



# 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

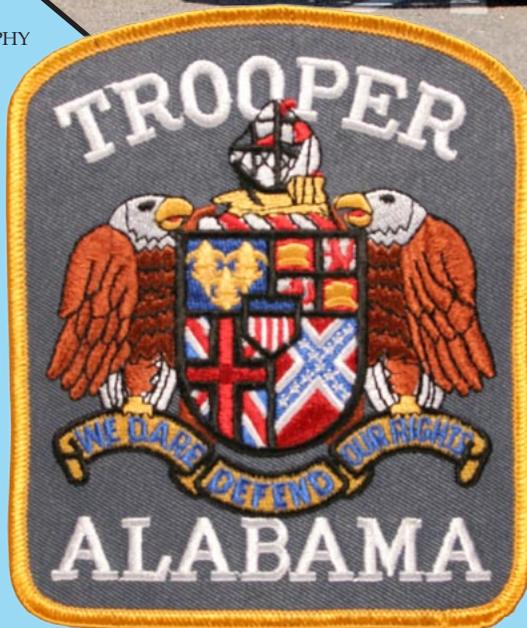
MAJOR JAMES LYONS  
Administrative Division

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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## DPS LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE UPDATE: '09

Following last year's productive legislative session, Executive Counsel and Legislative Liaison Michael Robinson said there are no critical DPS legislative measures facing the 2009 Regular Session, unlike in 2008. "We have several issues demanding attention," said Robinson, "but they are chiefly of a housekeeping nature, and intended more to clarify the language of bills."

Two of the biggest issues needing clarification in state law concern an officer's ability to arrest at the scene, and an individual's ability to elude law enforcement.

Under current law, officers cannot arrest persons for driving without a license or driving on a revoked or suspended license unless the crime was committed in the presence of the officer. This new bill will authorize officers to arrest individuals for violation of Section 32-6-19 if the officer has probable cause.

Existing law in Alabama currently makes the crime of eluding police an unclassified misdemeanor offense. The proposed bill will redress this omission and make it a crime for a person to use a vehicle in an attempt to elude a law enforcement officer after having been signaled to stop. Because attempting to elude is not properly defined in state law, it is difficult to prosecute. This bill will address those issues and add penalties for the offense, including suspension of a driver license for persons convicted of this violation.

There is a handful of issues that need addressing that directly affect Driver License. The first concerns the fees charged for the driver license.

"Over the years, our driver license has gotten more secure," said Robinson. "Most people don't realize these security measures come at a cost, and the measures we implement to offer a more secure document are not cheap. This bill will help us better recover the actual cost of providing these documents."

Other driver license issues include requiring the passing of a motorcycle knowledge test before operating a motorcycle, more accurately defining foreign nationals, and allowing persons younger than 18 to obtain a driver license if previously holding a learner's permit from any state, not specifically Alabama, for six months.

"There are several loopholes that need addressing in state law," Robinson said, "The issue with motorcycle riders is just an example of one of the many loopholes."

Another loophole DPS seeks closure of is one disallowing operation of personal transport devices on sidewalks for law enforcement use. The T-3 bill will permit law enforcement agencies to use motorized bicycles or mopeds and similar vehicles upon sidewalks, streets, and highways of this state.

The final agenda item seeks to abolish the executive security officer position at the Governor's Mansion. The ESO classification is a non-merit position, exempt from APOST certification. This bill will remove this classification and require APOST-certified, merit employees, such as the Capitol Police, to provide security and protection at the Governor's Mansion.

While these are issues with Alabama law that DPS specifically wants addressed, Robinson said the department also monitors other bills being introduced.

"Many bills can have an impact on us, both positively and negatively," he said. "Any bill that is passed can potentially have negative repercussions on us, and we closely monitor and examine the wording of bills to see how they might impact us. Some bills sound wonderful in theory, but in practice immediately pose severe problems. We are careful to always look at the big picture," said Robinson.

# **E-Crash Readies Statewide Rollout**

Paperless Reporting System to  
Save Time, Money.



*In this stock photo, Tpr. Darryl Phillips demonstrates E-Citation to Gov. Bob Riley following a traffic stop. The E-Crash system will revolutionize the way crash reports are handled, similar to how E-Citation functions in ticket writing.*

**E**-Crash, an innovative electronic and completely paperless system for filing crash reports, is nearly ready to go live. The E-Crash system is the product of many years of work and research from DPS, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, the University of Alabama, and Alabama Interactive. It is on track for a June 1 launch date.

“When we flip the switch on E-Crash,” said E-Crash project manager Sgt. Chris Brown, “Alabama will be the first state to be completely electronic in handling crash reports. Some cities and municipalities have electronic capabilities, but our system is designed to handle every crash report written in the entire state.”

The electronic system has numerous benefits compared with traditional crash reports, the most obvious being saving thousands of dollars in paper and printing costs. The electronic submission of crash reports to DPS also will alleviate the workload and save many supervisory hours statewide.

The public stands to benefit from E-Crash also, as crash reports soon will be available for purchase online.

The information in the crash reports also will benefit. The new system is designed to adhere to new standards implemented by the federal government to enhance the quality of crash reports by utilizing additional reporting categories. E-Crash also eliminates the possibility of an incomplete crash report’s being submitted accidentally.

“With paper forms, unfortunately, not everything always gets filled out properly,” Brown said. “E-Crash won’t allow that to happen.”

To get all officers statewide up to speed on E-Crash, several training sessions will take place between now and the E-Crash launch to ensure a smooth transition.

“Training began Feb. 24, and there will probably be 18 to 20 sessions between now and June,” Brown said.



## DPS TAKES TO STREETS FOR **Mardi Gras**

As hundreds of thousands of parade-goers and spectators descended upon the streets of Mobile and Prichard for Mardi Gras Feb. 24, DPS provided support to local agencies in securing the parade routes and working crowd control during the weekend leading up to and including Fat Tuesday.

Motorcycle troopers first arrived in Mobile Feb. 19 and provided escort details in managing parades in both Prichard and Mobile. Troopers from the Mobile Post also joined forces with Mobile and Prichard police departments, Mississippi Highway Patrol, and Special Operations platoons from Jacksonville and Huntsville in securing the public and maintaining order.

On Fat Tuesday, the Mobile Post split its forces into three separate units stationed at Bienville Park, Spanish Plaza, and the corner of Springhill and Broad Street. Public Safety personnel assisted with cases involving lost children, medical emergencies, and intoxicated individuals. “We made several arrests for underage drinking, possession of controlled substances, indecent exposure, and also broke up several fights,” said Lt. Lee Peacock, Mobile Troop assistant commander. “Each year, the department really works hard to help support local law enforcement to ensure the public’s safety.”





# Trooper Class 2009-A Under Way



**F**orty-five candidates reported to the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center in Selma in February for their first day as members of Trooper Class 2009-A.

“This really seems like a good class,” said Capt. Randy Byrd, ACJTC commander. “This group is both dedicated and motivated, and it’s those two ingredients, coupled with excellent training, that makes an Alabama state trooper.”

The shift away from a boot-camp driven academy toward one with a greater emphasis on adult-based education has greatly improved retention rates of recent trooper classes. Of the 45 that reported for the first day, 41 remain.

While the class is a mix of both APOST- and non-certified candidates, there will be no abbreviated class, according to Byrd.

“We decided it would be best not to split the group,” said Byrd. “All will be here for the duration.”

Thus far, the current class has passed APOST physical training and passed legal classes. First aid training began Feb. 27, and defensive driving and defensive tactics training will follow in March.

“The candidates will receive their uniforms March 9, and that is always a big day at the academy,” said Byrd. “Anticipation is building, and everyone is excited.”

One of the latest additions to the troopers’ training schedule is a segment that will certify all troopers for commercial vehicle enforcement by graduation day.

“The CDL component was just added for our last class,” said Byrd. “Our troopers will be able to properly handle commercial vehicles on the day they leave the academy. We’ve never been able to say that before, and that is something we are extremely proud of.”

Trooper Class 2009-A will be formally welcomed to the ranks upon graduation July 10.





With six fingerprint examiners on staff and a seventh awaiting certification, you would expect the Latent Print Section of ABI's Investigative Support Service unit to remain well hidden.

"We do ride behind the scenes," said Latent Print Examiner Gloria Walters. "A lot of people don't know we are here, and those that know about us don't fully realize what we do."

What they do for the department and the state is remarkable, however.

The Latent Print Section personnel process crime scenes and crime scene evidence to obtain fingerprint identification of individuals who may have committed the crime. Using modern techniques and the AFIS database, the certified latent print examiners make positive identification of prints by matching minutiae in the latent to minutiae in existing prints in the database.

The minutiae, or points of interest, needed for a proper match are nine.

In addition to processing crime scenes for print evidence, the Latent Print Section also provides court testimony in state, federal, and military courts, and provides training in the forensic science of fingerprints to law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

"Usually the requests to run prints come from anywhere in the state," said Latent Print Examiner Shannon Fitzgerald. "Occasionally, however, we'll receive a distant request. We recently fielded a request from Japan."

"We definitely stay busy," Walters said. "To my knowledge, we are the only latent print section that does everything from processing crime scenes, to lifting prints, to court testimony, to teaching classes on fingerprinting. We do it all."

With all of the work the certified examiners manage to accomplish, one can easily imagine a virtual army working within ABI, yet the section remains quite small.

"The key word in certified latent print examiner," Walters added, "is 'certified.'"

"First, there is the order of achieving a four-year degree, before you begin training," said Walters. "Training for International Association for Identification certification lasts a full three years, and all that concludes with an eight-hour long test. Anything less than 100 percent is considered failing, and if you fail the test twice, you need to find another career."

With fewer than 800 IAI-certified latent print examiners worldwide, the field is highly trained and extremely specialized.

"It really takes a dedicated person," Walters said. "This work isn't CSI, and it can sometimes be frustrating to the point of wanting to give up, but there is a gratifying fascination associated with our jobs that drives us. It really is something special."

In addition to Walters and Fitzgerald, DPS's certified latent print examiners are Rorzell Lohman, Rachel McGill, Gayle Peters, and Luddie Williams. Amy Cobb has completed her three-year training, and is awaiting scores from the IAI on her exam. Kathy Smitherman, the Latent Print secretary, also is integral to the unit's accomplishments.



*Alabama state troopers were on hand to pay their final respects to former Alabama Gov. Guy Hunt as his body was laid to rest at Mt. Vernon Cemetery in Baileyton, 15 miles outside Cullman, on Feb. 4.*

*Motorcycle troopers led the procession along Highway 75 that morning to Snead State Community College in Boaz for the memorial service. The DPS Honor Guard saluted graveside at the former governor's burial early that afternoon.*



# Williams Receives 'Life Saving Award'

Tpr. Delvylon Williams recently was recognized for outstanding service to the department for his efforts in saving the life of a distraught man threatening suicide at the U.S. 31 River Bridge in Elmore County on Nov. 10.

That day, the Montgomery Post received a report of man standing on the River Bridge, with the intention of harming himself. Williams was immediately dispatched to the scene, where he confirmed the distraught man's intentions.



Williams immediately built a rapport with the individual. While emergency responders from local departments arrived on the scene to assist, Williams was the only officer on the scene with whom the troubled man was willing to communicate. Williams was able to convince the man to cross back over the railing to the pavement, and continued talking to the man until a hostage negotiator from the Montgomery Police Department arrived.

The distraught man felt such a strong connection to Williams that he requested that Williams remain even after the



negotiator arrived. Shortly after, Williams and the negotiator convinced the man to step away from the railing to safety. Moments after stepping away from the railing, the man collapsed in the roadway, suffering from a seizure. Had the seizure occurred just moments earlier, the man would have fallen from the bridge.

"There is no doubt this trooper was instrumental in saving this man's life," said Col. J. Christopher Murphy. "Tpr. Williams is truly deserving of praise as he demonstrated outstanding professional judgment and sensitivity when moments counted and a life was in the balance."

# ABI Adopts New Field Uniforms



*From left are Latent Print Examiner Trainee Amy Cobb, Cpl. Timothy Rodgers, Lt. Clay Barnes, Sgt. Robert Thornton, Special Agent Angel Rodriguez, and Sgt. Gary Whitaker. Piloting the helicopter is Trooper Pilot II Danny Coone.*

In early 2009, the ABI Division adopted a field duty uniform for out-of-office attire. The uniform is designed to provide appropriate clothing for ABI personnel when weather or working conditions make traditional office attire unsuitable. All troopers assigned to ABI, as well as latent print examiners who respond to crime scenes, have been issued the FDU.

ABI troopers will continue to utilize their Class A and Class B uniforms during Highway Patrol call-outs, and they will utilize FDUs for ABI duties outside routine investigations. The uniform consists of gray cargo pants and a navy blue shirt. The new special agent badge is displayed on the shirt above the left breast pocket, and “State Trooper/ABI” is displayed above the right pocket.

The picture above shows the EOD containment unit, equipment utilized by the Marijuana Eradication Unit, as well as the crime scene van, which is used in processing crime scenes throughout the state. Also shown is the department’s Bell 407 helicopter, one of many DPS resources that ABI relies on for the successful accomplishments of its missions.



# Troopers to be 'Immersed' in Spanish Language

**T**hirty troopers from four divisions will participate in a Spanish immersion class taught at Auburn University at Montgomery. The 30-day intensive class is broken into three separate 10-day sessions and is designed to quickly move from basic competency of the foreign language to fluency in communication.

“The sessions are intentionally spaced approximately one month apart,” said Lt. Karl Youngblood. “The sessions cleverly and concisely immerse you in the Spanish language, and the time off between sessions allows you to totally absorb what you learned in those 10 days.”

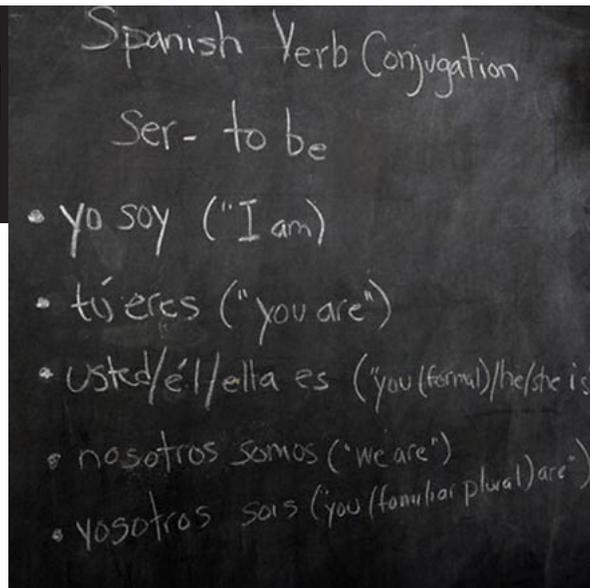
Sessions I and II will focus on basic and intermediate competency in the Spanish language, while level III will implement total Spanish immersion techniques.

“Fluency in a language is acquired by living it; there’s really no other way,” said Youngblood. “By level III of the program, that’s what we will be doing. Communication in English is forbidden.”

While the first two sessions of the three-step program will be administered at AUM, there is a strong possibility the Spanish immersion component will be taught at the academy, according to project director Capt. Todd Fulmer.

“Having the Spanish immersion experience at the academy only makes sense,” he said. “The environment is already conducive to learning, but we are more concerned with temporarily closing the barriers to the English-speaking world. This will make for an excellent immersion experience.”

The entire course will commence June 15 and wrap up in early September. It is funded through a gang violence prevention initiative provided by the Department of Justice and Bureau of Justice Assistance.



## SCC Parking Space Raffle

Col. J. Christopher Murphy and Lt. Col. “Bubba” Bingham graciously raffled off their parking spaces for one month to anyone contributing \$25 or more to the State Combined Campaign.

Capt. Charles Ward and Maria Sledge each won parking privileges for one month.

Congratulations to all who participated in this year’s State Combined Campaign.



# People You Know!

## *New Employees*

Larry Crocker	1.16.09	Special Agent	ABI/Investigative Operations
Jason Dinunzio	1.16.09	Special Agent	ABI/Investigative Operations
Anthony Green	1.16.09	Special Agent	ABI/Investigative Operations
Earl Howton	1.16.09	Special Agent	ABI/Investigative Operations
Darrell Ott	1.16.09	Special Agent	ABI/Investigative Operations

## *Promotions*

Brian Duncan	2.01.09	Corporal	HP/Montgomery
Glenn Furukawa	1.16.09	Corporal	ADM/ACJTC
Cynthia Hardy	2.01.09	Corporal	HP/Montgomery
Norbert Neeley	1.16.09	Corporal	DL/Tuscaloosa Examining

## *Transfers*

Robbie Autery	2.01.09	Trooper	HP/FAP
Kevin Brown	1.16.09	Trooper	DL/Decatur Fraud
Kevin Cook	2.01.09	Trooper	ADM/Public Information
James Dean	1.16.09	Trooper	DL/Mobile Fraud
Gregory Estes	2.01.09	Trooper	ADM/ACJTC
Steven Jarrett	2.01.09	Corporal	ADM/Public Information
Jeffrey McKitt	2.01.09	Trooper	DL/Selma Hearing
Tracy Nelson	1.16.09	Sergeant	DL/Dothan Examining
Donald Worrell	1.16.09	Trooper	ABI/Investigative Operations

## *Resignations*

Lee Ann Abernathy	2.15.09	ASA I	DL/Hearing
Febra McGuire	1.23.09	ASA I	HP/Birmingham
Crystal Thiery	1.30.09	Account Clerk	ADM/Financial Services

## *Retirement*

Sharon Brown	1.30.09	DL Examiner I	DL/Huntsville
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Alabama Department of



Public Safety

**CONTRIBUTING:**

- Maj. Hugh McCall, DL
- Capt. Charles Ward, PS
- Lt. Clay Barnes, ABI
- Lt. Jack Clark, HP
- Tpr. John Reese, ADM
- Tommy Giles, Photography

**EDITOR:**

Ryan Godfrey

# RSA Criminal Justice Center Montgomery, Ala.



## ACJTC TRAINING SCHEDULE MARCH '09

### 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

Monday, April 27

*Confederate Memorial Day*

Monday, May 25

*National Memorial Day*

Monday, June 1

*Jefferson Davis' Birthday*

Friday, July 3

*Independence Day (offices closed)*

Date	Event
March 2-6	Basic Police Session 134
2-6	Trooper Class 2009-A
3-4	Trooper In-Service: Selma
4	Draeger Recertification
9-10	NIMS Training
9-13	Basic Police Session 134
9-13	Trooper Class 2009-A
12	Sudden Unexplained Infant Death
12-13	Meth Lab Class
16-20	CVE Training
16-20	Basic Police Session 134
16-20	Trooper Class 2009-A
17-18	Trooper In-Service: Huntsville
23-27	CVE Training
23-31	Basic Police Session 134
23-31	Trooper Class 2009-A
31-April 1	Trooper In-Service: Quad Cities