



The official monthly publication of the Alabama Department of Public Safety

THE BLUE LIGHT



MAY 2007

THE HONORABLE BOB RILEY
Governor

COLONEL J. CHRISTOPHER MURPHY
Director

LT. COLONEL F.A. BINGHAM
Assistant Director

MAJOR PATRICK MANNING
ABI Division

MAJOR ROSCOE HOWELL
Administrative Division

MAJOR HUGH McCALL
Driver License Division

MAJOR CARY SUTTON
Highway Patrol Division

MAJOR KEN HALLFORD
Protective Services

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS
Service Division

REBA THOMPSON NAMED ARA 2006 EXAMINER OF THE YEAR



Thompson proudly receives her award at Montgomery's Capital City Club on April 11. ARA President Rick Brown and Driver License Division Chief Maj. Hugh McCall recognized her efforts in deterring fraudulent activity in state-issued identification.

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The Alabama Retail Association recognized Reba Thompson for her outstanding efforts in curtailing driver license fraud by presenting her with the 2006 Examiner of the Year Award on April 11. Thompson is an examiner I in the Guntersville Driver License Office, and has been with the department for six years. Remarkably, this is the second time Thompson has

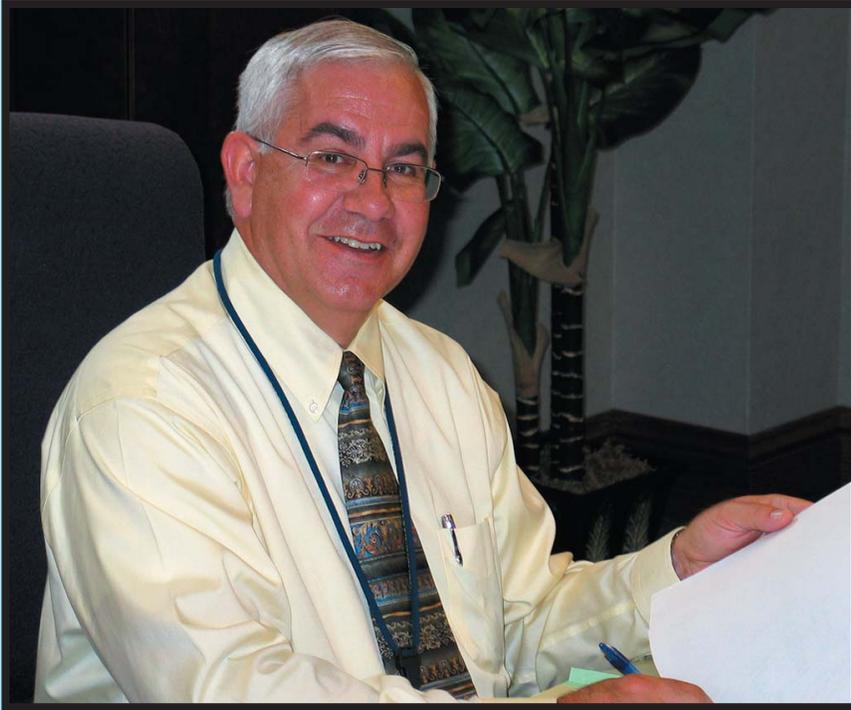
been presented with the award, as she first earned the title in 2003. Earlier this year, Thompson also received the Examiner of the Quarter Award for Q3 2006.

In determining the quarterly and annual award, a point system is used. Five points are allocated for each misdemeanor charge, and 10 points for each felony. Thompson accumulated a total of

630 points with 87 felony and 49 misdemeanor charges among 43 separate arrests.

Also acknowledged at the ceremony was Mary Howard, driver license specialist with the Decatur District, and Regina Hardy, driver license specialist with the Birmingham District.

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Q & A with Lt. Col. Bingham

Lt. Col. F.A. "Bubba" Bingham devoted time one busy afternoon last week to talk with THE BLUE LIGHT about his life-long career with the Department of Public Safety and his new job as assistant director. Readers have a chance to "listen in" on that conversation in the lines below.

TBL: *What new challenges do you face as a colonel that you did not necessarily confront as major?*

Bingham: Managing a department budget instead of a division budget, and managing six division chiefs and all of the issues they bring to me. I simply have more on my plate now, but I enjoy the challenges.

TBL: *What are your goals as lieutenant colonel, and how have your previous accomplishments working with DPS prepared you to meet these new goals?*

Bingham: My number one goal is to make every effort during the time I am assistant director to regain the respect for the department that we once enjoyed from the citizens and other law enforcement agencies across the state of Alabama. I have risen through the ranks from a police communications officer to where I am today, assistant director. I have supervised radio operators, state troopers of every rank, civilian employees of every rank. I think my 34-plus years of experience with the department well qualifies me to make decisions and recommendations for the department.

TBL: *In your opinion, what is the most important aspect of your new position as assistant director?*

Bingham: There are a couple of really important aspects,

as I see it. The first is to promote the department motto of Courtesy, Service and Protection, and we fight that battle daily. The second is to keep the loyalty and respect not only of Col. Murphy, but also of all the division chiefs. I want everyone to realize that I want what is best for the department.

TBL: *How strong is your relationship with our director, Col. Murphy?*

Bingham: I have known Col. Chris Murphy for less than a year. Yet, our professional relationship and rapport was apparent to me from the first time I met him. We both have very similar ideas about the direction for the department. We share the same sense of ethics and integrity; we are both strongly faith-based individuals. We discuss issues that affect the department daily. He relies on me for my experience and input toward the decisions that he has to make; however, I understand that he is the director, and he has the final authority and responsibility to make the final decision. I feel that what makes us unique is that we share the same vision for the department and strive toward the same goals for the department. Collectively, our synergy enables greater things for DPS than either of us could accomplish individually.

Continued on Page 6

Post Blast School Held in Bay Minette

The Hazardous Devices Unit of the ABI Division co-sponsored a Post Blast Investigation School with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Southwest Alabama Police Academy April 2-5, 2007, in Bay Minette. Cpl. Russell Foshee and Agent Darren Davis were instrumental in putting this school together and instructed classes along with the ATF and FBI. Foshee and Davis are both graduates of ATF's intense 80-hour Post Blast School in Fort A.P. Hill, Va. Students who attended from DPS were Sgt. Clay Barnes, Cpl. Thad Snyder, Cpl. Bill Burke, and Agent Charles Treslar. Agents learned to process crime scenes where explosives had been detonated. Thirty students attended this training representing the State Fire Marshal's Office and many south Alabama police and fire departments. Evidence collection tools used for the school were provided through the Department of Homeland Security.



Hardy receives an award for "Outstanding Examiner." She placed third this year, and was last year's winner of ARA Examiner of the Year.

REBA THOMPSON, 2006 EXAMINER OF THE YEAR

(Continued)

Howard placed second in the state with 412 points, and Hardy placed third with 400 points.

By far the biggest day of the year for Reba Thompson in terms of arrests was Sept. 20, 2006. On that Wednesday, Thompson found 21 felony warrants for financial transaction card fraud, 43 felony warrants for deposit account fraud, and two felony warrants for forgery 1st, all issued from the Spalding County Sheriff's Department in Griffin, Ga., for Troy Allen Blair. Blair was applying for renewal of his Alabama driver license at the Guntersville Driver License Office, where Thompson works. Thompson detained Blair until a Guntersville Police officer arrested him, placing him in the Guntersville City Jail to await extradition.

Since the inception of the Examiner of the Year Award in 2000, DPS has seen an increase in the arrest record of the Driver License Division by nearly 350 percent, despite an overall decrease in arrests among all departments. The message this sends to the community is a clear one: criminals realize they cannot get away with lying about who they really are in Alabama. Last year, the Driver License Division was responsible for 3,370 arrests, and thus far in 2007, the division is responsible for 2,028 arrests.



Barnes, Foshee (ABI) and Prichard Fire Marshal Terry Sexton (above) investigate a car following an explosion. Below, graduates of the first-ever Southwest Alabama Post Blast School co-sponsored by ABI.



THE BLUE LIGHT COURTESY, SERVICE, AND PROTECTION SINCE 1935

Alabama Readies for REAL ID

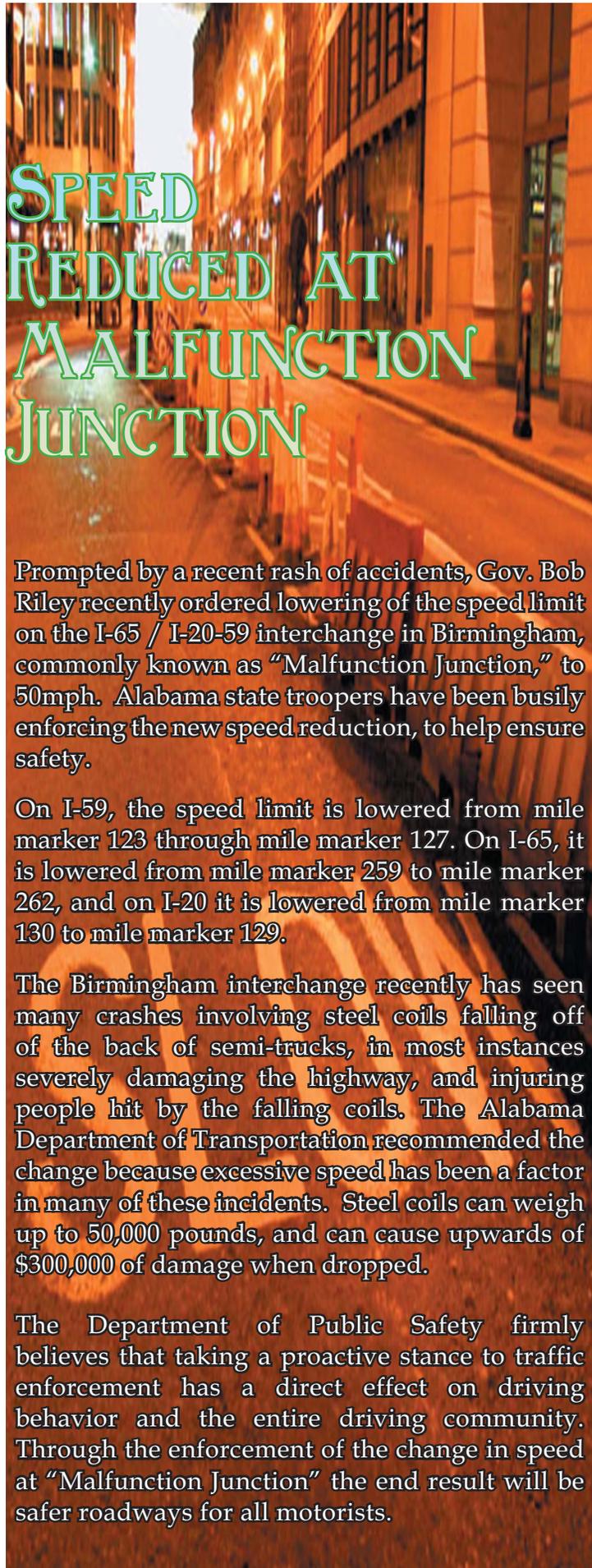
THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY recently announced draft regulations in the form of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to establish minimum standards for state-issued driver licenses and identification cards in accordance with the REAL ID Act of 2005.

As the draft regulations are written, the Alabama driver licensing system is already 80 to 90 percent ready for REAL ID, according to Maj. Hugh McCall, Driver License Division chief, and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff has recognized Alabama as a leader in positive identity of applicants and issuance security. Capt. Harry Nail, chief examiner, said the security and integrity of the Alabama driver license place it "within the top three of the nation."

The proposed regulations set standards for states to meet the requirements of the REAL ID Act, and include security features that must be incorporated into each card, verification of information provided by applicants to establish their identity and lawful status in the United States, and physical security standards for locations where licenses and identification cards are issued.

According to the act, REAL ID-compliant licenses will be required to access a federal facility, board federally regulated commercial aircraft and enter a nuclear power plant. States have until May 11, 2008, to comply with the act, but they may be granted an extension until Dec. 31, 2009.

A main concern of REAL ID, which stemmed from the 9/11 Commission recommendations, is the verification of all documents presented to the issuing agency. The law seeks to guard against fake licenses and ID cards, such as those obtained by the 9/11 hijackers, identity theft and other criminal activity that stems from driver license fraud.



SPEED REDUCED AT MALFUNCTION JUNCTION

Prompted by a recent rash of accidents, Gov. Bob Riley recently ordered lowering of the speed limit on the I-65 / I-20-59 interchange in Birmingham, commonly known as "Malfunction Junction," to 50mph. Alabama state troopers have been busily enforcing the new speed reduction, to help ensure safety.

On I-59, the speed limit is lowered from mile marker 123 through mile marker 127. On I-65, it is lowered from mile marker 259 to mile marker 262, and on I-20 it is lowered from mile marker 130 to mile marker 129.

The Birmingham interchange recently has seen many crashes involving steel coils falling off of the back of semi-trucks, in most instances severely damaging the highway, and injuring people hit by the falling coils. The Alabama Department of Transportation recommended the change because excessive speed has been a factor in many of these incidents. Steel coils can weigh up to 50,000 pounds, and can cause upwards of \$300,000 of damage when dropped.

The Department of Public Safety firmly believes that taking a proactive stance to traffic enforcement has a direct effect on driving behavior and the entire driving community. Through the enforcement of the change in speed at "Malfunction Junction" the end result will be safer roadways for all motorists.

State Troopers Assist the Residents of Sands Island and Enterprise

ON MARCH 1, long track-tornadoes devastated the communities of Enterprise and Millers Ferry, tearing a collective path over 22 miles, and claiming 10 lives. The first tornado hit Sands Island, part of the Millers Ferry community in Wilcox County, tearing it to shambles. Two-thirds of the 300 residences in the area sustained severe damage, or were totally destroyed. Forty-one minutes later, in Coffee County, a second tornado ripped through downtown Enterprise, clearing a path nearly a quarter of a mile wide through the Holly Hill and Dixie Drive areas. Both tornadoes were initially classified EF3 level tornadoes, but after detailed analysis of damaged areas, the storms have since been reclassified EF4, with wind speeds in excess of 170 mph.

Alabama DPS, together with local law enforcement, played a crucial role in making certain the damaged areas were secure. Both Enterprise and Millers Ferry were bombarded with local and national news media alike, and federal and local agencies set up tents in strategic locations throughout the damaged area providing assistance for those in need. FEMA, the American Red Cross, and EMA were also onsite, providing food, water, and sundries to the victims of this tragedy, and offering a bit of reassurance to those hit hardest by mother nature's wrath.



Q & A

with Lt. Col. Bingham (continued)

TBL: Reflect back on your entire career with DPS. How has it guided you to where you are now?

Bingham: In my 34-plus years with this department, I have lived through probably a dozen directors, and part of what I have acquired from my predecessors is this basic philosophy: Treat people right. Do what is lawful and ethical and temper that with a good dose of judgment and common sense. During my tenure with the department, I have witnessed, in both my superiors and subordinates, behavior that is either too lax or too stern. I think I place myself somewhere just to the right of the middle of that. I want people to do what is right, and I want people to do what is expected of them.

TBL: What originally made you want to become a state trooper?

Bingham: I wanted to be a state trooper since I was probably 10 years old. I knew several state troopers when I was young, and grew up respecting law enforcement. My entire family has always respected and appreciated law enforcement. However it was Bobby, my eldest brother, who was the driving influence for me to become a state trooper. Before I was a trooper, I worked in a cabinet shop as a carpenter's apprentice, and one day Bobby came by that shop and told me he was taking me to the Personnel Department to talk about becoming a trooper. I took the test repeatedly to score high enough on the list to be hired as a trooper. One Sunday afternoon the colonel of the department at the time came by where I worked and asked me if I really wanted to become a trooper, and I told him I did. It was at that moment that he planted a seed, so to speak, by giving me that opportunity to become a state trooper.

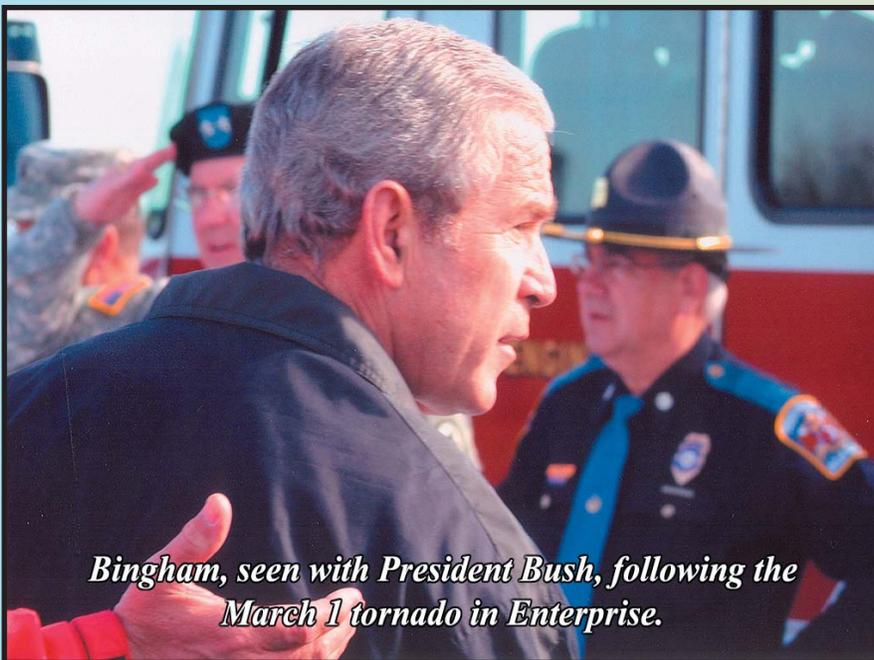
TBL: What are some of your hobbies outside of work?

Bingham: I enjoy fishing. I enjoy working around the house; working on my "honey-do" list. I enjoy my

church activities and church family. I also like camping. My wife, daughter, son and I go camping several times a year. I enjoy being with my family and my friends.

TBL: When you leave your position as lieutenant colonel, how would you like to be remembered?

Bingham: I don't want to be remembered as a "good ol' boy." I want to be remembered as an assistant director who looked out for the well-being of the department and its employees. I want to be thought of as someone who was fair in my disposition. I want to be remembered as a moral person, and someone who is respected for my leadership abilities. I keep that in mind every day when I come to work. I don't want to set an example for other employees, I want to exceed the standard for other employees, to be



Bingham, seen with President Bush, following the March 1 tornado in Enterprise.

an example for others to achieve. My own life expectations are higher than what others may expect of me.

TBL: What is the most challenging aspect of your job?

Bingham: I do not necessarily see my job as a difficult one, per se, but what I find most challenging is making sure I keep our vision in focus. I realize that Col. Mur-

phy and I have a department to manage, and I want to make sure that the information I pass to our director is complete and factual. I never want Col. Murphy to question my loyalty, nor do I want our governor to ever question my loyalty. I want to provide the highest quality and most complete information to them, and my challenge is to make sure that I accomplish that.

TBL: What do you enjoy most about your job?

Bingham: I enjoy most being able to make decisions or, at least having input into decisions, that steer the direction of the department, whether that involves the legislative process, daily activities, policy changes, or creating policy.

TBL: What do you dislike about your job?

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DPS OFF TO THE RACES IN

TALLADEGA



Anyone attending the races in Talladega this past weekend will tell you that traffic to and from Talladega, along with security at the track, are primary concerns. The event, one of the largest in the state of Alabama, attracts more than 175,000 spectators to what is normally a quaint, small town.

Thanks to planning, training and experience, DPS is well prepared to meet the demands posed by race week in Talladega and to ensure the safety and security of race fans.

Traffic management strategies have been developed over many years by the department, and are coordinated and implemented with cooperation from local officials, ALDOT, and racetrack officials. Security

concerns are addressed with DPS-developed operation plans by assessment of current events and their potential for affecting the race in Talladega. Special consideration is given to the heavy volume of traffic and the swell of attendees, as well as vendors and support personnel on hand.

Troopers statewide are assigned to the race detail, with Highway Patrol, ABI, and Service divisions comprising the heaviest presence at Talladega. Key to DPS's work in Talladega is communications, capably handled by the department's police communications officers. Staffing the Joint Operations Center, which is functional 24 hours a day during race week, are federal agencies, local law enforcement, and racetrack security, in addition to DPS personnel.

Q & A with Lt. Col. Bingham (concluded)

Bingham: There is nothing I dislike about my job. I enjoy coming to work every day. I enjoy working with Col. Murphy, Michael Robinson, all our division chiefs, and our entire staff. I feel that Col. Murphy is a breath of fresh air and offers a different insight. That is something I am excited about and excited to be a part of. I feel that DPS is definitely moving in a positive direction, and employee morale is now at a level not seen in a long time. We have initiated several projects that will improve the image of the department, and I'm proud to be a part of it.

TBL: *What has been your most rewarding assignment at DPS?*

Bingham: My most rewarding assignment to this point is as assistant director of the department. Over the years, I have had several rewarding assignments, and the first of

those that come to mind was my promotion from a radio operator to state trooper. Of course moving through the ranks from trooper to corporal, to sergeant, to lieutenant, to captain, and to major has all been rewarding. I have come a long way, and I have a lot to be proud of, and a lot to be thankful for.

TBL: Where do you envision DPS in four years?

Bingham: I see the Department of Public Safety being one of the premier law enforcement agencies in the country, and certainly the premier agency in the state of Alabama. We are doing that by working to gain the respect and build a business rapport with probate judges across the state, local chiefs of police across the state, district attorneys, and assistant district attorneys, sheriffs, and their deputies. We are working to regain this sense of respect and appreciation that we once enjoyed with every law enforcement agency and public official. We want to be here to provide every bit of assistance we can when other law enforcement agencies need our help.



State Troopers Arrest Double Homicide Suspect on the Run

At approximately 7:30 p.m. on the night of April 18, state troopers in Mobile were contacted by officials from the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office in Louisiana and asked to be on the lookout for a white 2006 GMC pickup that was believed to be occupied by James Magee, 29, of Pearl River, La. Magee was identified as a suspect in a double homicide that occurred in the parish earlier that day. An Alabama trooper intercepted the vehicle at about 8 p.m., requested backup and stopped the vehicle on the Michigan Avenue exit from eastbound Interstate 10 in Mobile. Magee was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Alabama Bureau of Investigation office where he was met by investigators from STPSO. Magee was placed in Mobile County Metro Jail to await extradition back to Louisiana.

DPS ESTABLISHES NEW DL DISTRICT IN OPELIKA

THE MONTGOMERY DRIVER LICENSE DISTRICT recently was re-organized to create the Opelika Driver License District, and Lt. Craig Ledyard has been tapped to command the new district. Area population growth and a continuing increase in the demand for licensing services in east Alabama have prompted the change, according to Capt. Harry Nail, chief examiner.

Nail pointed to the influx of military personnel into Fort Benning, Ga., as a determining factor. The U.S. military's Base Realignment and Closure Commission is in the process of transferring 25,000 to 28,000 personnel from the U.S. Army Armor School in Fort Knox, Tenn., to Fort Benning. The transfer of the school is expected to be complete by late 2008 or early 2009.

Officials estimate that 40 to 60 percent of the transferred personnel will be settling in the Phenix City/Opelika area, chiefly due to a lower property tax rate in Alabama.

Additionally, the number of military retirees settling in Alabama likely will increase, officials claim, since Alabama does not tax retirement income.

In addition to DPS, other area services are working to accommodate the rapid growth. The Russell County School System has constructed a new middle school, and the system is adding classrooms to pre-existing school structures in anticipation of approximately 4,000 new students.

The Opelika Driver License District previously was part of the Montgomery Driver License District. The new district consists of Russell, Lee, Chambers, and Tallapoosa counties. The Montgomery District is now composed of Chilton, Autauga, Montgomery, Elmore, Coosa, Macon, and Bullock counties.



INCOMING TROOPER CLASS UPDATE

The 2007 APOST-certified trooper class is tentatively slated to convene in June. Currently, DPS is conducting background checks on the prospective candidates for the 12-week class. Additionally, on April 19, 474 letters were sent to potential candidates for a trooper class likely to begin in October. May 7 and May 14 are the weeks for agility training and preliminary processing at the training center in Selma.

State Troopers are our 'Knights in Shining Armor'

Alabama state troopers receive "Thank You's" from the public for a job well done.

ON SATURDAY March 24, 2007 my car overheated and all the water boiled out of the radiator. I was just south of Jemison headed home to Montgomery. I pulled over to the side, and I called *HP and explained my situation. This was the day that an accident (or accidents) north bound of Jemison occurred, and cars were backed up as far as I could see to the south. Trooper McKitt arrived, checked my radiator, then went to get water. After refilling my radiator, he followed me almost to Prattville until I was sure that my car wasn't overheating again.

Trooper McKitt was my knight in shining armor that day, as I am 64, and alone. Thanks for having such kind and compassionate troopers as Trooper McKitt! He deserves to hear "Job well done".

-Danna Goodson,
Montgomery, AL

I will probably never know the name of the Trooper who more than likely prevented a major accident or fatality on I-65 North today. This morning around 9:30am between Evergreen and Greenville, I was passed on the right by a black convertible (top down) driven by a white male. He came within an inch of hitting two vehicles and a semi-truck. His speed was at least 90 mph while he continued to weave in and out of traffic until I lost sight of him. I did see him again, however, this time he was in handcuffs standing on the side of I-65 North near the Montgomery airport ramp. I am sure there is a way to identify the trooper. Please convey my thanks for taking that idiot off the road. I travel between Birmingham and Mobile each week and I thought I had seen all the nuts, but this guy was going to kill someone today.

-Phil Marlar, Mobile, AL

I would just like to voice my appreciation of Officer Porter, an Alabama State Trooper who lives and works in Walker

County. Officer Porter stopped me this morning for exceeding the speed limit. He issued me a warning, which I greatly appreciate. Officer Porter was genuinely concerned about my safety, the safety of our neighborhood and our community. His professionalism represents our state in the highest of standards. To me, he was very courteous and polite. His uniform was perfect. He treated me like a citizen, not like a criminal. Officer Porter is one very outstanding individual. I applaud his service to our county and state; again, his professionalism is beyond reproach.

-Lorn S. Miller

I just wanted to write a short note thanking you for patrol-long our area in Rehobeth. I live on National Road and we have had a long standing problem with people in the mornings before school starts and in the afternoons from around 3 pm until around 8 pm speeding. I firmly believe these speeders think they are on the Talladega Speedway or

Dothan Dragway. I saw one of your vehicles had someone pulled over this morning when I was walking in my yard and he came by a few times after that. It was wonderful to see people driving safely for a while. Again, thank you so very much for your service and attention.

-AJ, Rehobeth, AL

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank Lieutenant Kelly for taking time out everyday in using better judgement and doing whatever is required to make my travels on these Alabama Highways safer. I do not take the time, or make the effort, often enough, to thank you for the job you and your fellow officers do to make our lives safer each day. I know it must be, as a general rule, a thankless job, but let me say you are appreciated for the effort you put in daily, and for putting your life in harms way for us everyday. Thanks for ALL YOU do....

-Donnie Dye, Vestavia, AL

Flat Andrew and Flat Stanley Visit the Alabama Department of Public Safety!!!



The Alabama Department of Public Safety was honored to entertain two special guests recently, Flat Andrew and Flat Stanley. Bo Hagan, long-time DPS friend and wife of former Director L.N. Hagan, crafted a story about "Flat Stanley's Trooper Adventure" for her grandchild. In the story, Flat Stanley visited a trooper post, flew with Chief Pilot Kris Helton, and was sworn in as a junior Alabama state trooper. Also making an appearance at DPS headquarters was Flat Andrew. Tpr. John Reese, Public Information/Education, took a few moments to pose with Flat Andrew, who had traveled all the way from Miss Robichaud's kindergarten class in Leominster, Mass. Flat Stanley and Flat Andrew are world-class explorers that help teach children across the United States and abroad about geography by visiting interesting places and reporting back to the students on their adventures.

People You Know!



New Employees

Sonja Bennett	3/16/07	PCO I	HP/Birmingham
Charlie Ester	3/16/07	Retired State Employee	DL/Records Unit
Adrian Mathis	3/16/07	ASA I	ABI/Administrative
Stewart Upshaw	3/16/07	ASA I	DL/Medical Unit
Ernestine Wigfall	3/16/07	ASA III	ADM/Personnel Unit

Promotions

Audra Davis	3/16/07	PCO II	HP/Birmingham Post
Charles Duke	3/16/07	Corporal	DL/Opelika Examining
Larry Prestwood	3/16/07	IT Systems Spec. Assoc.	DL/Montgomery
Timothy Smith	3/16/07	Corporal	HP/Colbert County
James Wharton	3/16/07	Sergeant	HP/Quad Cities Post
James White	3/16/07	Sergeant	PS/Cullman
Kevin Wright	3/16/07	Lieutenant	PS/Montgomery County

TRANSFERS

F.A. Bingham	3/01/07	Major	Assistant Director's Office
Michael Britton	3/16/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Burton Dunn	3/16/07	Trooper	HP/MCSU Jefferson County
Robert Goodner	3/16/07	Captain	HP/Birmingham Post
Jason Guthrie	3/16/07	Trooper	HP/MCSU Detail Jefferson County
Ulane Jamison	3/16/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Robert Knapp	3/16/07	Trooper	HP/MCSU Clarke County
Rodney Knight	3/16/07	Trooper	ABI/ Morgan County
Keith Mickle	3/16/07	Corporal	HP/MCSU Montgomery County
Roy Knapp	3/16/07	Corporal	HP/Grove Hill Post
Jeffrey Nelson	3/16/07	Trooper	ABI/Montgomery County

People You Know!



TRANSFERS (cont.)

Michael Robinson	3/16/07	Attorney	ADM/Director's Office
David Steward	3/16/07	Corporal	HP/Tuscaloosa Post
Jon Terry	3/16/07	Trooper	HP/Quad Cities Post
Charles Trantham	3/16/07	Trooper	HP/MCSU Jefferson County
Kenny Waldrop	3/16/07	Trooper	HP/Decatur Post
Jimmy White	3/16/07	Trooper	DL/Fraud Unit
Frank Williams	3/16/07	Trooper	HP/MCSU Jefferson County

RESIGNATIONS

Tracey Abate	3/30/07	Account Clerk	ADM/Purchasing
Lee Addison	3/13/07	PCO I	HP/Selma
Michelle Carter	3/31/07	ASA I	HP/Huntsville
Latoya Floyd	3/26/07	PCO I	HP/Birmingham
Brenda Glasheen	3/23/07	PCO I	HP/Decatur
Mary Johnson	3/15/07	ASA II	HP/Birmingham
Victor Myles	3/30/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Mobile
Silas Starnes	3/28/07	Retired State Employee	SER/Administrative
Byron Whitmore	3/26/07	Trooper	HP/Tuscaloosa
Edgar Wilson	3/16/07	Executive Security Officer	HP/Executive Secretary

RETIREMENTS

Leah Bedsole	3/30/07	Invest. Technician II	DL/Fraud Unit
Martha Biggs	3/31/07	PCO II	HP/Evergreen
David Butler	3/30/07	ASA I	HP/MCSU
Glenda Deese	3/30/07	Major	SER/ACJTC
Carolyn Tierce	3/30/07	ASA II	ABI/Tuscaloosa
Joan White	3/30/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Evergreen

IDENTITY THEFT FACTS

- 3.7 PERCENT OF AMERICA'S ADULT POPULATION FELL VICTIM TO IDENTITY THEFT IN 2006 (SEPT. 30, 2005 - OCT. 1, 2006).

- IDENTITY FRAUD IN 2006 (SEPT. 30, 2005 - OCT. 1, 2006) COST CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES \$49.3 BILLION.

- THOSE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 24 ARE AT THE GREATEST RISK FOR IDENTITY FRAUD.

- IDENTITY FRAUD IS ON THE DECLINE DUE TO BETTER CONSUMER EDUCATION AND AWARENESS.

- 246,035 IDENTITY THEFT COMPLAINTS WERE FILED FROM JAN. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2006, WITH THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION. ID THEFT WAS THE MOST COMMON COMPLAINT RECEIVED BY THE FTC IN 2006, REPRESENTING 36 PERCENT OF ALL COMPLAINTS FILED WITH THE FTC.

- MONTGOMERY RANKED 93RD IN THE NATION FOR IDENTITY THEFT COMPLAINTS IN 2006. OTHER ALABAMA METRO AREAS INCLUDE: DOTHAN, 103RD; DAPHNE-FAIRHOPE, 108TH; BIRMINGHAM-HOOVER, 174TH; ANNISTON-OXFORD, 205TH; GADSDEN, 224TH; MOBILE, 268TH; TUSCALOOSA, 278TH; AND HUNTSVILLE, 283RD.

SOURCES: 2007 IDENTITY FRAUD SURVEY REPORT, JAVELIN STRATEGY and RESEARCH; FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Alabama Department of



Public Safety

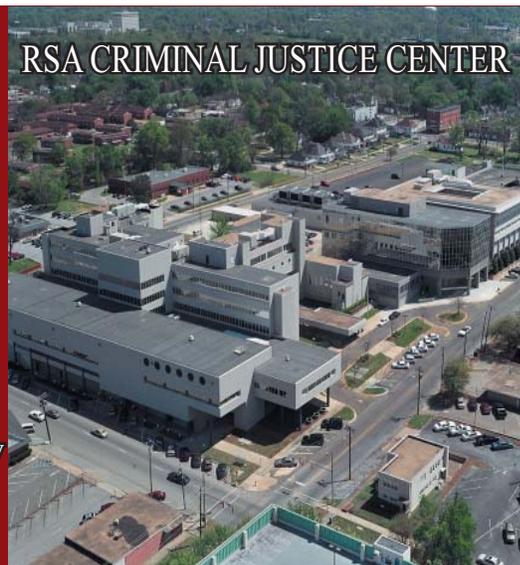
CONTRIBUTORS:

Capt. Harry Nail, DL
Capt. Robert Goodner, HP
Sgt. Clay Barnes, ABI
Tpr. John Reese, ADM
Tommy Giles, Photography

EDITOR:

Ryan Godfrey

RSA CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER



Can't get to Montgomery? Grab a mouse and visit us in cyberspace at: www.dps.alabama.gov



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to be bringing you this May edition of *The Blue Light*. After arriving at DPS no more than a month ago today, I have been delighted by the number of inquiries into the publication, as well as the amount of feedback received helping make this, my first issue, come together so well. I may be editor of *The Blue Light*, but without the strong level of support

coming from so many throughout the organization, my first issue would not be possible.

Ever since my arrival, I have been overjoyed by the strong sense of family apparent within the department. This component is something I find most welcoming, especially because it is so rare to encounter such a notion of community in today's workplace.

In many respects, this issue was rushed due to the time it took to first learn the department and how it works, as well as the computer software I used to create this very magazine. In many ways, this is an ongoing process, and I hope to improve the magazine greatly in subsequent issues. Nevertheless, I see having this issue out at the beginning of May as a great accomplishment, and hope that you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed producing it for you.

I encourage anyone with questions, comments, or story ideas to contact me at: ryan.godfrey@dps.alabama.gov.