



THE BLUE LIGHT



December 2007

MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE HONORABLE BOB RILEY
Governor

COLONEL J. CHRISTOPHER MURPHY
Director

LT. COLONEL F.A. BINGHAM
Assistant Director

MAJOR HUGH MCCALL
Driver License Division

MAJOR ROSCOE HOWELL
Highway Patrol Division

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS
Service Division

CAPTAIN MARTY GRIFFIN
ABI Division

CAPTAIN HERMAN WRIGHT
Administrative Division

CAPTAIN TODD FULMER
Protective Services Division



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The Colonel's Corner



Col. J. Christopher Murphy, Director

We've had a busy year at the Department of Public Safety ... a year of great change and significant progress. As 2007 winds down — and as we move ahead to 2008 — I want us to take a look at the road we've traveled together during the last 12 months.

My first year with DPS has been one of the greatest of my professional career, and I believe it also has been momentous and positive for Public Safety. To say it has been a year of change would be a bit of an understatement. We've had personnel and organizational changes, beginning with the reassignment of every division chief. We've experienced tragedy, including the loss of Tpr. Jennifer Jacobs and then-Lt. Col. Robert Goodner's son. And we've lost a wealth of experience in the retirements of senior ranking officials like Glenda Deese and Ken Hallford.

Some of the changes we are going through may be uncomfortable, even painful. They may stretch us and test us in new and,

sometimes, unwelcome ways. But at every turn, with regard to every decision, the question we ask is this: What is best for the Department of Public Safety? And when you look a little deeper, when you see beyond the ripples on the surface, you recognize and appreciate the *impact* of the changes we are bringing about. I am convinced, *now more than ever*, that we are changing this department for the better ... that we are moving from **good** to **great** ... and that our best days are ahead of us!

Our move from good to great starts with vision, and then acting to carry out that vision. Lt. Col. Bubba Bingham and I are extremely grateful for the leadership of this department and for all who have caught the vision of what DPS can be.

We have the rare opportunity to raise up new leaders in DPS to fill division chief vacancies, captains' positions, and other vacancies throughout the rank structure and among civilian staff. That is one of my primary goals for DPS: To *raise up* leaders to carry on after the lieutenant colonel and I are gone and many of you are gone; leaders with vision, with insight, with imagination, dedication and high levels of integrity, to leave this wonderful department in the best hands possible. That is my job, but it is also the job of every supervisor — to mentor, guide, and direct. Not do other people's jobs for them, not to micromanage, but to set the vision, to lead by example, to set our employees up to succeed. A significant portion of this process is leadership development.

I am very proud of many things that are going on in each division, and I want to mention first the Service Division and a leadership development program already begun at the academy. We have had the first corporals' school, and I have hired retired Capt. Jeff Standridge on a part-time basis to be the coordinator for a new Leadership Development Program. Jeff will coordinate and participate in a school for corporals, sergeants, lieutenants, and captains, which will include formal training and, in the higher ranks, a mentoring component.

Capt. Herman Wright has done an outstanding job of recreating the academy. He and his staff have transformed the academy to a professional, adult-based learning environment still rich in tradition and paramilitary discipline, but discipline with a purpose. Capt. Wright now will be turning his attention to the Administrative Division in his new position as assistant chief.

The Colonel's Corner (CONTINUED)

Throughout the Service Division, Maj. Charles Andrews and his staff are doing a great job of “servicing” this department. Significant accomplishments include reconciliation of the property inventory, so momentous that Secretary of State Beth Chapman told me DPS has gone from among the most inefficient to one of the most efficient. With leadership of the Service Division, we are getting away from each division’s buying for itself, which produced a duplication of effort and higher prices. The division also is working with the state DHS and other state agencies to address radio communications deficiencies. Just last week I signed an MOU with some 14 other agencies to address this issue corporately, not as single departments, and I am confident we will have a dramatically improved system within the next couple of years.

The Administrative Division benefited early on from Maj. Roscoe Howell’s leadership prior to his move to Highway Patrol. We have seen a complete restructuring of the Public Information program, and I believe that it is working more efficiently, utilizing core staff and field commanders to represent us in the media. Martha Earnhardt and her staff continue to amaze me with the outstanding response to both TBOH campaigns and in handling difficult stories in the media. Fran Copeland and her staff manage a \$170+ million budget, make it look easy, and keep us fiscally sound. Personnel is working to restructure how we recruit, hire and retain quality applicants. We are conducting our first regional recruitment campaign in the Mobile area, and we are already seeing results from the efforts we’ve begun in south Alabama.

Protective Services has taken on new protectees and increased coverage on all protectees. The division has established an “advance-team” concept which seems to be working well, and it is nearing completion of increased security at the Capitol and Governor’s Mansion. Capitol Police is expanding in visibility, instilling an increased understanding of its role and importance within the state government community. The division also has taken over and standardized the football escort program, and I have been very proud of how that is now being managed. Thank you to Capt. Todd Fulmer and his staff for all their efforts.

ABI is in very capable hands with Capt. Marty Griffin, who has impressed me with his ability to think out of the box and embrace new concepts. ABI has been able to increase non-sworn staff in some critical areas, increase the agent and supervisory ranks, and expand in the electronic crime field. Capt. Griffin and his staff are working on several creative ways to increase the agent ranks and better respond to crimes, and they have completed an internal evaluation process. There is improved communications between ABI and other divisions, and many impressive seizures of both money and drugs have been a cooperative effort between ABI and HP.

The Driver License Division has prospered under Maj. Hugh McCall. The division already was on the cutting edge technologically, and the major has continued those advancements, while working diligently to address efficiency and the public relations and customer service challenge posed by long lines and delays. We have seen a dramatic reduction in complaints and a sharp increase in letters of commendation. The division has opened new offices, including one at Redstone Arsenal, and I am very proud to report that in key “problem” offices, wait times are down significantly. In Birmingham, the average wait in 2006 was two hours and 45 minutes; now it is one hour and 20 minutes. Huntsville has gone from 75 to 45 minutes; Opelika from three and a half hours and to two hours and 45 minutes; and Mobile from two or two and a half hours to one to two hours. These are dramatic reductions, and continued improvement is the division’s goal and expectation. The Fraud Unit is vigilant and makes hundreds of arrests, while the IT folks are doing a great job pushing us forward. They always show a willingness to be creative and forward-thinking, and among their current work is a project with ABI and the Shelby County Sheriff’s Office to coordinate and streamline the sex offender registration process.

Maj. Howell has proven to be the right person for the challenging task of running our largest division, Highway Patrol. He has put together a stellar staff in HQ, and they are bringing about fundamental change that is making a difference for our state. He has had challenges in cleaning up a backlog of administrative work, and we are still not “out of the woods” with the status of the Motor Carrier Safety Unit. We have moved from 10-hour shifts to eight-hour shifts to put 20 percent more troopers on the roads, and we’ve implemented two hugely successful TBOH campaigns and a Labor Day blitz, the results of which have been fewer rural fatalities. Gov. Bob Riley has made his support clear, participating in an HP Lidar detail and leading our TBOH news conference.

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Linder Wins 2007 ARA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Highway Patrol Tpr. Darrell Linder was named 2007 “Law Enforcement Officer of the Year” by the Alabama Retail Association at a Nov. 15 awards luncheon. A panel of law enforcement officers, former LEO winners and retailers chose Linder from among a group of 20 fellow law enforcement officers nominated throughout the state.

Cpl. Brad Napp, Grove Hill Post, nominated Linder. Napp said the 35-year-old Linder is the type trooper who “is consistently sought by other troopers for advice and direction.”

Whether it is saving the life of drowning children, putting together evidence for vehicular homicide or manslaughter cases, standing in when his corporal is out of the office or training other troopers, this state trooper does an “exemplary” job, Napp said.

Above, Linder, receiving the LEO Award at the Montgomery Country Club Nov. 15. Below, the many Alabama state troopers nominated for the LEO Award pose for a group photo with their colleagues nominating them.



Linder Wins LEO Award, Continued

Linder, of Jackson, is a traffic homicide investigator and field training officer. He has been a trooper for six years and served for eight years as an officer with the Jackson Police Department. In the past year, he has clearly demonstrated his dedication to the service, support and safety of the citizens he protects daily.

On March 8, Linder, who routinely investigates deaths, helped save two lives. He just happened to be in the area and responded to a Jackson Police Department call, arriving first at a home day care, where two boys had fallen into a backyard pool. He immediately began CPR on one boy, who already had been pulled from the pool. Once that child was taking slow breaths, he moved to assist a Jackson police officer who had begun CPR on the second child. The trooper continued chest compressions while ambulance personnel used breathing bags to breathe for the second child. Both children survived.

“Linder made the decision to respond to a call that wasn’t even his call,” said Napp. “Without hesitation, he took charge of the situation.”

Also nominated for the LEO were Tprs. Gary Hicks, Michael McBrayer, Norbert Neely, Steven Smith, Thomas Underwood, Nicholas Welden, Jimmy White, and Cpl. Jessie Williams.

The LEO Award was presented at the Montgomery Country Club, where Gov. Bob Riley was the keynote speaker. “Nothing we do would be possible without law enforcement,” said Riley.

Linder received a crystal trophy and a roster plaque to hang at the Grove Hill Post until the 2008 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year is named. ARA also made a \$1,000 donation in his name to the River Region Advisory Council of Kid One Transport, a Homewood-based nonprofit that gives children and expectant mothers free rides to non-emergency medical appointments.



Above, Linder, seen with his wife, Nikki, shakes hands with ARA Chairman Ken Hubbard after receiving the LEO Award. Below, Napp receives the plaque to hang at the Grove Hill post.



Three States, One Mission:

Save Lives by 'Taking Back Our Highways'

Gov. Bob Riley joined DPS, the Mississippi Highway Patrol, Tennessee Highway Patrol and sheriff and police departments statewide in announcing the first tri-state “Take Back Our Highways” initiative to

reduce traffic fatalities and increase safety during the Thanksgiving holidays. The week-long concerted effort during the Thanksgiving week was unprecedented during what is widely known as the year’s busiest travel period.

During the traditional 102-hour travel period — from 6 p.m. Wednesday through midnight Sunday — Alabama recorded nine traffic fatalities, 10 fewer than in 2006. A tragic six-fatality alcohol-involved crash on the first day of the initiative led to increased fatalities for the week.

The horrific crash Nov. 19 near Dothan reiterated the hazards motorists face and the vital role of state troopers. Hazardous arrests for the week were more than double what they were in 2006. Totaling 11,564, arrests during Thanksgiving week 2007 include 170 for DUI, 8,814 for speeding, 245 for following too closely, 121 for improper lane change, and 2,214 seat belt violations.

DPS Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy noted that one of the goals of Take Back Our Highways is to have a positive impact on driver behavior. “During the holiday travel and throughout the year, we ask motorists to join with law enforcement in support of traffic safety, realizing the importance of driving safely and obeying all traffic laws. Your life and the lives of your loved ones depend on it,” Murphy said.

The governor praised the work of troopers to reduce traffic deaths and injuries. “When it comes to our roads and highways, safety is always our number one concern,” Riley said. “That’s why we’ve put such an emphasis on safety in Alabama, and it’s working.”

Joining Riley and Murphy to announce the unprecedented initiative were Col. Michael Berthay, director of the Mississippi Highway Patrol, and Col. Mike Walker, director of the Tennessee Highway Patrol. Murphy, Berthay, and Walker also held news conferences announcing the initiative in Tennessee and Mississippi.

Riley reiterated the purpose of Take Back Our Highways: “The number of deaths on our rural roads dropped by 69 per cent from the same period a year earlier during the first campaign. That number sounds impressive – and it is. But this is what’s most remarkable about it: That number represents people. People who made it home to their families. People who are alive today because our highway safety efforts made a difference. That’s what this is all about – protecting people; saving lives. Nothing is more important.”



Three States, One Mission, Continued

Murphy said the results of Take Back Our Highways prompted plans to schedule a second interval during the peak Thanksgiving travel period involving fellow officers in Alabama and in Mississippi and Tennessee.

“In the tri-state area, we are committed to giving holiday travelers one more reason to be thankful: arriving safely,” said Murphy.

Throughout the week of Thanksgiving, officers in all three states targeted primary driving behaviors that cause crashes. Specifically, officers focused on speeding, failure to yield the right of way, following too closely, driver inattention, and DUI. “The goal is saving lives,” said Walker, “and we believe the rigorous enforcement is worth the effort.”

Initial reports from both Mississippi and Tennessee indicated a decrease in traffic deaths during the Thanksgiving holiday travel period. The Tennessee Highway Patrol reported five traffic deaths during the 102-hour period – a decrease from 20 last year. Mississippi reported one death for the period, down from five last year.

Berthay cited an additional benefit of the campaign, interagency cooperation. “In our changing society, it has become clear that we must work together with our counterparts across state lines to make our roads and highways safer,” he said.

Did You Know?

On Nov. 19, the first day of the second Take Back Our Highways Campaign, Tprs. Darryl Zuchelli and Chad Butts stopped a vehicle for following too closely on Interstate 20 near the 188 mile marker. During the traffic stop, Zuchelli grew suspicious when the driver offered conflicting stories about his travels. When the driver refused a consent-to-search request, Zuchelli notified Cpl. Jeremy Lett, who responded with his K-9. When Lett’s dog alerted on the vehicle, Zuchelli and Butts recovered from the vehicle \$101,440 in currency believed to be drug-related.



Picnic at Joe Wheeler Brings Three States Together for Food and Fellowship

The Mississippi Highway Patrol held its second picnic thanking DPS for Alabama's help to Mississippi following Katrina's aftermath, on Nov. 14 at Joe Wheeler State Park in Lauderdale County. Also joining in the festivities were several members of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, and the backdrop of the Tennessee River glistened amongst the effortless display of camaraderie and fellowship shared in the three states' gathering.

Col. Mike Walker, chief of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, said, "Too many times when we gather like this, it is because of something horrific or tragic, and that is no time to talk or build friendships. In this period of Thanksgiving, we celebrate the coming together of friends and family, and there is no better time than right now to talk, laugh, share stories, and to congratulate and shake each others' hands."

Col. Mike Berthay, Mississippi Highway Patrol chief, added, "After Katrina ravaged the Mississippi coastline, we were thankful to our out-of-state brothers. We are now better prepared than we were then, and if and when you need us, we want you to know we are just a phone call away."

The excitement of the announced tri-state "Take Back Our Highways" campaign was clear at Joe Wheeler and influenced much of the discussion at the picnic. In fact, camera crews were on-hand to catch Col. Chris Murphy to comment on the impending campaign, set to begin that following Monday.

Following the impromptu interview, Murphy spoke to the troopers of all three states. "As we head into the Thanksgiving week, with this unprecedented campaign, I just want to take this moment to reflect and to tell each and every one of you,

'thank you' for what you do. I cannot express it enough, especially with this next week being Thanksgiving week. While most families are gathering 'round, you voluntarily forgo time with your own families to keep everyone else safe with their own. It takes a special person to do that, and I want you to know that each and every one of you have my utmost respect for that."

Capt. John Henderson asked the blessing before appreciative troopers from Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee tucked into plates of roast chicken and fried fish.



Stephens v. City of Butler, 2007 WL 1834898 (S.D. Ala.)

Use of a Taser on an unarmed arrestee, while in a small booking room, in the company of three police officers, who was not violent or resisting in any way, was to use excessive force under the circumstances.

In this federal court case alleging civil rights violations, Stephens was arrested for disorderly conduct. However, the officers originally approached him because he matched the description of someone who was attempting to run over senior citizens with an automobile. Stephens was arrested peacefully and was transported to jail.

Once in the booking room, Stephens began to talk loudly and use profanity, asking why he was being arrested. He also verbally resisted wearing jail clothing. The officers noted that Stephens was intoxicated, but apparently not enough to charge with public intoxication. Stephens began to get agitated, asked more loudly about his arrest, and resisted putting on jail clothes. Stephens was in a small booking room in the jail, with three officers in the room with him. He was sitting in a chair against a wall with a filing cabinet “boxing” him in.

In response to the loud and profane manner with which Stephens talked about his arrest, as well as his resistance to donning the jail clothes, two of the officers Tasered Stephens a total of four times before the incident concluded.

The court reviewed the officers’ actions as against what a reasonable officer would have done in the same situation. The issue the court looked at was whether the use of the Taser was reasonable under the circumstances. The court held that the officers’ actions were not reasonable and denied the officers the protection of qualified immunity. The court said:

[the] Plaintiff did not pose an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others. He was unarmed, in the confines of a small room at the jail, surrounded by three police officers. He had made no physically threatening movement, but merely repeated — in an increasingly loud and profane manner — his questions about the basis for his arrest and his objection to putting on jail clothing. Moreover, plaintiff was not actively resisting arrest or attempting to flee from the interior room in the jail. Plaintiff was wedged in a corner of the room beside a filing cabinet.

Notice the fact-sensitive nature of the court’s evaluation. Remember, too, that the court must take at face value the facts outlined by the plaintiff. At this stage, the court had to decide all issues regarding the events in favor of the plaintiff’s story. Knowing that the court looks at the facts in favor of the plaintiff, the officers claimed that the law was not clearly defined regarding the use of a Taser in incidents such as that involving Stephens. The officers also attempted to claim that, even if the law was clearly established, they did not know it at the time of the incident and should be allowed to escape liability under that reasoning also. This argument only works in situations where there is some question as to whether the actions amounted to a constitutional violation. The court stated, “the state of the law at the time of the incident at issue gave [the officers] fair warning that the repeated use of tasers on a non-violent arrestee in circumstances similar to those presented in this case was excessive.”

In this case, the court rationalized its decision this way:

The repeated use of a taser on an unarmed arrestee who had made no effort to escape, no movement that could be deemed an attack or threat to any officer, who was in custody, in the jail, and was surrounded by three officers, would be objectively unreasonable and excessive, particularly where the use of force was over something as minor as being verbally unruly and refusing to don jail garb.

So, it is a violation of an individual’s right to be free from unreasonable seizures when an officer acts to Taser an individual in a position like Stephens.



SANTA RIDES OFF ON HIS SLEIGH

While we all know the real Santa Claus is at the North Pole this time of year, busily preparing for his midnight journey on Christmas Eve, Photographic Services is sad to see its own version of Santa, Photographer Jimmy Messick, leave for his retirement, effective Dec. 31.

Congratulations to Karen Kimball, who will be taking over duties for Messick. Kimball's promotion went into effect Dec. 1.

Behind the Scenes with Information Services: Completing the .gov Migration, AMBER ListServ, and More

There is no doubt that computers have revolutionized productivity within the workplace. In this information age, the crux of our potential is only limited by our ability to communicate. Thus, when Gov. Bob Riley saw a flaw in the network limiting communication between state agencies, he requested a migration of all state agencies to a common domain, and .gov was born.

Before .gov, different state agencies could not easily communicate via e-mail because each agency operated its own e-mail domain. "In the past, sending an e-mail required you to know that individual's entire e-mail address. Now, the only requirement is likely a name," said Curt Terling, director of Information Services. "With the migration to .gov, we are now able to do things considered impossible under the old system, like check e-mail from any computer, anywhere."

The migration to .gov has been a lengthy process, taking nearly a year to complete. The reason the migration has taken so long is that each computer in the department must be worked on individually to be switched to .gov.

"With more than 1,200 computers in the department, fewer than 50 remain to be switched to the new system," said Terling. "It's taken all of my technicians and network staff to complete this arduous task. With my staff traveling statewide to complete the migration, it's been difficult, but clearly, it's worth the investment."

Alongside the .gov migration, Information Services also has been busy readying massive network upgrades to provide better security of Public Safety data, offering more storage, and providing better and faster recovery of data in the event of a system malfunction. "Our new network is backed up nightly," said Terling. "The end result is a more stable environment for all of Public Safety's information."

In addition, the implementation of a listServ for use with the AMBER and Missing Child Media alerts was recently adopted by DPS. The listServ functions as an automatic e-mail notification broadcast from a central server to all those subscribing to receive alerts. Currently, more than 600 individuals have subscribed to receive e-mail alerts, and the system is clearly a faster, more efficient way to manage alert broadcasts.

Information Services has made many accomplishments, and with Public Safety's increased dependence on technology, the unit's role at DPS is only becoming more crucial. Terling said IS is up to the challenge. "In my eight years at DPS, I've encountered the best group of people I've ever had the pleasure to work with in my entire career in technology," he said.

"From data entry to managing network support, to hardware and software management on PCs and mainframes, to staying on top of a multi-million dollar budget, I am extremely proud of everything we do for the department and for the state of Alabama."



THE BLUE LIGHT AT **THE IRON BOWL**

By: Ryan Godfrey

If college football is like a religion in the American South, then the Iron Bowl must be its Holy Grail. What is undoubtedly the biggest match-up in the state is also one of the biggest undertakings for DPS. Falling this year during the week of Take Back Our Highways, DPS's presence at the Auburn v. Alabama game takes the form of traffic details, security details, and trooper escorts.

While approaching Jordan-Hare Stadium, I had a new appreciation for our troopers and the job they do. Tommy Giles and I originally planned to talk to and photograph troopers on traffic detail at a nearby intersection, but there were no troopers visible at the intersection when we got there. One-quarter mile down the road we realized why: A truck collided with another car head on as it crossed the double yellow line, and the troopers from the intersection were busy working the wreck. Considering the congestion of the roadways at that hour in Auburn, no one else would have been able to respond readily to the crash, and I know many people are thankful those troopers were there to respond to the scene.

That night in Auburn, our troopers braved a sea of fans 150,000 strong under uncomfortably cool conditions to see Auburn triumph over Alabama on the Plains. While nearly everyone in Auburn that night was concerned with the score on the Jumbotron at Jordan-Hare, thankfully our troopers were clearly concerned with a different number that night: The number of people to reach their homes safely after the game.



FARS Receives Teamwork Award for 2007

Bill Shanks, Judy Dean and Ashley Grant of Public Safety's FARS Unit were honored with the 2007 Teamwork Award during the annual nationwide training for the Fatality Analysis Reporting System. The trio received the honor during the FARS and GES Awards Ceremony at the Kentucky Derby Museum in Louisville.



Shanks, Dean and Grant are responsible for creating a calendar-year census of data on all fatal traffic crashes occurring on Alabama's roadways. In addition to Alabama, all other states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico belong to the FARS network.

A seasoned supervisor with more than 30 years of service to FARS and to DPS, Shanks was recognized for ensuring data from the state remained viable, despite a reduced level of staffing throughout much of the year. Shanks's staff is a prime example of the philosophy of teamwork, working together to achieve. Congratulations, and Go Team!

The Colonel's Corner (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Legislators, other agency leaders, the business community and citizens alike have praised these campaigns and their effect on Alabama.

There have been more promotions in HP than in any other time in recent memory because Maj. Howell and his staff have been able to demonstrate the need and the corresponding increase in efficiency and effectiveness. We have computers in all patrol cars and are working on air cards, and just last week HP seized the largest marijuana load in DPS history, weighing in at 1,150 pounds.

In every division, across the board, DPS is working better and to greater effect. We have come together as one department, we are working together as a team, and we are altering the footprint of the Department of Public Safety. We have the same noble mission, but we are doing our job better, more efficiently, more effectively. We are seeing the results, and others are too, from the individual citizens we encounter every day to the elected leaders of our state. We are being recognized as the premier agency of our state due to your hard and dedicated work. The lieutenant colonel and I have the honor and privilege to be leading this great department right now, but we know that our strength is in our **mission** and our **people**.

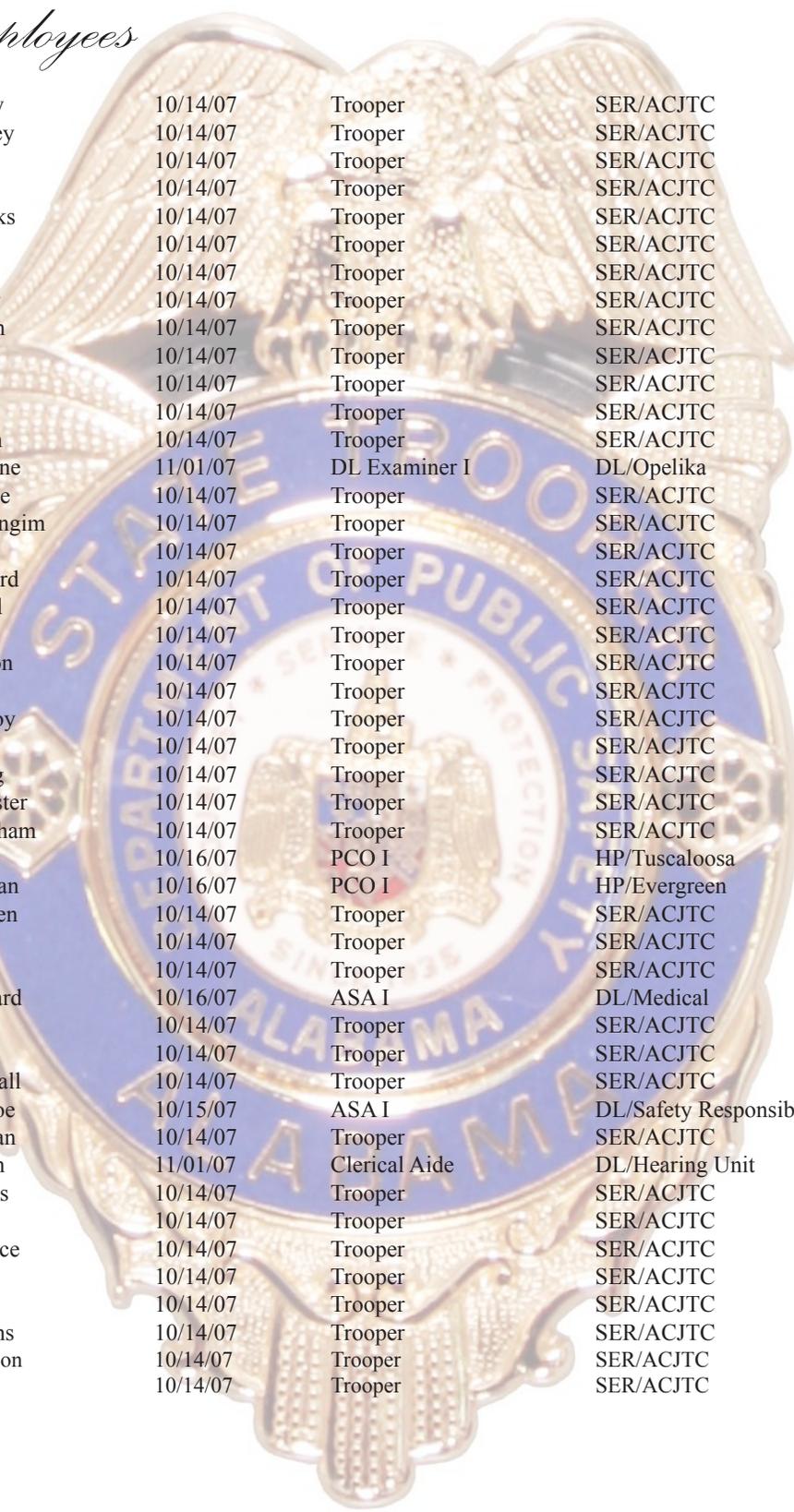
I do not anticipate the same degree of change in year two as we have seen in year one. But I will continue to push you to be creative, to refuse to settle for mediocrity or for anything less than the best we have to offer, and I will hold you to a high standard.

Finally, I want to thank you for supporting this department and the changes I have initiated. You are dedicated to Public Safety and her mission, and I appreciate you more than you know. I pray your Christmas is joyous, you are surrounded by the love of family and friends, you know you are phenomenal servants of your country and this great state, and you will always have my respect and appreciation. I can't wait to take on 2008 with you.



People You Know!

New Employees



Robbie Autery	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Brandon Bailey	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Bobby Baker	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Chad Bright	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Thomas Brooks	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Chad Brown	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Jon Brummitt	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Donald Butler	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Steven Chattin	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Scott Cooper	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Joshua Cox	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Kenneth Day	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Teddy Denson	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Jeaneen Dobyne	11/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Opelika
Randal Dubose	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Cameron Fillingim	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Nicholas Gist	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Jeffrey Grizzard	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Jimmy Harrell	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Brett Himes	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Thomas Hutton	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
John Jones	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Christopher Joy	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Mary King	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Reginald King	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Jimmy Lancaster	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Stephen Langham	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Mary Lindsey	10/16/07	PCO I	HP/Tuscaloosa
Sandra Luffman	10/16/07	PCO I	HP/Evergreen
Lee Millergreen	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Carl Mitchell	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
James Moore	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Amanda Nygard	10/16/07	ASA I	DL/Medical
Justin O'Neal	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
John Pert	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
William Randall	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Ronke Renfroe	10/15/07	ASA I	DL/Safety Responsibility
Johnathan Ryan	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Tanesha Smith	11/01/07	Clerical Aide	DL/Hearing Unit
Rafael Thomas	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Eric Tucker	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Rodney Wallace	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Jerry Walls Jr.	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Jerome White	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
James Williams	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Lawrence Wilson	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC
Joshua Woods	10/14/07	Trooper	SER/ACJTC



People You Know!

Promotions

Charles Anderson	11/01/07	Corporal	HP/FAP
Christopher Barnes	11/01/07	Corporal	HP/Tuscaloosa
Timothy Beecham	11/01/07	Corporal	HP/Quad Cities
Dale Cobb	11/01/07	Sergeant	HP/MCSU
David Colston	11/01/07	Corporal	DL/Selma Examining
Ricky Dale	11/01/07	Captain	HP/Quad Cities
Jonathan Dees	11/01/07	Corporal	DL/Mobile Examining
William Donaldson	11/01/07	Sergeant	ABI/Investigation Operations
Chris Ellis	11/01/07	Sergeant	SER/ACJTC
Francis Hennigan	11/01/07	Sergeant	HP/Tuscaloosa
Gary Hicks	11/01/07	Corporal	DL/Decatur Examining
Melissa Hubbard	11/01/07	Corporal	HP/Grove Hill
Douglas Huntley	11/01/07	Corporal	HP/Mobile
Joseph McCormick	11/01/07	Lieutenant	ABI/Investigation Operations
Brian McGill	11/01/07	Sergeant	HP/Mobile
Barbara Madsen	10/16/07	DL Specialist	DL/Huntsville Examining
William Merritt	11/01/07	Sergeant	ABI/Investigation Operations
Cheryl Parker	11/01/07	PCO III	HP/Tuscaloosa
Anthony Peck	11/01/07	Corporal	HP/Jacksonville
Shane Porter	11/01/07	Corporal	HP/HQ-Traffic Homicide
David Ratliff	11/01/07	Corporal	PS/HQ-Training and Operations
James Roberts	11/01/07	Captain	HP/Birmingham
William Ross	11/01/07	Corporal	HP/Jacksonville
Timothy Sartain	11/01/07	Lieutenant	ABI/Jefferson County
Brian Simerly	11/01/07	Corporal	SER/ACJTC
John Smith	11/01/07	Sergeant	PS/Dignitary Protection
Darrell Tatum	11/01/07	Lieutenant	ABI/Madison County
Donte Vincent	11/01/07	Sergeant	HP/MCSU-North Commander
Ira Whitehead	11/01/07	Corporal	HP/MCSU-Compliance Section
Gary Whitaker	11/01/07	Sergeant	ABI/Eradication
Claude Wiggins	11/01/07	Sergeant	PS/Dignitary Protection

Transfers

Christopher Hall	11/01/07	Corporal	HP/Mobile
James Helms	11/01/07	Corporal	HP/Dothan
Paul Mashburn	11/01/07	Trooper	DL/Decatur Fraud Unit
Daniel McLaughlin	11/01/07	Trooper	ABI/Investigation Operations
Keith Mickle	11/01/07	Corporal	HP/MCSU Field Supervisor
Mark Nielson	11/01/07	Trooper	HP/MCSU Inspector
Edward Ryan	11/01/07	Trooper	HP/Opelika
Andrew Sutley	11/01/07	Trooper	HP/HQ-FAP
Philip Taylor	11/01/07	Corporal	HP/MCSU ADM Officer



People You Know!

Resignations

Danny Bobbitt	10/31/07	Procurement Officer I	ADM/Purchasing
Richard Campbell	09/14/07	Trooper	HP/Dothan
Kristin Huffman	10/26/07	ASA II	HP/Birmingham
Clayton Martin	10/20/07	Trooper	HP/Quad Cities
Michael Roberts	10/16/07	Trooper	DL/Birmingham
Harold Williams	10/26/07	Service Patrol Operator	HP/Birmingham

Retirements

Gary Arrington	10/31/07	Trooper	HP/Alex City
Patrick Manning	10/31/07	Major	ABI/Division Chief
Cindy Smith	10/31/07	ASA I	HP/MCSU

Selma Post Holds Chili Cooking Competition



Spain poses with his award and his famous chili at the Selma Post.

Things heated up around the Selma Post recently when the First Annual Selma Post Chili Cook-off debuted Thursday, Oct. 25. Competing in the cook-off were Capt. Mike Manlief, Cpl. Frank Hennigan, Tpr. Jeromy Johnson, and PCO II Ritchie Spain. Judging the competition were the remaining post personnel. Spain's chili won the judges' favor and took top honors in this year's cook-off, but as Lt. Durwood White put it, "I think the real winners were the judges."

Future Trooper



Three-year-old Gavin Wade, son of Amie Moses of Information Services, dresses as an Alabama state trooper for Halloween 2007.

Alabama Department of



Public Safety

CONTRIBUTING:

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Lt. Clay Barnes, ABI
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Tpr. David Richards, ADM
Tommy Giles, Photography

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Ryan Godfrey

**RSA Criminal Justice Center
Montgomery, Ala.**



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

STAY IN TOUCH WITH *THE BLUE LIGHT*.
PLEASE EMAIL ALL REQUESTS TO:
RYAN.GODFREY@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

On Your Calendar

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day

Tuesday, January 1

New Year's Day

Monday, January 21

Martin Luther King Day

December 1, 2007

To Whom it May Concern:

I have recently moved to Atlanta from my hometown of Memphis, Tenn. Consequently, I travel frequently between both cities along Interstate 20. On Nov. 14, as I was traveling to my home from Memphis, I began to have car problems and had to pull onto the interstate shoulder. What would later be diagnosed as a "dead" transmission had basically stranded me in the midst of my trip. After sitting on the side of the road for approximately 20 minutes, I noticed an Alabama State Trooper car approaching behind me. He switched on his blue lights and pulled up beside my car to ask if I was having problems. I replied that I was. Tpr. Dodson offered me a ride to the nearest exit as my cell phone had no coverage on that particular stretch of highway. After gathering a few items from my car, I got into his patrol car and we proceeded to the nearest exit. Upon arriving at the exit, Tpr. Dodson, noticed there was no place I could comfortably wait for a tow truck to arrive. As a result, he insisted on taking me to the next exit because he knew there was a Waffle House off that exit that I could sit and wait for the tow truck. I gladly accepted the ride, and to this day I am very appreciative of Tpr. Dodson, and his generosity and professional courtesy. He is an outstanding example of the kindness and generosity of the people of Alabama, and should be commended on his service to the public. Thank you in advance for taking time out to read this letter and I sincerely hope that Tpr. Dodson knows that his efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Terrance M. Perkins