



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

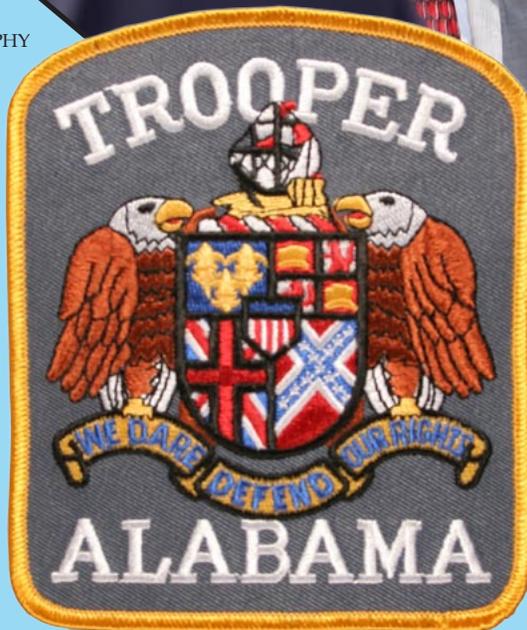
CAPTAIN R.T. FULMER  
Administrative Division

MAJOR HUGH McCALL  
Driver License Division

MAJOR ROSCOE HOWELL  
Highway Patrol Division

MAJOR HERMAN WRIGHT  
Protective Services Division

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS  
Service Division



## JULY 2009

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

<i>The Colonel's Corner</i>	2
<i>Legislative Package Update '09</i>	4
<i>Lyons: Proud to Wear Badge</i>	7
<i>Underwater Bomb Training for ABI</i>	9
<i>Safety, Security at BamaJam</i>	10
<i>Murphy Inspects Class 2009-A</i>	11
<i>States Partner for Hands Across Border</i>	12
<i>Gadsden Retirees Catch Up over Lunch</i>	13

# The Colonel's Corner

Col. J. Christopher Murphy, Director



The Alabama Department of Public Safety last week hosted the Twelfth Annual Southeastern Colonel's Conference in Birmingham. This involved the colonels and some of their command staff from Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee, as well as staff from each state's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration office. The conference was a tremendous success for a number of reasons. Dr. Bronner and General Manager Steve Miller of the Renaissance Ross Bridge Resort provided government rates for all participants at that phenomenal location. Mr. George Barber and the Barber Motorsports Foundation hosted the final meal at their unbelievable museum. We had many gracious sponsors. The Alabama State Trooper Association gave 110 percent in support and coordination. Lt. Colonel Bingham agreed to coordinate the event and did a fantastic job. Major McCall, Major Andrews and others did an outstanding job with logistics. Martha

Earnhardt and Andrea Ashley were simply exceptional. Many, many people — from Director Lee Sentell at the Alabama Department of Tourism to Governor Riley's office — supported this conference, and it resulted in probably the most well received and successful one to date. To all that assisted I am truly grateful and proud.

For me, the biggest success was the work of the women and men of the Alabama Department of Public Safety. The accommodations and trimmings were outstanding, but the content is what I am most proud of because the content would not be possible without the hard work of every member of this phenomenal organization.

Two years ago I attended my first Southeastern Colonel's Conference in Tennessee. I was pleased with the accommodations, and as a "new colonel" learned a great deal from my counterparts. I found it to be the most beneficial conference that I have attended as the director of Public Safety. I was most struck by the fact that we were dead last in every category on every PowerPoint slide presented by the NHTSA officials from Washington, D.C. This year the same PowerPoint was very different. The charts compared 2006 to 2007, and we lead the other states in fatality reduction with 8.1 percent, with the nearest state having a reduction of 6 percent. We again led with a 19 percent reduction in motorcycle fatalities. Although not in the lead, we also were up in DUI arrests and certainly were not at the bottom of the list.

As I sat and listened to the presentation, I was even more proud because I knew our stats were more impressive from year 2007 to 2008, when our fatalities dropped 17 percent as the national average dropped around 10 percent, and the nearest southeastern state had a 14 percent drop in their fatality rate. I was proud to report that we were in our third year in a row of reductions in crashes, injuries, and fatalities. I have to be transparent and admit that our motorcycle fatality rate jumped significantly from 2007 to 2008, and despite achieving reductions in key areas, our overall stats this year are not at desired levels.

Based in part on the presentations at this conference, ADECA has offered to fund another initiative that HP is calling TBOH 21/4 involving our 21 motorcycles and our four most significant fatality areas. We will also conduct this year's TBOH in late July with Florida and Georgia joining Mississippi and Tennessee in coordinating this event in their states as well. We have much more work to do to greater impact our crash, injury and fatality rates, and I appreciate the hard work and dedication of our troopers as we continue in 2009.



The main focus for the conference are the national comparisons, and we did so very well. The national president of MADD was a featured speaker, so I was especially proud to report that our DUI arrest stats were increasing each year, and that with the use of the BAT Mobiles we had made almost 200 more DUI arrests in 2008 than we had in 2007.

We also had a national speaker make a presentation on Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety or DDACTS. This was a very informative presentation on how those of us in public safety need to start using statistical information and make business decisions about how we implement enforcement plans. This speaker was absolutely right! He said they had initiated a pilot program in several communities across the nation with great success. It pleased me that we had made an earlier presentation on Take Back Our Highways and ended with the Highway Patrol Business Plan 2009 "book." We had implemented this same concept on our own, and we too were seeing great success.

We had the opportunity to give an overall summary of Alabama DPS. We highlighted each division and their accomplishments from the reduction of wait times in DL and on-line appointments, to ABI direct hires and the tremendous response to the Samson and Geneva homicides. We touched on our turnaround in property inventory and the Aviation Unit from Service Division, and how we are doing business differently in Protective Services. We ended on the remarkable things that are going on at the Academy — from new construction, to academic



credit for course work, and recruitment out of the Administrative Division. Lt. Colonel Bingham made an excellent presentation on the Director's Crisis Center and crisis management. It was impressive to see so many from other states taking notes and asking questions. What a pleasure it was to brag on the Alabama Department of Public Safety!

To each of the men and women of DPS...thank you. Everywhere you look at DPS we are doing business differently, and we are experiencing great success. We are seen differently by the governor's office, the legislature, the business community, the citizens, and now from our neighboring states. This success is the result of the remarkable commitment of DPS employees, and I am so very thankful.



## DPS Legislative Package Update: '09

Following the recent legislative session, Executive Counsel and Legislative Liaison Michael Robinson said DPS focused on three main issues among a handful of items that needed to be addressed. After much time, initiatives were passed addressing these issues to help better DPS.

The first concern was in direct correlation with the fees charged for driver licenses.

“We’ve been sued twice over what we charge for our driver license,” said Robinson.

Previously, DPS abided by a bill written when they made their own driver license in-house. Robinson added, “When we changed the way we manufactured the driver license, we went to a more technology-intensive format.”

The inability to recover these costs could have lead to an annual \$3.6 million loss to the Department of Public Safety budget. In current economic times, a loss of this magnitude could have created a heavy financial burden, but since Senate Bill 464 was signed by the governor, it will help DPS to recover costs in conjunction with the new driver license format.

The second concern dealt with the ability of out-of-state individuals with a learner’s permit to obtain an Alabama driver license.

“If you moved into Alabama from another state and had a learner permit, we were prohibited by law from accepting it,” said Robinson.

The passing of House Bill 463 now makes out-of-state learner permits acceptable. Any person under the age of 18 with an authorized learner permit from out of state may obtain a driver license without having to first obtain a new permit.

“It’s good for the kids, it’s good for their parents, and it’s good for us because we don’t have to see them twice,” explained Robinson. “This new statute helps to cut down on the congestion in DPS offices.”

Lastly, the “Bomb Bill,” or the Explosives and MMB Bill, was another great achievement during this year’s session. While these were the main in-house successes made by DPS, the department also monitored the passage of other bills.

The passage of both Senate Bill 120 and the Silver Alert Bill will positively impact the department. The first removes the age limit for soliciting a child via the Internet, and the latter is similar to the AMBER Alert, but intended for the elderly. It will provide assistance to patients suffering dementia in the event that they become lost. Ultimately, not all initiatives made it through, but the beneficial achievements made far outshined any road blocks.

# Legislative Changes:

## *What Does It All Mean?*

### **HB1**

#### **Act No. 2009-558**

*Effective date: August 1, 2009*

This bill amends Section 15-20-26 of the Code of Alabama 1975, concerning residence restrictions of sex offenders, to expand the definition of "school" to include colleges and universities, including all property owned by colleges and universities and used from educational purposes or for official school functions. It also prohibits sex offenders from loitering within 500 feet of a bus stop.

### **HB33**

#### **Act No. 2009-145**

*Effective date: August 1, 2009*

This bill creates the Missing Senior Citizen Alert Program to provide for the issuing of media alerts when a senior citizen is missing. The Department of Public Safety is required to adopt rules to issue these alerts.

### **HB60**

#### **Act No. 2009-640**

*Effective date: Immediately (May 21, 2009)*

This bill creates the Alabama Security Regulatory Board to provide requirements and certification procedures for security officers.

### **HB137**

#### **Act No. 2009-789**

*Effective date: Immediately (May 22, 2009)*

This bill requires the governor to disclose quarterly the flight logs of state aircraft, with the exception of flight logs of aircraft used in ongoing criminal investigations by the Department of Public Safety.

### **HB291**

#### **Act No. 2009-658**

*Effective date: August 1, 2009*

Presently, if someone is convicted of a drug related offense their license is suspended for 6 months. New law: credits the time actually spent in a drug rehabilitation center toward the suspension time. Court must notify DPS within 10 days after treatment is completed.

### **HB361**

#### **Act No. 2009-577**

*Effective date: August 1, 2009*

Adds wreckers to the move over requirement. Must actually be performing a recovery or loading on the side of the roadway. Must be showing amber lights.

If unable to move over:

**4 lane:** slow down to a speed 15 mph or less than speed limit.

**2 lane:** move as far away as possible without leaving lane and slow down

to a speed 15 mph or less than speed limit if limit is 25 mph or greater. Slow to 10 mph if speed limit is 20 mph or less.

Warning tickets issued for the first 6 months.

### **HB463**

#### **Act No. 2009-714**

*Effective date: Immediately (May 21, 2009)*

The old law mandated that a person under 18 years of age is required to have held a learner's license issued in this state for a period of six months in order to apply for a regular driver's license. New Law: specifies that a person may have held a valid learner's license from another state for this purpose. Will benefit families who get transferred to Alabama.

### **HB528**

#### **Act No. 2009-718**

*Effective date: August 1, 2009*

This law repeals Section 13A-7-44 of the Code of Alabama 1975, concerning Criminal Possession of Explosives, and enacts a new and comprehensive law that covers improvised explosive devices, biological and bacteriological weapons. Under this act, it is now unlawful to possess a bomb, and it is unlawful for a felon to possess explosives.

# Legislative Changes:

## *Continued*

### **HB547**

#### **Act No. 2009-719**

*Effective date: Immediately (May 21, 2009)*

HB 547 specifically allows the T3 devices currently utilized by Capitol Police in the Capitol Complex to be legally operated on both the sidewalk and roadways for law enforcement purposes. It also expands that privilege to future technological and mechanical advances to allow for any device operated for the purpose of public safety to be utilized without the necessity of an amendment to the law.

### **SB15**

#### **Act No. 2009-616**

*Effective date: August 1, 2009*

This bill repeals Section 32-5A-193 of the Code of Alabama 1975. It makes it a crime for anyone to elude or attempt to elude a law enforcement officer and creates a 6-month to 2-year driver license suspension for doing so.

### **SB58**

#### **Act No. 2009-619**

*Effective date: Immediately (May 21, 2009)*

This bill amends Section 15-20-22 of the Code of Alabama 1975, concerning the release of sex offenders, to require additional time for offenders to declare a residence address and employment location, if any. If the offender does not provide a valid address, he or she

will be charged with violating this section and will be arrested and prosecuted in the county where his or her last sex offense conviction occurred.

### **SB120**

#### **Act No. 2009-745**

*Effective date: Immediately (May 22, 2009)*

This bill repeals Section 13A-6-110 of the Code of Alabama 1975. It defines a child as anyone under 16 years of age for purposes of this law. It creates additional crimes and removes the age limit for a person who solicits a child by computer. Additionally, it specifies that this crime may be committed if the person the defendant believed to be a child was a law enforcement officer, a meeting did not occur or the actor did not intend for a meeting to occur.

### **SB136**

#### **Act No. 2009-143**

*Effective date: August 1, 2009*

This bill amends Section 32-9A-2 of the Code of Alabama 1975, concerning commercial motor vehicles, to increase penalties for motor carriers and drivers who fail to comply with federal regulations for securing metal coils or who allow metal coils to fall onto public roads. It requires training and certification and allows for criminal penalties for failure to comply with the law.

### **SB270**

#### **Act No. 2009-628**

*Effective date: August 1, 2009*

This bill requires all applicants for teacher preparation programs at two and four-year colleges to complete a criminal background check.

### **SB464**

#### **Act No. 2009-762**

*Effective date: Immediately (May 22, 2009)*

Amends section 32-6-6: Allows DPS to recover the costs associated with the issuance of the driver license or I.D. card.

Requires an additional \$.50 on all DLs, ID cards and renewals. The vendor who produces the DLs is working on programming the system to accept the additional \$.50.



# *Lyons:* *Proud to Wear the Badge*

*The Blue Light* recently caught up with newly retired Maj. James Lyons at one of his favorite places for a bite, The Boiling Pot in Mobile.

Spending much of his free time swimming and just enjoying the company of his family, Lyons took time out of his schedule to share with our readers his reflections of a department that will greatly miss his leadership and virtue.

## ***Thinking back over your career, how has your work impacted the department?***

That is a really hard question for me to answer ... I believe from the very beginning of my career I was given the task of helping out others who were in need of assistance. Whether that was arresting someone for DUI and preventing an accident, or arresting someone for stealing another's identity, and then helping the victim get their life back or just simply listening to a co-worker who needed to talk about a problem they were experiencing. I have always felt a need to listen and influence others. I believe by doing this, I not only helped the public and my co-workers, but I also helped to promote the department in a positive light. The department's greatest resource are the people who work for it and comprise it — They are the department! If you do not invest in them, listen to them and make a difference in them, then you are not really successful in life. To me, this is how you make a lasting impact on the department.

## ***How would you like to be remembered?***

I hope I am remembered as someone who tried to do the right thing and who cared about his people. I know many times I fell short, screwed up and made mistakes that impacted others in a negative manner. My goal was and is to be a positive influence on others and to serve them. I hope I am remembered in that fashion.

## ***What made you first want to be a trooper?***

When I was approximately 12 years old, my friend and I were talking about being police officers. My friend said he wanted to be an Alabama State Trooper. I really never thought about that too much until I saw a trooper in uniform and driving a patrol car. Afterwards, I was immediately hooked and knew I would be part of some type of law enforcement organization. In addition to that, I knew God wanted me to serve my fellow man and to help others and this is the primary reason for wanting to be a trooper. My friend never did go into law enforcement.

Fast forwarding a little bit, I joined the Army after graduating high school and became a Military Police canine handler. I served on active duty for 3 years in Georgia and West Germany. I did this so when I got off of active duty then I would be old enough to join the department and bring some experience with me from the law enforcement arena. This greatly helped prepare me to be a trooper.

***What is your greatest source of inspiration?***

Jesus Christ is my greatest inspiration! Without him I am nothing! He has prepared me and shaped me to be who I am

for his service. He has given me everything. He has given me a great wife, Beth, my three daughters, Jannah, Jamey, and Jennah. They have been a constant source of inspiration to me. They along with other extended family members and friends have supported and prayed for me throughout my career.

***What are you going to miss about DPS?***

I already miss the people that I work with and the challenge of law enforcement work. It is truly a family experience. I have spent more time with my DPS family then I have with my own immediate family. It is not easy to leave when you enjoy being around people who share a common theme of protecting and serving their fellow citizens.

***So, what's next?***

The very first thing is to renew my family ties and relationships with all of the ladies at my house. Approximately the last 4 out of 5 years of my career, I have been living away from them during the work week in various assignments throughout the state. It is time to give back to them for awhile.

After spending some needed time with my family I will be returning to college at the beginning of next year for some additional training. I am not exactly sure of the final area I will be studying in but it will be in an area where I can continue to help others. It may be seminary, counseling or even medical training but I am leaving that up to the Good Lord. I would like to use the training to help others through church missions or community projects. By the way, I will always have an interest in law enforcement and homeland security. It is a calling.

***Is there anything else you would like to share with *The Blue Light* readers?***

Yes, I would like to publicly thank Colonel Murphy and Lieutenant Colonel Bingham for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to be the chief of the Administrative Division. Without their support, I would not have been given the opportunity to be promoted. It has been a pleasure to serve and represent the department and the fine people of the Administrative Division.

The last thing I would like to leave the readers of *The Blue Light* to ponder is that life is short! We are really only here for a short period of time and then we go into eternity. My wish for everyone is that all of you will be in heaven and enjoy his eternal glory. You can be assured of eternal salvation by accepting him as your Lord and Savior (John 3:16). You were created for a purpose so make the most of the gifts and talents you have been given. When you fall or stumble, get up and move forward. Snowplow through until you get a breakthrough. Thanks for the memories and e-mail me from time to time and let me know how you are doing.



## *Bomb Squad, Divers Team Up for Underwater Bomb Training*

ABI's Bomb Squad and Dive Team seized an opportunity to train alongside Montgomery police and FBI bomb technicians and divers in Montgomery, June 18.

FBI Special Agent Bomb Tech, Dan Gaston of Mobile, built life-like IEDs and submerged them in a lake in Montgomery. One was attached to a nearby pier, approximately four feet underwater. The teams' mission was to retrieve the suspected IEDs, move them to a safe location and disrupt them remotely. This was ABI Sgt. Russ Foshee's first real test of his newly learned skills since returning from underwater bomb tech training in Los Angeles.

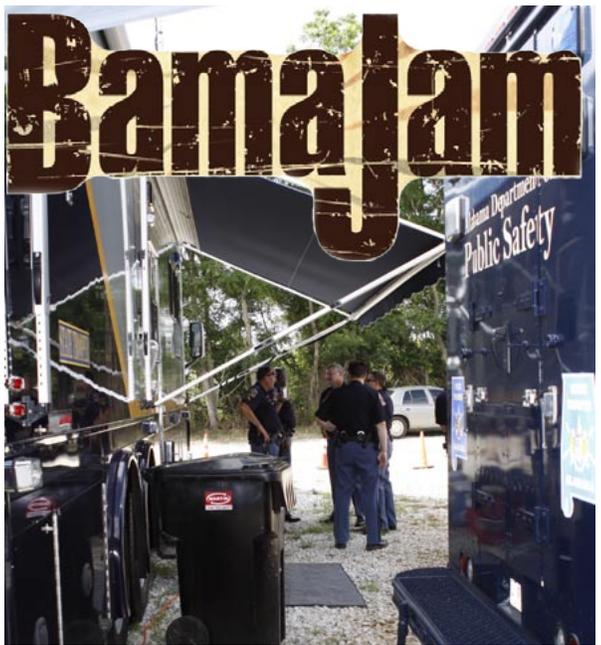
"One of the most important aspects of this training is identifying what works and what doesn't, and then build on that knowledge next time out," explains Lt. Clay Barnes, ABI team commander. "To have the only bomb squad in Alabama, and one of the few in the United States training for this contingency is really something to be proud of. It's also crucial, given the multitude of waterways in Alabama including the enormous Port of Mobile."

The teams were successful in meeting their objective and many lessons were learned. "All in all, it was a good training event," Barnes said.

Barnes also stated that the FBI is spearheading a plan in the Gulf region to form a multi-agency bomb squad/dive team including Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

"Should we be able to participate in this team, it would indeed be a great opportunity for DPS," said Barnes.





An estimated 100,000 people turned out for the second annual BamaJam Music & Arts Festival, held outside Enterprise June 4-6.

While tens of thousands of country music fans packed onto a mere 600-acre plot of land to hear their favorite artists, DPS worked seamlessly within the festival to ensure fun was had by all in attendance. Even though the massive influx of traffic to BamaJam would bring an otherwise unprepared city to its knees, DPS came to the music festival prepared to readily alleviate any strain the traffic would otherwise cause.

Crowd management is one of DPS's many specialties. Adopting pre-existing plans from similar events, such as the Talladega races, troopers deployed their Mobile Command Post to assist in traffic management, and implemented highly-strategic crowd management plans. Several troopers worked traffic detail for the many concert-goers, and maintained order in an area that could easily turn chaotic.

In addition to traffic detail, DPS addressed the many safety concerns of such a large event with thoroughly developed operation plans assessing potential dangers that could possibly affect the concert festival. As DPS strives for everyone's safety, special consideration is given to these issues, taking into account the swell of attendees, vendors and support personnel.

Thanks to our troopers, the entire weekend of BamaJam was a success and occurred without a hitch.



# Murphy Inspects Class 2009-A

With Trooper Class 2009-A in their final weeks of preparation before graduation, Col. J. Christopher Murphy came to the academy to inspect the recruits, quiz them on the nine core values, and offer bits of advice to the soon-to-be troopers June 17.

“I am really proud of you,” said Murphy to the recruits upon inspection. “You are sharp, and you look like troopers. I can see the academy staff has done an outstanding job in training you, and I am definitely impressed.”

Prior to the inspection, Capt. Randy Byrd welcomed Murphy, Lt. Col. F.A. “Bubba” Bingham and RSA CEO Dr. David Bronner to the academy. Byrd demonstrated the academy’s rigor to Bronner by treating him to an impressive display of marching formations performed by Basic Police Class 135.

Turning to Bronner, Lt. Keith Jackson also watching the display remarked, “They look so good, that you wouldn’t know that they have only been here for six weeks just by watching them.”

The 38 members of Trooper Class 2009-A are set to complete their 23-week training and will graduate the academy July 10.



## *‘Hands’ Reach Across State Lines in Name of Safety*

Alabama state troopers joined representatives of border states, state and local law enforcement agencies and highway safety groups in supporting an aggressive national Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement campaign running throughout the month of May.

The safety campaign culminated with Hands Across the Border press events, bringing awareness to this year’s national “Click It or Ticket” campaign. Agencies in neighboring states have pledged to actively enforce safety belt laws, increase safety patrols and conduct sobriety checkpoints during the heavily traveled summer months.

Hands Across the Border events help law enforcement representatives from neighboring states get the message out to the motoring public that different agencies are united in a common goal to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities on roadways throughout the region. Every year, representatives from each of the state patrols meet at the border and exchange handshakes in a symbolic gesture to reaffirm combined traffic enforcement efforts.

Highway safety advocates in the Southeast created the Hands Across the Border campaign in 1991 to promote awareness of safety belt and child safety seat use across the Southeastern states. Participating state and local enforcement agencies sponsor education and community outreach events, where motorists receive literature regarding the dangers of drunk driving, as well as the importance of seat belt and proper child safety seat use. Law enforcement officials will buckle down on those not buckled up this summer and will show zero tolerance for anyone caught speeding, driving impaired or not wearing a safety belt.





## Catching Up over Lunch:

### DPS RETIREES REMINISCE

**T**hirty-seven Gadsden-area retirees, representing a collected 855 years of service with the department, met to reminisce and enjoy a delicious lunch at The Fish Market June 9.

Retired Capt. Durwood Thompson warmly greeted the lively bunch with many stories from the department's past, while several active troopers also turned out to update the retirees on what is going on at DPS today.

Thompson can be viewed as the founder of these once-a-month get-togethers in the Gadsden area.

"They already had retirees' meetings in Birmingham and Montgomery," said Thompson. "Why not Gadsden?"

So, after a few months' planning, Gadsden-area retirees held their first lunch meeting in March 1994. Retirees have been meeting the second Tuesday of every month, since.

While only 14 retirees attended the first meeting, many more have since joined the group to share in the fellowship where now 25 or more regularly





attend each month.

Even more retirees than usual, some traveling from as far away as Mobile, decided to attend June's meeting, once word got out that Tommy Giles and Ret. Capt. Roy Smith would be joining their meeting to make photographs.

"It's a great way to keep in touch," said Thompson. "DPS has a wonderful family atmosphere, and with regular meetings, we remain better connected. Families just keep in touch, and our DPS family is no different."

Thompson is thankful that the retirees' meetings he started in Gadsden 15 years ago are still going strong today.

"Of our original 14 retirees we had in '94, eight have passed on," Thompson explained. "In the years since, we've unfortunately seen another 14 retirees separate our group by death. Still, we have all remained close, and judging by the laughter, smiles, and friendly gestures around the room right now, we are no worse for wear."





## Troopers 'Immersed' in Spanish Language

With the help from a gang violence prevention initiative provided by the Department of Justice and Bureau of Justice Assistance, DPS received funding to initiate a new Spanish Immersion course for 30 troopers from four divisions, currently underway at Auburn University at Montgomery.

The purpose of this course is to help officers become fluent enough to communicate with the Spanish speaking community, according to Lt. Karl Youngblood of ABI Special Investigations.

“Considering gang members do not always speak English, and there are only a few bilingual officers, language barriers have been known to cause misunderstandings in the past,” said Youngblood. “It is the department’s concern that this may further fuel the flame, and lead to even more violent acts amongst the Spanish-speaking gang community.”

The goal of the Spanish Immersion course is to help further decrease gang related activity by breaking any current language barriers and increasing public awareness of it.

The course itself consists of a three-level breakdown involving basic Spanish, intermediate Spanish, and full Spanish immersion. The first level of the course commenced in June, and will be completed by the end of August. Each course level consists of 10 days of consecutive and intensive language training.

“By the third level of training,” explained Youngblood, “officers will only be permitted to converse in Spanish. Fluency in a language is acquired by living it; there’s really no other way. So, by level III of the program, all participants will participate 100 percent in a Spanish language environment.”

The participating divisions will utilize this specialized training in different manners, said Youngblood. For instance, Highway Patrol will use the language skills as a first responder tool to assist Hispanics unable to communicate in English. ABI will use the course for training purposes, and Public Information will use acquired skills to become more familiar with the possible symbols, signs, and slang used amongst Spanish speaking gangs.

DPS plans to educate the public in such a way that it becomes a stakeholder, responsible for completing its part in protecting neighborhoods and assisting police fight gang activity.

In addition to funding the Spanish Immersion course, funding from the Department of Justice and Bureau of Justice Assistance also covered the purchase of air cards, laptops, course books, pocketbook translators, and hand-held translating devices.

# *Budget Update '09: Stimulus Funding*



**A**s a part of President Obama's Stimulus Plan many grants became available to state and local law enforcement agencies in regards to support for hiring. So, DPS applied for a total of six federal grants, five of which are competitively pending at this time, and the sixth has already been obtained.

DPS received \$652,844 in Internet Crimes Against Children Recovery funding. The ICAC grant will cover the hiring and training of three new employees, and help retain four additional employees to help aggressively pursue technology-facilitated ICAC investigations.

Under ICAC funding, the department is required to direct any earned monies towards necessary salaries and employment costs for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, forensic analysts, and other related professionals. This will result in expanding community education, investigative capabilities, and apprehension capabilities dealing with ICAC offenses and offenders.

Also, DPS plans to conduct both proactive and reactive investigations in regard to ICAC crimes, provide the necessary training and technical assistance to ICAC task forces, participate in the Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood initiative, and help increase the nationwide response to ICAC crimes by first increasing response within the state.

The Department will also direct funds towards coordinating, assisting, and conducting four training sessions in conjunction with the Alabama Child Advocacy Centers in dealing with child exploitation issues.

DPS plans to achieve these goals by targeting and modifying investigations, forensics, prosecution, capacity-building, and public education.

There are also specific statistical goals that have been outlined. They can be found in the RICC full submitted application.

The breakdown for how the money will be dispersed can also be found in the RICC full submitted application. These funds will be covering personnel costs, fringe benefits, travel costs, equipment costs, supplies, and other additional costs.

In regards to the other competitive grants, DPS will know its standing by August or September.

Other stimulus funding grants DPS is competing for include: COPS Hiring Recovery Program funding, Combating Criminal Narcotics-Southern Border/HIDTA Recovery funding, Edward Byrne Memorial Recovery funding, RAFS funding, and RICV funding.

*When the Department of Public Safety sets to take back its highways, we really take back our highways.*

*Tpr. Heath Heaton is seen issuing his little cousin, Noah, a citation while he demonstrated the proper way to operate his four-wheel toy hot rod.*

*No one is certain exactly what Noah was cited for that day, but whatever it was, Noah was sure to have a great excuse: "I'm sorry officer, I was just having too much fun!"*



# FISH FRY!

DPS personnel from both near and far came to take part in a fish fry, hosted by the Selma trooper post, June 17.

Smiles and laughter were shared by many while everyone enjoyed a delicious meal of fried catfish, coleslaw, baked beans, fried dill pickles, fried jalapeño slices, fried oreo's and funnel cake.

Roe and Scott Tucker, from Linden, catered the event.



# *Lead by Example:*

OBSERVATIONS MADE UPON A RIDE-ALONG  
WITH CAPTAIN WINDSOR

BY: TPR. JOHN REESE



**W**hoever coined the phrases, “Lead by Example” or “Work by Example” must have been a truly dedicated person. I can tell you without a doubt that the Department of Public Safety is full of such people. I am talking about the many personnel that go above and beyond the call of duty to make sure that day-to-day operations run smoothly. A lot of these people work behind the scenes and go unnoticed, while others are in supervisory positions.

Whatever roles they play and whatever positions they fill, they play an important role in making the Department of Public Safety such a great organization. Each time that I go out and recruit for the department, I usually greet the organization or group that I am entertaining by giving them a little history of the department. I tell them that the Department of Public Safety is comprised of a lot of unique individuals that make up a team, and the goal of that team is to provide courtesy, service and protection to all the citizens of the great state of Alabama.

I said all of that to lay a foundation to my recent experience. On Wednesday, June 10, I had the opportunity to do a ride-along with Captain Agatha Windsor, troop commander of the Selma and Tuscaloosa Posts. Captain Windsor and I started the ride-along by traveling to Wallace Community College in Selma to observe the foundation of our new Trooper Academy. From there, we had a brief lunch at The China Star Restaurant. After the lunch, we decided to do a little reconnaissance on Alabama Highway 14 in Dallas County. As we traveled east on Alabama Highway 14, we encountered a traffic crash involving an overturned log truck with an injured driver.

Captain Windsor positioned her patrol vehicle, notified the Selma Post and without hesitation, proceeded to direct traffic and make the scene safe while I interviewed the injured driver.



While investigating this traffic crash, we received another call from the Selma Post of two separate crashes on Alabama Highway 140, west of International Paper Company, with road blockage. With limited manpower, Captain Windsor and I cleared up from this traffic crash and proceeded to assist at the next scene.

Upon our arrival, the Selma Post had already dispatched another unit to work the two crashes. Captain Windsor sprang into action, again without hesitation, by assisting with traffic control and made the scene safe, all in the extreme heat of the early afternoon. “Lead by Example” or “Work by Example” is something that I assure you Captain Windsor and other personnel with the department do not take lightly.



# People You Know!

## *New Employees*

Gary Hicks	5.18.09	Programmer	DL/Information Services
Evelyn Leonhardi	5.18.09	ASA I	HP/Birmingham ASAP
Matthew Newman	5.18.09	Programmer	DL/Information Services

## *Promotion*

Ruthie Franks	5.16.09	ASA II	DL/Medical Unit
---------------	---------	--------	-----------------

## *Transfer*

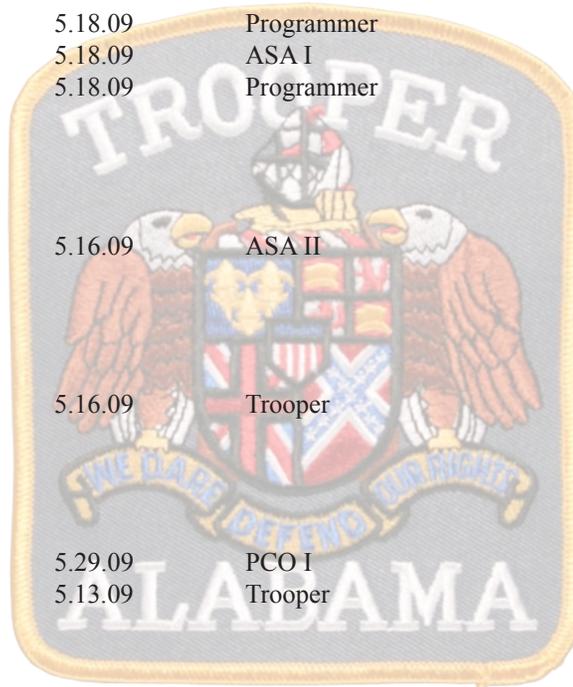
Johnny Senn	5.16.09	Trooper	ABI/Investigative Operations
-------------	---------	---------	------------------------------

## *Resignation*

John Dean	5.29.09	PCO I	HP/Montgomery
Colton Ludlam	5.13.09	Trooper	ADM/ACJTC

## *Retirement*

James Lyons	5.29.09	Major	ADM/Division Chief
-------------	---------	-------	--------------------



Lt. Clay Barnes and Team:

Words cannot begin to express the gratitude our family extends to you all during your assistance with our son, Walker's, tragic accident on the Tallapoosa River during the weekend of May 8-10. Your energy, concern and professionalism were unparalleled.

Although you cannot begin to feel the depth of our pain in the loss of our son, we know that your task was not easy for you either. You did your job with the ultimate of care, concern and compassion for each of us as we endured the painfully long process of recovering his body.

You can all certainly be proud of your team. The many hours of training and preparation for a tragedy such as this was sure exemplified in the manner in which each of you carried out your specific tasks. We are grateful, as are the many folks that live in the State of Alabama, that there are caring folks like you that are willing to help during these tragedies.

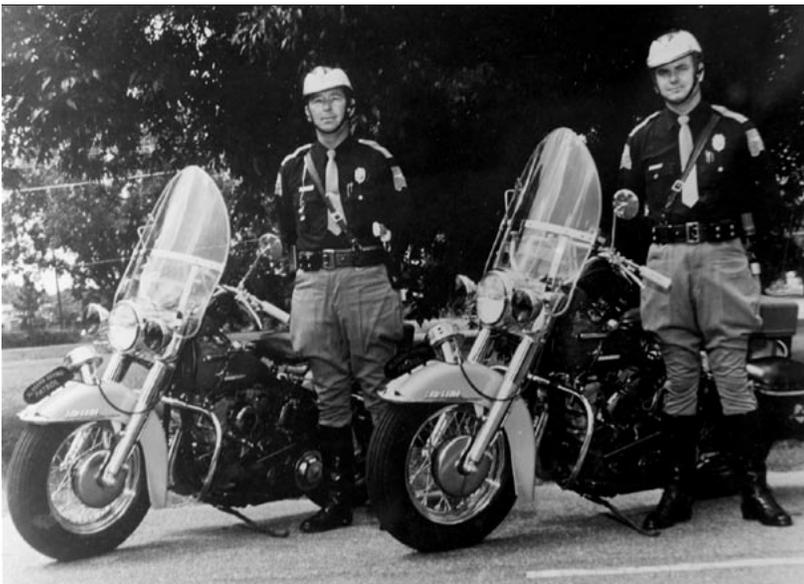
We pray for God's continued safe passage for each of as you continue to assist those in need in the future.

Warmest regards,

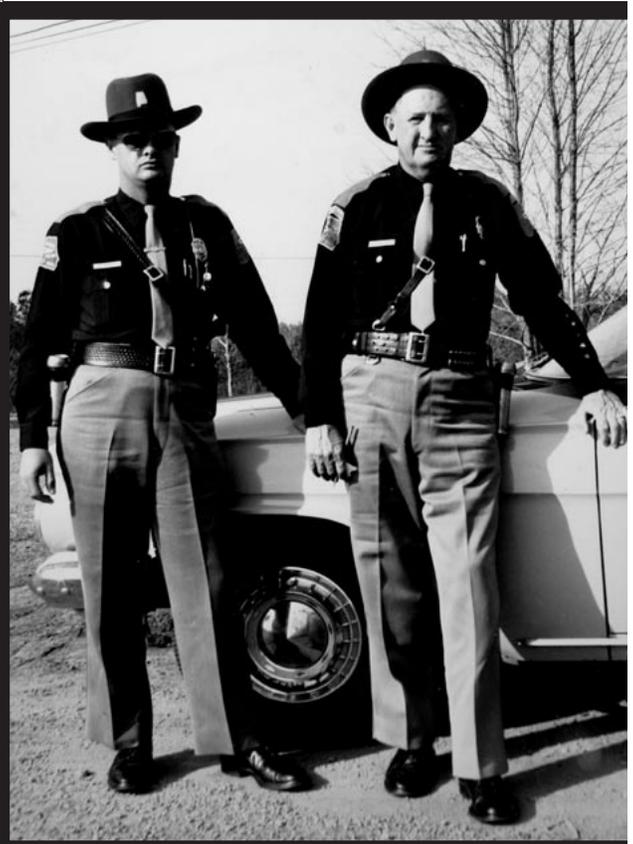
Robert W. Taylor

# 75 Heading Towards

1935 - 2010



*Above: Highway Patrolmen Gordon McGriff and Jim Bryant are two of the department's four motor men in 1959. Gordon McGriff retired as a major of the Administrative Division in 1987, Jim Bryant retired as a sergeant from the Montgomery HP post in 1989.*



*Right: Highway Patrolmen J. D. Wambles and Earl Henley stationed in Henry County in the early 1960's. Patrolman Henley retired in 1963, and J. D. Wambles retired as a lieutenant in the DL Division in 1984.*

*Below Left: Sgt. Jim Collins with the Tom Maxwell trophy, one of many trophies he won over the years with the Trooper pistol Team. Sgt. Collins won the National Combat Pistol Championship two years in a row.*

*Below Right: Gov. Chauncey Sparks and others, fishing in the Dauphin Island fishing rodeo in the late 1930's | early 1940's. Unknown highway patrolmen in boat with the governor.*





*Above Left: Col. E. C. Dothard, director, Sgt. O. M. "Rookie" Raines and Maj. Emmett Dixon, chief of I&I Division. Dothard is photographed presenting Raines his retirement gun and certificate in 1976.*

*Above Right: Highway Patrolman Ralph Beasley with his 1961 Ford patrol car. Beasley retired in 1987 as a captain.*

*Right: Sgt. Roy Smith, Col. E. C. Dothard, Bud Vinson and Lt. Col. Russell in front of the 1936 Ford. Vinson played an instrumental role in restoring the DPS Museum display car, giving several months of his personal time and expertise in the restoration.*



Alabama Department of



Public Safety

**CONTRIBUTING:**

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

**EDITOR:**

Ryan Godfrey

# RSA Criminal Justice Center Montgomery, Ala.



**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

[DPS.ALABAMA.GOV](http://DPS.ALABAMA.GOV)

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

STAY IN TOUCH WITH *THE BLUE LIGHT*.  
PLEASE E-MAIL ALL REQUESTS TO:

[RYAN.GODFREY@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV](mailto:RYAN.GODFREY@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV)

## On Your Calendar

Friday, July 3

*Independence Day (offices closed)*

Monday, September 7

*Labor Day*

Monday, October 12

*Columbus Day*

Wednesday, November 11

*Veterans Day*

## ACJTC TRAINING SCHEDULE JULY '09

Date	Event
July 1-10	Trooper Class 2009-A
1-17	ABC Training
1-31	Basic Police Session 135
1	PowerPoint 2003 Introduction
6-10	Crash Zone
8	Draeger Recertification
10	Trooper Class 2009-A Graduation
13-24	ABI New Hires Training
14	PowerPoint 2007 Introduction
15	Excel 2007 Intermediate
16	Excel 2003 Intermediate
21-23	Crash Zone
28	Word 2007 Introduction
29	Word 2003 Introduction
30	Outlook & Webmail