



The official monthly publication of the Alabama Department of Public Safety

THE BLUE LIGHT



THE HONORABLE BOB RILEY
Governor

COLONEL J. CHRISTOPHER MURPHY
Director

LT. COLONEL F.A. BINGHAM
Assistant Director

MAJOR JERRY CONNER
ABI Division

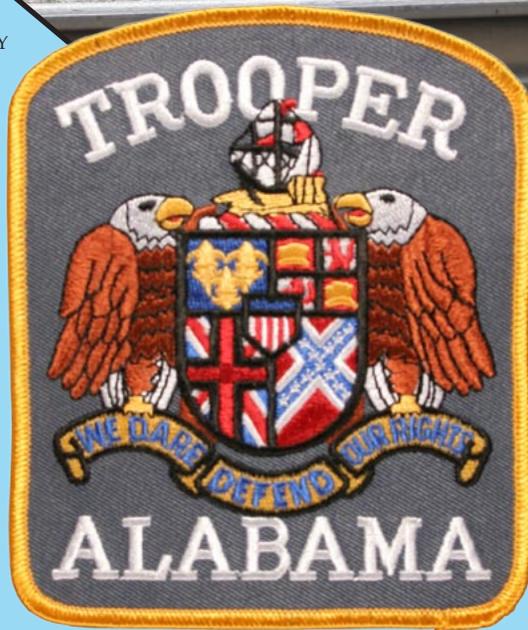
MAJOR JAMES LYONS
Administrative Division

MAJOR HUGH McCALL
Driver License Division

MAJOR ROSCOE HOWELL
Highway Patrol Division

MAJOR HERMAN WRIGHT
Protective Services Division

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS
Service Division



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The Colonel's Corner

Col. J. Christopher Murphy, Director



The Alabama Department of Public Safety ended 2008 very strongly. We did that through the phenomenal work of every employee, from fingerprint examiners, to ASAs, Fusion Center analysts, IT specialists, troopers, and managers in every division of this department. Because of the work of this remarkable workforce, we have changed the quality and quantity of service we provide to this state, and we have changed the perception of the department by the Governor's Office, the Legislature, business and community leaders, and citizens. We are building a superb training academy; we have dramatically reduced the unaccounted-for property down to 16 pieces, from more than 1,000; we have ramped up one of the finest and most well-respected fusion centers in America; we have dramatically reduced the sex offender backlog; we have significantly reduced driver license wait times in offices all over the state, and the service is courteous and professional. On the roadways, we have reduced injuries by more than 1,700, we have reduced crashes

by more than 2,400, and we made 193 more DUI arrests, seized more than 2,000 additional pounds of marijuana, and reduced fatalities by more than 130. I am so very proud of every employee in this department.

We are facing extraordinary financial challenges for the remainder of fiscal year 2009, and all indications are that the challenges will continue into fiscal year 2010. As you know, the governor has required a 10 percent budget reduction, and this will include a freeze on merit raises and hiring for all of 2009. However, because of the department's outstanding work, we have been allowed to have one more trooper recruit class beginning in February, and we will still hire the eight direct-hire special agents for ABI. We have worked hard to adjust our budget and minimize the negative impact, but make no mistake: We all will feel the impacts. Maj. James Lyons, Chief Financial Officer Fran Copeland, and her staff have worked tirelessly to minimize the negative impacts. All majors have changed their budget expectations and have committed to the reductions without a decrease in quality or quantity of service.

That last part is where the true challenge occurs: How to function with less money and fewer resources, and still keep up the quality and quantity of service we provide. The short answer is that we don't put widgets together for a manufacturer. We simply do not have the option to not respond to a vehicle crash, not issue a driver license, or tell a rural sheriff's office that ABI can't afford to respond to assist in a homicide case. We cannot tell a school system that we no longer conduct fingerprint checks. We cannot tell a police department that we are sorry one of its police officers was shot by a still fleeing suspect, but we don't fly helicopters anymore. We are the Alabama Department of Public Safety, and we refuse to allow the traffic fatality rate to rise because it is cheaper to park patrol cars and save gas. That solution is simply not in our "DNA." It also is not acceptable to say, since we did not receive a merit raise we will be rude, discourteous, or slow down our response to a citizen's public safety issue. That is not who the employees of this great department are. That is what I am most proud of: Who you are!

The Colonel's Corner (CONTINUED)

During the months to come we will be asking employees to do more, to multi-task even more. When I was in the Secret Service working personal protection, we had certain “formations” that the shift leader would call, depending on the circumstances. We would practice these formations every quarter during “Attack on the Principle” scenarios. Inevitably, events would not go the way you planned, and an agent would be distracted and drawn out of the formation. We had a concept that we called “fill the hole.” It required everyone to be ever vigilant and watch where there was a hole; then, with hesitating or asking permission, we had to just “fill the hole.” We will be asking all DPS employees to “fill the hole” in areas you may not normally work. When a driver license examiner retires or separates, we will have to ask driver license troopers or even supervisors to “fill the hole.” Conduct that road test, administer that written test, do what it takes to get the job done. If a PCO leaves the department, an HP trooper may be asked to run the radio for a shift, and an ABI trooper may be asked to put on that uniform and work the road for HP. And if a custodian is out ... any of us can empty a trash can or clean a toilet. I think you get my point.

Employees will be advised as we proceed just how this will work. I wanted to give you notice because this will be a challenge, but I am not concerned, because I think I know the “heart” of this department, and that is its people.

It is absolutely my honor and privilege to be your director. I am very thankful that I have a tremendously talented staff: a deputy director who is wise, knowledgeable, and loyal; an executive counsel who gives me sound input; a chief counsel and staff who protect the department and empower us to do the right thing. I have gifted and talented division chiefs and assistant division chiefs. I have a very good relationship with the Legislature, and I have the full backing of an ethical and strong leader in Gov. Bob Riley. All this, combined with each employee on every level, and our progress is unstoppable, no matter what the financial challenge.

Charter and Retired Members Day 2008



Family and friends of the Department of Public Safety gathered Dec. 5 at the Golden Corral in Montgomery to celebrate the department's 73rd anniversary. Each December, the Charter and Retired Members Club gathers for a luncheon and meeting to renew friendships, reminisce and share stories of a department founded in 1935 by Gov. Bibb Graves.

DPS to Send 50 Troopers to Washington for Presidential Inauguration

From left, Mrs. Sam Engelhardt and Mrs. Charles Merriweather with Sgt. W.O. "Red" Nichols at the inauguration for President John Fitzgerald Kennedy in 1961.



The Department of Public Safety will send 50 troopers to Washington, D.C., to assist in providing security for the 56th Inauguration of the president of the United States.

The Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department sent a letter to DPS in May requesting assistance during the inauguration, particularly along the parade route and at inaugural ball sites, due to the heightened security risks and the large and enthusiastic crowds expected.

"This is an historic event," said Lt. Col. F.A. "Bubba" Bingham, "one in which we are proud and honored to participate."

DPS is one of 93 agencies nationwide to be tapped with securing the presidential inauguration. Representatives from every division and from every rank in the department will provide additional security to the estimated 3 to 4 million visitors for the occasion.

Upon receiving the initial request for assistance, Col. J. Christopher Murphy immediately put Bingham to task in selecting troopers for the event.

"We were asked to provide a minimum of 40 troopers for the event, so 40 was our target number," Bingham said. "But with so many deserving troopers within this department, we simply couldn't narrow the list any further than 50."

"Obviously, this is the most historic inauguration in our lifetime. When I was a child, my family was living in the Washington, D.C., area and braved the cold to witness the inauguration of John F. Kennedy. As a Secret Service agent, I thought I was going to freeze to death as I 'stood post' in front of the viewing stands during the inaugural parade for President George H.W. Bush. I will not attend the January inauguration of President-elect Obama, however. Lt. Col. Bingham and 49 other Alabama troopers will. The cadre of Alabama state troopers has been invited to help provide security for this historic event, and I could not be more proud! I am very excited about watching for our uniform and 'campaign hat' during this national — and even international — event. I have full confidence that Lt. Col. Bingham will lead this select group and make DPS and the state of Alabama very proud. Thanks to all who are going to represent our department and state."

~ Col. J. Christopher Murphy

Bingham said all 50 troopers will be deputized by the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police, granting access to sensitive areas.

Special Projects coordinator Lt. Deena Pregno has aided with the project, chartering the flight to Washington, D.C., and serving as liaison with the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police.

“We have scheduled a meeting for Jan. 5 to discuss lodging and assignments in Montgomery,” said Pregno. “We are making sure everyone has the correct supplies and that everyone going is on the same page.”

Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police is paying for travel, food, and lodging for all sworn mem-

bers assisting with the inauguration, and participation will come at no cost to the department. A special commemorative badge will be given to all participating troopers to be worn in the month of January.

“We are expecting the day of the inauguration to be a 20-hour day for us,” said Bingham. “This is such a huge event, though, and everyone is so excited that I can imagine its going by very quickly.”



I'm Just A Steering Wheel

I'M JUST A WHEEL. A steering wheel. And you're my captain. Behind me you're the lord and master of a miracle. You can make me take the kids to school. You can turn me down the sunny road toward town. With me you can guide your goods to the market place... you can rush the sick to be healed... you can go in minutes to places hours away. You can do magic.

Yet, in the blink of an eye, in the tick of your watch, I can turn deadly killer. I can snuff out the life of a kid still full of life—maybe *your kid*. I can twist a smile into tears. I can wreck and cripple and destroy. I can deal out death like the plague. And I'm no respecter of persons. A child, a grand-

mother, even *you*, my friend... it's all the same to me.

I'm sensitive. I respond instantly to the hands you give me. Give me calm hands, steady hands, careful hands... and I'm your friend. But give me unsteady hands, fuzzy-minded hands, reckless hands... then I'm your enemy, a menace to the life, the happiness, the future of every person, every youngster riding, walking, playing.

I was made for pleasure and usefulness. Keep me that way. I'm in your hands. I'm just a steering wheel. And you're my captain. Behind me you're the lord and master of a miracle... or a tragedy. It's up to you.

YOUR ALABAMA HIGHWAY PATROL IS AS CLOSE AS THE NEAREST TELEPHONE

‘Wheel’ Turns Up, 48 Years Later

PCO Barbara Mote and her daughter, Driver License Tech Regina McKelvey recently came across this flyer when looking through some old books belonging to the family. The flyer is from 1961, and was handed out to motorists in an effort to curtail motor vehicle crashes statewide.

Mote speculates that the flyer was given to her father going through a DL checkpoint in the summer of 1961. It was kept by her mother as a bookmark in her poetry collection.

Troopers Emphasize DUI Enforcement During Christmas and New Year's Holidays

*Troopers from Quad Cities
set up this Christmas Eve
DL checkpoint in the Spring
Valley community.*

Alabama state troopers greeted the Christmas and New Year's holidays with sobriety checkpoints combating drunken driving to ensure a safe holiday for motorists in Alabama. DPS kicked off the Christmas season with yet another "Take Back Our Highways" safety campaign Dec. 17-24.



Similar to the program implemented during the week before Thanksgiving, this Christmas edition of "Take Back Our Highways" placed special emphasize on sobriety checkpoints and patrols throughout the week, with each of the nine troop areas conducting checkpoints daily during the week leading up to Christmas.

"Troopers are in the business of saving lives, and we take that very seriously," said Col. J. Christopher Murphy, director of the Department of Public Safety. "Troopers are working to ensure this holiday season is a joyous

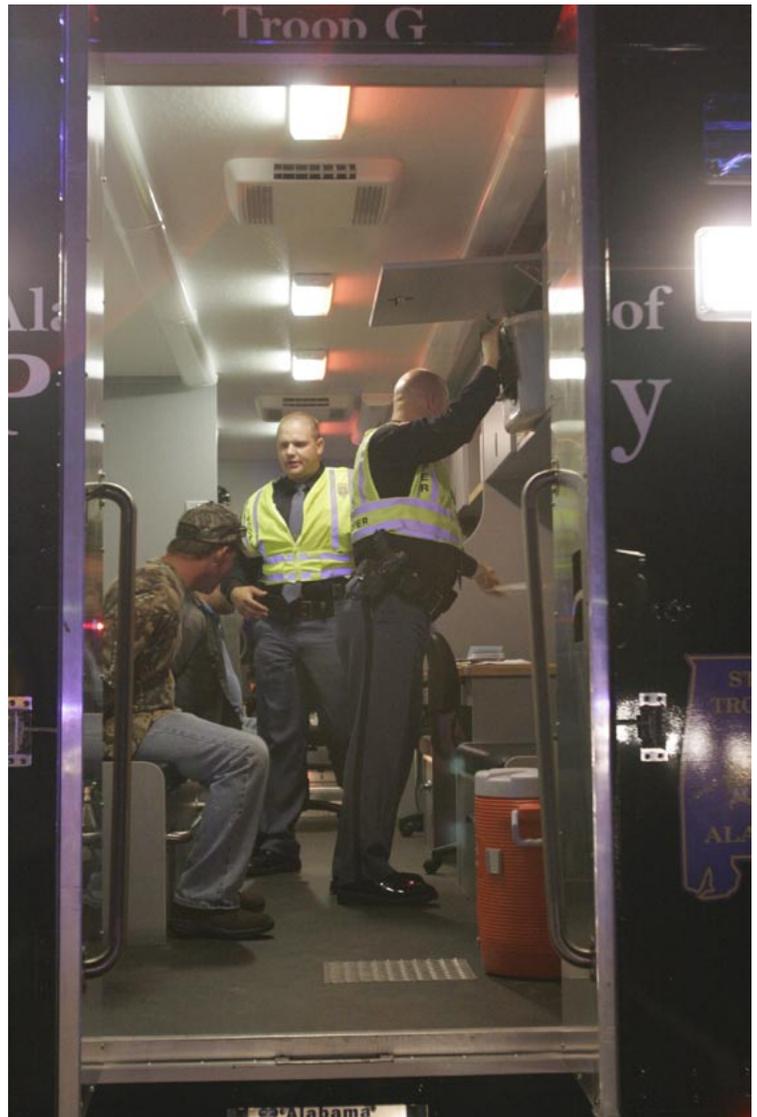


time unmarred by the tragic consequences of an alcohol-related crash,” Murphy said. The director also urged motorists to strictly obey all traffic laws and to “avoid impaired driving at all costs.”

As in similar campaigns taking place in Alabama since August 2007, the Christmas edition of “Take Back Our Highways” also saw troopers target other violations that contribute to crashes, including speeding, following too closely, and improper passing.

Recent reports show a nationwide decline in traffic deaths of 10 percent in 2008. While 10 percent is impressive, Murphy cited an even sharper decline of 18 percent in trooper-reported traffic deaths in Alabama during 2008. He said DPS’s goal is to build on that success in 2009.

Helping DPS to achieve its goal are nine recently acquired BAT-mobiles. These BAT-mobiles — trucks equipped with breath alcohol testing equipment — were put to task by troopers in establishing DUI checkpoints statewide during the Christmas enforcement period. With this resource, troopers recorded more than 3,300 traffic citations, including 78 DUIs. The BAT-mobiles allow for on-scene processing of impaired drivers and also serve as temporary holding facilities. Grant funding for the BAT-mobiles was awarded by Gov. Bob Riley and administered by the Alabama Department of



Economic and Community Affairs. The Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences provided chemical breath-testing equipment for the vehicles.

“An impaired driver behind the wheel is a crash waiting to happen,” Murphy said. “We are committed to preventing crashes, injuries and fatalities involving alcohol by identifying and removing impaired drivers from the roadway.” He also reminded motorists that the use of seat belts and child restraints is often the best defense in the event of an alcohol-related crash.

The troopers’ checkpoint campaign coincided with another preholiday safety campaign designed to remind motorists to refrain from drinking and driving, buckle up and obey all traffic laws: National Holiday Lifesaver Weekend, Dec. 19-21.

The 102-hour Christmas travel period began at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, and continued to midnight Sunday, Dec. 28. In 2007, 15 people died in traffic crashes on Alabama roadways during the 102-hour Christmas period. Alcohol was a factor in at least seven of the deaths, and all but one of the vehicle occupants killed were not using seat belts.

The 102-hour New Year’s travel period extends from 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, through midnight Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009. Last year, 11 people died in traffic crashes in the state during the 102-hour New Year’s travel period. At least four of the deaths involved alcohol, and six of the crash victims were not using seat belts.



Trimble Commended for Alzheimer's Patient Rescue



Tpr. Pilot II John Trimble was recently recognized for outstanding service to the department during a search-and-rescue mission made Oct. 30.

Earlier that day, an 83-year-old Alzheimer's patient had disappeared in Baldwin County. Without hesitation, Trimble responded to the Baldwin County sheriff's request for assistance to the patient.

"I did not have a FLIR operator," said Trimble. "However, the patient was enrolled in the Project Lifesaver program."

The Project Lifesaver Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing success in locating missing persons with dementia, Alzheimer's disease, autism, Down syndrome and other related illnesses. Persons at risk of wandering are fitted with a radio transmitter that emits a pulse that can be picked up by a special receiver.

With a Baldwin County sheriff's officer armed with the receiver, Trimble successfully located the patient. Using a combination of past experience, landing light, night vision goggles, and the Project Lifesaver transmitter, Trimble redirected ground search units to a swampy area where the man was found, alive and in fair condition.

Medical personnel evaluating the patient said he most likely would not have lasted through the night, given the terrain where he was found and the cool temperatures that evening.

"Aviation support turned a multi-hour and multi-agency operation into a 45-minute operation," Trimble said.

"I have been involved in Project Lifesaver training since its inception," said Tpr. Pilot Lee Hamilton. "I know from my own experience that a lot of work and technical skills and knowledge went into making this search mission a success. Trimble deserves to be commended for his hard work and dedication."

Significant Gains Made in Contributions to the State Combined Campaign by DPS

DPS participation in the State Combined Campaign is up 450 percent over last year, with 199 employees contributing some \$15,333 to the charity of their choice, according to Special Projects coordinator Lt. Deena Pregno.

“For years, DPS participation in the State Combined Campaign has been low,” said Pregno. “Last year, only 29 employees contributed. Even fewer gave in 2006.”

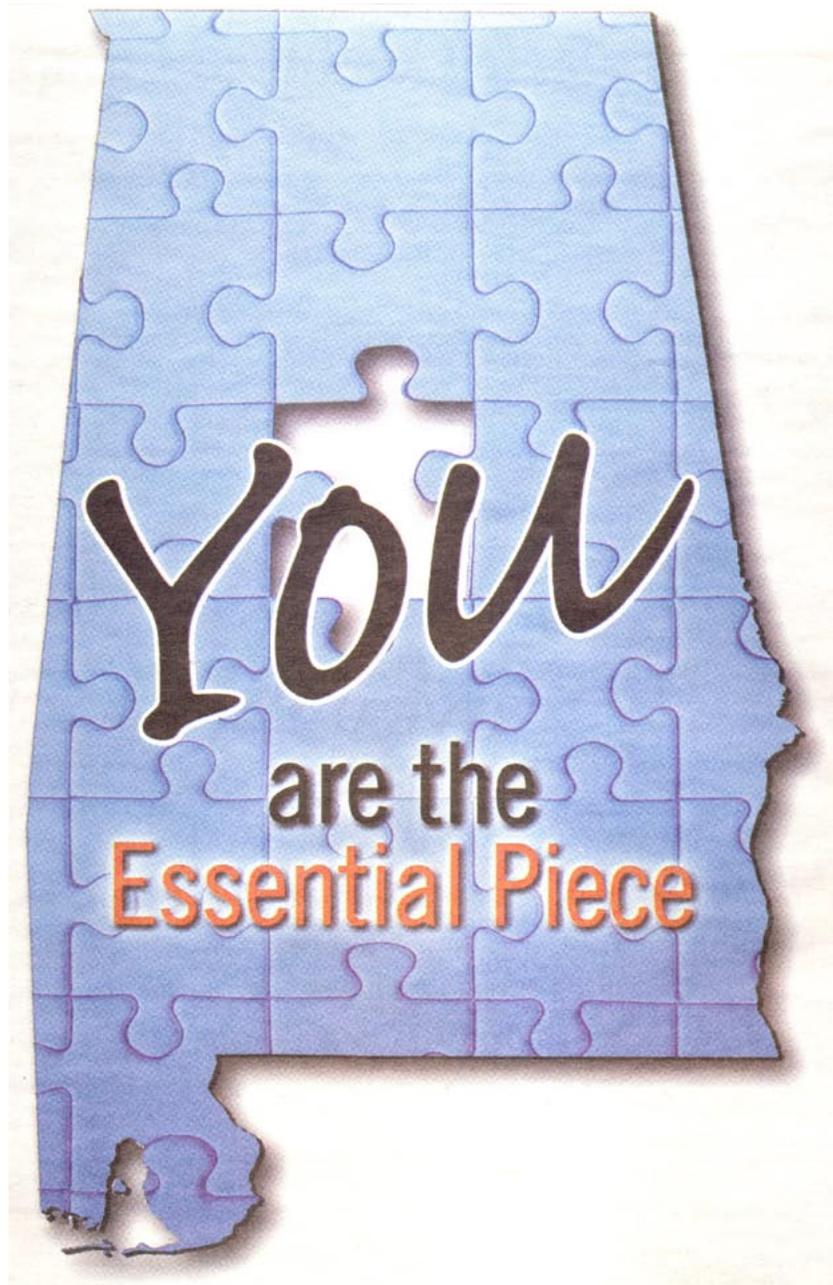
Pregno associated the lack of enthusiasm for the State Combined Campaign with the lack of awareness of both the campaign itself and how the charities that rely on the campaign are able to assist others.

This year, a more concerted effort was made to encourage donations. A video was made with testimonies of three DPS employees whose families were impacted with the help of charities. “We’re associating a name and a face on these charities; they help real people with real needs,” said Pregno.

“The campaign also ensures your money goes where you want it to go. No charity is allowed to participate with more than 30 percent of total revenues going towards administrative costs. The campaign also breaks down the state geographically. If you want your money to specifically help people in the Shoals area, you can do that.”

In support of the campaign, Col. J. Christopher Murphy and Lt. Col. “Bubba” Bingham are forfeiting their parking spaces for one month to a randomly chosen Headquarters employee contributing at least \$25.

“If every DPS employee contributed just \$2, we would exceed our goal,” said Pregno. “That’s only a few trips to the vending machine.”



POST CHRISTMAS PARTIES ❄️ 2008





Trooper Bears Bring Smiles to Children's Faces at Christmas



For more than 20 years, Department of Public Safety employees, together with the Alabama State Trooper Association, team up to bring cheer to children in hospitals during the holidays. Each year at Christmas, troopers give teddy bears to children who, due to illness or injury, cannot be home during Christmas.

Traditionally, the famous state trooper bear is given to children traumatized as a result of being in a crash. “The campaign is a very effective one,” said Tpr. John Reese. “The trooper bear brings joy to the children receiving one and is also a subtle reminder of the importance of safety.”

While the goal of the trooper bear campaign is to bring joy to each recipient, troopers also spread cheer and laughter to the doctors, nurses, and hospital staff while visiting. As Reese explained, “Each year, hospital staff constantly joke with us about not bringing them a bear, too. Every year, before we leave, I always hear, ‘Hey wait! Where is our bear?’”





ICAC to Provide Internet Safety Training Sessions to Keep Children Safe

Capt. Agatha Windsor and Sgt. Ricky Agerton with Gov. Riley and members of the Alabama Network of Children Advocacy Centers Dec. 10.

The Internet Crimes Against Children task force recently has committed to assist in conducting four training sessions to increase awareness of cyber safety and to prevent abuse and victimization of children via the Internet. The Alabama Network of Children Advocacy Centers was awarded a grant of \$25,000 by the Verizon Foundation, which the network will use in its collaboration with ICAC, to protect Alabama's children when they are online.

Gov. Bob Riley proclaimed Dec. 10 "Internet Safety Day" in a press conference that also named nearly \$60,000 in grants to organizations committed to promoting Internet safety for children.

"There have always been bullies. There have always been thieves. There have always been predators out there who seek to harm our children. It used to be that when your child came home from school each day, you could lock the door behind them and know that they were safe. But that's not the case anymore. If you have Internet access in your home, the bullies, the thieves and the predators can all be there, too," said Riley.

Capt. Agatha Windsor, commander of ABI's Investigative Support Service, said, "The ultimate goal is to saturate the state with people talking to parents and children about technology-based crimes, what they can do to stay safe, and most importantly, what they need to do if they are contacted by a stranger online."

Riley said that in a world where children can go online and be instantly connected with strangers, parents need to set rules on Internet usage and talk to their children about online safety.

Internet Survey Statistics

- One of every three teenagers reports being contacted by a stranger online.

- Thirty-two percent of teens say they've been harassed online by someone who posted unwanted photos, spread rumors, circulated e-mails or made threats.

- Only 11 percent of teens say they've talked to their parents or another authority figure about these kinds of disturbing online experiences.

Mobile Post Holds Holiday Food Drive

It just doesn't feel like the holidays without a bountiful spread at the dinner table, and it is difficult to be thankful when there is not enough food to go around.

With this in mind, personnel from the Mobile Driver License and Highway Patrol offices decided to spread a little Christmas cheer to Mobile-area families in need. DPS employees placed a call to the Catholic Social Services in Mobile to sponsor three families for their food drive.

Sgt. Lawrence Goff and PCO III Susan Chandler spearheaded the food drive, collecting cash donations and canned goods from participating employees. With the collected donations, Goff's wife, Rachel, carefully planned out menus to get the most out of the donations.

The families were provided with potatoes, corn, peas, beans, rice, macaroni and cheese, tea, sugar, butter, gravy, pies, dressing, fresh fruit, a ham, and a turkey with cranberry sauce. One family, with three children all under the age of three, received additional canned goods and foodstuffs to help them get through the rest of the holidays.

So what will the Mobile district personnel do next? Word has it the Driver License office personnel will challenge the Highway Patrol personnel to a blood drive to benefit the Red Cross.

YEAR-END STATISTICS FOR 2008

Troopers' aggressive highway enforcement has had a profound affect on crash statistics in 2008. There were 633 trooper-worked fatalities in 2008, down sharply from 766 in 2007, and 828 just two years ago.

"The number of fatalities in this state has not been this low since 1985," said FARS Senior Statistician Bill Shanks. "You have to go back 23 years to see a figure as low as this year's totals."

There were 603 troopers-worked fatalities in 1985.

Crashes overall are down from last year, as well. There were 31,404 crashes in 2008, with 13,165 injuries. In 2007, there were 33,909 crashes with 15,578 injuries. 2006 saw 35,159 crashes with 17,339 injuries.



| | 2008 | Change | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Fatalities | 633 | -17.4% | 766 | 828 | 791 | 777 |
| Crashes | 31,404 | -7.4% | 33,909 | 35,159 | 35,397 | 35,337 |
| Injuries | 13,165 | -11.1% | 15,578 | 17,339 | 16,200 | 17,123 |



People You Know!

New Employees

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Brittany Brown | 11.17.08 | DL Examiner I | DL/Birmingham Examining |
| David Colley | 11.16.08 | IT Systems Technician | DL/Montgomery |
| Deidra Madden | 11.17.08 | PCO I | HP/Evergreen |
| Kyle Moore | 12.01.08 | ASA I | DL/Reinstatement Unit |
| Kimberly Morgan | 11.17.08 | DL Examiner I | DL/Birmingham |
| Shaneeda Staples | 12.01.08 | ASA I | DL/Safety Responsibility |

Promotions

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|------------|------------------------------|
| John Bishop | 12.01.08 | Corporal | ABI/Investigative Operations |
| Teddy Fain | 12.01.08 | Lieutenant | DL/Plan & Operations Off. |
| Ashley Grant | 12.01.08 | ASA III | ADM/FARS |
| Paul Mashburn | 12.01.08 | Corporal | DL/Quad Cities Examining |
| Matthew McKenzie | 12.01.08 | Corporal | HP/Grove Hill |
| Darryl Moore | 12.01.08 | Sergeant | DL/Montgomery Examining |
| Russell Morrison | 12.01.08 | Corporal | ABI/Investigative Operations |
| Robert Saffold | 12.01.08 | Corporal | ABI/Marijuana Eradication |
| Tina Short | 12.01.08 | ASA I | DL/Safety Responsibility |
| Daryl Thistle | 12.01.08 | Corporal | ABI/Investigative Operations |
| Spencer Traywick | 12.01.08 | Corporal | ABI/ISS/Cyber Crimes |
| Jerry Ward | 12.01.08 | Corporal | HP/Headquarters |
| Thomas Whitten | 12.01.08 | Corporal | ABI/ISS/Cyber Crimes |

Transfers

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------------------------|
| Michael Aaron | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Birmingham |
| Johnathan Appling | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Birmingham |
| Joel Baker | 11.16.08 | Corporal | HP/Decatur |
| Anthony Birmingham | 12.01.08 | Trooper | ABI/US Marshall Task Force |
| Michael Bolden | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Baldwin County |
| Richard Bosarge | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Mobile County |
| Christopher Brown | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Bibb County |
| Brian Cagle | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Walker County |
| Mike Davis | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Mobile County |
| Gerald Deas | 12.01.08 | Trooper | DL/Hearing/Fraud Unit |
| William Durden | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Dallas County |
| William Elston | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Walker County |
| Ashley Fetter | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Perry County |
| Jerome Franks | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Sumter County |
| Bryan Hamrick | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/MCSU Weight Detail |
| Jeffrey Harp | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Cherokee County |
| Marie Heacox | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Calhoun County |
| Ronald Hodge | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Walker County |
| Carl Johnson | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Mobile Post |
| Jesse Johnson | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Lowndes County |
| Kevin Johnson | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Baldwin County |
| Brett Manuel | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Baldwin County |



People You Know!

Transfers (continued)

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------|---------|------------------------------|
| Craig Pruett | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/US Marshall Task Force |
| Randy Putman | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Calhoun County |
| Ronald Redding | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Mobile County |
| James Rice | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Butler County |
| Eric Salvador | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Cherokee County |
| Howard Smith | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/Bibb County |
| Michael Thomas | 12.01.08 | Trooper | HP/MCSU Weight Detail |
| Dwight Thompson | 12.01.08 | Trooper | ABI/Investigative Operations |

Resignations

| | | | |
|----------------|----------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Carla Bond | 11.21.08 | ASA II | ABI/Investigative Operations |
| Justin Byrd | 11.26.08 | DL Examiner I | DL/Mobile Examining |
| Franklin Green | 11.16.08 | Trooper | ABI/Investigative Operations |



Harris (right) receives his Tuscaloosa Post Trooper of the Year award at the Tuscaloosa Christmas party.

Tuscaloosa Post Trooper of the Year

by: Tpr. Charles Dysart

Many are born with the instinct to succeed and to be successful. When an Alabama state trooper answers the call to stand before a tact officer at the academy for 21 dreadful weeks, that person is identified as an exceptional individual. A trooper's qualities and character extend far beyond those of any other profession. Alabama state troopers are individuals whom society relies on to uphold all the laws of the land, while providing Courtesy, Service and Protection. Yet, some troopers exceed even these high expectations, going beyond their normal call for duty. These troopers are recognized by the department — they are the recipients of the prestigious "Trooper of the Year" award.

The 2008 Trooper of the Year recipient is a well-defined trooper. I have personally known him since we both stood before the tact officers at the academy. While we were in training, I was fortunate to have observed his competitive spirit. This man has a strong attention to detail, and he definitely goes that extra mile. He was well-liked, accepted by his peers and accepting of others. We built a strong rapport, and we discussed being assigned to the same county after graduation. This trooper has a warm and welcoming personality; he has invited me and others into his home for dinner with his family.

Following graduation, the recipient was assigned to Sumter County, beginning a fulfilling career. He worked Interstate 20 like no trooper ever has before, even to this day. Night and day, he patrolled gallantly, earning a reputation by some as the "Dope Man." This is what I called him, at least. He has maintained his edge for apprehending drug traffickers and currency-movers to this day, confiscating more than \$1.5 million in U.S. currency off of Alabama's highways. He also has removed more than 130 pounds of controlled substances from Alabama roadways. Most impressively, all this took place in a six-month period. With "Bud" by his side, this trooper does not work alone. He is a K-9 handler, tact team member, a husband, a father, a student, a friend, an FTO and, above all, an Alabama state trooper. Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to present to you the Tuscaloosa Post State Trooper of the Year, Tpr. Michael T. Harris.

Alabama Department of



Public Safety

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Lt. Clay Barnes, ABI

Lt. Jack Clark, HP

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**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 E-MAIL ALL REQUESTS TO:

RYAN.GODFREY@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

On Your Calendar

Thursday, January 1

New Year's Day

Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King Day

Monday, February 16

President's Day

Monday, April 27

Confederate Memorial Day



ATTENTION TROOPERS

To honor the Department of Public Safety's trip to Washington, D.C., for the Presidential Inauguration, special commemorative badges are available for purchase.

Contact Reserve Tpr. Charlie Bryant for further details at (256) 318-3220.