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BIA offers “all-crimes” analytical approach

The Bureau of Information Analysis (BIA) assists DPS and other law enforcement agencies with investigations regarding terrorism, drugs, gangs, sex offenders, fugitives and other major felony offenses.

BIA, which is part of the Criminal Law Enforcement Division, merged the Department’s crime analysts into one unit in September 2007. Led by Commander **J. Patrick O’Burke**, the BIA includes 12 commissioned officers and 130 analysts from the Texas Rangers, the Driver License Division, the Criminal Intelligence Service, the Motor Vehicle Theft Service and the Narcotics Service.

BIA includes the Texas Intelligence Center, which provides 24/7 tactical support to law enforcement and a telephone tip line for the public; the Post-Seizure Analysis Team, which analyzes information from contraband and currency seizures; the Unidentified Persons & DNA Unit, which assists with cases involving homicide and unidentified bodies; and the Missing Persons Clearinghouse, which assists with missing persons cases and coordinates the statewide Amber and Silver Alert programs.

BIA tactical analysts perform database searches and phone analyses, make flow charts and provide other types of investigative leads. BIA strategic analysts conduct in-depth research on suspect groups, persons of interest or criminal activity to help direct law enforcement resources toward effectively combating crime and terrorism.

TexasSure is the next big thing

A new database designed to combat uninsured drivers now has a name—TexasSure (Vehicle Insurance Verification). The program was mandated by the Legislature and is a joint effort by the Texas Department of Insurance, Texas Department of Transportation, Department of Information Resources and DPS. DPS functions as the law enforcement liaison for the program. Testing is now underway to interface the database with the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS) for future use by law enforcement. However, that is still months away. Before that happens, the Highway Patrol will run a 60-day field pilot program in the Austin area. No launch date has been set for the law enforcement component of TexasSure, so stay tuned for more details!

Dear fellow employee,

Our best recruiters are our employees, and we need your help. We need to fill almost 600 trooper positions in the next two years, so we need many more applicants in order to find the best trooper trainees. Look at it this way: We want to hire the people you’d want to work with—so help us find qualified candidates! Please have applicants call Recruiting at 1-866-898-7667.



For the past three years, DPS has captured the Governor’s Cup awarded to the fittest state agency during the Texas Round Up. We want to win the Cup once again, but it’s going to take everyone’s help. Several state agencies, including TxDOT and TDCJ, have indicated they plan to take the cup away from us. Many types of physical activity count toward the challenge, not just the typical running, walking and biking. To sign up, visit <http://www.texasroundup.org/>. March 9 is the last week you can sign up and complete the six-week program in time for the Round Up. April 19 at midnight is the cut-off for entering your exercise. DPSers in the winning division could earn up to 16 hours of leave, based on participation. Let’s keep that trophy.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas A. Davis Jr.".

Awards

Richard Sidbeck received a Director's Award for saving a woman and her young daughter from drowning after a traffic crash in Jefferson County. Sidbeck watched the car veer off the roadway into a creek swollen by recent rains. He sprang into action, entering the muddy waters. First, he broke out a side window of the sinking vehicle and grabbed the three-year-old girl from her mother's arms and ferried her to safety. He then returned to the water and rescued the mother from the submerged pickup. Sidbeck was nominated by Sgt. **Brian Jagneaux**, DL Beaumont.

Mack Cowan, the Austin-based Scientific Director and Manager of DPS's statewide forensic breath alcohol testing program, received the prestigious National Safety Council's Robert F. Borkenstein Award last month in Washington D.C. The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field. The award's namesake was the inventor of the Breathalyzer.

Tr. **Robbie Barrera**, HP Austin, was honored with the Technician of the Year award for 2007 by Safe Kids Austin for her work in car seat and seat belt safety. This is the second time she has received this award.

Briefs

Governor Protective Detail

The Highway Patrol Division is accepting applications for Sergeant positions on the Governor Protective Detail. All commissioned De-

partment personnel not currently on disciplinary probation are eligible to apply. Applicants should have at least 24 calendar months service as a commissioned Texas peace officer when appointed to a position on the Governor Protective Detail. Contact Capt. **Dale Avant** at (512) 936-2299 for instructions on the application process.

Quarter Century Club

The next Quarter Century Club banquet will be held in Waco at Knox Hall on Friday, April 11. Call **Jennifer Hall** at 512-424-7297 for more details.

100 Club offers scholarships

The 100 Club of Central Texas is seeking applications for its annual higher education scholarships that are awarded to active-duty first responders, who are employed in Travis, Hays, Williamson, Caldwell or Bastrop counties. The application deadline is March 28. Call 512-345-3200 or visit <http://www.100clubcentex.com> for more details.

Mile Markers

Promotions

Director's Staff

Edward Howell Burris, Sgt., Aircraft Section San Antonio to Lt., Aircraft Section McAllen; **Matthew David Ruff**, Sgt., Aircraft Section Midland to Lt., Aircraft Section Lubbock;

HP

Paul David Schulze, Lt., HP Webster to Capt., HP Austin-HQ;



On the mend...

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

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

Good news! Sgt. **Donald Clendennen**, CLE Austin; Tr. **Andrew Conquest**, HP Austin; Tr. **Timothy Godwin**, HP Decatur; and Tr. **Carlos Rodriguez**, HP Weslaco, have returned to work.

Timothy Lamon Caradine, Sgt., HP Terrell to Lt., HP Webster; **Kevin Wayne Gray**, Tr. IV, HP Clarksville to Sgt., HP Cotulla; **Matthew Taylor Scales**, Tr. II, CVE Dalhart to Sgt., CVE El Paso.

CLE

Floyd T. Goodwin, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Texas City to Lt., Narcotics Svc. Austin; **Ruben Morin**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. McAllen to Lt., Narcotics Svc. Brownsville; **William Thomas Wilson, Jr.**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Amarillo to Lt., Narcotics Svc. Lubbock.

Deaths

Alfred Stone, ret., Staff Svc. Asst., Training Academy (April 1948 – March 1986) died January 26, 2008; **Frank Edward Smith**, Tr. III, MVI Hurst (May 1952 - September 1986) died February 4, 2008.