of her and her service as a trooper. "We want to encourage her family, her two daughters, to be like Jennifer would be, strong," he said. He also asked family and friends to face their loss, as Jennifer would, "without fear."

"The first time I met Jennifer as an instructor at the academy, I thought, 'She'll never make it,'" Helms said. "She looked like a high school queen instead of a trooper recruit."

"I didn't know if she was tough enough to make it, but soon she changed my mind," said Helms. "She certainly possessed a lot of heart. She was a very strong young lady, certain to succeed."

A member of Class 2006-A, Jacobs was sworn in as a trooper June 22, 2006. Before joining Public Safety she served as an officer with the Ozark Police Department.

The Department of Public Safety remembers Jennifer Jacobs with gratitude and pride and extends sincerest condolences to her family, including daughters Sierra and Savanna Sasser and son Preston Eric Jacobs.



2007 INAUGURATION

DPS Security Efforts Premier



Gov. Bob Riley addresses Alabamians at 2007 inauguration.



Trooper motors lead inaugural parade. (Right) Troopers survey parade route from atop of Capitol Complex buildings.



Courtesy, Service, and Protection Since 1935



Advanced planning, tight security and seamless coordination by the Department of Public Safety complemented the pomp and pageantry accompanying mid-January's inaugural ceremony for Gov. Bob Riley and other state elected officials.

DPS spearheaded security measures and coordinated security functions with other law enforcement agencies for all official inaugural events, drawing praise from Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy.

Murphy, no stranger to inaugural security planning during his career with the U.S. Secret Service, commended Public Safety employees for the coordination and execution of security for the series of inaugural events.

"I was so proud," said Murphy. "It made me feel so good to arrive at each of these events and see a trooper in Class A's and a cover standing proudly and representing DPS in such a professional manner."

Murphy also noted receiving positive comments from Gov. and Mrs. Riley, legislators and Cabinet members regarding the department's work.



(Top) Troopers salute during inaugural ceremony.
(Above) Col. J. Christopher Murphy and wife Nancy during parade.



Class 2006-D, continued from Page 1



Class 2006-D files in formation for family day at the Alabama Criminal Justice Center prior to graduation.

new troopers to the ranks, Murphy stressed their obligation to uphold the highest standards in the performance of their duties.



Murphy administers oath of office to Class 2006-D.

Gov. Bob Riley congratulated the new troopers, saying, "Our state troopers work hard, day in and day out, to protect our citizens. I am proud of their dedicated service and pleased to welcome additional troopers to our force."

Members of Class 2006-D, the fourth class of troopers to train in 2006, completed 22 weeks of rigorous training at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center in Selma to become Alabama's newest patrol officers. The training curriculum includes extensive classroom and field instruction to prepare the troopers for their first assignments in the Highway Patrol Division.

"In taking the oath of office, you become a part of

what makes the Department of Public Safety strong and capable and vital to the state of Alabama," said Murphy. "Beginning today, you help determine how this agency will fulfill its mission and carry out the services it renders to the state of Alabama."

During the graduation ceremony several class members were recognized among their peers for high achievement in trooper academy training regimens. Brandon C. Christen earned the Academic Award for achieving the highest overall grade point average.

Benton L. Carter received the Highway Response and Driving Award for demonstrating a high level of knowledge and ability in defensive and pursuit driving. The Firearms Award went to Jason W. Hewett for exhibiting the highest level of knowledge, skill and safety in firearms training.

Fitness Awards went to Donald W. Worrell for attaining the highest level of physical fitness and George E. Thomas for achieving the most improvement in physical fitness.

Jerry M. Ward was selected as the class's top performer overall, receiving the Commander's Award for exhibiting exceptional leadership, professionalism and dedication to Class 2006-D and the Department of Public Safety, while maintaining a high academic average.



Commander's Award recipient Ward (left) is congratulated by visiting former colleagues with the Georgia Highway Patrol.



Roster of Class 2006-D members,
their post and county assignments:

TROOPER	POST	COUNTY
Christopher Amis	Evergreen	Covington
James Bell	Mobile	Clarke
Jeremy Burkett	Dothan	Pke
Brian Calder	Decatur	Limestone
Benton Carter II	Birmingham	Jefferson
Brandon Christen	Mobile	Baldwin
Christopher Davis	Opelika	Russell
Adam Ezekial	Birmingham	Shelby
Michael Fennel	Alexander City	Tallapoosa
Jason Hewett	Quad Cities	Lauderdale
James Hutchison	Decatur	Limestone
Joseph Lathers	Jacksonville	Clay
Karl Little	Jacksonville	DeKalb
Robert MacLean	Montgomery	Elmore
Christopher Nunn	Birmingham	Jefferson
Matthew Orman	Jacksonville	Calhoun
John Pappion	Alexander City	Coosa
Steven Parker	Mobile	Mobile
Richard Pittman	Tuscaloosa	Greene
William Pullins	Birmingham	Walker
Harold Robinson	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa
David S. Rogers	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa
Joseph W. Smith	Opelika	Chambers
George Thomas	Birmingham	Jefferson
Jason Vice	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa
Julius Wallace	Birmingham	Shelby
Jerry M. Ward	Montgomery	Elmore
Byron K. Whitmore	Tuscaloosa	Bibb
Devylon Williams	Montgomery	Autauga
Donald Worrell	Jacksonville	Talladega

Trooper Nabs One of MOBILE'S MOST WANTED



Corporal
LAWRENCE GOFF

Courtesy, service and protection above — and often beyond — the call of duty represent the high standard to which Alabama's state troopers are held. Cpl. Lawrence Goff, Driver License, Mobile, provided a clear demonstration of this standard recently in apprehending one of the Mobile Police Department's "12 Most Wanted."

Goff was in Mobile when a concerned citizen approached him to report having sighted Robert Clausell. Clausell, who had earned a spot on the "12 Most Wanted" list, was wanted for domestic violence and second-degree assault. His warrant reported a history of exercising a violent temperament and repeated incidence of battery against his girlfriend, causing multiple bruises and abrasions.

Without hesitation, Goff approached the subject, apprehending and arresting Clausell.

Major F.A. Bingham commended the corporal's action in the apprehension of Clausell. "Instead of turning your head, you elected to take the high road and make the arrest, in keeping with the department's proud tradition of courtesy, service and protection," said Bingham.

DPS at Forefront of Pandemic Preparedness

As recent predictions attest, preparedness is critical in the event of a pandemic. Government advisers predict casualties between 51 and 81 million worldwide, should a pandemic strike on a scale similar to that of 1918-20; and in the United States alone, an estimated 2 million would perish, and 30 percent of the population would be infected.

That is why the Alabama Department of Public Safety, in partnership with the Alabama Depart-

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HP Conducts Special Operations Training



The Highway Patrol Division conducted annual Special Operations Training in mid-January. Convened at the Alabama Criminal Justice Center in Selma, the training was divided into four platoons with two groups receiving two days each of intensive training in defense measures during the four-day training event.

Lt. Col. Robert Goodner was assisted by Lt. Marc W. McHenry as troopers honed their skills in special operations. Further instruction in certification for the new Taser X-26 was conducted by platoon members Cpls. Barry Wharton, Keith Mickle and Andy Ricks. Portions of the training were captured on camera by Jimmy Messick of the Service Division's Photographic Services Unit.



(Left and top) Troopers participating in special operations training listen to instruction from platoon officers. (Above) Goodner instructs troopers in special operations tactics during annual training.



People You Know!

◆ *New Employees*

Robin Borland	1/02/07	PCO I	HP/Huntsville
James Franklin	1/08/07	Retired State Employee	HP/Headquarters
Katie Medley	1/02/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Dothan Examining
Patty Smith	1/02/07	ASA I	ABI/CIC

◆ *Resignations*

Floyd Amos	1/02/07	Trooper	ABI/Auto Theft
Katie Medley	1/03/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Dothan Examining
Dawn Tipton	1/07/07	PCO II	HP/Dothan Post

◆ *Births*

Alexis Nicole Cofield, born 1/11/07 to Tpr. Jerome Cofield and wife Kyleigh.
Trisha Grace Dorough, born 1/22/07 to Cpl. Darrick Dorough and wife Mary.

◆ *Retirements*

Sophia Carpenter	1/1/07	ASA I	DL/DL Services
William Courtney	1/1/07	Exec. Security Officer	PS/Executive Security
Charles Spivey	1/1/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Huntsville Examining
Mattie Wheeler	1/1/07	ASA I	ABI/Administrative

◆ *Deaths*

Jennifer Jacobs	1/11/07	Trooper	HP/Dothan
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'Battery' Delivery Sparks Illegal Aliens

Alabama Bureau of Investigation Agent D.K. Jones was at the Birmingham U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration office recently when he received a call on his cell phone. On the other end of the call was the voice of an unknown male who apparently dialed a wrong number. The man informed the agent that his load of "batteries" was ready for delivery.

Jones' investigative intuition kicked in, and he speculated the delivery might be narcotics. He proceeded to arrange a meeting with the caller on the south side of Birmingham. Upon arrival, instead of the load of "batteries" mentioned, the agent discovered the transport of 18 illegal aliens. All were taken into custody and transferred to the federal holding facility in Etowah County.

If there's a moral to this story, perhaps it's this: Know who you're talking to before you start talking!



PROJECT LOST HIGHWAY

Finds Reduced Crashes, Fatalities

Disturbed by the rising incidence of traffic crashes and fatalities within the Evergreen Post and determined to address the situation, Lts. Todd Fulmer and Lt. Kevin Claunch put their heads together a little more than a year ago to find ways to increase safety on area roadways.

The two began by reviewing CARE statistics to identify the area's deadliest roadways and found, unsurprisingly, that Interstate 65 ranked high in crashes and fatalities. That research led to the development of Project Lost Highway, which got under way in January 2006.

Now celebrating its first anniversary, Project Lost Highway has good news to report, as year-end statistics reveal impressive reductions in crashes and fatalities. Fatalities fell 32 percent, from 71 to 49; while crashes dropped from 1,936 to 1,811.

When asked about the secret to the success of the project, Fulmer replied that he did nothing special, other than remind the troopers what they all signed on for. "They took the direction I gave and ran with it. Their initiative, self motivation and dedication to the job and their communities is what made the difference," said Fulmer.

Key components of Project Lost Highway include increasing patrols by targeting trooper assignments on I-65; and employing federal grant funding to allow troopers — including Driver License and ABI personnel — to work overtime in the targeted areas.

"I congratulate the troopers and supervisors for their proactive attitude toward collision reduction — being where they needed to be, when they needed to be there —



Lieutenant
TODD FULMER



Lieutenant
KEVIN CLAUNCH

and the success they achieved during 2006," said Claunch on hearing of the success of Project Lost Highway.

Plans are to continue the project, contingent on available funding. Further inroads into reducing the number of crashes are anticipated, with new troopers graduating and receiving assignments. And Hats off to Fulmer, Claunch and Evergreen Post personnel for their dedication to ensuring safe highways.

JUST THE STATS, Please!

Source: FARS Section, Planning and Research

SEATBELT USAGE OF FATALLY INJURED DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Seatbelt Used	355	364	406	343	357
Seatbelt Not Used	566	570	541	481	512
Seatbelt Usage Unknown	32	46	32	42	38
Seatbelt Not Available	17	10	1	8	9

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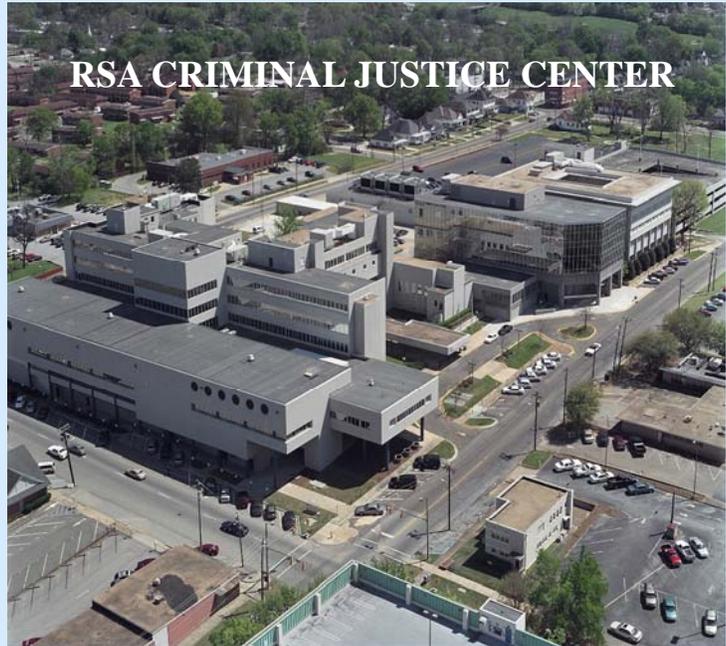


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RSA CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER



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Pandemic Preparedness, continued from Page 7

ment of Public Health, is hosting a summit of law enforcement professionals Feb. 28.

This gathering of law enforcement decision-makers aims to examine national initiatives and early establishment of measures to preserve the state's resources, according to Capt. Agatha Windsor, summit coordinator. Law enforcement and health professionals will fuse their diverse knowledge and experience to set a plan of action in the wake of a pandemic, said Windsor.

"The summit is a call for the state's law enforcement decision-makers — chiefs of police, assistant chiefs, sheriffs and planning/operational officers — to better assist citizens in their local communities, should a pandemic occur," said Windsor. "DPS accepts the challenge and is proud to host the event."

According to Windsor, the DPS and Public Health partnership will provide expertise and insight that will prove beneficial to the state in pandemic planning.

Editor's Note

Thank you, DPS Family, for embracing The BLUE LIGHT and allowing me the awesome opportunity to become a part of the family.

Family is what distinguishes DPS from any other state government agency. Never had I experienced anything like this before! In times of joy, the DPS family is there, and in times of sorrow, you never have to look far for a shoulder to lean on or an ear to listen. For this experience, I am grateful.

By now, you have probably concluded that I am departing. It has been a privilege, moreover, a true blessing to be your editor of The BLUE LIGHT. You gave me a lifetime experience to report all the positive accomplishments of this department's endeavoring to maintain safe highways.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve you!

*Best,
Angier Johnson*

Note: The BLUE LIGHT will be on hiatus until a successor is named.