



DPS Chaparral



Produced by DPS Public Information, (512) 424-2080

February 2008

Troopers now armed with computers

Wireless technology is coming to a DPS patrol car near you, as the in-car computer program rolls out across Texas.

Commercial Vehicle units in Regions I, II and III already have the in-car computers and they are being outfitted in Highway Patrol cars in Region V. Within 18 months, all black and white units and sergeant vehicles in the Highway Patrol Division will patrol Texas roadways with the new technology. The Texas Rangers and Criminal Law Enforcement divisions are also testing the software applications.



The additional crime-fighting tool was approved by the Texas Legislature in 2007 and it gives troopers a direct link with Communications personnel. Troopers can access the Traffic Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS) and driver license information on their touch-screen monitor.

“This puts the Department on the cutting edge and moves us light years forward in our law enforcement capabilities,” said DPS Director Col. Thomas Davis Jr.

Real time alerts, digital photographs and homeland security information will all be available at troopers’ fingertips. It will also make it easier to identify wanted persons and stolen vehicles and equips units with GPS (Global Positioning System) technology.

Last month, just days after being deployed, the computers helped track an 80-mile pursuit near Amarillo as the suspect navigated dirt roads. With the GPS system, Communications personnel saw the chase unfold and helped position Highway Patrol units and bring the pursuit to an end.

Another example of how the system helps: a CVE trooper in Lubbock pulled up a driver license photo after a commercial vehicle driver gave what turned out to be a phony name. With the DL photo at his disposal, the trooper realized the deception, determined the man didn’t have a driver license and made an arrest.

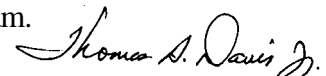
Dear fellow employee,

As you know, the Department implemented Physical Readiness and Job Task Scenario Testing in 2006 to comply with legislative requirements in order to participate in the promotional process, obtain a career-pay progression or receive a legislative salary increase.

Mandatory testing started on Sept. 1, 2007. ***If you have not yet participated, you must complete all testing prior to March 1, 2008. Contact your PRT field coordinator or the Recruiting Office to reserve a testing time.***

We now are at the point where commissioned employees must meet 90 percent of the standard. In FY 2009, all commissioned employees will be required to meet 100 percent of the standard.

I expect that each of you has been training for this testing. As I have said in the past, being physically fit is good for DPS. But it’s even better for you, because of the health benefits you will enjoy by participating in a regular exercise program.



Awards

Chief **Burton Christian**, Administration Austin, received a Medal of Merit in recognition of his contributions toward one of the Department's most important goals: recruiting qualified trooper-trainee applicants.

The Department will have to run at least five recruit schools over the next two years to fill more than 600 anticipated vacancies. Among the improvements to the recruiting process that Christian engineered are year-round testing and interviewing, an internship program that employs qualified applicants until the next recruit school begins, pre-setting starting dates for spring and fall recruit schools and diligently advertising in rural newspapers and on military bases.

During flooding in Fisher County, Tr. **Todd Adkins**, HP Sweetwater, and Game Warden Justin Valchar responded to a call about a vehicle that had been swept off of FM 57. When they arrived on the scene, they saw a vehicle in the floodwaters. An elderly man was trapped inside and water was rushing into the car window. Game Warden Valchar secured himself with a tow strap and waded into the water to rescue the man.

However, he had difficulty, so Tr. Adkins waded into the water without a safety line and made his way to the vehicle. They were able to free the victim from the car. Game Warden Valchar lost his footing and was swept away. He was pulled to safety by people on the shore. Tr. Adkins held onto the vehicle and the victim and was able to secure the victim

with an inflatable life vest that volunteer firefighters threw to him. The firefighters got a fire hose to the trooper, who tied it to the victim. The firefighters then pulled both the victim and the trooper to safety. Tr. Adkins received a Director's Citation and Game Warden Valchar received a Director's Award for saving the man's life.

Arriving at a two-vehicle head-on crash on US 59 in Victoria County, Tr. **Christian W. Fogal**, HP Victoria, saw a Ford Taurus with the engine compartment fully engulfed in flames. Bystanders told Tr. Fogal that a person was still inside the vehicle. He ran to the vehicle, where he saw Adan Sanchez Navor, who was unconscious and pinned in the car. Tr. Fogal tried to hold off the flames with his fire extinguisher, but they were too intense. As more of the car burned, he received assistance from two passersby and the three of them managed to pull Mr. Navor out of the vehicle. Tr. Fogal and Tr. **Donnie Bolton**, HP Victoria, administered CPR until EMS arrived on scene. Unfortunately, Mr. Navor did not survive his injuries from the crash. Tr. Fogal received a Director's Citation for his efforts.

A Director's Citation was awarded to Cpl. **Royal Andrew McMullen**, CVE El Paso, for his off-duty efforts in saving the life of a man who almost drowned. Cpl. McMullen and his family were camping at Elephant Butte Lake in New Mexico, when his wife heard someone yelling for help. Cpl. McMullen went down to the lake, which was a



On the mend...

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

Sgt. **Donald Clendennen**, CLE Austin, injured while arresting a fleeing suspect;

Tr. **Andrew Conquest**, HP Austin; injured while arresting a suspect;

Tr. **Timothy Godwin**, HP Decatur; injured while arresting a suspect;

Tr. **Carlos Rodriguez**, HP Weslaco, injured in foot pursuit;

Tr. **Robert Rosamond**, CVE El Paso, injured during a struggle.

quarter of a mile away from their campsite. When he arrived at the lake, he saw a yellow raft without anyone in it about 200 yards from shore. A 17-year-old man had swum from shore attempting to recover the raft, which had drifted away. The water was extremely cold, and the young man had been in the water about 15 minutes and was becoming exhausted and hypothermic. Cpl. McMullen swam to the raft and then paddled the raft to the victim. He pulled the victim onto the side of the raft and paddled back to shore. Once on shore, Cpl. McMullen treated this victim for shock and hypothermia and then transported him from the shore to a nearby emergency vehicle. The victim recovered fully. The young man's guardian said that she did not believe that he would have survived if Cpl. McMullen had not been at the scene.

Briefs

Quarter Century Club

The next Quarter Century Club banquet will be held in Waco at Knox Hall on Friday, April 11. Stay tuned for further details! Call **Jennifer Hall** at 512-424-7297 if you have any questions.

SWAT officers needed

SWAT will be conducting tryouts in March 2008. All commissioned officers who work or reside within four contiguous counties of Travis or Williamson may apply. Applicants must submit a memo through their chain of command with endorsements through their major. Applicants should contact Lt. **David Franklin**, CIS Austin, at 512-997-4195 for additional information.

Mile Markers

Promotions

THP

Jeremy Christopher Nordloh, Lt., CVE Houston to Capt. CVE Corpus Christi; **Terry Dwayne Truett**, Sgt., HP Huntsville to Lt., HP Conroe; **Brandon Edward Speed**, Cpl. II, HP Odessa to Sgt., HP El Paso-East; **Jeremy J. E. Rowland**, Tr. II, HP Refugio to Sgt., HP Alice;

Jeremiah Lee Richards, Tr. II, HP Bryan to Sgt., HP Liberty; **Hughie Leon Clark, Jr.**, Tr. III, HP Pineland to Sgt., HP Austin-Capitol; **Douglas Brian Hart**, Tr. II, HP Mineral Wells to Sgt., HP Weatherford-South; **Walter Timothy Marlatt**, Tr. II, HP San Angelo

to Sgt., HP Snyder; **Joshua Scott Mason**, Tr. II, HP Atlanta to Sgt., HP Uvalde;

Christopher Dean Frost, Tr. II, HP Waco to Sgt., HP Laredo-South; **Kevin Wayne Gray**, Tr. IV, HP Clarksville to Sgt., HP Cotulla; **Rowland David Adkins**, Tr. II, PH Bastrop to Sgt., HP Harlingen; **Regina Rose Sutton**, Oper. II, Comm. Svc. Midland to Supv., Comm. Svc. Midland;

DL

Quirino Reyes, Sgt., DL Austin to Lt., DL Waco.

Rangers

Jeffery Don Robertson, Sgt., Rangers San Antonio to Lt., Rangers Laredo; **Freeman Fleming Martin**, Sgt., Rangers Houston to Lt., Rangers Austin-HQ; **Dewayne Alan Dockery**, Sgt., Rangers Decatur to Lt., Rangers McAllen;

Jeffrey Sedwick Smithwick, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Corpus Christi to Sgt., Rangers McAllen; **Phillip Duane Ditto**, Sgt., HP Hereford to Sgt., Rangers Dumas; **Jose Noe Diaz**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Houston to Sgt., Rangers Rio Grande City;

Steven Wayne Jeter, Sgt., HP Texarkana to Sgt., Rangers Houston; **Jesus Jose Valdez**, Sgt., MVT San Antonio to Sgt., Rangers Midland; **Wende Olivia Wakeman**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Houston to Sgt., Rangers Conroe; **Danny Lee Briley**, Sgt., HP Stephenville to Sgt., Rangers Waxahachie;

Victor Lynn Patton, Sgt., CIS Sherman to Sgt., Rangers Mt. Pleasant; **Jamie Shane Downs**, Sgt., HP Brownsville to Sgt., Rangers

Brownfield; **Brent Lee Davis**, Tr. II, HP Athens to Sgt., Rangers Tyler; **Laura Lynn Simmons**, Sgt., CIS Garland to Sgt., Rangers Greenville;

Kip Baer Westmoreland, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Rosenberg to Sgt., Rangers Eastland; **Thomas Jason Kinerd**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Hurst to Sgt., Rangers Alpine; **Jason Christopher Taylor**, Sgt., CIS Houston to Sgt., Rangers Waco;

Stacy James McNeal, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Laredo to Sgt., Rangers Laredo; **John Thomas Vance**, Sgt., HP Marshall to Sgt., Rangers Sulphur Springs; **Michael Gregory Parker**, Sgt., CIS El Paso to Sgt., Rangers El Paso; **James Bennett Holland**, Lt., HP Conroe to Sgt., Rangers Decatur.

CLE

James Warren Behrens, Tr. III, HP Kerrville to Sgt., MVT Austin; **Andrew Stephen Priddy**, Tr. V, CVE Alice to Sgt., MVT Corpus Christi; **Kenneth Michael Garza**, Tr. II, HP Corpus Christi to Sgt., MVT Corpus Christi;

Brian Paul Wilson, Sgt., HP Odessa to Sgt., MVT Beeville; **James Wilson Jones**, Tr. III, HP New Braunfels to Sgt., MVT Laredo; **Augustin Valdez**, Tr. II, RLS San Antonio to Sgt., MVT Laredo; **Eric Fournier**, Tr. II, HP El Paso to Sgt., MVT El Paso;

Janet Alane Nichols, Tr. II, HP Brownfield to Sgt. MVT El Paso; **Michael Scott Meeks**, Tr. II, HP Denton to Sgt., MVT El Paso; **Robert Delton Hitt**, Tr. II, HP Lubbock to Sgt., CIS Amarillo; **Billy James McCloskey**, Cpl. II, HP Columbus to Sgt., CIS Austin;

Mile Markers, cont. from p. 3

Orlando Trenell Mayers, Tr. III, DL Houston to Sgt., CIS Laredo; **Dustin M. Harrod**, Sgt., HP Lufkin to Sgt., CIS El Paso; **Alfredo Salcido**, Sgt., DL Humble to Sgt., CIS Laredo; **Jeffrey R. Strain**, Tr. II, HP Midland to Sgt., CIS Laredo;

Brant Lamun Doddy, Tr. II, HP Tyler to Sgt., CIS El Paso; **Michael Dewayne Hubbard**, Cpl. III, HP Bryan to Sgt., CIS Eagle Pass; **Christopher Michael Callas**, Tr. II, HP Lufkin to Sgt., CIS Alpine;

Ralph Edward John Ohland, Tr. II, HP Bryan to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. McAllen; **Jesus Fidel Pena**, Tr. III, DL McAllen to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. McAllen; **Robert Pena**, Tr. II, HP Waco to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. McAllen; **Clayton Crumbley Cohea**, Tr. II, HP Sinton to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. McAllen;

John Douglas Cortines, Tr. II, HP Nacogdoches to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. McAllen; **Michael David Webb**, Tr. II, HP Sweetwater to Narcotics Svc. Eagle Pass; **Randy Aguirre**, Cpl. II, HP Beeville to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. McAllen;

Matthew John Swinney, Cpl. II, HP Odessa to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. El Paso; **Victor Tyrone Morris**, Tr. II, CVE Del Rio to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Eagle Pass; **Myles Patrick Holland**, Tr. II, HP Lufkin to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. McAllen; **Ricardo Huerta**, Tr. II, HP McAllen to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. McAllen; **Carlton A. Stapleton**, Tr. II, Corsicana to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. El Paso;

Paul David Smith, Tr. III, HP Greenville to Sgt., Narcotics Svc.

Eagle Pass; **Gary Steven Cash**, Cpl. II, HP Houston to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Alpine; **Abraham Rivas Gonzales**, Tr. III, HP Killeen to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Laredo.

Retirements

Oscar Javier Guzman, Sgt., Governor Protective Svc. Austin, 26 yrs., 5 mos., 20 days; **Nancy Carol O'Neal**, Tech. DL Cuero, 32 yrs., 4 mos., 6 days; **Raymond Terrill King**, Lt., HP Waco, 26 yrs., 11 mos., 17 days; **Israel Zamora Camacho**, Sen. Tr. CVE San Antonio, 25 yrs., 6 mos., 22 days;

Jeffery Glenn Cook, Sgt., Rangers Richmond, 23 yrs., 6 mos., 18 days; **Carlton Ray Scott**, Sgt., CIS Austin, 22 yrs., 11 mos., 22 days; **David Lynn Doyle**, Capt., CVE Corpus Christi, 30 yrs., 24 days;

James Wayne Haney, Sgt., CVE Amarillo, 29 yrs., 7 mos., 7 days; **Michael Wayne Fincher**, Sgt., CIS Bryan, 27 yrs., 11 mos., 23 days; **William David Warren**, Sgt., DL Garland, 26 yrs., 11 mos., 17 days; **Cleo Venegas Smith**, Admin. Asst. III, Narcotics Svc. Wichita Falls, 26 yrs., 4 mos.;

Paul Ballard Braden, Sgt., HP San Antonio, 23 yrs., 11 mos., 20 days; **John Andrew Martin**, Sgt., Rangers San Antonio, 21 yrs., 6 mos., 20 days; **Rebecca Ann Galey**, Tech., DL Snyder, 16 yrs.;

Homer K. Winger, Maintenance Worker, HP Midland, 10 yrs.; **Evelyn Sharon Wells**, Receptionist, HP Hurst, 6 yrs., 9 mos.; **Ralph Edward Hicks**, Tech., DL Waco, 6 yrs., 1 mo.; **Kevin Lee Largent**, Sen. Cpl., HP Lufkin, 28 yrs., 10

mos., 20 days; **Sandra Marie Blaha**, Operator II, Comm. Svc. Austin, 27 yrs., 2 mos., 19 days;

Henry August Muenich, Jr., Worker II, Training Austin, 18 yrs., 8 mos., 10 days; **Angie Moreno Clark**, Admin. Asst., DL Humble, 16 yrs., 7 mos., 29 days; **Allen Keith Miller**, Tr., HP Austin, 6 yrs., 2 mos., 29 days;

Jerrie Arnecia Reece, Admin. Asst. II, DL Conroe, 13 yrs., 8 mos.; **David Montgomery Hullum**, Sgt., Rangers Eastland, 23 yrs., 7 mos., 20 days.

Deaths

Virginia Kathryn Ford, ret. Admin. Tech., HP Victoria (Aug. 1976–Sept. 1993) died Dec. 28, 2007; **William Quinn**, ret. Ranger Navasota (Aug. 1948–Dec. 1987) died Dec. 31, 2007; **Kenneth R. Triplett**, ret. HP Sgt. Corsicana (Jan. 1957–June 1992) died Jan. 10, 2008; **Linda Kibler**, DL Tech Lewisville (Feb. 2007–Jan. 2008) died Jan. 13, 2008.

Retiree e-mail news list

The Public Information Office sends occasional e-mails with DPS news, such as funerals, to retirees. To get on the e-mail list, please send your name and e-mail address to: tela.mange@txdps.state.tx.us.

March Chaparral: Don't Miss!

Be sure to see the March 2008 issue of the *Chaparral*, which will discuss the new statewide insurance database and other issues facing the Department.