

DPS Chaparral



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Public Safety Commission hears report on Mexican border incident

After a June 9 incident along the border in which gunfire was exchanged by drug smugglers and Texas law enforcement officers, the chairman of the Texas Public Safety Commission reaffirmed that violence toward Texas law enforcement agencies would not be tolerated.

“I want to make it perfectly clear: if any of our officers are shot at or come under attack, there is no minimum number of bullets that need to be discharged at our people before we respond. We will respond with whatever force is required to terminate the attack or threat. Our officers are not and will not be in-

timidated by cartel criminals who care nothing for the rule of law,” said Chairman **Allan Polunsky**.

The Texas Rangers continue to investigate the June 9 border incident in which U.S. law enforcement officers exchanged gunfire with members of a Mexican drug cartel. The smugglers threw rocks at the officers and then fired guns at them. The officers returned fire, striking at least three of the smugglers, who then fled back into Mexico.

“This event underscores the nature of the threat we are encountering along the border on a daily basis,” DPS Director **Steve Mc-**

Craw told the Commission.

“Our officers already are seeing incidents where the cartels are using blocking and chase vehicles, throwing caltrops to puncture law enforcement tires, using organized boat recovery operations and

conducting surveillance on law enforcement. We are concerned about the escalation of violence against our officers.”

McCraw told commissioners during their regularly scheduled June meeting that during the last 18 months, smugglers in the Valley have fled from the Texas Highway Patrol and crashed their drug-laden vehicles into the Rio Grande 55 times.

During these incidents, known as “splashdowns,” smugglers who are intercepted on the Texas side of the river attempt to return their load back to Mexico before it can be seized by U.S. law enforcement. The smugglers contact conspirators in Mexico, who meet them with boats in the river and offload the drugs from the vehicles to boats and transport the drugs back to the Mexican side of the river. These incidents have been increasing over the past several years.

The June 9 border incident was similar: Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens and U. S. Border Patrol agents interrupted drug smugglers who were attempting to move approximately 450 pounds of marijuana across the Rio Grande from Mexico to near Abram, Texas in Hidalgo County



U.S. Customs and Border Protection Marine, Texas Parks and Wildlife and Ranger boat teams at the scene of the shooting.

Mile Markers

Promotions

Criminal Investigations Division

William L. Farrell, Agent, CID McKinney to Lt., CID Garland; **Rodney R. Tandy**, Agent, CID Tyler to Lt., CID Tyler; **Curtis D.**



On the mend...

Tr. **Christopher S. Wehner**, HP McAllen, injured in a traffic crash.

Agent **Daaron Parker**, CID Houston, injured while serving search warrant;

Agent **Christopher Earnest**, CID Garland, injured during an investigation;

Tr. **Robert Mendez**, HP Terrell, attempting to arrest suspect;

Tr. **Justin Duck**, HP Houston, injured in a traffic crash;

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

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

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

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

Good news! Tr. **Ramon Farias**, CVE Laredo, and Tr. **Germaine Gaspard**, CVE Garland, have returned to work.

Bitz, Agent, CID Palestine to Lt., CID Tyler; **Robert D. Hitt**, Agent, CID Lubbock to Lt., CID Lubbock; **David E. Wibourn**, Agent, CID Alpine to Lt., CID Alpine;

Heather L. Krueger, Agent, CID El Paso to Lt., CID El Paso; **Cliff T. Manning**, Agent, CID Houston to Lt., CID Houston; **Manuel Quilantan**, Agent, CID McAllen to Lt., CID McAllen; **Fernando Zepeda, Jr.**, Tr. II, CVE Laredo to Agent, CID Laredo; **Edwardo F. Ruiz, Jr.**, Tr. II, HP McAllen to Agent, CID McAllen;

Bonnie A. Kuhns, Cpl. III, HP Los Fresnos to Agent, CID McAllen; **David G. Poland**, Cpl. II, HP Refugio to Agent, CID Corpus Christi; **Richard T. Russell**, Tr. III, HP George West to Agent, CID Corpus Christi;

Highway Patrol

Roberto Pena, Sgt., CVE Pharr to Lt., CVE McAllen; **Roger B. Looka**, Sgt., HP San Angelo to Lt., HP San Angelo; **Richard W. Jacobs**, Sgt., HP Austin to Lt., HP Austin;

Charles R. Goble, Sgt., HP Austin to Lt., HP Austin; **Joel D. Kite**, Tr. IV, HP San Antonio to Sgt., HP Pearsall; **Bryan R. Sheridan**, Tr. III, CVE Sweetwater to Sgt., HP Snyder; **Marcus E. Cholick**, Tr. II, HP Los Fresnos to Sgt., HP Rio Grande.

Rangers

Ricardo Rivera, Sgt., Rangers McAllen to Lt., Rangers McAllen

Co. G; **Dewayne O. Goll**, Sgt., Rangers McAllen to Lt., Rangers Midland Co. E; **Jason C. Taylor**, Sgt., Rangers Houston to Lt., Rangers Houston Co. A.

Retirements

Alma Elizabeth Alvarado, Examiner, DL Austin, 21 years; **James Robert Huggins**, Sgt., Rangers Centerville, 29 years; **Ronnie Robinson**, Mechanic III, Administration Austin, 14 years; **Glen Marvin Scales**, Sen. Tr., HP Bandera, 27 years; **John Wayne Anderson**, Investigator III, HP League, 19 years; **Johnny R. Barboza**, Sgt., CID McAllen, 24 years; **Timothy Wayne Conner**, Sen. Tr., HP Henderson, 30 years; **Patricia Ann Parker**, Exec. Asst. I, LES Austin, 34 years; **Robert Dean Powell**, Lead, IT Amarillo, 40 years; **Alice Reyes**, Comm. Operator, LES Bryan, 15 years; **Jaime Rodriguez**, Sen. Tr., HP Harlingen, 29 years; **Robert Tommie Scales**, HP Center, 26 years; **Maureen Keator Stapleton**, Admin. Asst. II, DL Carrollton, 24 years.

Deaths

Mayela Elizabeth Vela, Inspector IV, HP Laredo (May 2002 – June 2011) died June 13, 2011; **Edwin George Albers, Jr.**, ret., died on June 16, 2011; **James “Jimmy” Clarence**, Supv. I, General Services Austin (July 1964 – July 1994) died July 17, 2011.

Briefs

Speir Scholarship Deadline

Wilson E. Speir Scholarship applications will be accepted through August 5. Students must be classified as full-time criminal justice majors and enrolled in Texas universities. Two scholarships will be awarded for \$500 per semester for up to two semesters. Applicants should submit resumes and transcripts of completed college work to: DPS, Director's Office, P.O. Box 4087, Austin TX 78773-0110, Attn: **Connie Wolridge**.

Veteran's Scholarship info

The Hazlewood Act was amended in 2009 to allow Texas Veterans to assign any amount of their 150 hours of tuition-free benefits to a child. It does not matter when the veteran served. (In the past children were only eligible if the veteran was killed.) For more information, please visit: <http://texas-veterans.com/education/hazlewood>.

Awards

Tr. **Larry M. Vaughan**, HP Quitman, received the Purple Heart for life-threatening injuries sustained while serving a felony arrest warrant. In March 2010, Tr. Vaughan was among those serving a felony aggravated assault with a deadly weapon warrant on a fugitive. The suspect opened fire with a shotgun through a closed window causing

serious injuries. Vaughan had a tracheotomy and a feeding tube in the early stages of treatment. Despite the arduous recovery, he returned to work in October 2010.

Tr. **Todd Adkins**, HP Roby, received the Life Saving Award using both his DPS and military training to help save the life of a gunshot victim. Two men came to Tr. Adkins' residence in October 2010 in Fisher County. One of the men had sustained a shotgun blast at close range above knee. When direct pressure did not stop the bleeding, Adkins fashioned a tourniquet out of a rubber "bungee-cord" that effectively stopped the bleeding until EMS personnel arrived.

Sgt. **Scotty Shiver**, Texas Rangers Lubbock, received the Life Saving Award for his quick actions in 2009 that saved the life of a child. Shiver and other DPS personnel were on a manhunt in southwest Houston searching for the suspect in the high-profile murder of a Houston doctor when a woman approached Shiver saying her son was dying. The child was unresponsive and showed signs of oxygen deprivation. Shiver was able to clear the child's airway so he could breathe again.

Two Highway Patrol officers were awarded Director's Citations for their response to a life-threatening situation that resulted in finding a missing man

Fitness Stars awarded

Both commissioned and non-commissioned personnel are now eligible to earn Fitness Stars for meeting certain standards on the physical readiness test.

The standards vary based on age and gender, and timed results in push-ups, sit-ups and the 1.5 mile run. Those who qualify are rewarded 32 hours of administrative leave and can wear the Fitness Star on their uniform or lapel.

The following individuals met the Fitness Star standards:

Maj. **Rhonda Fleming**, EEO Austin

Forensic Scientist **Rene Hawkins**, Crime Lab Austin

Sgt. **Joe H. Medrano**, HP Borger

Tr. **Kerry Vore**, HP Odessa

Tr. **Justin Tabor**, HP Odessa.

in December 2010. Sgt. **Kenneth Authier**, HP Corsicana, and Tr. **James Thompson**, Capitol Region, responded to a missing person report from the Navarro County's Sheriff's Office. With little information to go on, they searched miles of roadway and locations within a couple of hours. After spotting a damaged post, they located the missing man's vehicle near a bridge, down a 25-foot embankment. The injured man was rescued and transported to the hospital.