



The official monthly publication of the Alabama Department of Public Safety



THE BLUE LIGHT

FEBRUARY 2011



THE HONORABLE ROBERT BENTLEY

Governor

COLONEL HUGH B. McCALL

Director

LT. COLONEL KEVIN WRIGHT

Assistant Director

CAPTAIN MARTY GRIFFIN

ABI Division

MAJOR MARC McHENRY

Administrative Division

MAJOR TERRY CHAPMAN

Driver License Division

CAPTAIN NEIL TEW

Highway Patrol Division

MAJOR HERMAN WRIGHT

Protective Services Division

MAJOR JERRY CONNER

Service Division

MAJOR F.A. BINGHAM

Special Projects

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

2011 Inauguration	2
McCall, Wright Take Command	5
Trooper Bears Brighten Children's Faces	6
Fatalities Hits 63-Year Low	7
Troopers Respond to Winter Weather	8
Top Trooper Competition	9

2011 INAUGURATION

DPS Security Efforts Premier



Gov. Robert Bentley addresses Alabamians at 2011 inauguration.



Trooper motors and Montgomery police work in tandem to lead the inaugural parade.



Bentley greets many Alabamians eager to shake his hand at Riverwalk Stadium.

With thousands in attendance, the Department of Public Safety's advanced planning, tight security and seamless coordination complemented the pomp and pageantry accompanying mid-January's inaugural ceremony for newly elected Gov. Robert Bentley and other state elected officials.

While gray skies and chilly temperatures threatened to put a damper on the festivities early on, the clouds broke by noon revealing a picture perfect day, just in time for Bentley to take his oath of office.

Following Bentley's oath of office, an inauguration celebration was held in the afternoon hours at Riverwalk Stadium. The family-friendly event at Riverwalk allowed the public a chance to meet Bentley and his family, while several food vendors throughout the state handed out free samples of delicious food.

DPS spearheaded security measures and coordinated security functions with other law enforcement agencies for all official inaugural events, drawing praise from Director Col. Hugh B. McCall.



Behind the scenes, DPS personnel closely monitor security from the Director's Crisis Center.



McCall, Wright Take Command of DPS

On Jan. 18, Colonel Hugh B. McCall and Lt. Colonel Kevin L. Wright were sworn in by Gov. Robert Bentley as director and assistant director of the Department of Public Safety. As longtime members of DPS, they bring with them more than 40 years of law enforcement experience, and they are eager to lead this department forward with a distinct vision.



COL. HUGH B. MCCALL

Hugh B. McCall began his career in law enforcement in 1980, as an Alabama state trooper cadet assigned to the Criminal Justice Training Center in Selma. At the end of 1981, he graduated from the academy, was sworn in as a trooper and was assigned to the Highway Patrol Division in west Alabama. He served for the next 14 years in Highway Patrol, earning a promotion to corporal and assignment as assistant post commander before being transferred to Montgomery. Upon his promotion to sergeant, he was assigned to the Department of Public Safety's Public Information/Education Unit. He became assistant unit commander following his promotion to lieutenant. He later was named unit commander and was promoted to captain, a position in which he was responsible for the department's safety education program, media and constituent relations. In 2005, Captain McCall was appointed assistant chief of the Administrative Division, in which capacity he served until 2007, when he was promoted to major and named chief of the department's Driver License Division. As chief of Driver License, Major McCall directed the overhaul of driver licensing community relations and customer service, with quantifiable improvements in efficiency, effectiveness and service delivery. In 2009, Major McCall was named chief of the Alabama Bureau of Investigation, commanding all agency investigative functions and directing high profile, complex and sensitive criminal investigations and law enforcement operations. In 2011, Colonel McCall was sworn in as director of the Department of Public Safety following his appointment by Governor Robert Bentley. Colonel McCall provides leadership and direction for all state police services, including approximately 1,500 employees staffing six divisions, and administering an annual budget in excess of \$180 million.



LT. COL. KEVIN L. WRIGHT

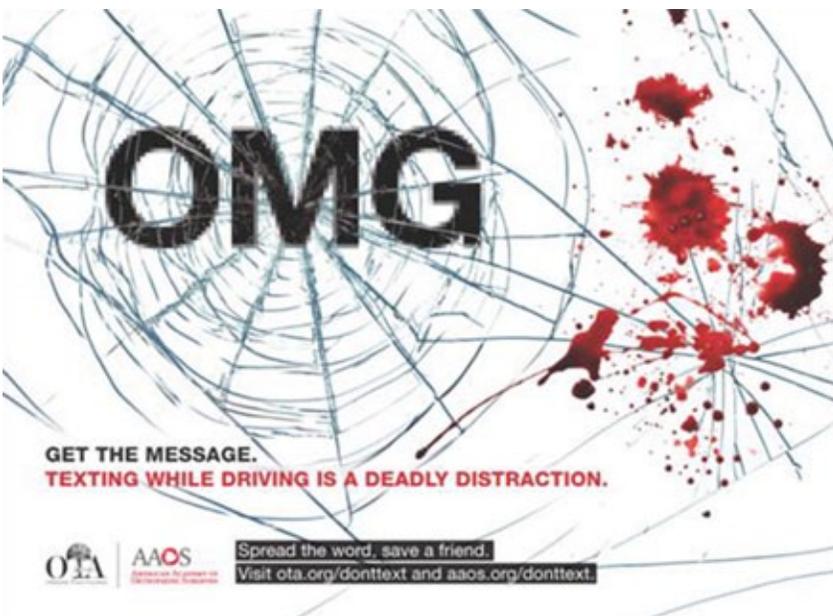
Kevin L. Wright began his career in law enforcement in 1994, the year he entered the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center in Selma. Upon graduation in 1995, he was sworn in as an Alabama state trooper. He first was assigned to the Highway Patrol's Evergreen Post, where he was promoted to the rank of corporal and served until 2001. During the next six to eight years, Corporal Wright worked on a protective detail and was promoted to the rank of sergeant. After making lieutenant, he served as unit commander over Dignitary Protection in the Department of Public Safety's Protective Services Division. Between 2009 and 2010, he was charged with overseeing construction of the department's new Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center, a \$24.5 million, state-of-the-art facility in Selma that opened at the end of September 2010. He also was promoted to the rank of captain during this time. In January 2011, Lieutenant Colonel Wright was sworn in as assistant director of Public Safety following his appointment by Governor Robert Bentley.



Riley Signs Anti-Texting Proclamation

Only weeks before leaving office, Gov. Bob Riley signed an anti-texting proclamation raising awareness of the public safety issue of distracted driving.

The National Safety Council estimates that nearly 28 percent of crashes - about 1.6 million a year - can be attributed to cell phone talking and texting while driving. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration found that texting while driving had the highest odds ratio of causing a serious vehicular crash relative to 16 other activities that draw a driver's attention from the highway.



Distracted Driving Statistics

- ▶ **80 percent of all crashes and 65 percent of near crashes involve some type of distraction.** (Source: Virginia Tech 100-car study for NHTSA)
- ▶ **The worst offenders are the youngest and least-experienced drivers: men and women under 20 years of age.** (NHTSA)
- ▶ **Drivers who use hand-held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves.** (Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)



Bears Brighten Children's Faces at Christmas

For more than 20 years, Department of Public Safety employees, together with the Alabama State Trooper Association, team up to bring cheer to children in hospitals during the holidays.

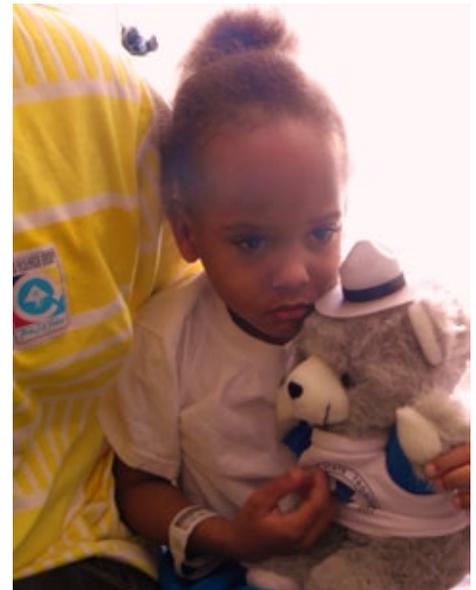
Each year at Christmas, troopers give teddy bears to children who, due to illness or injury, cannot be home during Christmas.

Traditionally, the famous state trooper bear is given to children traumatized as a result of being in a crash. "The campaign is a very effective one," said Tpr. John Reese.

"The trooper bear brings joy to the children receiving one and is also a subtle reminder of the importance of safety."

While the goal of the trooper bear campaign is to bring joy to each recipient, troopers also spread cheer and laughter to the doctors, nurses, and hospital staff while visiting.

As Reese explained, "Each year, hospital staff constantly joke with us about not bringing them a bear, too. Every year, before we leave, I always hear, 'Hey wait! Where is our bear?'"



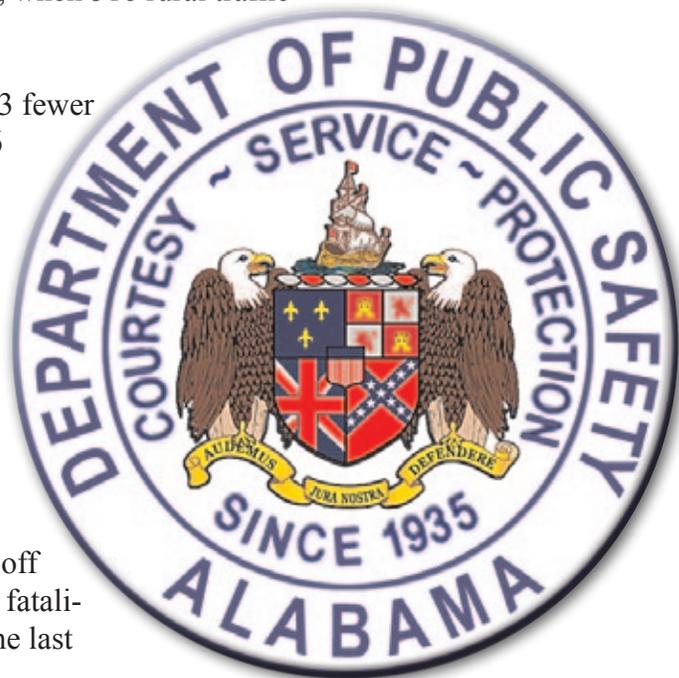
Trooper-Worked Fatalities Hits 63-Year Low

The Alabama Department of Public Safety celebrated its 75th anniversary with the fewest trooper-worked fatalities since 1947, when 516 rural traffic deaths were counted on Alabama's highways.

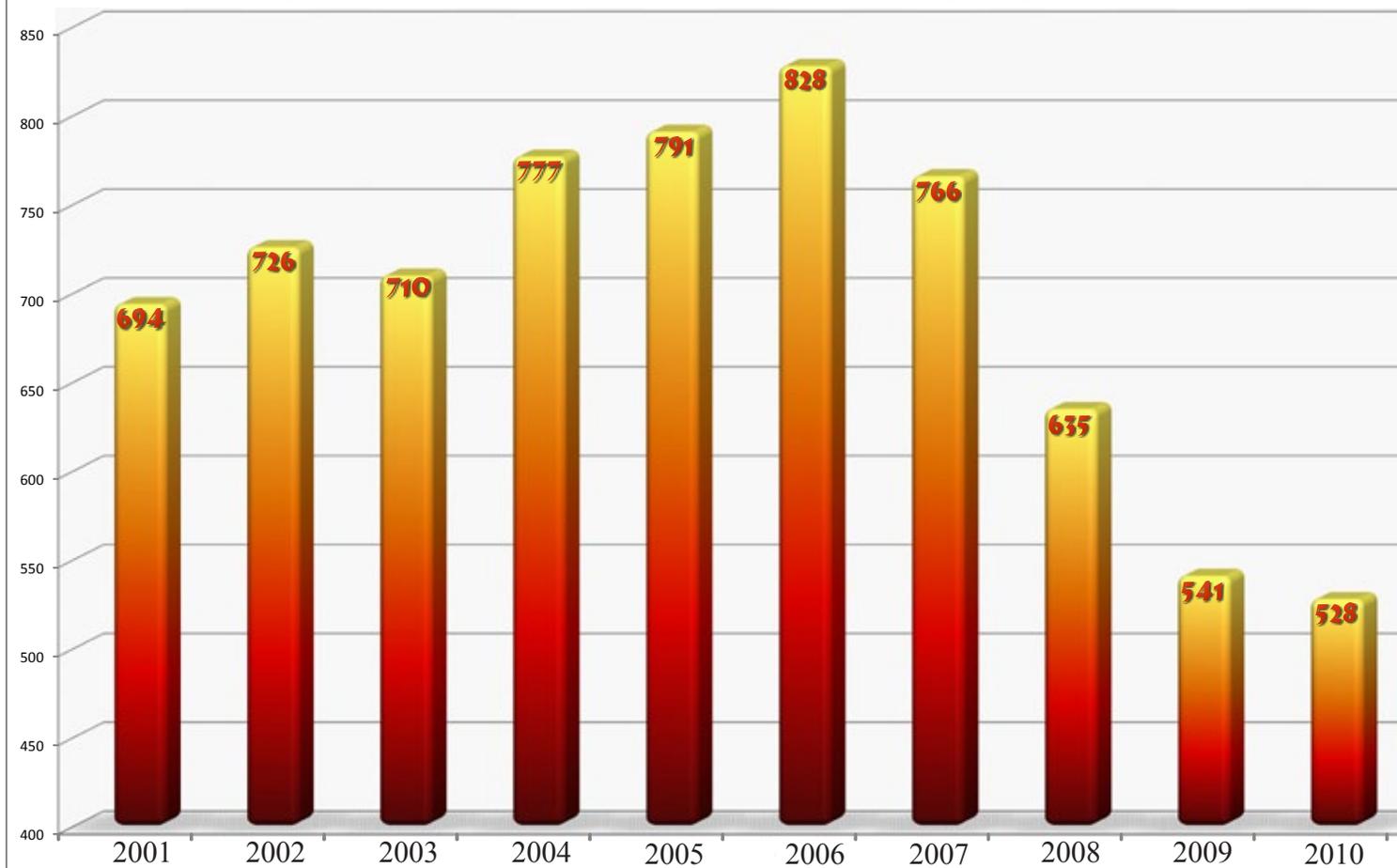
In 2010, there were 528 trooper-reported traffic fatalities, 13 fewer than last year's previous 60-year low, and representing a 36 percent reduction from 2006.

"Clearly, troopers' aggressive enforcement is paying off," said Col. Hugh B. McCall. "DPS is not only working harder, we are also working more efficiently. Using statistical information, we target key areas with high crash rates, and we continue to target bad driving behaviors that contribute to crashes, such as speeding, failure to yield right of way, following too closely, DUI, and driver inattention."

Troopers' continued aggressive enforcement is also paying off tremendously in 2011. Through Jan. 31, 27 trooper-worked fatalities have occurred, a 52 percent reduction from the same time last year, when 56 fatalities occurred on Alabama's highways.



TROOPER-WORKED FATALITIES 2001 - 2010



Troopers Respond to Rare Winter Weather Hitting Alabama

While much of the country reels under the firm grip of Old Man Winter each season, the Deep South usually escapes relatively unscathed. However, a mid-January wintry mix, followed by a brutal cold snap kept several roads throughout Alabama impassable for several days.

With conditions treacherous, troopers sprang to action, issuing travel advisories, and recommending Alabamians in effected areas stay at home. Even though the vast majority of Alabamians heeded public warnings, and safely enjoyed the winter weather, special thanks to our Alabama state troopers for working through the weather to ensure the safety of those who dared travel on roads in less-than-desirable travel conditions.



ATTENTION SWORN PERSONNEL!!!

2011 Top Trooper Competition

All DPS sworn officers are invited to participate in this year's Top Trooper Competition. The program will recognize those Alabama state troopers who possess exemplary knowledge, skills and abilities in all facets of a trooper's job-related duties.

The competition will consist of two phases: a preliminary qualification phase and the final competition itself. The preliminary qualification phase is open to all officers and will take place over the course of this year's In-service training. A predetermined number of personnel who qualify during the preliminary phase will be invited to participate in the final competition, tentatively to be held during the week of Dec. 12-16, 2011.

Preliminary Qualification:

Personnel attending this year's in-service will be given the opportunity to declare their intent to participate in the Top Trooper Competition. Those individuals will be scored on the results of the following:

- ▶ Maximum number of push-ups in one minute.
- ▶ Maximum number of sit-ups in one minute.
- ▶ Time of their 1.50 mile run.
- ▶ Firearms qualification scores: Participants must score 90 or above with all weapons on their first attempt. Class-A uniforms will be worn by participants on the range.
- ▶ Academic scores on recertification tests: Participants will be sequestered during testing.
- ▶ Other timed/graded events to be determined.

The scores of all participants will be

compiled after the conclusion of all 2011 in-service sessions. Depending on the number of participants, a cutoff point might have to be determined in order to keep the competition events more manageable. At this time, we anticipate capping the number of participants in the final competition at 25. Participants whose scores fall below the cutoff point will not be invited to the final competition.

Final Competition:

The events for the final competition will be held on a date to be determined during the week of Dec. 12-16, 2011. A specific date will be finalized after the events of the competition have been determined. Personnel intending to compete in this event should adjust their work and personal schedules ahead of time.

The type and overall sequence of competition events will not be disclosed to the participants. However, the participants will be given instructions and standards prior to the beginning of each event. Listed below is a generalized list of job-related duties that the events will be developed to measure:

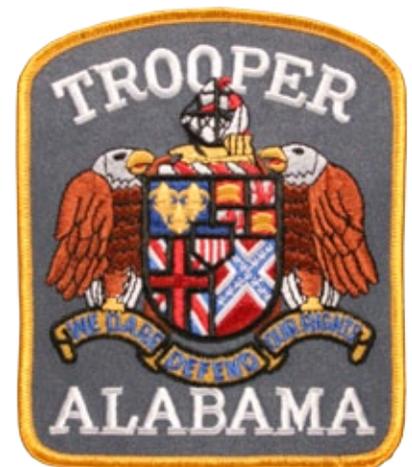
- ▶ Overall physical fitness to include agility, endurance and muscular strength.
- ▶ Overall proficiency with equipment.
- ▶ Knowledge of law enforcement-related topics (legal issues, DPS policy, etc.).
- ▶ Knowledge of general law enforcement topics.
- ▶ Judgment and decision-making under stressful situations.
- ▶ Other material deemed applicable to law enforcement.

Prerequisites for Qualification:

- ▶ The Top Trooper Competition is open to all sworn officers of the Department of Public Safety, except members of the ACJTC staff.
- ▶ Participants must not have been suspended within the past two years of the date of the final competition.
- ▶ Participants must not have any disciplinary or other adverse personnel action pending at the time of the final competition.

The ACJTC will seek prize and award donations from private companies in order to increase the incentive to participate. A separate announcement will be made nearer to the date of the competition with more information. For now, suffice it to say that the Top Trooper Competition is being developed with the hopes that it will increase morale, foster camaraderie, and recognize that person who has what it takes to be the most capable, competent, and dedicated Alabama state trooper in the state.

Questions about the competition should be directed to Capt. Damon Summers at (334) 263-8950.





*Show Your Loved Ones
You Care this
Valentine's Day*

BUCKLE UP!



People You Know!



New Employees

Amanda Chapman	12.16.10	Clerical Aide	DL/Medical
Betty Cottrell	12.01.10	ASA I	SER/Fleet Maintenance
Gaile King	12.01.10	Accounting Technician	ADM/Receivables
Robin Overby	12.16.10	ASA I	ABI/Identification
Loretta Thornton	12.16.10	Clerical Aide	DL/Medical
Andrea Watson	12.01.10	Clerical Aide	ABI/CISG

Promotions

Charles Anderson	12.01.10	Sergeant	HP/FAP HQ
Angela Craig	12.16.10	PCO II	HP/Tuscaloosa Post
Emily Hodges	12.16.10	PCO II	HP/Tuscaloosa Post

Transfers

Bradley Arledge	12.01.10	Trooper	HP/Talladega County
Robert Arnold	12.01.10	Trooper	HP/Chilton County
Phillip Baker	12.01.10	Trooper	HP/Barbour County
Charles Bitel	12.01.10	Trooper	HP/Escambia County
Virgil Bowen	12.01.10	Trooper	HP/Barbour County
James Darden	12.01.10	Trooper	HP/Chilton County
Calvin Edwards	12.01.10	Trooper	HP/Dallas County
Dexter Emmanuel	12.01.10	Trooper	HP/Motor Carrier
Jacob Gwaltney	12.16.10	Trooper	HP/Coffee County
Ryan Key	12.01.10	Trooper	HP/Talladega County
Randall Lee	12.16.10	ABI	ABI/Investigative Operations
Tammy McGrady	12.16.10	ASA I	HP/Motor Carrier
Orlando Morse	12.01.10	Trooper	HP/Greene County
Carlos Reyes	12.01.10	Trooper	HP/Jackson County
David Ratliff	12.16.10	Corporal	ABI/Investigative Operations
Jeffrey Rotenberry	12.01.10	Trooper	ABI/Investigative Operations
Jacob Smith	12.01.10	Trooper	HP/Lee County
Tommy Smith	12.01.10	Trooper	HP/Perry County
Israel Summers	12.01.10	Trooper	GP/Barbour County
Spencer Traywick	12.01.10	Corporal	ABI/Investigative Operations
Michael Webb	12.01.10	Trooper	HP/Talladega County
Jimmy White	12.16.10	Trooper	DL/Fraud

People You Know!



Transfer to Another Department

Ronke' Renfroe	12.31.10	ASA I	DL/Safety Responsibility
Doretta Strength	12.01.10	Personnel Assistant III	ADM/Personnel

Returned from Military Leave

Walter Hutchinson	12.13.10	DL Examiner I	DL/Montgomery Examining
-------------------	----------	---------------	-------------------------

Resignations

Kenneth Braswell	12.30.10	Equipment Mechanic	SER/Fleet Maintenance
Terry Farmer	12.15.10	Custodial Worker	HP/Dothan
Wilburn Kelley	11.30.10	Retired State Employee	ABI/CISG
Gwendolyn Layton	12.31.10	PCO I	HP/Mobile
Randy McBrayer	12.03.10	Trooper	HP/Decatur
Julie Peck	12.31.10	PCO II	HP/Jacksonville
Lawrence Wilson	11.30.10	Trooper	HP/Huntsville

Separation by Death

Richard Craker	12.07.10	Capitol Police Officer	PS/Capitol Police
----------------	----------	------------------------	-------------------



People You Know in Photos!

Currently serving on active duty in support of the War on Terror, Tpr. Christopher Williams of the Opelika Post submitted this photo of himself with actor and comedian Robin Williams.

Tpr. Williams writes, "This is my second deployment to the Middle East, and this time I am on the island kingdom of Bahrain. I am a member of the 214th Military Police Company. I am half way finished with this deployment and should be back sometime this summer."

Best of luck to Tpr. Williams, and all of our personnel currently stationed overseas. We wish all of you a safe trip home!

Alabama Department of



Public Safety

CONTRIBUTING:

Capt. Marty Griffin, 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

Tuesday, February 21

President's Day

Tuesday, March 8

Mardi Gras (Mobile and Baldwin Counties)

Monday, April 25

Confederate Memorial Day

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day

**FEBRUARY
Academy Class Schedule**

DPS In-service	Jan. 31-Feb. 4
Project Lifesaver	2-3
PCO In-service	7-9
Radar Instructor Course	7-10
U.S. Marshals Service	8-9
Motor Training	14-16
CRT Training	15-16
DPS In-service	21-25
PCO In-service	22-24
DPS In-service	28-March 4