

## Domestic marijuana eradication eliminates 760,000 plants in 2001

More than 760,000 marijuana plants growing in Texas were eradicated in 2001 by DPS officers, the Texas Air National Guard, the Drug Enforcement Administration and local law enforcement agencies. Most plants were growing wild, but 48,700 others were cultivated outdoors or indoors by marijuana traffickers. DPS investigations into marijuana cultivation (indoor and outdoor) resulted in the arrests of 160 people and the seizure of 77 firearms.

The domestic marijuana eradication (DME) program has operated in Texas since 1987.

Domestic marijuana eradication by the DPS, the Air National Guard, local law enforcement agencies and the DEA has helped make Texas a safer place. This is a program that shows definite, immediate results. Many burglaries and other crimes are directly related to drugs and drug use.

The DEA provides operational, financial and technical assistance to the program.

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## EMS employees still responding to Tropical Storm Allison aftermath

A group of dedicated individuals from the Emergency Management Service have been working since June to assist 31 counties flooded by Tropical Storm Allison.

The following employees have worked in the Houston Disaster Field Office since June 11: State Coordinating Officer **Duke Mazurek**; Individual Assistance Officer **Joan Peschke**; Public Assistance Officers **Richard Boltz**, **Ben Patterson** and **John Latham**; and State Mitigation Officer **Edward G. Klaus**. Mazurek and Peschke returned to Austin in late November. Boltz, Patterson and Latham remain in Houston.

Several reservists for the Division spent many months assisting  
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Dear Fellow Employee,

The new year brings us all an opportunity to make various resolutions. I would hope that each of you would resolve to make sure that you and your loved ones are as safe as possible. Wear your seatbelt--and make sure that everyone in your vehicle is wearing one. If you know someone who needs assistance in making sure that car seats are properly installed, please remember that almost all SES troopers are certified in car seat installation. DPS will sponsor a number of car seat clinics in all six regions this spring. Be sure to take advantage of them.



Also facing new experiences are 125 trooper-trainees who will be starting their careers with the DPS on January 7 in the 2002-A School. Please join me in welcoming them into the DPS family.



One last reminder: The deadline to order DPS Anniversary books is Wednesday, January 30. You will find an order form in your pay envelope.



We all remain on alert for possible terrorist attacks--keep up the good work. If you see anything suspicious or you are aware of anything that might be helpful in the criminal investigation, please alert the Special Crimes investigators in your area.

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## Awards

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Antonio Salinas Jr., Alberto Leroy Moya, Rolando Moya and Robert Espericueta all received Director's Awards for their actions immediately following the collapse of the Queen Isabella Causeway in September. The four were fishing close to the bridge and were the first to respond to the scene. Immediately calling 911, they used flashlights, spotlights and flares to warn oncoming motorists. Their quick action saved the lives of three crash victims and countless others who might have otherwise plunged into the waters of the Intercoastal Canal. The four fishermen pulled the three survivors out of the water and administered first aid before transporting them to the Coast Guard Station. They were nominated by Sgt. **Raul Vargas**, HP Brownsville, and Sgt. **Rolando Castaneda**, Texas Rangers Company D Brownsville.

The entire crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mallet* was nominated for a Director's Award by Lt. **Lynn Dixon**, Training Austin, for their valuable assistance following the collapse of the Queen Isabella Causeway. The *Mallet* responded to the accident scene within hours of the initial collision, and the crew was conducting operations when the third section of the bridge fell. Their quick response was responsible for preventing the injury of rescue personnel. The *Mallet* offered its assistance as a dive platform and recovery crane, and worked with the DPS Dive Team to develop and execute recovery plans for the victims and their vehicles.

Without the help of the *Mallet* crew, the recovery operation would have been beyond the capability of the DPS dive team. The *USCGC Mallet*

crew roster: Paul D. Inskeep, Officer in Charge; Robert J. Harlacher, Executive Petty Officer in Charge; David W. Henderson; Christopher R. Nutt; Jose R. Palacios; Jeffrey A. Lester; Rusty L. Wisenbaker; Scott A. Baumgartner; Chris M. Blanchette; Christian J. Osborne; Richard J. Moore; and Joseph B. Bucciero, Lance C. Benedict; and Jason W. Anderson.

Garland Crime Lab DNA analyst **John Donahue** and DNA Supervisor **Lorna Beasley** were presented Division Chief's Awards on November 29 for their outstanding work in using DNA analysis to solve homicide and sexual assault cases in the north Texas area during 2000 and 2001.

### Excerpts from letters sent to DPS from fifth graders at St. Austin Catholic School after the Sept. 11 attack:

...You probably heard about the news in New York and Washington D.C. I know you are helping. We all (have to) be strong and brave. Is it fun being a state trooper? I think its cool...

... I think you do a great job. I've seen you on the highway. You guys have really cool cars. I was a state trooper for Halloween when I was three. See you on I-35.....

...I think it's really neat that you help out all over the state. You have a big part of the heart of Texas. Thank you.....

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## Short Shots

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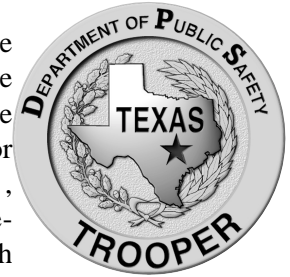
### New requirements set for trooper-trainee recruits

Trooper education requirements have been increased to a minimum of 75 semester hours from an accredited college or university--15 hours more than the prior minimum of 60 hours.

And while experience may still be substituted for education, DPS now requires such applicants to have an additional six months of actual on-the-job work experience. For example, to qualify for the academy an applicant with no college credit must have at least 30 months experience in law enforcement or as a correctional officer or jailer. Applicants substituting law enforcement experience must have a high school diploma, or a GED certificate and 12 college semester hours (with a minimum 2.0 grade point average).

Applicants with 60 to 74 semester hours need only six months work experience. Substitution of military service for education increased from 24 to 30 months, and qualifies for the required 75 semester hours. Applicable work experience was amended to include employment as a correctional officer with the Texas Youth Commission.

Requirements for trooper-trainees will increase again for fiscal year 2003. Applicants will be required to have a minimum of 90 semester hours of qualifying education, and the work experience substitution ratios will increase. Military experience as a substitution for the education requirement



will increase to 36 months.

### Narcotics reorganization

The DPS Narcotics Service is now divided into four regions with assistant field commanders who report directly to the Narcotics Service Commander in Austin. Seven additional field captain positions also were created. The moves were made after DPS assumed operational oversight of state narcotics task forces at the request of the Governor's office. DPS will provide standardization of policies, but control of each task force will remain with local project directors and advisory boards.

### Bikes for tykes

Santa came early for some students of Reilly Elementary near DPS Headquarters in Austin. **Special Crimes** personnel refurbished nine donated bicycles and presented the bikes (and helmets) to underprivileged kids at a December ceremony. **Lonnie Milligan**, DL Austin, was instrumental in providing repair work on the project.

### Quarter Century Club

The annual meeting of the DPS Quarter Century Club will be Friday, April 12 at the Red Lion Hotel in Austin. Additional information will be available soon.

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## Mile Markers

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### Promotions

#### CLE

**Jose Adan Mora**, Capt., Narcotics Houston to Asst. Commander, Narcotics Houston; **James Walter Brubaker**, Capt., Narcotics Austin

to Asst. Commander, Narcotics San Antonio; **Earl Weldon McNeil, Jr.**, Capt., Narcotics Lubbock to Asst. Commander, Narcotics Lubbock;

**Lawrence Curtis Marshall, Jr.**, Capt., Special Crimes Garland to Asst., Commander, Narcotics Garland; **Richard Melville Blake**, Lt., Special Crimes Houston to Capt., Special Crimes Austin.

#### TLE

**Laurencio Munoz Saenz, Jr.**, Lt., HP McAllen to Capt., HP Lubbock; **Jesse Thomas Sharp**, Sgt., HP Abilene to Lt., HP Laredo; **Carey Dean Matthews**, Sgt., HP Midland to Lt., HP Corpus Christi; **Juan Rodriguez, Jr.**, Sgt., HP McAllen to Lt., HP Beaumont;

**Ryan Michael Arthur**, Tr. II, HP Victoria to Sgt., HP Liberty; **Paul Thomas Hopson**, Sen. Tr., HP Nacogdoches to Sgt., HP Center; **Rhonda LaShawn Lawson**, Tr. II, HP Hurst to Sgt., HP Sherman; **John Thomas Vance**, Tr. II, HP Huntsville to Sgt., HP Marshall; **Richard Clay Brown**, Sen. Tr., HP Tyler to Sgt., HP Uvalde;

**Scott Dewayne Stevenson**, Tr. II, HP Abilene to Sgt., Capitol Svc. Austin; **Daniel Raymond Butts**, Sen. Tr., HP Bandera to Sgt., HP Alpine; **Andres Garcia, Jr.**, Corp. II, HP Harlingen to Sgt., HP Pierce; **Odie Lee Hitt**, Tr. III, HP Tyler to Sgt., HP Pecos; **Robert Stanley Sanders**, Insp. III, Veh. Insp. Garland to Supv., Veh. Insp. Tyler.

#### DLD

**Monica Renee Gill**, Tr. II, DL Hurst to Sgt., DL Midland.

### Retirements

**Robert Bearl Watson**, Telecommunications Specialist II, IMS Austin, 12 yrs., 11 mos.; **Ricky Dan Smith**, Major, TLE Austin, 31 yrs., 4

mos., 16 days; **Don Charles Taylor**, Supv. Criminalist II, Crime Lab. Abilene, 29 yrs., 7 mos., 21 days; **Joe Ortho Baker**, Tr. V, HP Rocksprings, 29 yrs., 2 days;

**James Valery Garrett**, Corp. V, SES Houston, 35 yrs., 4 mos., 26 days; **Joe Ronald Urbanovsky**, Director, Crime Lab. Austin, 32 yrs., 2 mos.; **Ricky Dale McCracken**, Sgt., Special Crimes San Antonio, 29 yrs., 4 mos., 4 days;

**Benjamin Franklin Davis III**, Sgt., Narcotics Austin, 25 yrs., 1 mo., 18 days; **Nathan Marsene Holt, Jr.**, Sen. Programmer II, IMS Austin, 23 yrs., 5 mos., 11 days.

### Deaths

**Dennis Ray Toon**, ret. Tr., L&W, Terrell (Sept. 1947-Sept. 1980) died November 2001; **J. L. VanDyke, Jr.**, ret. Evaluator I, SR, Austin (Sept. 1949-June 1982) died November 2001; **Samuel Trammell**, ret. Corp., HP, Columbus (June 1972-March 1998) died December 9, 2001; **Dorothy A. Watson**, ret. Clerk IV, Accident Records (Oct. 1981-Oct. 2000) died Dec. 12, 2001.



*On the  
mend...*

*Best wishes for a speedy recovery  
from line-of-duty injuries go to:*

**Sgt./Inv. Frank Escalon**, Narcotics McAllen

**Linda Swails**, DL Examiner  
Carrollton

**Patrick Timms**, HP Port Lavaca



Texas children about DPS and the Texas Rangers.

The Rangers decided on an annual visit to the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas, which provides free ongoing treatment for

more than 13,000 children annually.

The hospital invited all their outpatients to the first event in 1998, and Rangers visited all areas of the hospital, talking with children and their parents, giving them small Ranger badges and posing for pictures. It was a big success and Company B has made the annual visit each year since.

The latest Company B visit was September 20.

Stories about the Texas Rangers generally bring to mind images of cowboys on horseback or white hats and silver stars. But, as with many legends, reality tends to be a bit different. In this case, it's a picture of Texas Rangers visiting with children.

In 1998, the Rangers of Company B in Garland decided to emphasize community relations as part of an ongoing effort to educate

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with the recovery and mitigation efforts. **Ruby Donohue** helped coordinate operations at the Disaster Recovery Center. **Patricia Jones, Joe Pate** and **David Thompson** are helping communities with programs to prevent disasters. **Klaus Alkier, Betty Bielss, Danny Bielss, J.V. Hall, A. Bradley Hubbard, Bill Kincer, Joseph B. Kubena, Donald Lamont, Anna McConnell, Eddie McConnell, Rodger Schmitt, Howard Templin, Tommy Weeks** and **Harold Zuhlke** assisted public entities with programs to make essential infrastructure repairs and remove debris. **Dell Greer, James Davis, Patricia Mathes, James McCulloch, Susan O'Brien** and **Doug Rowell** are working with recovery and mitigation efforts at the Texas Medical Center. Local hires **Gregory Atkins** and **Jeffrey Atkins** worked in the state coordinator's office.

The Division also has hired a number of people who will work in the Houston Disaster Field Office allowing the recovery and mitigation staff members, who have been in Houston since June 11, to return to Austin. **E.C. "Butch" Smith** returns to DEM as state coordinating officer. **Debra Mosely** and **Richard Patterson** are new hires for public assistance. **Dennis Guffey, Shirley Mayes, Nicolette Roberson, Lori Flores, Debra Wynn** and **Shirley Brandon** have been hired to work with mitigation. State Mitigation Officer **Greg Pekar** is based out of Austin but also is assisting in Houston.

Since June 11, more than 118,000 individuals or families have registered for assistance for flood damage.

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### Kudos to Audit & Inspection

The inspectors of the Office of Audit and Inspection received well-earned recognition from the Texas Legislative Budget Board for their hard work in the 77<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. Inspectors took input from the

various services that were to be impacted by proposed legislation, and working with the divisions, provided valuable fiscal notes to the LBB. This is the second consecutive legislative session OAI's contribution was recognized by the LBB.

## DME program, continued from page 1

DPS Narcotics officers work with the Texas Air National Guard and DPS Aircraft, which support the ground efforts by providing aerial reconnaissance. Although local law enforcement agencies often provide information about possible marijuana grows, some plots are located by flying over them.

Officers this year found fairly sophisticated cultivations, including

one that had an automated watering system that ran off an electrical generator in the woods.

DPS's domestic marijuana eradication program also includes an educational component. DPS Safety Education Service troopers present programs in schools about the dangers of drug use and are planning an educational section within the DPS Web site.