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New driver license and system on the horizon

The Driver License Reengineering (DLR) Project is in full swing and on target to pilot the new Driver License System (DLS) in June 2007. Deployment of the DLS to the driver license offices throughout the state will occur between July and November 2007.

The project's focus is to improve efficiency of the issuance system and to strengthen security by providing a more secure driver license and identification card. The DLR team is comprised of the Driver License Division, the Information Management Service and contracted vendors.

Highlighted features of the DLS include real-time update of key driver record data. This approach will eliminate processing delays and provide driver license personnel and the law enforcement community with current data and record status.

Imaging of all issuance documents will also provide authorized personnel the ability to view imaged documents within hours of scanning.

A standardized fee management process for the collection, management, and distribution of all driver license related fees will be implemented to improve efficiency and reduce cash handling errors.

The Image Verification System (IVS) will provide enhanced support to law enforcement by providing the ability to perform one-to-one comparisons of facial images collected at the time of issuance in the driver license office to the most recent image on file. As well, one-to-many comparisons may be performed at investigative workstations that will allow an applicant's thumbprints and/or facial image to be compared against all DL/ID images on file.

The DLS will be a Web-based system; therefore, computers will replace the current mainframe terminals (CRTs) and a new image capture system will be utilized in the Driver License Division. This state-of-the-art equipment will provide enhanced reliability and software to ensure quality images.

Currently, the Division is redesigning the driver license and identification cards to incorporate enhanced security features to reduce fraud and counterfeiting attempts.

Dear fellow employee,

On September 15, more than 100 members of the A-06 trooper-trainee class will graduate from the DPS Training Academy. Not long after that, they will report to duty stations across the state. I would ask you to please be sure to welcome them to our DPS family and help them settle into their new communities.

To our newest troopers, I would say this: Welcome to one of the premier law enforcement agencies in the U.S. Our agency has a strong reputation for integrity; I fully expect you to uphold and maintain that reputation by acting with integrity. Behave in a way that will justify your family's pride in you.

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As you might suspect, now that A-06 is graduating, we're gearing up for another recruit school, which is scheduled to begin in January. We need your help in obtaining the best applicants possible. Please see the article on the back page of the *Chaparral* for more information on application deadlines and qualifications.

Thomas A. Davis Jr.

Awards

This year's Unsung Hero Awards had a definite DPS flavor. Numerous DPS employees were recognized by the Texas Public Employees Association (TPEA), which created the awards to honor everyday state employees who make a difference.

The awards were presented in San Antonio July 27. Col. **Thomas Davis Jr.**, DPS director, helped present the awards to 19 DPS employees. He also won the Agency Administrator of the Year Award for his support of state workers.

Janet Patterson, DL Waxahachie, won an Unsung Hero Award in the Individual State Employee category. The DL examiner has built a reputation for excellence in her job duties, even chasing down customers before they left the building in an effort to assist them. She was also lauded for her handling of the start-up of the School Bus Endorsement testing. She coordinated efforts with DL personnel in six counties and with 110 school district transportation directors. Patterson also spearheaded training DL employees within the sergeant area in processing Katrina and Rita evacuees.

Jimmy Hernandez, IMS Austin, received an Unsung Hero Award in the Individual or Group of State Employees Contributing to Their Texas Community category. For starters, the IMS supervisor works as a volunteer fireman in Elgin and helps with their fund-raisers and other projects. He took vacation time to help his church load and

deliver supplies to Beaumont in the wake of Hurricane Rita. For the last 13 years, he has helped an elderly lady with yard work, shopping and odd jobs and repairs around her home. In addition, he coached his daughter's basketball team and helped with her softball team.

Several communications and automotive technicians with the Fleet Operations Bureau were recognized in the 2005 Hurricane Disaster Re-

lief category. They provided support for a variety of operations carried out by the Department in East Texas after Hurricane Rita. They provided support for the massive deployment of DPS personnel to the area. They worked around the clock under very adverse conditions—little sleep, lack of running water and electricity, eating MREs, sleeping in or under their vehicles, battling oppressive heat and

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Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr. accepted "The Above and Beyond Award" from retired Texas Army National Guard Brigadier General Jim Bisson. Also pictured in uniform, is DPS employee and Army Reserve member Karl Morton.

DPS was recently presented an award for the Department's ongoing support of the National Guard and Reserve. DPS Director Col. **Thomas Davis Jr.** accepted the "Above and Beyond Award," which recognized DPS for outstanding service and continuing support to the national defense.

The award was given by the regional Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

"This is a big honor for our agency and we are proud of the men and women of this Department who have served in the U.S. military, often at great danger to themselves and great hardship for their families," Davis said. "We are proud they are part of the DPS family and they should know they have our full support and highest respect."

As of August 15, a total 141 DPS employees who serve in the Guard or Reserves had been called up to active duty since Sept. 11, 2001. Many have been deployed overseas in combat areas as part of Operations Iraqi Freedom in Iraq and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. About 30 DPS employees are currently on active duty in support of ongoing operations.

"Employer support is critical to maintaining good morale for both Guardsmen and Reservists, who hope to have a seamless transition back to their civilian careers following an active duty deployment," said **Karl Morton**, who nominated DPS for the award. Morton works in the CODIS lab in Austin and was deployed to Iraq as a major in the Army Reserve's 321st Civil Affairs Brigade.

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mosquitoes. They reestablished communications and repaired a variety of emergency equipment, such as light bars, video cameras and radios. They constantly provided vehicle repairs for the fleet of DPS patrol cars and a myriad of other law enforcement vehicles.

In all, 17 employees were recognized: **Walter Armstrong, Bryan Bargsley, Ralph Bullard, Charles Duncan, C.P. Garza, Rudy Gomez, Craig Haddock, Lonnie Harms, John Jackson, Steven Lentz, William Mackin, James Moczygamba, Scott Pace, Lewis Thompson, Robert Weissinger, Kenneth Williams** and **Frank Woods**.

Short Shots

SWAT tryouts

The DPS SWAT Team will hold tryouts October 2-4, 2006. Any commissioned member who resides or is stationed within four (4) contiguous counties of Travis or Williamson Counties may apply. Interested candidates should submit a memo, via department e-mail, to Lt. **David Franklin** by September 15, 2006 stating your desire to tryout.

FBI graduate

Lt. **William Urbanczyk**, HP Amarillo, graduated from FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia June 9.

We need your help!

It's time again to open our hearts and wallets to help those less fortunate. Every year state employees are

given an opportunity to donate to charities both local and around the world. It's as easy as a onetime donation or a monthly donation taken directly from your payroll check. If you are interested please contact your local State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) coordinator. DPS employees gave \$97,965 last year, up almost \$12,000 from the year before! The campaign runs from Sept. 1 through Oct. 31.

Region VI retirees meeting

The Region VI Retirees Association will hold its annual meeting Saturday, Sept. 16 in Knox Hall at the Texas Ranger Museum and Hall of Fame on IH-35 in Waco. Gathering and visiting will begin at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon. The meal costs \$10. All DPS retirees are invited to attend. For more information or to make reservations, contact **Danny Smith**, Retired Major, at 254-666-7084, or **Judy Faulkner** at 254-799-8963.

Feel crafty?

The annual Texas Public Employees Association (TPEA) Arts & Crafts Fair is on Thursday, November 2 at DPS Headquarters. Call Jennifer Hall at 512-424-7297 for booth information. Current and retired employees/spouses get first selection. No food items, baked items or drinks will be allowed to be sold at the booths to remain in compliance with Federal Law.

CIRT training scheduled

The DPS Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) is an employee-based peer support program de-

signed to provide support and assistance to DPS employees and their families who are experiencing work-related or personal stress or trauma. The DPS team is also available to respond to other law enforcement agencies upon request.

The Basic CIRT Training, scheduled for December 18-20, prepares employees to understand the nature of critical incident stress and to give specialized social support and assistance to their colleagues and families specific to the law enforcement profession.

Employees who are interested in applying for the CIRT and attending the December Basic Training should contact **Estella Garcia** in the Psychological Services Bureau by e-mail at estella.garcia@txdps.state.tx.us or at 512-424-2211. CIRT members are especially needed in **Regions IV, V and VIII**.



On the mend...

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

Tr. **Lucian Ebron**, HP Jourdanton, injured during a struggle with suspect;

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

Tr. **Roger Wolsey**, HP New Caney, injured apprehending a suspect;

Tr. **Steve Stone**, HP Tyler, shot by suspects March 22;

Tr. **Renita Coleman**, HP Texas City, injured in a motor vehicle crash;

Tr. **Kevin James**, HP Llano, injured in a motor vehicle crash;

Tr. **Rick Smith**, HP Waxahachie, shot by suspect Aug. 20.

Mile Markers

Promotions

CLE

David Eric Wilbourn, Cpl. II, HP Sierra Blanca to Sgt., CIS El Paso; **Bryan Gerard Jarzombek**, Tr. II, HP Floresville to Sgt., MVT El Paso.

Administration

Bradley Maurice Freeman, Cpl. III, HP San Antonio to Sgt., Training Academy Austin-HQ.

HP

Clay Carrell Conner, Tr. II, HP Vernon to Sgt., HP Mineral Wells; **Fernando Ramon Roza**, Cpl. II, HP Greenville to Sgt., HP Terrell; **Jay Michael Griffin**, Cpl. VI, HP Caldwell to Sgt., HP Caldwell;

Jason Christopher Shea, Tr. II, HP Mineral Wells to Sgt., HP Crockett; **Christopher Jones**, Tr. III, HP Bastrop to Sgt., HP Austin-Capi-

tol; **Raul Garza**, Tr. III, HP Raymondville to Sgt., HP Harlingen;

Jose Eduardo Duenez, Tr. II, HP Del Rio to Sgt., HP Del Rio; **Kenneth Gordon Hiebert**, Cpl. V, HP Conroe to Sgt., Conroe-West; **Pedro Amador, Jr.**, Tr. II, HP Victoria to Sgt., Brownsville;

Mark Steven Phillips, Tr. III, HP Katy to Sgt., HP Austin-Capitol; **Brandon Lee Negri**, Cpl. III, HP Terrell to Sgt., HP Laredo; **Ricky Lee Bryant**, Sgt., HP Cameron to Lt., HP Corpus Christi; **Carol Denise Stanphill**, Operator IV, Comm. Svc. Pierce to Supv., Comm. Svc. Pierce.

Retirements

Michael Ray Thompson, Lt., HP San Angelo, 28 yrs., 7 mos., 24 days; **Glennadine Evelyn Reinhard**, Tech., Seguin, 21 yrs., 11 mos.; **Bryon Keith Prall**, Sgt., CVE McAllen, 21 yrs., 6 mos., 22 days; **Rodney Paul Pearson**, Tr., HP Jas-

per, 20 yrs., 1 mo., 20 days;

Robert Lee Rodriguez, Tr., CVE Austin, 19 yrs., 6 mos., 11 days; **Bobby Joe Powell**, Security Officer III, HP Austin, 12 yrs., 7 mos.; **Vaneta Jean Smith**, Inspector II, MVI Plano, 18 yrs., 6 mos., 29 days;

Patrick R. Stolowski, Mech. IV, Bldg. Programs Austin, 5 yrs., 2 mos., 29 days; **Richard Clay Brown**, Sgt., HP Tyler, 29 yrs., 1 mo., 23 days.

Deaths

Larry Clapper, Clerk III, SRB DLD Austin (July 2002 – July 2006) died July 27, 2006; **Juneva Diane Marshall**, Supv., IMS Austin (June 1978 – Aug. 2006) died August 1, 2006; **James Whaley**, ret. Lt., SES/HP Waco (Feb. 1966 – Aug. 2002) died August 3, 2006; **Bobby Delafield**, ret. Tr. IV, HP Mineola (March 1969 – Aug. 1996) died August 10, 2006; **Ross Rayburn**, Attorney III ALR Austin (Dec. 2001-Aug. 2006), died Aug. 18.



Sgt. Robert Bernard, HP Plano, and Tr. Ireana Longoria, HP Plano, accept more than 100 teddy bears collected by Jessica Dawn Boudria of Grand Prairie during a scholarship-based competition. Jessica won the Today's Girl Humanitarian Award for her efforts on behalf of troopers.

DPS looking for new troopers

Spread the word!!! The Department of Public Safety is still accepting applications for the next recruit school that starts January 21, 2007, in Austin. The application deadline for Texas residents is September 22—September 15 for out-of-state applicants.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, at least 20 years of age and have completed 90 hours of college credit. Law enforcement, jailer or military experience may be used toward fulfilling the college requirement. Each applicant's background will be carefully scrutinized, including prior criminal history. They will also be required to submit to a polygraph examination, psychological examination and physical readiness test.

Information is available through a toll-free number, 1-866-TXTROOP (898-7667), that rings directly into the recruiting office at DPS Headquarters in Austin. Additional information is accessible on the DPS Web site, www.txdps.state.tx.us, and application packets can be picked up at any DPS office. DPS is an equal opportunity employer.