

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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ALABAMA STATE TROOPERS MAINTAIN PRESENCE ON MISSISSIPPI AND ALABAMA GULF COAST

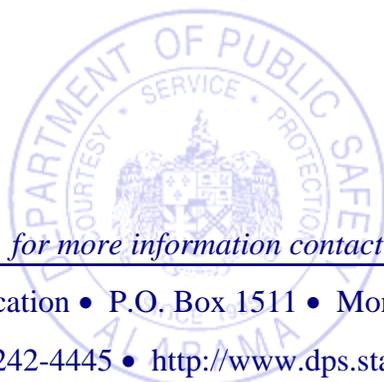
MONTGOMERY — Approximately 75 Alabama state troopers continue to provide security patrols and victim assistance in coastal Mobile County and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, according to Department of Public Safety Director Col. Mike Coppage. He said troopers with Highway Patrol Special Operations, ABI, Driver License and Service divisions were working seven-day, rotating shifts to maintain a continuous presence in the devastated region.

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, Alabama troopers were dispatched to Mississippi following a request for assistance issued by Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour and the Mississippi Highway Patrol. Coppage said the initial search and rescue operation expanded to include security patrols designed to prevent looting, enforce curfews and facilitate the distribution of food, water and other supplies to storm victims. He said troopers also were coordinating with agencies throughout the nation to facilitate the transport of much-needed supplies into the area.

He praised the efforts of Public Safety members assisting with the emergency response effort, as well as those arresting officers and non-sworn DPS staff working to maintain essential services throughout Alabama.

“The dedicated men and women of Public Safety’s six divisions – ABI, Administrative, Driver License, Highway Patrol, Service and Protective Services – are all putting forth a tremendous effort to fill in and provide back up for DPS staff members assigned to emergency response areas,” said Coppage.

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