



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 HUGH McCALL  
ABI Division

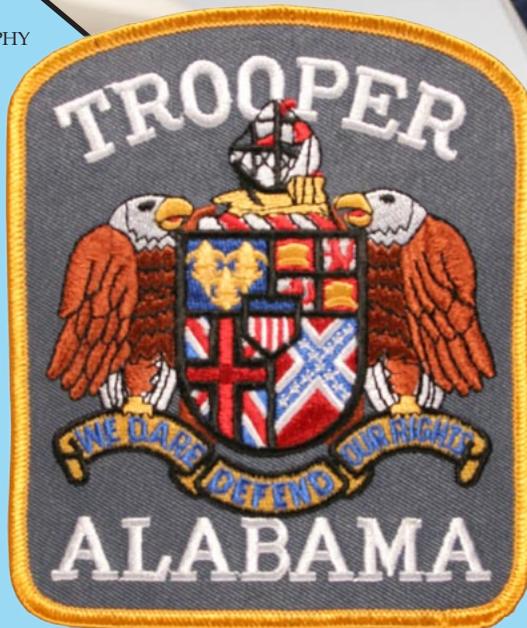
CAPTAIN MARC McHENRY  
Administrative Division

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS  
Driver License Division

MAJOR ROSCOE HOWELL  
Highway Patrol Division

MAJOR HERMAN WRIGHT  
Protective Services Division

MAJOR JERRY CONNER  
Service Division



## SEPTEMBER 2009 INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

<i>The Colonel's Corner</i>	2
<i>Spain Named 2008 ARA Examiner of Year</i>	4
<i>Holiday Safety Blitz Targets DUIs</i>	6
<i>Knight Visits Director's Crisis Center</i>	7
<i>H1N1 Flu Situational Awareness</i>	8
<i>Auto Shop Keeps the Wheels Turning</i>	10
<i>Spotlight on Capitol Police</i>	12
<i>Protection is the Name of the Game</i>	14

# The Colonel's Corner

Col. J. Christopher Murphy, Director



**A**s I write this column, the Department of Public Safety has been party to several significant events recently. ABI has just completed a major enforcement action at the “VFW Bingo” establishment in the Roebuck area of Birmingham, serving a search warrant in the course of an investigation requested by District Attorney Brandon Falls. ABI agents conducted undercover work that led to the signed search warrant for suspected illegal gambling machines, computer servers, cash, and other related gambling evidence. As a result, more than 1,000 machines were confiscated, loaded, and transported to storage; more than \$800,000 in cash was seized; and many significant pieces of evidence were recovered. This operation was thoroughly investigated, well planned, and superbly executed, with approximately 50 ABI agents and other troopers, special agents

from ABI, and more than 30 reserve troopers participating. The whole operation was virtually flawless and has drawn accolades from the district attorney, outside experts, and the governor. Congratulations to ABI and to all who participated.

DPS recently has concluded another very successful Take Back Our Highways campaign. This time our traditional partner states, Mississippi and Tennessee, also were joined by Georgia and Florida. This five-state initiative was effective, favorably received by the public and media, and most recently was noted in an Aug. 18 *USA Today* article on state efforts to improve driving behavior.

Internally, there have been a few recent reassignments at DPS. Maj. Charles Andrews has been assigned as chief of the Driver License Division, Maj. Jerry Conner has been assigned as chief of the Service Division, and Maj. Hugh McCall has been assigned as chief of the ABI Division. Capt. Todd Fulmer has been assigned as assistant chief of Highway Patrol, and Capt. Marc McHenry has been assigned as assistant chief of the Administrative Division. Lt. Keith Jackson has been assigned to the Administrative Division as liaison to the Alabama Department of Homeland Security, Lt. Joe McClellan has been assigned to the Protective Services Division, Lt. Deena Pregno has been assigned to the Highway Patrol Division as Montgomery Post commander, and Lt. Kevin Wright has been assigned as Special Projects coordinator (academy construction).

That explains “who” and “what.” Now I’d like to talk about “why.” Each of you knows that I am intent on “raising up” leaders for this department, but why is that important? I believe it is essential to effectively carrying out our mission each day, planning for future success, and ensuring long-term health and stability for the department. That is why the lieutenant colonel and I continually evaluate the management of DPS, making decisions

# The Colonel's Corner (CONTINUED)

that we believe enhance the department's leadership by providing individuals the experiences and assignments that best develop their individual skills. Our evaluation leads to personnel moves that are purposeful and productive, not punitive or arbitrary.

I realize my management style has taken some getting used to from the very beginning, with the transfer of all six majors and the lieutenant colonel my first day on the job. Those initial moves were the beginning of my work to raise up leaders for DPS, and we are continuing to build on and advance those efforts. With every move, leadership development — not discipline — is at the heart of our decision-making. I believe that depth and breadth of experience help develop strong, knowledgeable and resilient leaders. That has been my conviction throughout the many assignments, schools and missions of my law enforcement career. I have been preaching this same message at DPS since Dec. 1, 2006.

During the first-ever staff retreat in 2008, I quoted from the author of the popular book on leadership, *From Good to Great*. The author states, "If you do not have the right people on the bus, it doesn't matter how talented ... you will fail." I am absolutely convinced that DPS has the right people on the bus, but it is my job to change their seats from time to time. You don't automatically become a leader when you make corporal or captain; and you don't learn leadership through a secret handshake. Leadership is developed through time and experience, and the process is multi-faceted. Recently, more than 80 corporals took the sergeant's examination, which is yet another step in their "honing" process to become true leaders. A further step is the leadership school for sergeants we are planning for this fall. Testing, training, experience and, yes, moving personnel are all part of this process. It's true that honing leaders can be a bit uncomfortable — believe me, I have been honed 'til it hurt during my 31-year career — yet I believe it is my responsibility to continuously hone DPS's leaders.

"Presidential Courage" by Michael Beschloss quotes President John Adams as saying that a leader "must run the risk of incurring people's displeasure sometimes, or he will never do them any good in the long run." That is as true a statement about leadership as I know. Any organization that refuses to run this risk is doomed to mediocrity at best, and failure at worst.

We know that at DPS, failure is not an option and neither is mediocrity. We have chosen to excel and we are doing just that. Look at the new academy under way on the campus of Wallace Community College in Selma. Look at the Take Back Our Highways campaign, which has increased safety, spread to five states, and is attracting national attention. Look at ABI's superior operation during the recent gambling enforcement initiative. Look throughout Public Safety in every division at examples too numerous to cite. Look at yourselves to understand why DPS is gaining a reputation for excellence among the public, the business community, our elected leaders and sister states.

I am honored to be your director and to serve under Gov. Bob Riley. I will continue to make moves designed to raise up leaders at DPS, even at the risk of "incurring displeasure" sometimes, because we have chosen to excel and we are seeking to achieve that excellence in all we do.



*Spain stands with Murphy, Brown, and new chief of Driver License Maj. Charles Andrews, following the awards luncheon Aug. 27.*

**C**arolyn Spain was honored by the Alabama Retail Association as the 2008 ARA Examiner of the Year. Spain was recognized for her outstanding efforts in curtailing driver license fraud at a congratulatory luncheon hosted by the ARA in Montgomery Aug. 27.

Spain is a driver license specialist in the Birmingham Reinstatement Unit and has been with the department for 13 years. She is consistently a top performer in the district and also was named Outstanding Examiner of the Quarter for the first and third quarters of 2008, and for the first quarter of 2009. Spain was first runner-up for the Examiner of the Year Award in 2005.

In determining the quarterly and annual awards, the Alabama Retail Association uses a point system that awards five points for each misdemeanor charge and 10 points for each felony. Throughout 2008, Spain was responsible for 98 arrests, including 34 felony and 81 misdemeanor charges, giving her a winning point total of 523.

DL Specialists Regina Hardy and Denise Allison also were acknowledged by the ARA for their hard work and dedication. First-runner-up Hardy amassed 453 points in 2008. Previously, Hardy was awarded Examiner of the Year in 2007 and 2005,



*Brown awards Allison as second runner-up for Outstanding Examiner of 2008. Hardy, unable to attend, was also honored during the ceremony.*

and was also named Examiner of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2008. Allison accumulated 447 points for a second-runner-up finish, and was also Examiner of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2008.

DL Examiner I Angela Tankersley was named Examiner of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2009 at the same ceremony.

Driver License is on the front line in battling identity theft. In 2008, Alabamians filed 4,342 complaints with the Federal Trade Commission, ranking Alabama 13th among states in complaints filed per 100,000 residents. Identification fraud is one of the leading forms of robbery, costing financial institutions, businesses, government and consumers \$48 billion annually.



“Alabama retailers are proud that through this award program and our partnership with the Department of Public Safety, the Driver License Division has seen a 246 percent increase in its arrest record since the award’s inception in 2000,” said ARA President Rick Brown.

Arrests made by those employed in the Driver License Division cover a wide range of charges, including failure to appear, felony fraud, forgery, robbery, larceny, child neglect, rape, parole violations, and firearms violations.

“Alabama’s driver license staff daily deals with a demanding and frequently stressful profession with dignity and dedication,” said Col. J. Christopher Murphy. “I cannot say enough about their work to guard the public’s safety through driver licensing.”

Murphy thanked the Alabama Retail Association for partnering with Public Safety to recognize driver license examiners and their stellar work to safeguard the driver licensing system, prevent fraud, and guard against identity theft. The partnership saves thousands of lost retail dollars by preventing individuals from obtaining false or stolen identities. In 2008, the Driver License Division was responsible for 591 felony, 2,702 misdemeanor and 21 Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrests.

## **‘Hands’ Cross State Lines for Safety**

The 18th Annual Hands Across the Border brought together Alabama state troopers with other state police to demonstrate their unified traffic enforcement efforts for the Labor Day Holiday weekend.

Symbolic handshakes are exchanged at Hands Across the Border events to reaffirm combined traffic enforcement efforts to reduce injuries and fatalities on roadways throughout the region.

Hands Across the Border focuses on impaired driving, safety belt and child restraint violations. It was initiated in 1991 to demonstrate a commitment to traffic safety, to promote strict enforcement of those laws designed to protect motorists traveling through these southern states and across the borders, and to remind citizens of the importance of traffic safety during the holiday period and all year long.



*Capt. Joe Duncan speaks at a Hands Across the Border press conference on the Alabama/Tennessee border Aug. 21.*



## *National Labor Day Safety Blitz Targeting Drunken Driving Under Way*

**T**he Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and the Central Alabama Highway Safety Office joined with Public Safety to hold a joint news conference at DPS Headquarters Aug. 20 announcing increased enforcement through Labor Day weekend as part of the national “Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.” crackdown on impaired driving.

The blitz focuses more than 11,000 agencies nationwide to combat and heighten awareness about one of America’s most deadly crimes. In 2007, nearly 13,000 people died in U.S. highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher.

“Make no mistake. Our message is simple. No matter what you drive — a passenger car, pickup, sport utility vehicle or motorcycle — if we catch you driving impaired, we will arrest you. No exceptions. No excuses,” said Cpl. Steve Jarrett of Public Information/Education. “We will be out in force to apprehend impaired drivers, remove them from the road, and save lives that might otherwise be lost.”

“Driving with a BAC of .08 or higher is illegal in every state. Yet we continue to see a tragic number of people with debilitating injuries and deaths as a result of impaired driving. This careless disregard for human life must stop. To help ensure that happens, the Department of Public Safety and our law enforcement partners are dedicated to arresting every impaired driver,” said Jarrett.

DPS is teaming with local law enforcement agencies to participate in the DUI campaign by conducting overtime enforcement activities such as road blocks, saturation patrols, and tactical line patrols.

The national “Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.” impaired driving crackdown is organized by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and focuses on combining high-visibility enforcement with heightened public awareness through advertising and publicity.

This year’s effort is supported by \$13 million in paid national advertising to help put all motorists on notice that, if they are caught driving impaired, they will be arrested.



## *Technology Upgrades to DPS Radio Equipment Impress Visiting Knight*

**R**ep. John Knight visited the Director's Crisis Center Aug. 20 to learn about and test the functionality of Alabama's new digital radio equipment working on the existing Public Safety driver license network.

Joining Knight for the demonstration were Art Faulkner of the Alabama Department of Homeland Security, a leading partner in ongoing efforts to upgrade state communications systems, along with Col. J. Christopher Murphy, Lt. Col. F.A. Bingham, Majors Charles Andrews and Jerry Conner, Capitol Police PCOs and other DPS staff.

The new digital system utilizes VOIP technology to provide redundancy and flexibility to the pre-existing communications system. Dispatch centers currently operate as stand-alone entities, using two-way radio technology that dates back to the 1940s. The implemented pilot program converts these analog communications into digital data transmittable over the Internet.

"Bridging various communications systems using this new technology is very exciting," said Murphy. "We've never been able to talk directly to Mobile from Montgomery on previous systems."

Not only can radio rooms correspond directly over the communications network, posts also can assume dispatch operations remotely in times of crisis. In hurricane-prone areas where there is need for evacuation, dispatch can be moved. Likewise, personnel shortages in dispatch centers can be addressed by having another location temporarily assume some of the responsibilities of the radio room.

"I am impressed with how advancements in technology are bringing us all closer together," said Knight following the demonstration. "I must complement DPS in their endeavors because they truly give the taxpayers what they expect."

"Clearly, DPS is moving forward," said Murphy. "Linking dispatch provides a world of possibilities just waiting to be explored."

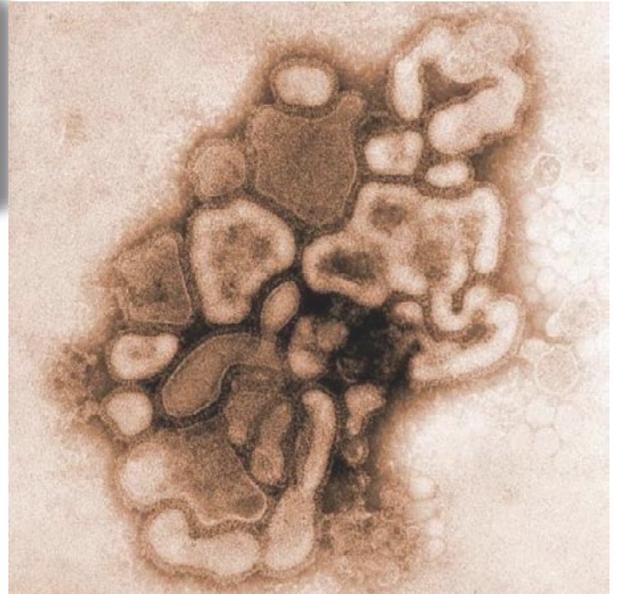
Posts in Montgomery, Mobile, Opelika, Alexander City, and Evergreen are currently linked over the communications network. Once the DPS dispatch communications network is complete, all dispatch centers will be connected over the driver license network. Amazingly, this system also has the future potential of tying into a massive radio network spanning all 50 states.

Overseeing the project, Andrews said, "This digital dispatch communications network represents the first true advancement for our communications system in more than 60 years. Not only does it allow for more efficient utilization of our resources and personnel, it simply fits the future communications plan for the state of Alabama."



# H1N1 Influenza

## Situational Awareness



On April 23, 2009, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported several confirmed cases of a new subtype of swine influenza (H1N1) in the United States. The Alabama Fusion Center began to monitor the pandemic influenza virus cases at that time and has continued to look for any trends or pertinent information for Alabama.

Currently, the state has 1,587 confirmed cases of novel H1N1 influenza. Two deaths have been associated with the novel H1N1 influenza virus in Alabama. Although the regular seasonal influenza continues to circulate with the H1N1 influenza, approximately 99 percent of tested cases are H1N1. As Alabama enters the current flu season, Department of Public Safety employees should follow the guidelines for prevention of the flu set forth by the Alabama Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

In the course of their duties each day, Public Safety employees are in constant contact with the public during traffic stops, driver license exams, criminal background checks and other areas where the risk for infection may be high. It is important to understand that both the regular seasonal flu and the H1N1 influenza may be spread from droplets of an infected person when they cough, sneeze or talk. Airborne droplets can enter the body through the eyes, nose or mouth. Contaminated surfaces in the workplace may include desks, phones, doorknobs, copier buttons, keyboards, countertops, vehicles and other equipment, faucets, etc.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises the following to reduce the spread of novel H1N1 influenza in the workplace:

- ▶ Stay home if you are sick. If you have symptoms of influenza-like illness, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities (your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine). Keep away from others as much as possible. This is to keep from making others sick.
- ▶ Employees who are well but who have an ill family member at home with novel H1N1 flu can go to work as usual. These employees should monitor their health every day, notify their supervisor and stay home if they become ill. Employees who have an underlying medical condition or who are pregnant should call their health care provider for advice, because they might need to receive influenza antiviral drugs to prevent illness.
- ▶ Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- ▶ Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can be used if soap and water are not available.
- ▶ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- ▶ Avoid close contact with sick people. If an employee suspects that he or she has been exposed to a sick person with novel H1N1 influenza, he or she may continue to go to work as usual. These employees should monitor their health every day and should notify their supervisor and stay home if they become ill. Stand at least six feet away from someone who is coughing or sneezing.

The symptoms of the H1N1 flu virus are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu. They include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people who have been infected with this virus also have reported diarrhea and vomiting. Also, as with seasonal flu, severe illnesses and death have occurred as a result of illness associated with this virus.

The Alabama Fusion Center will continue to monitor trends not only inside Alabama, but across the nation to be able to update employees as needed. The center encourages everyone to make contingency plans at home and the workplace to prepare for this pandemic. If you would like additional information regarding the pandemic H1N1 flu, please visit the [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) Web site.

# Long-line Training Leads to Real-life Rescue

Trooper pilots with the Alabama State Trooper Aviation Unit trained alongside DPS's own Critical Response Team and Helena Fire and Police departments on properly carrying out long-line and swift-water rescues in Helena July 31.

The training exercise focused on two different scenarios in which victims sustained serious, life-threatening injuries in extreme remote locations, thus requiring helicopter extraction.

The training allowed all parties involved in the rescue to seamlessly operate together, to quickly and safely transport the victim to a hospital for further medical evaluation.

In a situation eerily similar to what was practiced only 19 days earlier, the Aviation Unit responded to a request from the Toxey Police Department in Choctaw County following a crash involving an ATV rider Aug. 20.

The rider of the ATV had overturned on a creek bank in an inaccessible area and was critically injured. With no nearby roadways, an air rescue attempt was the best hope for getting the crash victim to medical treatment. DPS's Bell 407, piloted by Trooper Pilot Lee Hamilton, successfully completed a long-line rescue to extricate the victim and move him to a waiting ambulance, which transported the rider to Anderson Hospital in Meridian, Miss.

A central component of the long-line rescue was DPS's Critical Response Team, with Cpl. Brad Napp providing support and guidance from the ground, and Cpl. Kent Smith working with Hamilton from the air. Operating statewide, the CRT provides search-and-rescue services and is supported by the Alabama Department of Homeland Security.

"This was one of the exact scenarios we trained for," said Hamilton. "Our training made the rescue familiar to us, and the only real problem for us was the weather. I firmly believe that divine intervention played a huge role in the rescue, because we were surrounded by severe storms that would have made the rescue attempt impossible."

Hamilton recognized the tremendous help of Napp and Smith. Napp relayed information guiding the helicopter to the scene, while also handling all communications with local emergency responders. Smith rode the rescue line down to the victim and physically performed the rescue. Hamilton also praised the help of Bill Bevin as hoist operator and Greg Rankin for guiding the long line down for the rescue.

"This rescue just couldn't have been possible without the work of our entire team," said Hamilton. "I really am appreciative of everyone's hard work."

The Bell 407 search-and-rescue helicopter used was purchased by DPS through a U.S. Department of Justice grant. In addition to long-line rescues, the helicopter enables DPS to perform multiple extractions, stretcher-based evacuation, tactical operation insertion, and on-site delivery of emergency supplies and equipment.



# Auto Shop Keeps DPS's Wheels Turning



**A**lan Mobley's staff at the auto shop certainly understands the importance of literally keeping DPS's wheels turning.

At the main shop, next door to the Montgomery Post, auto shop employees are responsible for everything from replacing a worn-out tire to complete body repair, along with everything in between.

"We repair motors, transmissions, brakes, and perform routine service," said Mobley. "And we go through a lot of tires, normally 150 to 200 or so in a single month."

Of course, these are the things you would expect them to do. After all, it is an auto shop. Underneath the surface, however, is so much more.

Each police cruiser arrives at the shop an ordinary, silver car. Auto shop employees apply vinyl wrap graphics to the exterior of each car, while the interior is completely overhauled. Between Fleet Maintenance and Communications Engineering, radios, cages, docking stations, printers, and anything else troopers need to perform their job on the road are installed, including the troopers' famous blue lights.



Cars destined to be fully marked patrol cars enter their service at DPS as ordinary silver vehicles because they eventually will depart DPS as ordinary silver vehicles. The auto shop holds a car auction, usually every 12 months, selling off vehicles the department has retired. These cars are stripped of all of their specialty equipment and decals and sold to the highest bidder. Money raised from the car auctions is then used by the department to help purchase new vehicles.

In addition to maintaining DPS's extensive fleet of automobiles, auto shop employees also repair everything from lawnmowers to generators, and even a



couple of golf carts used at the academy in Selma.

The DPS auto shop also works closely with the Supply Unit in making monthly supply runs. Each month, the auto shop makes two supply runs – one to the north, and one to the south – taking everything from spare tires to printing supplies out and distributing them locally.

Several auto shop employees are on call 24/7 to respond at short notice when needed for vehicle repairs, while other auto shop employees are deployed locally to major events, such as the races at Talladega, to work on the department's vehicles as needed.

The auto shop also maintains the Mobile Command Post, when it's not in use, and keeps it ready to be deployed at a moment's notice.

In addition, the DPS auto shop houses its own parts shop, filled with a wide range of new auto parts ready to be installed. The parts shop houses everything from batteries, to oil filters, wiper blades, and A/C compressors.

"We cannibalize parts from wrecked cars to cut down on costs, but there are several items that we just need far too often to feasibly salvage," said Mobley.

In addition to the main auto shop in Montgomery, there are five satellite auto shops located in Birmingham, Dothan, Mobile, Decatur, and Jacksonville.

"Obviously, the repairs performed at other sites are not quite as extensive as here," said Mobley, "but given their equipment, the other auto shops around the state do a great job at doing some quite advanced repair work.

"I've got a wonderful group of people – from the women in the office handling administrative duties and mountains of paperwork, to everyone that maintains our enormous fleet. I just couldn't ask for better help than I already have," Mobley said. "A state trooper can't perform his job without a car. We make sure they keep running smoothly."



# Spotlight on *Capitol Police*

**F**ive Capitol Police officers completed training recently on both the T3 personal mobility vehicle and bicycles for high visibility patrol, according to Sgt. Ralph Drinkard of Protective Services. The training, required of all officers prior to their using the vehicles on duty, consists of a 40-hour course to learn and practice the use of bicycles on patrol, including defensive riding techniques. Officers also are required to complete a familiarization course to use the T3 on patrol.

These specialty vehicles augment Capitol Police's ability to quickly respond to situations in the Capitol complex.

"We definitely have a better, more thorough coverage of the downtown area," said Drinkard. "Both the bikes and the T3's enable our Capitol Police to make slower patrols in the area, and they improve our abil-



ity to keep in contact with the public in ways that you just cannot do from the interior of a police cruiser. The T3 furthers this ability, as the public will often approach officers just to find more out about the unique vehicle.

"Our Capitol Police are able to do so much more utilizing these vehicles," said Drinkard. "T3's and bicycles are able to enter buildings, and both can even fit in elevators, if necessary. While this certainly isn't something that we do every day, it is definitely nice to know that, if needed, we have that ability."

The need for the T3 and bicycle patrols becomes even more apparent when you consider everything the Capitol Police communications center at Headquarters is responsible for.

Seven PCOs staff the radio room at Headquarters, ensuring operations 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As part of their duties, they review stationary monitors which project images from strategically placed cameras throughout the Capitol complex. In addition, PCOs at Headquarters also watch all state key card systems for building access around the complex, and all elevator emergency phones in the complex ring to the radio room at Headquarters in the event of malfunction.

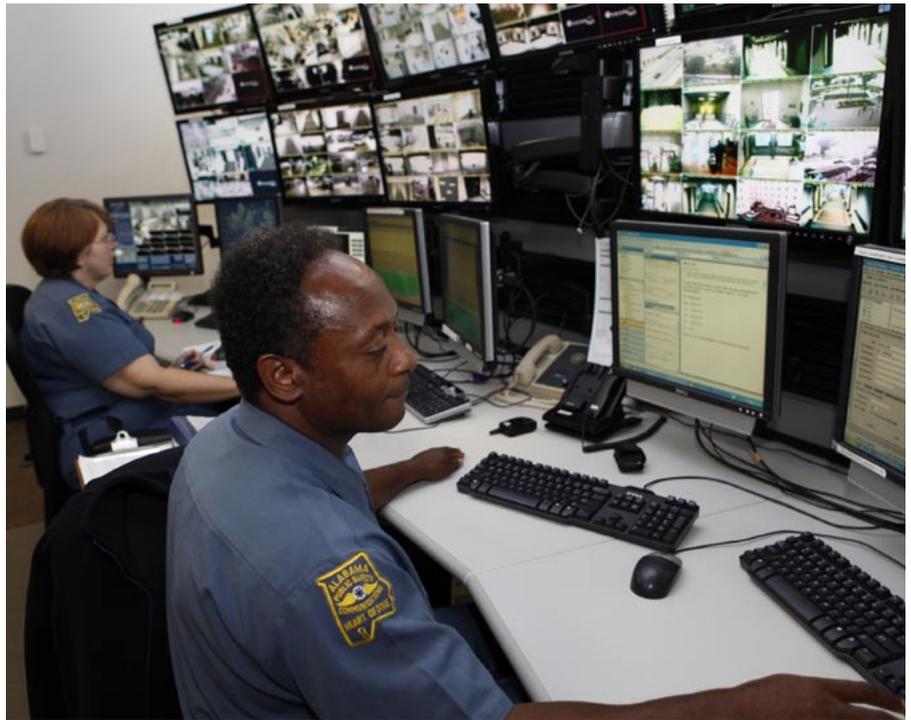
"We really are the hub of it all," said PCO III Cathy Dawson.



“The radio room at Headquarters is unique in that it deals with many things that no other DPS radio room in the state normally deals with,” said Dawson. “Because we are responsible for the entire Capitol complex, we are essentially a complete 911 call center. We handle medical emergencies, including heart attacks and strokes, and we have dealt with bomb threats and suspicious package alerts.”

Capitol Police PCOs also fill the role of Crisis Center PCOs, when the Director’s Crisis Center is deployed.

“Many people find it surprising that we do so much,” said Dawson, but it’s all in a day’s work for Capitol Police.



## ERADICATION Update 09

ABI’s Marijuana Eradication team is soaring through the 2009 season. To date, eradication teams have located and destroyed 58,740 plants, with a street value of \$117.48 million. This figure represents a huge increase compared with last season, when the program destroyed 23,669 plants through August 2008. Even though plant totals are more than double what they were last year, arrest counts for both years have remained constant. Thus far, 72 arrests have been made in 2009, only two more than the number of arrests during the same period last year.

Finding all that dope certainly keeps ABI agents busy, but they definitely do not go about it alone. Eradication depends heavily on the efforts of State Trooper Aviation, as the vast majority of seized marijuana is first spotted from the air by experienced pilots with trained eyes.

Tpr. Pilot Shane Hobbs, on his first day flying solo for eradication, located 321 plants in Cherokee County.

“It’s usually experienced pilots with lots of practice at locating dope that lead to big finds,” said Lt. Karl Youngblood, ABI Special Investigations/Operations.

Yet Hobbs demonstrated his skill time and time again, throughout his first week of flying eradication missions when a total of 3,509 plants were unearthed by all eradication teams.

“Hobbs is a natural,” said Youngblood.



*Above, Hobbs’s first of many dope finds.  
Below, a close-up view of marijuana plants  
to be destroyed by Eradication.*



# Protection is the Name of the Game

College football is, without question, one of the most storied traditions in the South. With all of the many game-day rituals associated with football in Alabama, the trooper tradition of providing escort to football teams has quietly persisted for 50 years. Although some may consider football details more ceremonial, the job is one of necessity, particularly during a time of heightened security concerns and increasingly erratic behavior from a handful of unruly fans.



Alabama state troopers began accompanying Paul “Bear” Bryant on the sidelines in the late 1950s. What started as a basic escort service has expanded to become a fully involved protective service, said Capt. Charles Ward of Protective Services. Ward has worked football details for Troy University since 1995.

“Our main duty is protection of the team and coaching staff,” said Ward. “Because head coaches are in such high-profile positions at their schools, dealing with threats is, unfortunately, part of the territory. Not only are coaches prime targets when disgruntled fans stew over a losing streak, they also face danger if overly enthusiastic fans storm the field in celebration after an exciting victory.

“I admit, the job is fun,” said Ward, “but most don’t realize that a lot of hard work and preparation goes into this duty. We need to know how long it takes to get from point A to point B. We need to know the best routes for travelling to the stadium, leaving the stadium, and entering and exiting the stadium. We also need to know how to find the nearest medical facilities in the event of an emergency. Of course, we also need backup plans, and a backup to the backup plans.

“Getting around heavy traffic is a major component we deal with on a weekly basis,” said Ward.

Ward recalled a time when several fans in the student section were throwing items onto the field. After he briefly talked to the group responsible, the activity promptly stopped.

“I didn’t think much about it, until I was approached by the stadium security,” said Ward. “They told me that the students in that section had been causing trouble all season long, and wondered how I was able to keep the kids from throwing objects onto the field when they couldn’t. I answered him by saying, ‘To get respect, you must first treat others with respect.’”



Amidst all the excitement at the games, troopers alone appear calm and composed. As Ward explained, troopers working football details try not to get involved in the commotion because the sole reason they are there is to perform their job.

“Sure, I enjoy the game,” said Ward, “but if that was the reason I was there, I would be sitting in the stands, and not on the sidelines.”

# 75 Heading Toward

1935 - 2010



*Above: Col. Floyd Mann sits on the right side of Gov. Albert Brewer. Behind them stand Shelby County Sheriff "Red" Walker and Maj. Bill Jones, chief of I&I Division.*



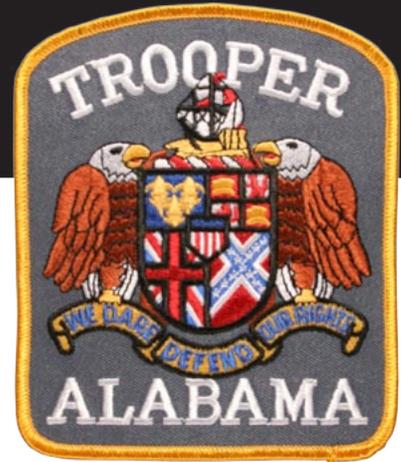
*Right: Assistant director Bill Jones greets Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett upon landing in Montgomery. Barnett was visiting the city for a Civil War centennial celebration.*

*Below: A 1959 illegal gambling raid in Bullock County. Kneeling from left are an unidentified patrolman, Col. Floyd Mann, and a Bullock County sheriff. Standing behind them from left are an unidentified patrolman, Richard Stone, Willie B. Painter, Seymore Trammell, Maj. Bill Jones, and I&I Chief Walter Allen.*



# *Online Crash Reports Now Available*

## **Web-based Service Added for Public's Convenience**



Alabama crash reports are now available for purchase online through a new Web-based service offered by the Alabama Department of Public Safety, according to Col. J. Christopher Murphy, director of Public Safety.

Murphy said the new service provides a convenient option for individuals seeking to purchase crash reports and also increases efficiency for Public Safety. “The online availability of crash reports is one more innovation we are implementing in our efforts to improve customer service in driver licensing,” Murphy said.

“For those who take advantage of this service, ordering a crash report online is just a matter of visiting the Department of Public Safety’s Web site, instead of taking the time to visit a driver license office in person,” he said.

“The new service is fast, simple, and always available,” said Capt. Terry Chapman, assistant chief of DL. “This is just one of many examples where we are constantly working to better serve the public in Driver License.”

DPS’s Web site, <http://dps.alabama.gov>, directs those seeking crash reports to a link through which they may search for crash reports using three separate criteria:

1. Driver license number;
2. Driver’s name; or
3. Crash report number.

Once the report has been identified and ordered, it is accessible online in portable document format for seven days from the date of purchase. Crash reports may be purchased online with all major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover). The fee for online purchase is \$15, plus a \$2 processing fee, for a total of \$17 per report.

Copies of crash reports also may be purchased via postal mail using a form available at <http://www.dps.state.al.us/DriverLicense/forms/DLCrashReportRequest.pdf>, or through DPS driver license offices in Birmingham, Dothan, Foley, Huntsville, Jacksonville, Mobile, Montgomery, Opelika, Sheffield and Tuscaloosa. Contact information and addresses for these driver license offices may be found at <http://www.dps.state.al.us/DriverLicense/Reinstatement.aspx>.

The Department of Public Safety processes approximately 150,000 crash reports annually and sells almost 60,000 copies of crash reports each year.



# People You Know!

## *New Employees*

Robert Briggs	8.03.09	Forensic Technology Examiner	ABI/CyberCrimes
Terri Charles	7.16.09	PED Specialist	ADM/Grants
Eleanor Hudson	8.03.09	Forensic Technology Examiner	ABI/CyberCrimes

## *Promotions*

Sheryl Barfoot	7.16.09	Criminal Intelligence Analyst	ABI/CIC
Allan Battles	8.01.09	Lieutenant	HP/Jacksonville Post
James Howell	8.01.09	Sergeant	PS/Dignitary Protection

## *Transfers*

Andrew Alexander	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Talladega County
Kevin Ball	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Marengo County
Joshua Boody	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Tuscaloosa County
Juddston Bowers	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Mobile County
Raymond Brothers	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Montgomery County
Jeff Brown	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Baldwin County
Jayson Coon	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Choctaw County
Gregory Corble	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Perry County
Gary Daniel	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Blount County
Brian English	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Coosa County
Robert Green	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Houston County
Robert Hale	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Calhoun County
Terry Head	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Montgomery County
Daniel Jackson	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Lee County
Jason Johnson	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Talladega County
David Jones	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Lee County
Jeremy Lay	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Franklin County
Charles Lewis	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Lamar County
Keith Marbut	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Cullman County
Randy McBrayer	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Calhoun County
Denise McCain	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Lee County
Jason McCallister	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Pike County
Samuel McHenry	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Crenshaw County
Thomas Nalls	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Talladega County
John Odom	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Calhoun County
Richard Olliver	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Clay County
Anthony Peebles	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Cullman County
Robert Ping	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Tuscaloosa County
Kevin Price	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Blount County
Phillip Schuler	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Mobile County
Scott Sherrer	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Mobile County
Jacob Smith	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Calhoun County
Carey Tatum	8.01.09	DL Examiner I	DL/Montgomery Examining



# People You Know!

## *Transfers (continued)*

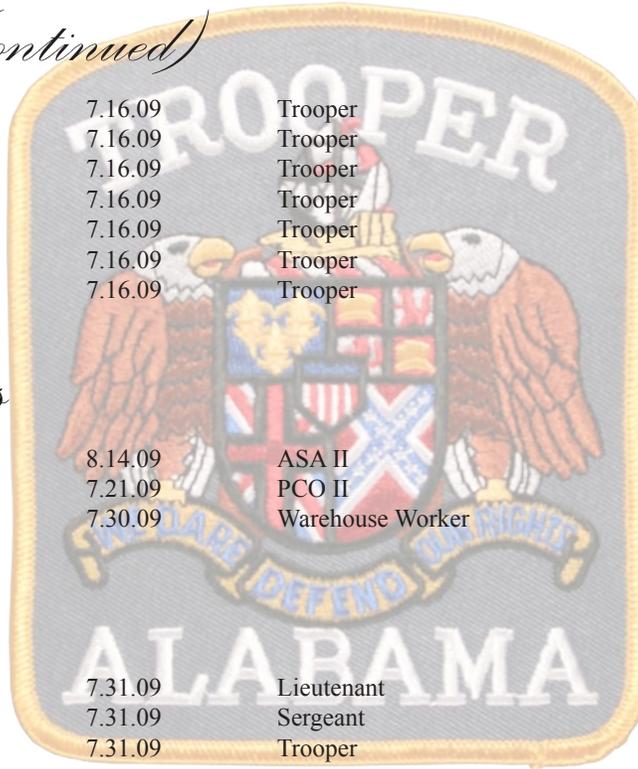
Brad Taylor	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Baldwin County
Kenneth Wade	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Baldwin County
Gary Wells	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Blount County
Jason White	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Franklin County
Jimmy White	7.16.09	Trooper	PS/Dignitary Protection
Steven Wilson	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Winston County
Larry Young	7.16.09	Trooper	HP/Tuscaloosa County

## *Resignations*

Penelope Oliver	8.14.09	ASA II	ADM/Legal
Alisha Patterson	7.21.09	PCO II	HP/Montgomery
Danny Watters	7.30.09	Warehouse Worker	SER/Supply

## *Retirements*

Charles Alexander	7.31.09	Lieutenant	ABI/Mobile
Julius Darby	7.31.09	Sergeant	ABI/Evergreen
Richard Johnson	7.31.09	Trooper	HP/Birmingham



## *Thanks to Supply, Flood Damage Minimal to DPS*



DPS Supply Unit members were recently thanked for their quick response to a severe May 7 thunderstorm that brought widespread flash flooding to Montgomery.

The entire unit immediately sprang into action to combat the high waters, and greatly reduced the damage impact on DPS as a result.

“With hard work, we were able to prevent the majority of our equipment from succumbing to flood damage,” said Supply Officer Anthony Howard. “Also, of our supplies that were affected, we were able to salvage a good bit.”

Alabama Department of



Public Safety

**CONTRIBUTING:**

- Maj. Hugh McCall, ABI
- Capt. Charles Ward, PS
- Capt. Jack Clark, HP
- Sgt. Ricky Agerton, ABI
- Tpr. Charles Dysart, ADM
- Tommy Giles, Photography

**EDITOR:**

Ryan Godfrey

# RSA Criminal Justice Center Montgomery, Ala.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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

RYAN.GODFREY@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

## On Your Calendar

Monday, September 7

*Labor Day*

Monday, October 12

*Columbus Day*

Wednesday, November 11

*Veterans Day*

Thursday, November 26

*Thanksgiving Day*

## ACJTC TRAINING SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER '09

Date	Event
Sept. 1	Excel 2007 Introduction
1-3	Driver License Course
1-31	Basic Police Session 136
2	Word 2007 Introduction
3	PowerPoint 2007 Introduction
9	Outlook & Webmail
10	Computer Basics
14-17	Driver License Course
15	Excel 2007 Intermediate
16	Word 2007 Intermediate
17	PowerPoint 2007 Advanced
22	Excel 2007 Advanced
24	Word 2007 Advanced
28-29	Driver License Course
29	Excel 2003 Introduction
30	PowerPoint 2003 Introduction