



The official monthly publication of the Alabama Department of Public Safety



THE BLUE LIGHT

October 2010



THE HONORABLE BOB RILEY
Governor

COLONEL F.A. BINGHAM
Director

MAJOR HUGH McCALL
ABI Division

MAJOR MARC McHENRY
Administrative Division

MAJOR TERRY CHAPMAN
Driver License Division

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS
Highway Patrol Division

MAJOR HERMAN WRIGHT
Protective Services Division

MAJOR JERRY CONNER
Service Division

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The Colonel's Corner

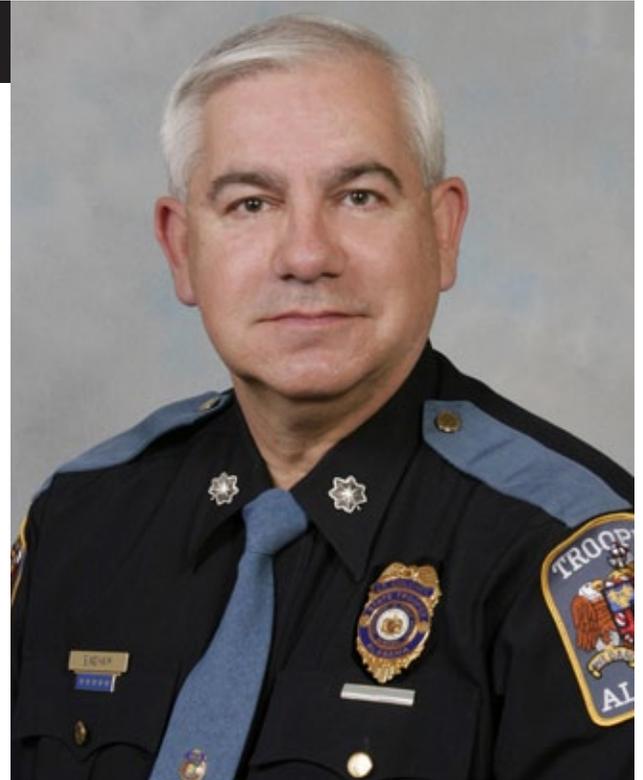
Col. F.A. "Bubba" Bingham, Director

At this writing we have lost a true leader in the department. Col. J. Christopher Murphy has taken a job with the city of Montgomery as its Public Safety director. He was offered the position more than a year ago and, after a lot of thought and prayer, he decided to accept the offer from Mayor Todd Strange and has now moved on to another challenging position, a new chapter in his life and a new opportunity for the city of Montgomery, specifically the police department, fire department and communications department.

I want to take you back to a few of the accomplishments Col. Murphy helped bring to the department during his short season here:



The department's acquisition of nine BAT-mobiles occurred thanks to a partnership with ADECA, the Governor's Office and the Department of Forensic Sciences.



- Reduced fatalities for four years in a row;
- The opening of a \$24.5 million state-of-the-art training academy;
- The elevation of leadership training;
- Re-establishment of customer service and satisfaction within the Driver License Division;
- The development of partnerships across the spectrum of state agencies;
- The relocation of the Mobile Trooper Post and automotive shop;
- The establishment of the Director's Crisis Center;
- The establishment of the Alabama Fusion Center;
- The establishment of the Forensics Computer Lab in Hoover;
- The establishment of the CyberCrime Unit within the ABI Division;
- The security assistance provided to the Foot-wash and Bike Rally land owners.

The Colonel's Corner (CONTINUED)

These are just a few of the accomplishments that have helped to elevate the department to a level of respect recognized by Alabamians in every walk of life. While I realize that these accomplishments were the efforts of a team, it was his struggle for excellence and his unwavering vision that made them possible in large part. It is my goal that we, all of us, do our part to see that these deeds continue long into the future. I know each of you join me in wishing Col. Murphy much success as he begins a new chapter in his life.

Now, let me discuss briefly my appointment as the "acting" director. I'm not so naive as to think that I alone can run a department of nearly 1,500 employees, even for a few months. I've spent the past 36 years preparing myself for this position. I have many years of managerial experience, and I have supervised practically every classification within the department. In the May 2007 *Blue Light*, I was asked what new challenges I'd face as a colonel that I did not necessarily face as a major. I remarked that I'd be managing six division chiefs and a departmental budget. I won't take all the credit for our successes, but I'd put the DPS staff up against any in the country, bar none! I'm convinced that this department can rise to any occasion with the staffing we've put in place.

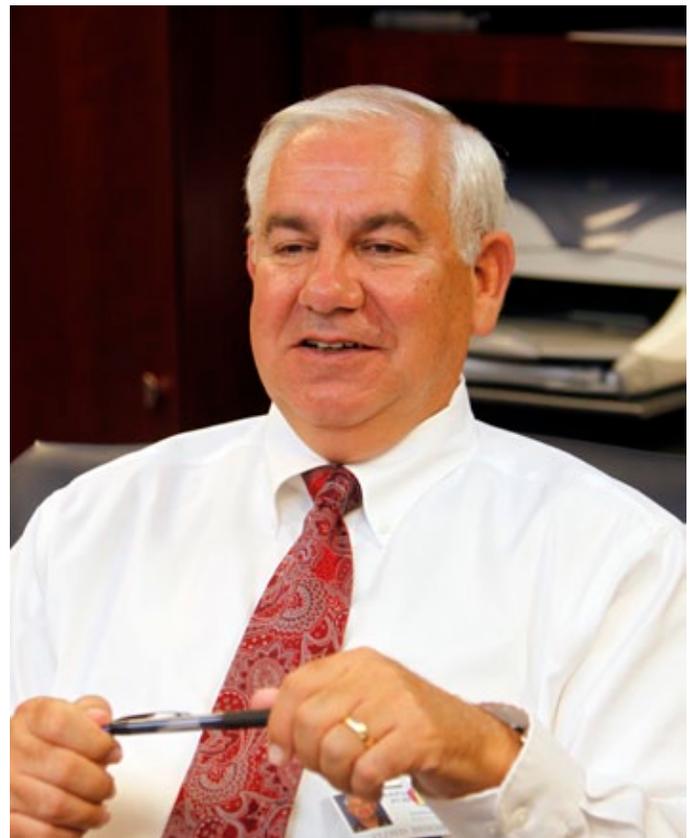
Regarding the budget: Two years ago, the Finance director and the governor asked each state agency

to cut spending and roll over money to shore up the following budget year. DPS has answered that call for the past two budget years and has rolled over millions of dollars in order to continue staffing levels necessary to meet the demands of the public whom we serve. We've done it by being extremely conservative with our purchases (we've bought what we needed, but not what we wanted). Yet in the face of shrinking budgets, we've managed to continue to reduce fatalities year after year; we've managed to provide exemplary customer service and have kept the driver licensing lines to a minimum; we've kept our fleet of vehicles operational; we've promoted scores of deserving personnel; and we've done all that and more by the sacrifices of the hundreds of dedicated employees of this department. I thank each and every one of you, but we cannot afford to relax the standards painstakingly put into place during the past four years.

I want all of us to continue to "think outside the box." Our budget woes are not over. We'll likely be faced with level funding at best for many months yet, and we must continue to respect every tax

dollar we spend so that we get the most efficient and effective use from it.

As I take the reins of the department for the next 90 days, I look forward to working in partnership with the command staff of this fine organization. We've worked hard to gain the trust and respect of the governor and his cabinet, and I intend to do all I can to see that the accomplishments of the past four years continue. I solicit the support of each employee as we continue to move forward.





New Academy Opens Doors

The new Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center officially opened its doors at a ribbon cutting ceremony Sept. 23 and Open House Sept. 30.

State officials and guests touring the \$24.5 million facility on the campus of Wallace Community College Selma were clearly impressed with their surroundings. The freshly manicured landscaping complements the six-building complex that houses classrooms, dormitories, a dining hall, and administrative space. The only component of the new training center to remain at the Craig Field location is the firing range.

“This is truly an historic day,” said Lt. Col. F.A. Bingham during the ceremony. “It is a red-letter day for the department, for the state, and for the citizens of Alabama, who all stand to benefit from the training that goes on at this fine facility.”

Several attendees of the ribbon cutting visited the Craig Field location prior to arriving at the new ACJTC. As impressive as the new facility is, the realization of the need for a new campus is greatly heightened by seeing just how much is lacking at the old facility.



Col. J. Christopher Murphy, outgoing director of the state Department of Public Safety, commented on this when he spoke at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

“In expressing our need for a new academy,” said Murphy, “we boarded a bus with 20 state lawmakers and went to Craig Field to see first-hand how bad the facility was. We walked through the deteriorating dormitory, saw the crumbling gymnasium, which had been condemned, and ate in the cafeteria, which is more than 50 years old and in appalling condition.”

“They probably should have received hazardous duty pay for that detail,” Murphy quipped.

Equally enthusiastic about the new surroundings was Gov. Bob Riley, who was the keynote speaker at the ribbon cutting and noted that he would put the ACJTC up against any comparable training center in the world.

“This is a fantastic facility,” said Riley more than once, during a walking tour of the main training building and dormitory. Riley stopped at the driving simulator long enough to get behind the wheel and assume the role of a trooper in pursuit.

Funding for construction of the



new facility took place through inclusion in a \$1 billion educational bond issue.

Sen. Hank Sanders, who played an essential role in securing the project, commented on the inclusion of the new academy in the educational bond.

“As my mother used to say,” said Sanders, “opportunity is a man with a full head of hair in the front, and completely bald in the back. As he is coming towards you, you need to grip it quickly, because once he’s past you, he will just slip

away with nothing to grasp. This new facility took vision, and I am happy to contribute, and this new campus is proof of the power of partnership.”

Sharing in the power of partnership is Wallace Community College Selma President James Mitchell. Mitchell, early on, caught the vision of the new ACJTC and said the opening of the new facility made him “peacock proud and honeymoon happy.” Mitchell said he hopes to see swift growth in Wallace’s own criminal justice program, thanks to the location of the ACJTC.

Alabama Speaker of the House Seth Hammett summed up the importance of the new academy, saying, “For the very first time, we have quality in the facility equal to the quality of what is being taught in the facility. It’s finally caught up. This facility is something to really be proud of.”



Operation Propeller Constellation Prepares Emergency Responders for Catastrophic Event

The Alabama Department of Homeland Security held a large-scale, three-day training exercise that brought law enforcement teams from every region of the state to on Montgomery Sept. 15-17 to make preparations in the event of a catastrophic disaster.

Dubbed Operation Propeller Constellation, the first multi-jurisdictional law enforcement training exercise in the state brought approximately 200 emergency responders and members of law enforcement to the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa at the Convention Center in convoys. Members of law enforcement met at designated points to form a convoy that traveled to Montgomery. Each agency brought various emergency equipment, ranging from mobile command units and response vehicles to highly specialized equipment and tools needed to respond to all types of disaster and emergency scenarios.

Training for Operation Propeller Constellation actually began before the various response teams' arrival in Montgomery. Practice drill scenarios were created and sent out to response teams on short notice to simulate real-life response to an actual emergency scenario.

A major focus of the exercise was placed not only on show-



This aerial photo shows a convoy of mobile command units en route to respond to a scenario during training.

ing the equipment, but also on demonstrating equipment capabilities and cross-training on tools belonging to other agencies. Among the equipment on display was DPS's Bell 407 helicopter, DelSar Life Sensor device, ground-penetrating technology, perimeter defense systems, bomb-defusing robots, and marine police boats. DPS purchased the Bell 407 with a U.S. Department of Justice grant through a direct earmark of Congressional funding from the 2007 Emergency Supplemental Appropriation for Hurricane Katrina.

The idea behind the training, according to Tpr. Charles Dysart, is to collaborate and network to improve efficiency in response, and to better prepare responders to use tools at their disposal to better handle various emergencies throughout the state.

"These tools facilitate the response to emergencies in most instances," said Dysart. "But if we don't know what equipment we have access to, or its capabilities, we are still at square one."

Other equipment was funded by the Department of Homeland Security, and overtime was provided by the Emergency Management Agency.



Emergency equipment, including the Bell 407, were put on display during Operation Propeller Constellation.

Motor Carrier, FAP Attend Counter-terrorism Training

Twenty-five troopers from Motor Carrier Safety and FAP completed an intensive, four-day CMV Counter-terrorism class recently, with the specialized training provided through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

At the class, troopers focused on several scenarios to identify a potential roadside terrorist threat, and techniques to seize control and diffuse the situations.

“Part of the classroom training was discussing current trends in terrorism,” said Cpl. Jeff Walker. “Terrorist warfare is not taking to the skies like it once was, and we are now focusing on the potential threat of biological and chemical weapons, dirty bombs, car bombs, and pipe bombs.”

“The entire class was interesting and useful,” added Cpl. Chris McNatt. “We learned several advanced



maneuvers in the ground-fighting class to immobilize and take down suspects. We also learned what to look for on even the most convincing counterfeit driver licenses, and we were provided with tools to help identify those counterfeits.

“The class was incredibly well-rounded and a true eye-opener,” said McNatt.

“It is unique because it’s something you hope to never have to use, but still need each and every day,” said Walker. “Whether we ever encounter a terrorist or not, it is something that you have to be prepared for each and every stop, because you just don’t know what situations you will encounter out there.”

Motor Carrier Safety is funded by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Supply Unit Issues Uniforms to Class 2010-A

Uniforms were issued by the DPS Supply Unit to the members of Trooper Class 2010-A at the Montgomery Trooper Post on Sept. 27.

“Outfitting new troopers can be a pretty big undertaking,” said Warehouse Worker Ron Short. “We’ve settled on an assembly line-type process, and it works rather well for us.”

During the process, the Supply Unit issues just about everything to the soon-to-be troopers. Candidates are sized and issued shirts, boots, pants, hats, jackets, leather gear, and accessories. “Everything but badges,” Short said.

“Historically, our trooper recruits have always seen uniform day as



an important day,” said Supply Officer Anthony Howard. “It’s a day where the recruits can begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel. It, obviously, is a big day for us, too.”

The newest member of the Supply staff, Tyler Ellis, was finding out for the first time how the DPS 26 Supply Request Form helps eliminate confusion among the otherwise hectic atmosphere at the fitting.

“It’s all about efficiency,” Short said to Ellis. “Make sure they have everything they need before leaving.”

“People sometimes think our unit is bigger than it is,” said Howard. “That alone is a testament to how incredible and hard-working my staff really is. In addition to Short and Ellis, I want to thank Kenneth Perryman, Dorothy Alexander and Titus Ashley for all they do. It is their dedication that makes our unit so successful.”

Lunch and Learn Addresses Growing Problem of Workplace Theft

Capl. Glenn Suits of the Capitol Police offered preventative tips and procedures concerning theft in the workplace as part of the continuing Lunch and Learn program Sept. 30 at the Folsom Administrative Building.

The program was the second in a series of free lunch-time seminars for state employees on a variety of topics that affect workplace safety. The Lunch and Learn program has been coordinated largely thanks to the input of Capitol Police Sgt. Addré Bryant.

“Education is so important,” Bryant said. “By educating people and proactively addressing these issues, we not only safeguard the public, we also deter the crime in the process.”

Workplace theft may, at first, seem insignificant and

inconsequential, but an estimated \$120 billion is lost in the U.S. annually, and up to 20 percent of every company’s dollar is spent making up for employee theft, according to American DataBank statistics.

“Theft in the workplace is a silent problem,” said Bryant. “Not many really think about it until after it happens, and it is usually really simple to prevent. In many cases it is as easy as locking an office door and not leaving behind something that is valuable.”

However, Bryant said that theft in the workplace continues to be a growing problem and should only increase with the approaching holiday season.

Stay tuned for information on the next Lunch and Learn seminar, which is being planned for either December or January.



Sgt. Addré Bryant was arrested Sept. 22, not for workplace theft, but for having a big heart, as he worked to help raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association through its national Lock-Up program.

Warm Wishes for Col. Murphy

DPS wished Col. J. Christopher Murphy well in his future endeavors at a reception in his honor Sept. 28 at RSA Headquarters in Montgomery.

Gov. Bob Riley, RSA chief David Bronner, and Prattville Mayor Jim Byard were among those joining the many DPS staff in wishing Murphy all the best as he assumes the role of director of the Montgomery Department of Public Safety.



Remembering September 11

The DPS Honor Guard were on hand to post colors when Faulkner University hosted Birmingham-Southern at Cramton Bowl in Montgomery on Sept. 11.

The special presentation honored victims of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Flight 93 that crashed in Shanksville, Penn., on Sept. 11, 2001.



The first DPS web banner used on the Auburn Sports Network website, auburntigers.com.

ISP Sports Project Gets Safety Message Out to Fans

Simply put, college football in Alabama is an institution. From dyed-in-the-wool fans to casual spectators, seemingly nothing has a wider audience. Realizing this untapped potential to broadcast its message of safety, DPS teamed up with ISP Sports to create a safety campaign that is heard on football radio broadcasts and seen online on respective team sites all season long for Auburn, Alabama, and Troy football games.

The radio campaign includes 30-second radio spots heard throughout the game on a variety of topics, including drunken driv-

ing, distracted driving, the move-over law, and seat belt safety. The radio campaign also includes 10- to 15-second “live” mentions by radio announcers, both during the game and on the coaches’ shows heard the following week on Auburn, Alabama, and Troy sports networks. Internet banners also are created to coordinate with the safety education project and individualized for all three team sites.

“For Bama fans, the winning drive is the drive that gets you home safely,” said an announcer in the first radio spot for the University of Alabama. “That’s why when it

comes to driving under the influence, Alabama state troopers don’t play; they’re dead serious.”

Also as part of the safety campaign, each school will have a DPS booth set up outside select home games for troopers to provide safety information and demonstrations to fans in attendance.

“This is a tremendous outlet for us to really drive our safety message home,” said Sgt. Steve Jarrett. “From the youngest of fans to the oldest, each Saturday we are positively impacting so many lives, and that is what education is all about.”

‘Hands’ Cross State Lines for Safety

The 19th 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. Tim Pullin shakes hands with a Georgia state trooper at an Aug. 30 Hands Across the Border press conference.

Riley Applauds Progress on Reducing Highway Deaths

Gov. Bob Riley took time to thank troopers for their continued success in reducing fatalities on Alabama's highways in recent years at a Sept. 2 press conference on the Capitol grounds. The governor also credited the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and Department of Transportation for partnering with Public Safety to increase safety.

"When I look back at all of the things this administration has been able to accomplish during the past eight years, the decline in fatalities on our highways is definitely one of the most important and most meaningful. Lives have been saved, injuries avoided, tragedies prevented," said Riley.

As of Sept. 30, there were 396 trooper-worked fatalities in Alabama. This compares to 442 fatalities for the same time in 2009, and 483 for 2008.

Trooper-worked fatalities have steadily dropped since 2006, when Alabama suffered 828 fatalities throughout the year.



Wellness Center Great Resource for State Employees

As another resource for state employees and their families, the State Employees' Insurance Board recently opened the doors of the Wellness Center and Pharmacy located at 101 S. Union St., in downtown Montgomery at the corner of Union Street and Washington Avenue.

The new location provides wellness screenings to state employees. Wellness screenings are provided by appointment from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and on Friday. Thursday hours are from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Wellness Center also will soon expand to include a nurse practitioner and staff to treat minor illnesses.

The pharmacy at the state's Wellness Center offers same-day service on new prescriptions, refills, and prescription transfers from other pharmacies. The pharmacy also offers auto-refill accounts for maintenance drugs, maintains medication histories, provides medication therapy management consultations, and has a limited selection of over-the-counter medications.

Pharmacy hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and on Friday. Thursday hours are from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Wellness Center is closed on state holidays.



Department of Public Safety

75 Heading Toward

1935 - 2010

Top Left: Charter members of the Alabama Highway Patrol trained by spending 10 days at the Gay Teague Hotel in Montgomery, learning highway and criminal laws, first aid and the art of riding a motorcycle.

Top Right: The Alabama Police Academy opened at Gunter Air Force Base in December 1953. Its impressive faculty comprised such agencies and fields as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Treasury Department, state toxicologists, lawyers, judges and the National Automobile Theft Bureau.

Bottom Left: Now known as the Montgomery Trooper Post, a \$300,000 facility was constructed at the corner of Federal Drive and Coliseum Boulevard in 1962. By 1972, the academy conducted more than 50 schools at the facility.

Bottom Right: The academy moved to Craig Field in Selma in 1977. Originally built in 1940 to train Air Force pilots, the structure has served its purpose well over the years, but time has taken its toll on the facility..



People You Know!



New Employees

James Andrews	9.01.10	Capitol Police Officer	PS/Capitol Police
Tyler Ellis	8.16.10	Warehouse Worker	SER/Supply
Wendi Floyd	9.01.10	ASA I	ABI/CISG

Promotions

Janet Baggett	9.01.10	Latent Print Exam. Trainee	ABI/Identification Unit
Billy Brown	9.01.10	Lieutenant	HP/FAP
Thaddeus Chandler	9.01.10	Sergeant	HP/Headquarters
Michael Farrell	9.01.10	Sergeant	HP/Gadsden Post
Brian Faulkner	9.01.10	Corporal	ABI/Area I
Russell Foshee	9.01.10	Lieutenant	ABI/CISG
Anthony Frost	9.01.10	Lieutenant	ADM/Homeland Security
Shelia Hatcher	8.16.10	Senior Accountant	ADM/Financial Services
Orlander Marbury	9.01.10	Corporal	ABI/Tuscaloosa Post
Anthony Moreland	9.01.10	Capitol Police Officer	PS/Capitol Police
Steven Payne	9.01.10	Latent Print Exam. Trainee	ABI/Identification Unit
Bradley Renfro	9.01.10	Sergeant	ABI/Area II
Russell Rowland	9.01.10	Trooper Pilot II	SER/Aviation
Donald Shepard	9.01.10	Corporal	HP/Motor Carrier
David Steward	9.01.10	Sergeant	HP/Headquarters
Robert Till	9.01.10	Lieutenant	HP/Headquarters
Rhonda Williams	9.01.10	ASA III	DIR/Director's Office
Kelly Womack	8.01.10	ASA I	ABI/CISG
Kristin Wylie	8.01.10	ASA I	ABI/CISG

Transfers

Christopher Barnes	8.16.10	Corporal	HP/Hamilton Post
Ashley Cook	8.01.10	ASA II	PS/Dignitary Protection
Rachel Fields	9.01.10	ASA III	DL/Reinstatement
Tony Fleming	9.01.10	Trooper	HP/Motor Carrier
Wendell Lewis	9.01.10	Sergeant	ABI/Area III
Dorothy Poore	9.01.10	DL Examiner I	DL/Montgomery Examining
Ruby Rigby	8.01.10	ASA III	HP/Montgomery Post
Clifford Scarbrough	8.16.10	PCO II	HP/Tuscaloosa Post
Barkley Shaw	8.16.10	Corporal	HP/Jacksonville Post
Joseph Stabler	9.01.10	Corporal	ABI/Area VII
Gabriel Stults	8.16.10	Corporal	HP/Quad Cities Post
Richard Suttle	8.16.10	Corporal	HP/Huntsville Post
Mark Wisner	9.01.10	Trooper	HP/Motor Carrier

People You Know!



Military Leave

Brandon Christen	9.03.10	Trooper	HP/Headquarters
Christopher Williams	9.10.10	Trooper	HP/Opelika

Returned from Military Leave

Derrick Tellis	8.16.10	Trooper	HP/Opelika
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Resignations

John Ballew	9.02.10	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Lenida Bolton	8.01.10	DL Examiner I	DL/Huntsville Examining
Christopher Miller	9.02.10	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Kathy Phillips	8.16.10	PCO I	HP/Tuscaloosa
Gregory Pinkard	9.04.10	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC

Retirements

Bill Gray	9.01.10	Equipment Mechanic	SER/Fleet Maintenance
Michael Walters	9.01.10	Aircraft Mechanic	SER/Aviation

Donated Leave Requests

Angra Coachman

Terry Farmer

Jean Head

Betty Nowden

Kevin Pugh

Driver License (Jacksonville)

Highway Patrol (Dothan)

Driver License (Safety/Responsibility)

Driver License (Safety/Responsibility)

Driver License (Information Services)

Alabama Department of



Public Safety

CONTRIBUTING:

- Maj. Hugh McCall, ABI
- Capt. Charles Ward, PS
- Capt. Jack Clark, HP
- Tpr. John Reese, ADM
- Tommy Giles, Photography
- Reserve Tpr. Tony Dickey
- Robyn Bradley Litchfield

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, October 11

Columbus Day

Thursday, November 11

Veterans Day

Thursday, November 25

Thanksgiving Day

Friday, December 24

Christmas Day (offices closed)

October Academy Class Schedule

Trooper Class 2010-A	Oct. 1-31
Basic Police Session 139	1-31
DPS In-service	4-7
Electronic Evidence	13
DPS In-service	18-21
Digital Evidence Recovery	19-20
Draeger Recertification	20
CDL Examiner School	18-22
DPS In-service	25-28

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to express my gratitude to Cpl. Jack Hamby, assigned to Lee County. This trooper went far beyond the call of duty in assisting me and my wife recently. Our vehicle quit running on U.S. 280 between Phenix City and Opelika. Cpl. Hamby spent a great deal of time in assisting us resolve our problem. He took me to get gas and later helped me obtain a towing service.

In talking to Cpl. Hamby, I later found out that he did all of this for me after his usual quitting time, and with a sick wife at home. Cpl. Jack Hamby is an outstanding representative of both your department and the state of Alabama.

Joe and Anita Sandefur
Macon, GA