

# DPS Chaparral



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

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## DPS identifies persons of interest in Mansion fire; \$50,000 reward offered

A Texas Ranger task force has identified several persons of interest in connection with the 2008 arson of the Texas Governor's Mansion. Two sketches of a man believed to be the arsonist were released at a Headquarters news conference in February. (See sketches at right.)

The task force, made up of Texas Rangers, analysts and others, assumed responsibility for the investigation and took custody of the evidence in October 2009. Since then, the task force:

- o Enhanced the surveillance video footage of the arson suspect to the greatest extent possible with the assistance of FBI experts.

- o Produced a forensic sketch of the suspect taken from the video and compared it with potential suspects.

- o Reviewed all collected physical evidence.

- o Reviewed thousands of hours and thousands of frames of videos from 11 separate cameras that had not been previously examined.

The task force members painstakingly reviewed surveillance video from around the Mansion area frame by frame. During the reviews, the investigative team found a video segment of a suspicious vehicle—a white Jeep Cherokee, whose occupants were observed taking photos of the Governor's Mansion at ap-

proximately 2 a.m. on June 4, 2008—four days before the arson.

More than 3,000

similar Jeeps are registered in Texas, but

through a process of elimination, investigators located that specific vehicle, and its owner, who admitted to driving the vehicle while the photos of the Mansion were taken. The driver, now considered a person of interest, also revealed to investigators the identities of two people who were riding in the vehicle with him that night.

Investigators subsequently interviewed the two passengers, who are now also considered persons of interest.

One passenger initially denied having been in the vehicle, but after failing a polygraph examination, admitted to having been in the vehicle and taking photographs. All three persons have denied involvement in the arson of the mansion.

At least one of the persons of interest has been placed in the downtown area the morning of the man-



sion fire.

Investigators have also established a direct link from the persons of interest to an Austin-based anarchist group that was linked to a planned attack on the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis in September 2008, which involved Molotov cocktails.

See the videos, sketches and photos: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/video/News/GovernorMansionArson/index.htm>.

Submit a tip online: <https://www.tipsubmit.com/WebTipsCSI.aspx?L=E&AgencyID=650>.

Anyone with information that could be helpful to investigators is urged to call 1-800-252-TIPS (8477) or text "DPS plus your tip" to 274637 (CRIMES). All calls or texts are anonymous. Any reward would be paid in cash.

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## Awards

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### Fitness Stars continue to shine

The Fitness Star program recognizes commissioned personnel for meeting certain standards on the physical readiness test. The following individuals met the Fitness Star standards:

**Tr. Garry Pollard**, Regulatory Services McKinney

**Lt. Freddie Hobbs Jr.**, CID San Antonio

**Tr. Philip Brady**, HP Orange  
**Agent Jon Ybarra**, CID San Angelo

**Tr. Paul Struve**, HP Rosenberg

**Tr. Ricky Magana**, HP Rosenberg

**Sgt. George Dominguez**, HP Austin

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## Mile Markers

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### Promotions

#### Office of General Counsel

**Daniel Phillip Adkins**, Dep. Chief, Legal Operations, OGC Austin to General Counsel, OGC Austin.

### Regulatory Services

**Gerard T. Shodrock**, Sgt., Regulatory Svc. San Antonio to Lt., Regulatory Svc. San Antonio;  
**Douglas J. Whitworth**, Sgt., Regulatory Svc. McKinney to Lt., Regulatory Svc. McKinney;  
**Curtis W. Bunyard**, Sgt., Regulatory Svc. Houston to Lt., Regulatory Svc. Houston.

### Highway Patrol

**Fred B. Whisenant, Jr.**, Lt., CVE El Paso to Capt., CVE McAl-

len; **Duane Joseph Maldonado**, Sgt., CVE Del Rio to Lt., CVE Del Rio; **Jose A. Salas**, Cpl. IV, HP Laredo to Sgt., HP Laredo; **Gary W. McMillian**, Tr. II, HP Amarillo to Sgt., HP Dumas; **Alejandro Rodriguez**, Cpl. II, CVE Brownsville to Sgt., CVE Falfurrias; **Charles T. Smith**, Sen. Tr., CVE Midland to Sgt., CVE Midland.

### Rangers

**Roger D. Dixon**, Agent, CID Del Rio to Sgt., Rangers El Paso; **Joel D. Timms**, Agent, CID Alpine to Sgt., Rangers El Paso; **Tod B. Reed**, Sgt., HP Snyder to Sgt., Rangers Floresville.

### Retirements

**Robert Howard Burroughs**, Sen. Manager, Regulatory Svc. Austin, 29 yrs.; **Arlene Renteria Mendez**, Manager I, IT Austin, 29 yrs.; **Ronald King Stone**, Sen. Tr., HP Seguin, 27 yrs.; **Bruce Wayne Jackson**, Sgt., Rangers Van Horn, 31 yrs.; **Gordon Lee Wade**, Sgt., Aviation & Operational Support Amarillo, 21 yrs.; **Ermalinda Losoya Chavez**, Clerical Supv., Communications Midland, 17 yrs.; **Stephen Ray Rose**, Tr. V, Executive Protection Bureau Austin, 17 yrs.; **Tommie Lewis Gage**, Inspector IV, Regulatory Svc. Austin, 6 yrs.; **Tommy Wayne Nipps**, Specialist I, IT Austin, 20 yrs.; **Phillip Carl White**, Security Officer III, Law Enforcement Austin, 19 yrs.; **Landon Haynes Thomason, Jr.**, Investigator, CVE Conroe, 12 yrs.

### Deaths

**Frankie Joe Vrana**, ret. Spec. II, Building Programs Austin (March 1986 – February 2007) died Jan. 25, 2011; **Sandra Wallace Franks**, Clerk DL Austin (October 2006 – February 2011) died Feb. 6, 2011; **James Kenneth Crone**, ret. Tr. II, HP Winnie (March 1967 – April 1978) died Feb. 10, 2011; **Rhudolph “Rudy” Lafon Dorrrough**, ret. Tr. III, HP Bonham (October 1952 – March 1985) died Feb. 11, 2011; **Avis P “Sonny” Goodwin**, ret. Operator, Communications Lubbock (1969 – 2002) died Feb. 13, 2011; **Wilson T. Dew**, ret. Tr., L&W (1968 – 1993) died Feb. 19, 2011.



*On the mend...*

**Sgt. David Cramer**, CVE Garland, injured in a traffic crash.

**Tr. Germaine Gaspard**, CVE Garland, injured in a traffic crash.

**Tr. Ronald Johnson**, HP Port Lavaca, injured in a traffic crash.

**Tr. Billy D. Wallace**, HP Carthage, TX, injured in a traffic crash.

**Tr. Raymond Sanders**, HP Liberty, injured in a traffic crash.

**Tr. Chadrick A. Walker**, HP Cedar Hill, injured in a traffic crash.

**Tr. Dave Walker**, HP El Paso, injured in a traffic crash.