



THE BLUE LIGHT



JUNE 2007

THE HONORABLE BOB RILEY
Governor

COLONEL J. CHRISTOPHER MURPHY
Director

LT. COLONEL F.A. BINGHAM
Assistant Director

MAJOR PATRICK MANNING
ABI Division

MAJOR HUGH McCALL
Driver License Division

MAJOR ROSCOE HOWELL
Highway Patrol Division

MAJOR ROBERT GOODNER
Protective Services

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS
Service Division

Inside this issue...

Proper Handling of Meth Labs2
 Tactical Team Ready for Disaster.....3
 What Does Memorial Day Mean?.....4
 Around the Department.....7
 DPS at Career Day.....8
 People You Know!.....9
 Train Derailment Secured.....11

Major Changes: DPS Bids Farewell to Hallford and Sutton, Welcomes Howell in HP, Goodner in PS

June 1 was a special day for the Alabama Department of Public Safety, indicated by significant changes within the department. This day marked the beginning of retirement for both Maj. Ken Hallford, outgoing chief of Protective Services, and for Maj. Cary Sutton, outgoing chief of Highway Patrol.

Following the two retirements, Maj. Roscoe Howell assumes command of the Highway Patrol Division, and newly promoted Maj. Robert Goodner takes command of Protective Services as DPS's newest division chief.

These changes are the latest in a string of transformations set to chart anew Public Safety's course in the coming years, beginning with the appointment of Col. J. Christopher Murphy as director in December 2006.

"I am extremely grateful for the many contributions of Ken Hallford and Cary Sutton," said Murphy. "These two have helped define the Department of Public Safety, and we have learned much from Maj. Hallford and Maj. Sutton. Their retirement is well earned, and we wish them both the best.

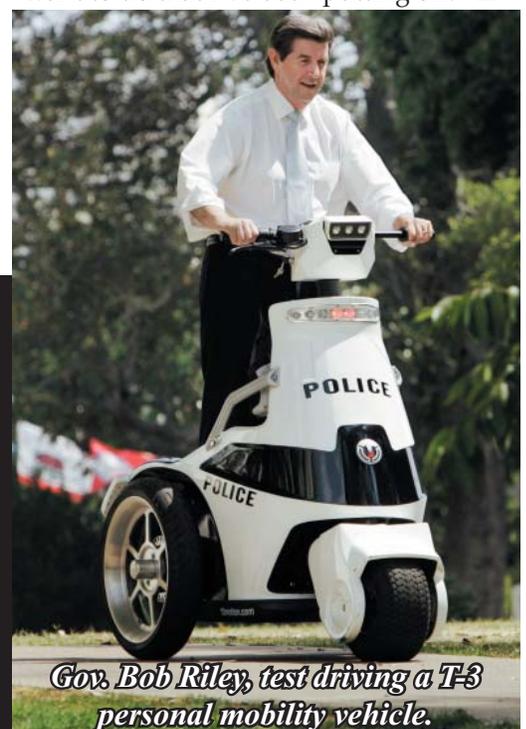
"At the same time," said Murphy, "we turn over the reins of leadership in both divisions, and I am excited about what the future holds for both Highway Patrol and Protective Services in the capable hands of Roscoe Howell and Robert Goodner."

While this is a significant time for DPS concerning structure of the department, it is also a time of reflection and tribute. Hallford is stepping down after an exceptional 41 years of service, joining the department at the age of 19 in April 1966. With 32 years of service, Sutton also has established a lengthy and distinguished career.

Asked recently about retirement, Hallford responded, "I'm going to do a lot of fishing... I recognize it's time for me to go, because there are a lot of things that I want to do that I've been putting off." ■

DPS to Acquire T-3 Personal Mobility Vehicles

DPS recently purchased two T-3 electric personal mobility vehicles, to be used by the Capitol Police. The versatile vehicles aid in adding functionality in mobility to officers, and provide an alternative to officers riding bicycles. Each vehicle is capable of speeds in excess of 25 mph, and has a range of 25 miles between charges.



Gov. Bob Riley, test driving a T-3 personal mobility vehicle.



Agents with the Alabama Bureau of Investigation this past month began training local Alabama law enforcement agencies in the proper disposal of hazardous waste generated by methamphetamine laboratories. The training is part of a Drug Enforcement Administration grant-funded initiative known as the "Container Storage Project," according to Col. J. Christopher Murphy, director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety.

training for 12 ABI agents in the proper packaging and transport of hazardous waste generated in the production of methamphetamine, and certified them as trainers for local law enforcement officers.

Officers who have completed the training are authorized to transport hazardous methamphetamine lab waste in approved vehicles and drums to designated container sites, where DEA contractors pick up the hazardous waste on a regularly scheduled basis.

Prior to this project, local officers securing the scene of a methamphetamine laboratory had to wait for a DEA-certified contractor to arrive and package, transport and dispose of the waste - a time-consuming and inefficient process. The "Container Storage Project" facilitates the safe, swift removal of materials that threaten the public's safety, and provides for more efficient use of limited law enforcement personnel.

Training sessions were held in Dothan, Mobile, Tuscaloosa, and Jacksonville throughout the month of May. The storage containers are located in Montgomery, Jacksonville, Quad Cities, Birmingham, Tuscaloosa and Dothan.

THE BLUE LIGHT COURTESY, SERVICE, AND PROTECTION SINCE 1925
Murphy said the production of methamphetamine represents a significant hazard to persons in the vicinity of the lab, to communities and to the environment. Risk of explosion, exposure to toxic chemicals and hazardous waste contamination are primary concerns, he said.

"Federal regulations require that arresting officers must be certified and properly equipped to enter and secure a methamphetamine lab," said Murphy. "This ensures the safety of the officers, the community and the environment."

Murphy said this pilot project facilitated the purchase and installation of storage containers approved for methamphetamine lab waste disposal at six locations in Alabama. The project also provided

DPS TACTICAL TEAM PREPARES DURING SCHOOL SHOOTING TRAINING EXERCISE



On May 19, DPS Tactical Team 4, led by Sgt. Teddy Fain, the DPS Hazardous Devices Unit Southern Region, and the DPS Aviation Unit participated in a mock school shooting exercise at the J.U. Blackshear High School in Monroe County. In the scenario-based training, local officers were dispatched to a shooting at the high school. Upon arrival they encountered numerous casualties and three gunmen, all role players acting from a predetermined script. As the scenario played out, local officers suffered casualties of their own from mock gunfire and mock improvised explosive devices. Team 4 was called into action and captured the third and final gunman from inside the school's library. The gunman had barricaded himself after setting several mock explosive booby traps. DPS bomb techs Cpl. Russell Foshee and Agent

Darren Davis assisted Team 4 by providing explosive expertise and intelligence gathered via an Andros Robot. DPS Pilot Rusty Rowland was able to provide aerial video to tactical officers on the ground. Sgt. Clay Barnes of the HDU attributed the success of the exercise concerning DPS to "three separate groups from Public Safety working together to achieve a common mission, preservation of life."

Involved in the training were more than 70 officers from various agencies, Monroe County EMA, Monroe County Board of Education, Monroe County Hospital, and a Life-Flight helicopter. Much of the equipment used in the training by the HDU was purchased through Homeland Security grants.

What Does Memorial Day Mean to You?

Every year, Memorial Day marks the beginning of the summer vacation season. While Memorial Day is often viewed as a great time for a barbecue or cookout, a weekend trip to the beach, or just time to relax out by the swimming pool, we here at DPS know there is a bigger significance to this holiday. *The Blue Light* recently asked for your input as to what Memorial Day signifies to you, and here are some of your responses:

Memorial Day is about all that is good with our country. It's about all of those soldiers that have gone before me and all of those that have yet to go. It's about being able to still clearly see the faces and hear the voices of those that went with you, but never came home. I pray to God that I will always be able to hear and see them.

-Sgt. Barry Tucker

I used to look at Memorial Day as definitely a day to be off work, a day to sleep in and to just kind of do my own thing. Now after having a nephew serve in Iraq for a year, I listen to his stories about the living conditions, their day-to-day trials and sacrifices they make not only for our country, but for others as well. Still, they stand with PRIDE AND HONOR for our country. They stand PROUD and continue their duties to give each and every person in AMERICA freedom. The meaning of this day has truly changed for me, now I give HONOR AND THANKS to all military, retired and active. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!

-Priscilla Jones

This Memorial Day I will be sitting around enjoying the day off and longing to see my son, who's in the United States Air Force; knowing how much he wants to be home and not being able to be here; knowing that he'd rather be home than be where he is; knowing that he'll spend the day remembering the things we

normally do on that day; and knowing that my family is incomplete with him not being here. Did I mention he's in Hawaii?

Wish I were there for Memorial Day enjoying the view.

-Sharon Dees

Memorial Day is a time to pray... Pray for all the men and women who are risking their lives so that we can all appreciate the freedoms we have as United States citizens to return home safely. Reflect and pray for all the families who have lost loved ones for the cause. Appreciate your family's health and happiness and the rights you have. The youth of our country need to learn of the wise decisions made in the past by our elders, along with their mistakes, so they are not repeated.

-Sina Hogan

This coming Memorial Day brings new meaning for me. Although I have always had a great respect for the military, I have recently become engaged to a man who served 25 years in both the U.S. Marines and U.S. Army. I have learned so much from him concerning the men and women who serve and have served to give this country the freedom we so enjoy and sometimes take for granted.

Les joined the Marines at 18 years of age, served two tours in Vietnam before being wounded and sent home. He later re-enlisted in the Army.

He retired at Ft. McClellan and made his home here in Calhoun County. I am looking forward to being the wife of a man so dedicated to every aspect of his life. For me personally, I will look at this Memorial Day differently.

May God help me to remember it is about the people who have given even their lives that I have the freedom to enjoy Memorial Day and every other day.

-Tina Fincher

I think of all the people that served to give us this holiday. I grew up in the later years of Vietnam. I remember when Saigon fell, watching TV as the helicopters tried to get everyone out. I remember all the news programs telling every night how many had died that day.

My Dad was in the Navy during Korea. My Mother's uncle and my Father's brother were wounded in World War II. They came home; too many didn't.

Right now, there are very few families in the United States that are not affected by what is happening overseas. How many will get to come home to their own family?

Memorial Day is, to me, a remembrance of all those that serve to hold our country's freedoms for us. It is a tribute to those men and women that have served, those currently serving, and the ones that love them.

Thank you to all of them.

-Sherry Holton

As a retired Air Force officer and Patriot Guard Rider, Memorial Day is always special to me, but more so this year. I've ridden escort for four funerals of young American Warriors killed in Iraq. There is no greater calling than to serve our country on the battlefield. These young men answered that call, sacrificing themselves

for the rest of us. One of the young warriors the Patriot Guard escorted was a Navy Medic from North Alabama. He died saving the life of a wounded Marine. He deserves to be honored on Monday. All of his brothers and sisters in arms deserve to be honored on Monday.

Memorial Day is not about picnicking or going to the beach. It is a day to remember and thank God for the hundreds of thousands of American Warriors who died in service to this country on all of our battlefields since Lexington and Concord.

-Danny Bobbitt

To me, Memorial Day is about freedom. Freedom to BBQ, go to the lake, go to the ballgame, or spend time with family. Freedom to do these things has been provided to us by over one million U.S. military casualties of individuals protecting us from threats through the years like tyranny of the British Empire, attacks by the Nazis and Japanese, and terrorists who would see us all dead. Thanks to the men and women who have died for all of us in combat, we can enjoy the things Memorial Day has come to be known for.

-Galen Wagner

I am retired military, and served on a base honor guard as a bugler for several years. For me, it a time to think about those who have served this country and fought for freedom, and for those still over there, including my brother who is on a plane at this moment on his way back from Iraq. It is more than a time for cookouts. It is a day that we should pay respect to the fallen heroes.

-Pamela Smith

Memorial Day is the day that I give thanks for living in the United States of America, and the brave men and women who have served and are currently serving in our Armed Forces. I commend those who devoted their lives to serve our country and protect our freedom. We

should always remember the men and women of our armed forces, and keep their families in our prayers. Never forget the price for freedom these people have paid, as we are preserved by the personal sacrifices of these special individuals.

-Lt. Roosevelt Cook Jr.

Memorial Day is dear to my heart. My dad was a veteran of WWI; my oldest brother was a veteran of the Korean conflict; and two other brothers served in Germany, Korea, and Vietnam during the '60s. I have the utmost respect for men and women who serve and have served their country without regard to their own safety. May God bless all those and their families who serve, have served, and have given their lives for me to enjoy the freedom I have today.

-Judy Dean

Memorial Day should be more than Bar-B-Q and picnics. While the sacrifices made by servicemen and women, living and dead, are worthy of remembrance EVERY day that you enjoy the freedom you have, Memorial Day is the day set aside and made the "official" day. Maybe it is the fact that we have not been forced into a "major" conflict that absolutely and directly impacts the safety of the majority of our citizenry, but many people fail to realize the sacrifices that have been made and continue to be made in far off places, in unpopular conflicts, prevent the rest of us from being placed in the situation to make those same sacrifices.

I appreciate the sacrifices and hardships endured by our servicemen and women; and on Memorial Day, as I enjoy being with my family, will pray for the safe return of those that can't be with theirs so that I can be with mine.

-Cpl. Lawrence Toff

Memorial Day to me is a time to reflect upon the soldiers that has lost their lives, been affected mental, physically, and spiritually, and have given up time from their families to serve our country and people they don't even know. This day is a day to show our appreciation for our men and women fighting and dying for our country. Also, we must keep the families in our prayers that are grieving for their son, daughter, husband, wife or friend that has lost their life. We as a nation must continue to lift each other up in prayer daily, not just Memorial Day, but every day that we see another day. My family shows our appreciation to the men and women in our family that have served or are serving our country by catering to them on this special day set aside to honor the outstanding job they have done or are doing for our country. So we gather together and barbeque and fellowship to express our appreciation for their generosity and bravery for serving our country.

-Regina Manuel

To me, Memorial Day is a day to remember the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to keep America the home of the free and the brave. It is also a day to remember the brave soldiers serving today around the world, as well as their loved ones. My Dad was a World War II Veteran and he was proud to have served his country with honor. One of my best memories is listening to him telling my children when they were small stories about the war and his military service. Whenever we went to visit my parents my children always asked their Pawpaw to tell them about the war.

-Connie Scarcliff

State Trooper Honored for 30 Years of Service

Alabama State Tpr. Willie James White was recently honored with a retirement banquet after 30 years of service with the Department of Public Safety.

White was showered with lots of love, respect and gifts from his fellow coworkers. He will be greatly missed.

He was celebrated for his outstanding service and dedication to the DPS and the citizens of Alabama.



Above: White (middle) is honored at his retirement banquet. White is pictured with Retired Tpr. Henry Hartzog (left) and Retired Tpr. Ronald Whitworth (right).



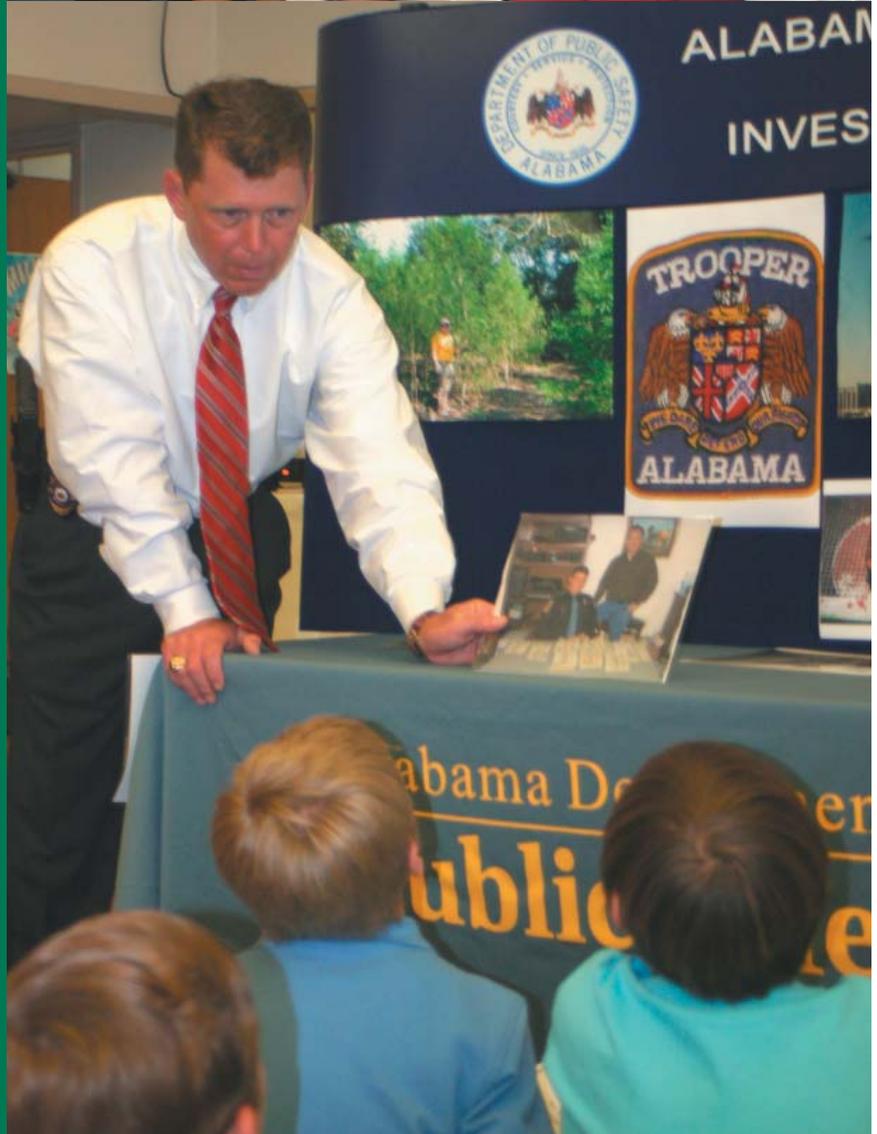
Employee Health & Fitness Day Walk - May 18





THANKS TO DPS, CAREER DAY IS A HIT!!!

On May 1, Montana Street Elementary School in Dothan held its annual Career Day for the students to learn about potential future careers. Thanks to the efforts of the Alabama Department of Public Safety, especially those of Sgt. Barry Tucker, the Montana Street Career Day was a total success. Of particular note, the DPS booth was one of the most popular at the school's career fair. Several students were so impressed with what Tucker said, they wanted to have their photos taken with him and passed by other booths to spend more time at DPS's!



People You Know!



New Employees

Bonnie Boyd	4/16/07	Programmer Analyst	DL/Information Services
Faye Boyd	5/01/07	PCO I	HP/Dothan
Tiffany Burgess	5/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Decatur Examining
Lindsey Clements	4/16/07	Attorney I/II	ADM/Legal Unit
Jennifer Colquitt	4/16/07	Programmer Analyst	DL/Information Services
Judith Hanna	4/16/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Huntsville Examining
Jimmecca Harper	4/16/07	PCO I	HP/Opelika
Mario Harris	5/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Opelika Examining
Frank McCollum	4/16/07	Attorney III	ADM/Legal Unit
Angelor Mooror	5/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Selma Examining
Deidra Nesmith	4/16/07	ASA I	DL/Hearing Unit
Danny Pepper	5/07/07	Custodial Worker	HP/Decatur
Sandra Reeves	4/16/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Mobile Examining
Mary Thomas	4/16/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Huntsville Examining
Jerrolynn Webb	5/01/07	DL Specialist	DL/Medical Unit
Debra Wingate	5/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Opelika Examining

Promotions

Clifford Bergerson	5/01/07	Corporal	HP/Mobile Post
Rhonda Harris	5/01/07	DL Specialist	DL/Montgomery
Debra Hester	5/01/07	PCO II	HP/Evergreen Post
John Malone	5/01/07	Lieutenant	HP/Evergreen Post
James Patterson	5/01/07	Lieutenant	HP/Opelika Post
Andy Pike	5/01/07	Corporal	DL/Sheffield Examining
Katie Pouncey	5/01/07	DL Specialist	DL/Montgomery
Timothy Pullin	5/01/07	Lieutenant	HP/Montgomery
Gabriel Stults	5/01/07	Corporal	HP/Hamilton Post

Reallocation

Carrie Lewis	4/16/07	ASA I	DL/Montgomery
--------------	---------	-------	---------------

Transfers

Darrell Campbell	4/16/07	Corporal	HP/Huntsville Post
Thaddeus Chandler	5/01/07	Corporal	SER/ACJTC
Michael Culliver	5/01/07	Trooper	PS/Montgomery
Wayne Dailey	5/01/07	Trooper	PS/Montgomery County
Billy Fulmer	4/16/07	Trooper	HP/HQ-FAP Montgomery
Michael Griffies	4/16/07	Trooper	HP/MCSU Montgomery
James Helms	5/01/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Vincent Jackson	4/16/07	Sergeant	SER/ACJTC
Harry Kearley	4/16/07	Captain	SER/Montgomery
Terry King	4/16/07	Trooper	HP/MCSU
Craig Ledyard	4/16/07	Lieutenant	DL/Opelika Examining
Darryl Littleton	5/01/07	Trooper	PS/Montgomery
Charlton Martin	5/01/07	Corporal	HP/HQ-FAP Montgomery
Michael Mason	4/16/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Evergreen Examining
Jason McHenry	4/16/07	Trooper	HP/HQ-FAP Mobile
Gary McWaters	4/16/07	Corporal	ABI/Lee

People You Know!



Transfers (continued)

Donathon Minor	4/16/07	Trooper	HP/HQ-FAP Tuscaloosa
Darryl Moore	4/16/07	Corporal	DL/Tuscaloosa Examining
Guy Rush	5/01/07	Sergeant	HP/Montgomery
Brian Simerly	5/01/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Angela Washington	4/16/07	ASA III	ABI/Administrative Unit

Resignations

Sheryl Edmonds	5/07/07	ASA I	ADM/FARS, Public Information
Nancy Sanders	4/27/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Birmingham Examining

Retirement

Eva Brady	4/30/07	PCO I	HP/Opelika
-----------	---------	-------	------------

Alabama Senators, Representatives Visit ACJTC



The 2007 Regular Session brought a first-ever visit to the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center of 18 members of the Alabama Legislature. The senators and representatives toured the academy; discussed the facility and departmental operations with Col. J. Christopher Murphy, Lt. Col. Bubba Bingham, Maj. Charles Andrews and other staff; and took time for a meal in the dining hall. (From right to left) Sen. Roger Bedford and Sen. Ben Brooks, together with Reps. Jody Letson, George Bandy, Locy Baker, and James Thomas line up for lunch. Afterwards, the senators and representatives viewed conditions in the ACJTC dormitory. Thanks to the Legislature and Gov. Bob Riley, Public Safety has been included in the education bond issue and is partnering with Wallace State Community College to build a new academy.

State Troopers Secure Site of NASA Train Derailment in Marengo County

A freight train loaded with rocket equipment from the NASA Space Center derailed near the small town of Myrtlewood in Marengo County on Wednesday, May 2, at approximately 9 a.m., en route to Jacksonville, Fla. As a result of the derailment, six passengers, including the train engineer, were injured. The injured personnel were airlifted to various hospitals throughout the state. The cause of the derailment is still under investigation at this time.

The Alabama Department of Public Safety, together with personnel from the Marengo County Sheriff's Department, were on the scene to assist in securing the crash site. Highway Patrol maintained traffic control and monitored all traffic entering and exiting the crash site. This level of security was enforced at the accident site around the clock. Additionally, federal investigators from NASA and CSX Railroad arrived shortly after the derailment to give emergency personnel an assessment of the crash site. As a result of their assessment, law enforcement personnel secured all areas surrounding the crash site and evacuated an area which covered 2,500 feet in diameter.



Congratulations to DPS's New PCO IIIs

"It's a great day for DPS," said Dana McGee, PCO III at the Birmingham Post, concerning the recent promotion of several PCOs to III. It has been 11 years since McGee and Frank Thomas were promoted to PCO III in 1996, and until a week ago, they were the last two PCO IIIs left working with DPS, as other PCO IIIs have either retired or resigned.

"Our job is to make sure our troopers make it home safely," said McGee. "It is a very rewarding job." Police communications officers add accountability to the department and raise morale. In many respects, the PCO is, quite literally, the voice of our state troopers, and is vital to providing safety and support for troopers.

Promoted were Annette White at the Decatur Post, Richard Barga at Montgomery, Mary Wynn-Lyles at Opelika, Judy Williams at Evergreen, Susan Chandler at Mobile, and Lynn Golden at Dothan. Congratulations to all!



*Above: New PCO IIIs are photographed with Maj. Robert Goodner.
Top Row: (left to right) Chandler, White, Golden, and Goodner
Bottom Row: (left to right) Barga, Wynn-Lyles, and Williams*

'Click It or Ticket' and 'Move Over' Enforced for Memorial Weekend

Alabama state troopers increased patrols and traffic enforcement activity during the Memorial Day holiday travel period to help ensure motorist safety. Troopers also aggressively enforced the state's seat belt and child restraint laws as part of a national Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement mobilization.

Col. J. Christopher Murphy said, "The goal of Click It or Ticket is simple - to save lives and boost compliance with the state's safety belt and child restraint laws." He said about one in five motorists fails to buckle up in Alabama.

In addition to enforcement of other traffic laws, troopers focused on Alabama's "move-over" law, which requires that vehicles on roads with four or more lanes move over one lane when passing an emergency vehicle that is stopped roadside with emergency lights activated. When the vehicle cannot safely move over, the law requires the driver to slow down and pass with caution.

Initial reports indicate six traffic deaths in Alabama during the 78-hour Memorial Day travel period, far less than the estimated 17 traffic fatalities during that same three-day period.



HELICOPTER RESCUES ON SHOALS CREEK, HIGH FALLS

On April 30, 2007, at approximately 11 p.m., Tpr. Pilot Mike Manley received a call from the Lauderdale County Sheriff's Department requesting helicopter assistance in looking for three missing teenagers that were canoeing on Shoals Creek, three miles south of the Tennessee state line. The missing teenagers were last seen in a flat-bottomed boat on Shoals Creek. Cullman County Tpr. Tim Martin flew to operate the FLIR. In the early hours of May 1, the troopers located the missing trio on a sand bar. Manley managed to safely land the helicopter on the sand bar, where three cold and wet people were placed in the helicopter and taken to the rescue command center. No one was injured in the rescue operation.

Two days later, an additional rescue by Manley and Martin was made. At 12:40 a.m., the Decatur Post received a call from the Dekalb County Rescue Squad requesting assistance from the state helicopter in locating three rafters, ranging in age from 18 to 23, who were lost on the water near High Falls Park. All three subjects were located at approximately 2:20 a.m. The three rafters had gotten separated from their group and had been missing since dark the previous evening.

Alabama Department of



Public Safety

CONTRIBUTORS:

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

EDITOR:

Ryan Godfrey

Can't get to Montgomery? Grab a mouse and visit us on the web at:

www.dps.alabama.gov

I have recently returned home to Missouri from the NASCAR race at Talladega Superspeedway last weekend. I would like to congratulate and highly commend the Alabama Highway Patrol for their excellent handling of the traffic in and around the Speedway.

This is our 12th year of coming to the race and it just gets better every year. Your officers do an excellent job of getting the traffic in and out after the race. When I have talked to them, they have been courteous and professional.

We did not run to our car right after the race. We were parked in a lot behind the hospitality tents. We were on Highway 77 going south within an hour after the race. Unbelievable!!! Awesome!!!

Another job well done!

Thank you,

*Dave Williams
Springfield, MO*