



# DPS Chaparral



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## CODIS cracks 1,000th cold hit mark

The DNA database known as CODIS passed a huge milestone the first of the year—recording the 1,000th in-state cold hit.

“Cold hits” are unexpected DNA matches that crack unsolved cases or link multiple unsolved crimes. In fact, these Texas cases, including homicides and sexual assaults, may never have been solved if it wasn’t for CODIS.

CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) is a nationwide FBI database used to match DNA of known criminal offenders with biological evidence from crime scenes—or match evidence from different crime scenes.

“CODIS and advances in DNA technology have helped revolutionize crime-fighting by targeting known offenders and linking additional criminal cases against them—often more serious than the original crimes for which they were convicted,” said DPS Director Col. **Thomas A. Davis Jr.**

The Texas CODIS database was established by the Texas Legislature in 1996. The first cold hit was recorded in 1998, and the number of crimes solved has been on the march upwards ever since.

All convicted felons sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, juveniles committed to the Texas Youth Commission and all registered sex offenders must provide a DNA sample. The CODIS Lab in Austin then analyzes the sample and downloads the information into the database. There are currently 282,000 offender records in the Texas CODIS database.

Crime scene DNA evidence is processed by DPS or other labs and then submitted to the database for possible matches.

The number of cases solved by CODIS cold hits is impressive: 113 homicides, 536 sexual assaults, 410 burglaries and 61 robberies. (These numbers include cold hits that solved non-Texas cases as well.)

There were also a wide variety of other matches, including assaults, threats, auto theft, theft and hit and runs. Some cases cleared wrongly convicted persons. Many of the offenders were not incarcerated or were about to be released when the database matches took place.

Overall, it was a big year in 2006 for the DPS CODIS Lab—records were set in the number of cold hits (382), offender samples analyzed and samples received.

Dear fellow employee,

The 80th session of the Texas Legislature is in full swing. Many of us here in Austin have been spending a lot of time testifying before various committees and subcommittees, providing legislators and staff with valuable information.

You’ve no doubt heard about many proposed changes to state law. Some of those changes would be quite significant. I would tell you this: many more changes are proposed than actually end up happening by the time the session ends.

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I want to welcome yet another recruit school to our midst March 18. Please remember that we are continuing to recruit for another class in the fall. We need your help to fill it with quality applicants.

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We still have 15 employees on deployment to the military. Some of them are in Iraq and Afghanistan; others are here in the States. All of them are away from their families. Please keep them in your prayers and watch over their families.



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## Awards

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Sgt. **Robert Ray Morris**', Narcotics McAllen, expertise in combating drug trafficking in commercial vehicles earned him a Director's Citation. He helped identify numerous drug trafficking cells that utilize commercial vehicles to transport drugs for Mexican cartels operating through South Texas.

Since July 2001, Morris has been directly involved in the seizure of more than 21,000 pounds of marijuana, about 1,900 pounds of cocaine and \$2.6 million in cash. He is also credited with developing a commercial vehicle enforcement interdiction program that has helped enhance drug interdiction efforts throughout the nation. Sharing his information and expertise with other agencies has resulted in identifying and dismantling large drug smuggling operations.

Sgt. **Donald Clendennen**, CIS Austin, received a Director's Citation because of his expertise in fraud cases. Since July 2002, he has been involved in several major criminal investigations involving false records, tampering with governmental records and manufacturing of counterfeit documents—and, at times, counterterrorism. These investigations have included several high-profile cases involving state government employees or organizations associated with state government.

As a result of the investigations, more than 20 people have been indicted or arrested, and more than \$1 million in cash and property have been seized. He is an active mem-

ber of the prestigious Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Tr. **Andrew Peavy**, CVE Houston, was off duty when he happened upon a crash scene in Harris County that would lead to his Director's Citation. An unconscious driver was trapped in a Honda Accord, and fire was visible under the hood. It turns out that driver had been street racing with another vehicle prior to the collision. When Peavy first entered the car, the victim's feet were tangled with the brake and gas pedals as the flames advanced over the hood. With assistance from the other driver, Peavy freed the man and dragged him from the vehicle. The Honda was quickly engulfed in fire, followed by an explosion. Without Tr. Peavy's decisive actions, the victim would have perished in the fire.

Tr. **David Crawford**, HP Beaumont, was approached at a gas station in Jefferson County by a woman asking for help for her mother. Crawford went to the residence behind the business and found the woman on the ground without a pulse and not breathing. Tr. Crawford immediately began to perform CPR.

With the assistance of a local deputy, Crawford performed CPR for six minutes until EMS personnel arrived on the scene. He continued to perform CPR another 14 minutes while EMS personnel used a defibrillator and eventually transported the woman. She was revived en route to the hospital and suffered no brain damage from the incident. For his critical role in saving the woman's life, he was awarded a

Director's Citation.

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## Short Shots

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### SWAT tryouts

The DPS SWAT Team is seeking applicants. Any commissioned officer who resides or is stationed within four contiguous counties of Travis or Williamson counties may apply. Interested candidates should submit a memo, via Department e-mail, to Lt. **Mike Tacquard** or Lt. **David Franklin** by March 31 stating their desire to try out.

### Dive team looking for you

The DPS Dive Recovery Team is seeking applicants for tryouts. Any commissioned THP trooper wishing to apply for consideration should submit a memo through their chain of command, forwarding the original directly to Lt. **Mike Tacquard** in the THP Chief's office. You must also notify Lt. Tacquard of your intent to apply—either in person or by calling 512-424-2339. A diving certification is not required.

### Quarter Century Club

The Quarter Century Club Banquet and Ladies Luncheon will be held on April 20 in Knox Hall at the Texas Ranger Museum in Waco. For more information, call Chief **Judy Brown** at (512) 424-5232 or **Jennifer Hall** at (512) 424-7297.

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## Mile Markers

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### Promotions

#### CLE

**Joe Shane Byrd**, Lt., CIS El Paso to Capt., CIS Midland.

#### HP

**Steven Earl McQuagge**, Sgt., CVE Riviera to Lt., CVE Waco; **Andrea Beth Watson**, Tr. II, HP Hondo to Sgt., HP Corpus Christi.

#### DL

**Gregg Allen Greer**, Tr. III, HP Marshall to Sgt., DL Bryan.

### Retirements

**Don Leland Graham**, Sgt., HP Sweetwater, 26 yrs., 11 mos., 22 days; **Tony Mack McCollum**, Sgt., HP Sulphur Springs, 26 yrs., 2 mos., 26 days; **Charles Kenneth Bolton**, Custodian II, HP Conroe, 8 yrs., 1 mo., 13 days; **Richard Lloyd Kongable**, Systems Analyst IV, IMS Austin, 2 yrs., 9 mos.; **Michael Eugene Tandy**, Capt., Narcotics Svc. Houston, 29 yrs., 1 mos., 24 days; **Pedro Masiel**, Sen. Cpl., CVE Victoria, 25 yrs., 11 mos., 24 days; **Patricia Mizzell Parrish**, Clerk IV, HR Austin, 13 yrs., 8 mos., 21 days; **Daisy L. McDonald**,

Clerk IV, MVT Austin, 13 yrs., 4 mos., 29 days.

### Deaths

**Ervin Watts**, ret. Patrolman, HP Rockwall (Aug. 1948 – July 1973) died January 27, 2007; **Carl Wayne Mayfield**, Sgt., HP San Angelo (Jan. 1984 – Jan. 2007) died January 20, 2007; **Norman Ray Rust**, ret. Custodian III, HP Del Rio (May 1985 – June 2005) died January 3, 2007; **Tommy Jack Moseley**, ret. Patrolman II, HP Elgin (Jan. 1956 – Feb. 1980) died February 8, 2007. **Dalia Trevino**, Admin. Asst. III, Crime Records Service Austin (May 17, 1985 – Feb. 14, 2007) died February 14, 2007.



## Eating for energy

Being prepared for duty either behind the desk or behind the wheel requires plenty of rest and energy. One way to boost your daily energy level is by eating and drinking healthy foods and liquids.

Here are some tips for a healthy energy boosting diet:

- Drink an average of eight glasses of water daily to stay hydrated.
- Eat plenty of oatmeal for both its provided energy and soluble fiber.
- Eat foods like spinach, baked beans and lean beef, which will provide you with iron in your diet for better red blood cell oxygen transport and for avoiding anemia-level deficiencies.
- Go for healthy energy carbohydrates such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lower-fat milk products.
- Have healthy proteins in your diet for long-lasting energy by eating foods such as low-fat cottage cheese, tuna, nuts and turkey.
- Distribute your calories equally among breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Don't:

- Skip meals, especially breakfast. Doing so will deprive your brain of the glucose it needs and increases your risk of a lackluster morning.
- Consume added sugar (in coffee, tea, cereal, etc.)
- Eat fried foods and other foods high in fat.
- Drink sodas or sweetened beverages.
- Avoid vegetables. You need the energy, vitamins and fiber they provide in your diet.

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**Whatz-It**, ret. K-9, HP Conroe (1992 - 2002) died January 30, 2007.



## On the mend...

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

Tr. **Steve Stone**, HP Tyler, shot by suspects;

Tr. **Ralphell Watkins**, HP Plano, injured in a vehicle crash;

Sgt. **Shannon Henderson**, Narcotics Alpine, injured in a vehicle crash;

Tr. **Brian Kemp**, HP Beaumont, injured arresting suspect;

Tr. **Juan Sandoval**, CVE Laredo, injured during a traffic stop.

# Promotional exams set

The competitive examinations for the following positions will be conducted at the DPS **Regional Headquarters offices, unless otherwise indicated.**

(**Region 1** examinations will be conducted at Eastfield College Campus, Building “S” Room 101, 3737 Motley Dr. in Mesquite. **Region 2** examinations will be conducted at the Houston Farm & Ranch Club (McAnelly Building) at One Abercrombie Drive, Houston. **Region 7** examinations will be conducted in the William B. Travis Building, 1701 N. Congress (Room 1.104) in Austin. Parking will be on the top level of state parking garage “R” located at 1706 San Jacinto in Austin. **Region 8** examinations will be conducted at the Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Office, 715 E. El Cibolo Road in Edinburg).

## **Monday, March 5 at 8 a.m.**

Supervisor Police Communication Facility, Communications Service

### **\*\*CLE Auditorium in Austin\*\***

Oral Board will convene at the THP Division Conference Room on Tuesday, March 6

## **Tuesday, March 27, at 8 a.m.**

Captain, Highway Patrol  
Lieutenant, Highway Patrol  
Lieutenant, Texas Rangers  
Sergeant, Highway Patrol  
Sergeant, Texas Rangers

## **Tuesday, March 27, at 1:30 p.m.**

Captain, Driver License  
Lieutenant, Criminal Intelligence  
Lieutenant, Driver License  
Sergeant, Driver License  
Sergeant, Criminal Intelligence Service

## **Wednesday, March 28, at 8 a.m.**

Lieutenant, Administration Division  
Captain, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement  
Lieutenant, Motor Vehicle Theft Service  
Lieutenant, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement  
Sergeant, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement  
Sergeant, Narcotics Service

The **Oral Examining Board** will convene at the Texas Department of Public Safety Law Enforcement Pro-

motional System Conference Room beginning at 8 a.m. as follows:

Captain, Driver License, Monday, April 2

Lieutenant, Highway Patrol, Wednesday, April 4

Lieutenant, Texas Rangers, Thursday, April 5

Lieutenant, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Tuesday, April 10

Lieutenant, Criminal Intelligence Service, Wednesday April 11

Lieutenant, Driver License, Thursday, April 12

Lieutenant, Motor Vehicle Theft Service, Friday, April 13

Sergeant, Driver License, Monday, April 16

Sergeant, Highway Patrol, Tuesday, April 19

Lieutenant, Administration Division, Monday, April 19

Sergeant, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Thursday, April 26

Sergeant, Criminal Intelligence Service, Wednesday, May 2

Sergeant, Texas Rangers, Thursday, May 2

Sergeant, Narcotics Service Monday, May 7, 2007

The Oral Examining Board will convene at the Texas Highway Patrol Division Conference Room beginning at 8:30 a.m. as follows: **The interview board starting time for this board may be adjusted due to schedule conflicts. Candidates will be notified of any changes.**

Captain, Highway Patrol, Wednesday, April 11

The Oral Examining Board will convene at the Texas Highway Patrol Division Conference Room beginning at 1 p.m. as follows: **The interview board starting time for this board may be adjusted due to schedule conflicts. Candidates will be notified of any changes.**

Captain, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Wednesday, April 11

The application form HR-106 should be submitted **directly to the Human Resources Bureau.** Applicants must also submit a copy of form HR-106 to their Service Commander through proper channels. **Only those candidates who are qualified will be able to compete in the written examinations.**

Applications should be addressed to the Human Resources Bureau, MSC 0251, Texas Department of Public Safety, Box 4087, Austin, Texas 78773, faxed to 512-424-5627, or e-mailed through DPS e-mail system to “Tierra Porter” and **should be received no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, March 16.**

Announcements are forthcoming and will be placed in Outlook at Public Folders/All Public Folders/Law Enforcement Promotions. Application form HR-106 can be found in Outlook.