



# DPS Chaparral

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

April 2008

## DVAP = veteran reintegration

“Did you kill anybody?” “I thought you were dead,” “Welcome back from your vacation,” “You’re not going to go crazy on us are you?” —all actual things said to DPS military veterans, highlighting an issue addressed by a relatively new program to help vets navigate potential pitfalls caused by military deployments.

The program is called DVAP, which stands for DPS Veteran’s Assistance Program. DVAP got off the ground about six months ago to help DPS employees called to active duty in the military.

More than 120 DPS employees have been deployed by the military since September 11, 2001. Many of these employees have gone through multiple deployments. About 46 percent of the trooper-trainees who graduated last month were former military.

“Whether they have been fighting in Fallujah or guarding an airport in California, they are serving our country. They deserve our support and we should honor their service and sacrifice,” said DPS Director Col. **Thomas A. Davis Jr.**

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## Chairman, new commissioners appointed

Texas Governor Rick Perry recently appointed a new Public Safety Commission chairman and two new commissioners, bringing the total number of commissioners to four. One commission seat was vacant at press time.

Current commission member **Allan B. Polunsky** of San Antonio was named chairman of the commission. Chairman Polunsky joined the commission in 2007.

The Governor also appointed **Carin Barth** of Houston and **Tom Clowe** of Waco as members of the commission, which is responsible for overseeing the DPS.

Barth is co-founder and president of LB Capital Inc., a private equity investment firm. She is a board member of Western Refining Inc. and chair of the Texas Tech University Endowment. She formerly served on the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents and served as chief financial of-

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Dear fellow employee,

Please help me welcome two new members to the Public Safety Commission: **Carin Barth** and **Tom Clowe**. Both bring a wealth of experience to the commission. We also have a new commission chairman: **Allan Polunsky**, who has been a member of the commission for a year. I look forward to working closely with all of them.

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I also extend a warm welcome to our newest troopers, who graduated on March 28. They’ll report to their duty stations in the next few weeks. I remind them—and each of you—that our integrity is our most valuable asset. As I’ve said before, once your good reputation is gone, it’s almost impossible to regain. The people of Texas expect a lot from us. Please keep that in mind.

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And a new recruit school started March 30. I welcome those trooper-trainees and urge them to work hard.

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Every year, the second week in April is designated as National Public Safety Telecommunications Operators Week. Stop by and says thanks to those who

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## Awards

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Joseph and Marcus Munoz received Director's Awards for their part in trying to save a man's life after a car crash in Victoria County. The vehicle caught fire and flames were advancing toward the unconscious man. The uncle and nephew assisted Tr. **Christian Fogal**, HP Victoria, in pulling the man from the burning vehicle just before it was engulfed in flames. Unfortunately, the victim did not survive. Sgt. **Pete Amador Jr.**, HP Victoria, nominated Joseph and Marcus Munoz for their brave actions. Tr. Fogal received a Director's Citation for his efforts that day.

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## Briefs

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### Survey participation urged

Everyone should have received the Survey of Organizational Excellence last month at your work stations. The deadline for the survey is April 11. You are encouraged to complete the survey by paper form or online during work time. **You will need the number off the paper survey to take the online version.** Remember that your anonymity will be protected. Contact **Cindy Torres** at 512-424-5756 or [cindy.torres@txdps.state.tx.us](mailto:cindy.torres@txdps.state.tx.us) with any questions. You may also contact the University of Texas with survey questions at [survey.utexas.edu/comment](http://survey.utexas.edu/comment) or 512-471-3603.

### Governor Protective Detail

The Highway Patrol Division is accepting applications for sergeant positions on the Governor Protec-

tive Detail. All commissioned Department 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.

### Run with the Heroes

Take part in the 100 Club's Run with the Heroes in Austin, a 5K run scheduled for 8 a.m. Sunday, April 20, near I-35 and Slaughter Lane. Online registration is available at <http://www.100clubcentex.com>, until Wednesday, April 16.

## Colonel's Column, continued from page 1

work behind the scenes—always heard, but never seen. To all our police communications operators, thanks for your hard work!

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This year we commemorate National Crime Victim Rights' Week April 13-19. This year's theme is "Justice for Victims. Justice for All." During this week, we pay tribute to crime victims and all of those—including you—who dedicate their lives to helping them. As we honor victims at ceremonies this National Crime Victims' Rights Week, let us commit ourselves to serving them



## On the mend...

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

**Cpl. Patrick Davis**, HP Gonzales, injured in fleet accident;

**Tr. Jeremy Fountain**, HP Henderson, injured in a fleet accident;

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

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## Mile Markers

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### Promotions

#### DL

**Rebecca L. Uresti**, Tr. IV, HP Sherman to Sgt., DL McKinney;  
**Delvin DeWayne Davis**, Tr. III, DL Beaumont to Sgt., DL Humble;  
**Jennifer Lynn Lucky**, Tr. II, DL Hurst to Sgt., DL Austin-NW.

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better every week of the year. By investing in justice for victims, we move closer to achieving justice for all. For a listing of activities in your area, contact your regional DPS Victim Services counselor or refer to the DPS Intranet.

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See this page for information about the Survey of Organizational Excellence. Please be sure to participate. The information gathered during the survey is valuable and assists in making our Agency a better place to work.

*Thomas A. Davis Jr.*

**CLE**

**James Douglas Wrentz**, Lt., CIS Conroe to Capt., CIS Austin-HQ; **Clifford Joe Babbitt**, Lt., MVT Lubbock to Capt., MVT Austin-HQ; **Phillip Travis Fuller**, Sgt., MVT Laredo to Lt, MVT El Paso;

**THP**

**Jessie Michael Mendez**, Sgt., CVE El Paso to Lt., MCB Austin.

**Retirements**

**Billy Mitchell Ladd**, Capt., CVE Waco, 34 yrs., 8 mos., 2 days; **Jose Valenzuela**, Lt., Narcotics Svc. El Paso, 32 yrs., 4 mos., **Leonard Rene Hinojosa**, Capt., Private Security Bureau Austin, 25 yrs., 11 mos., 19 days; **Betty Ruth Rawson**, Secretary, DL Houston,

25 yrs., 3 mos., 28 days;

**Dan Alan Easterwood**, Asst. Cmdr., Narcotics Svc. Garland, 29 yrs., 9 mos., 5 days; **Johnnie Stephen Berkley**, Sgt., DL Fort Worth, 29 yrs., 1 mo., 19 days; **Kenneth Lee Crockett**, Cmdr., Narcotics Svc. Austin, 26 yrs., 8 mos., 19 days;

**Bryan Aubrey Barnhart**, Sen. Cpl., HP Athens, 28 yrs., 8 mos., 16 days; **Carol Ann Douglas**, DL Examiner, DL Fort Worth, 24 yrs., 5 mos., 28 days; **Grover Francis Lehman**, Sgt., HP Killeen, 14 yrs., 5 mos., 1 day;

**Albert B. Saenz**, Acct. Rep., IMS Austin, 11 yrs., 3 mos., 14 days; **Donald Theodore Gibson**, Analyst, Narcotics Svc. Austin, 4 yrs., 11 mos., 28 days; **Charles Edward**

**Derrick**, Lt., Training Austin, 28 yrs., 22 days; **Alan S. Trevino**, Tr., HP Austin, 19 yrs., 7 mos., 26 days; **Rose Mary Alvites**, Secretary, DL Houston, 13 yrs., 1 day; **Paula J. Armstrong**, Typographer, Gen. Svc. Austin, 27 yrs., 9 mos., 14 days.

**Deaths**

**Cathy Ann Shorter**, CIS Representative, HP Houston (Jan. 1980 – Feb. 16, 2008) died February 16, 2008; **Danny Parrack**, ret. Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Houston (May 1968 – Sept. 1996) died March 5, 2008; **Linda Jones**, ret. Admin. Tech. II, HP Houston (Oct. 1979 – Aug. 2003) died March 8, 2008; **Virginia Talley**, ret. Mgr. III, DL Austin (July 1968 – May 2000) died March 17, 2008.

**Chairman, new commissioners appointed, continued from page 1**

ficer of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from 2004-2005. She is an advisory board member of Amegy Bancorporation Inc., the Methodist Hospital Research Institute and the Ronald McDonald House of Houston. Barth earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama and a master's degree in business administration from Vanderbilt University Owen

Graduate School of Management. She replaces Ernest Angelo of Midland, who was chairman, for a term that expires Dec. 31, 2013.

Clowe is a ranch land developer and investor in various Texas nursing homes. He is a retired senior management advisor of the State Bar of Texas and former appointee to the Texas Lottery Commission. He is an advisory director of Lodestar Logis-

tics, a Houston-based firm serving the chemical, oil and rail industries. Clowe served in the U.S. Air Force and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas. He fills a new position on the commission created during the last legislative session. His term expires Jan. 1, 2010.

**Elizabeth (Beth) Anderson** of Dallas was appointed as a commissioner in 2007.



**Allan B. Polunsky**



**Elizabeth Anderson**



**Carin Barth**



**Tom Clowe**

## Veteran reintegration, continued from page 1

“Many of our military personnel have put their lives on the line in Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Davis. “They have all answered our country’s call for duty, and that is something that should be easy to respect.”

Indeed, peer and supervisor support and recognition are key elements of the program. There are real challenges reintegrating into the DPS family.

“It is important to give them the welcome they deserve,” said Lt. **Ed Burris**, Aircraft McAllen. “They have all been away from their family, finances and jobs, often under extreme stress in combat positions, and many face multiple deployments.”

There are three general components to DVAP:

- Pre-deployment, deployment and reintegration assistance,
- Integration at recruit school to assist incoming combat veterans and assist training personnel with retention issues for former military,
- First-line supervisor/in-service training.

Burris is one of the sponsors, a vital component in DVAP, which was developed by Lt. **David Franklin**, CIS Austin, and Lt. **Mike Tacquard**, HP Austin, with the assistance of Dr. **Frances Douglas**, Psychological Services Austin. The sponsors are assigned to personnel who are called to active duty and make contact prior to, during and after deployment to help them reintegrate into DPS life as smoothly as possible.

DVAP guides the employee

through a variety of issues, such as pay, health care and veterans’ rights. The goal is less friction and problems for the vets, their families, their supervisors and the Department.

“Everyone returns with some level of stress,” said sponsor Franklin, who saw combat with the Marine Corps in the Anbar Province in Iraq. “They need someone to talk to who understands what they have been through, somebody to tell them that what they are feeling is normal for anyone who has spent time in a combat zone—it’s a network of understanding.”

According to the program, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is rare, but post traumatic stress isn’t. Franklin, Burris and other sponsors know that stress first hand and use their experience to help their comrades.

“One of the biggest mistakes people make is coming back to work too soon,” said Burris, a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps who served three tours of duty, including one in Iraq. Employees often feel a duty to—and pressure to—return to work as soon as possible because they know their areas are shorthanded. Personal financial concerns play a role as well.

Supervisor support is critical. First-line supervisor training has been implemented to educate supervisors on how to react constructively, and how to get the best out of the returning employee while minimizing

disruptions caused by the deployment process.

“We want to teach supervisors what vets are going through,” said Franklin. “They may seem different, insubordinate, hyper-vigilant or nervous at first, but that’s just a normal stress reaction and part of their adjustment. The very things that keep you alive in combat, hyper-vigilance for example, may seem a little unusual to those who have not served in a combat zone.”

Returning military personnel are great assets to the Department.

“Many vets have preformed in life and death situations or incredibly stressful situations requiring heightened instincts,” said Col. Davis. “They become stronger people and better employees when reintegrated properly. Combine our vets with our current police force, and DPS can truly lay claim to the home of the brave.”

In addition to Franklin, Tacquard and Burris, other sponsors include Tr. **Kevin Allison**, HP Rosenberg, Tr. **Shannon Gray**, HP Austin, Tr. **James Gonzales**, HP Hempstead, and Capt. **Tim Ochsner**, Aircraft Austin. All have served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia or Desert Storm.

*By Tom Vinger*

*Public Information Office*

*Interested in DVAP? Any veteran who would like to be referred to a sponsor can call 512-424-2211, e-mail or call David Franklin at 512-997-4195, or contact any of the listed sponsors.*