Dear fellow employee,

One of the most rewarding aspects of being director of the DPS is having the opportunity to observe the men and women of the Department overcome obstacles daily to protect and serve the citizens of Texas. The recent shooting of Sgt. Inv. Armando Lopez demonstrates both the threats our DPS personnel face and the bravery with which they respond. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sgt. Lopez and his family, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Another rewarding aspect of this position is the tremendous support the Department receives from the thousands of men and women who have retired from DPS but continue to support the Department in a variety of ways. Over the next several months, we will be developing a human capital plan that will address workforce forecasting, recruitment, retention, performance, benefits and the promotion process. An area that I would like to explore is the establishment of a DPS reserve officers program that would enable the Department to benefit from the expertise and capabilities of our retired commissioned officers.

Steven C. McCraw

Hot off the press! Paystubs, newsletters go digital

Starting in December, DPS will move to paperless payroll and leave statements. All employees will have access to a secure website where they can retrieve their payroll and leave statements. More information on how to access the information will be forthcoming.

*The Accounting newsletter and the Chaparral will be available online only,* with the exception of retirees, who will continue to receive printed copies of the Chaparral in the mail.

Switching to a paperless system for payroll, leave accounting and newsletters will save the Department thousands of dollars and hundreds of employee hours.

New regional commanders named

New regional commanders have been named by DPS Director Steven McCraw. The regional commanders, who will assume their positions on October 1, 2009, will report to Lt. Col. Lamar Beckworth, the Deputy Director for Law Enforcement.

The regional commanders will coordinate all DPS activities within their respective regions, ensuring a unity of effort among all divisions within the Department.

The new appointees are:

- Billy Fulton in Lubbock;
- Skylor Hearn in El Paso;
- Jack Webster in Dallas;
- L.C. Wilson in Houston;
- Jose Rodriguez III in McAllen;
- Luis Gonzalez in San Antonio.

DPS online: www.txdps.state.tx.us
DPS “on the air”: 512-424-7777
askthecolonel@txdps.state.tx.us
Awards

Tr. John David Cox, HP Eden, was awarded the prestigious Medal of Valor for the dangerous apprehension of a capital murder suspect last year in Concho County. Tr. Cox, along with local police, set up surveillance on the Hwy. 87, where the suspect was believed to be traveling. The suspect was accused of killing one woman and wounding his former girlfriend in San Angelo earlier in the day.

During a subsequent traffic stop, the suspect, who was a passenger in the car, opened fire on Tr. Cox with a sawed-off shotgun through the driver’s side door. Although injured from the blast, he returned fire and eventually mortally wounded the gunman. Luckily, Cox was not seriously injured. The Medal of Valor is the highest honor awarded by the Department. Cox is only the 29th recipient of this honor in DPS history.

Stressed out? There’s a better way

We can become habitually, physically tense often without realizing it. We gradually become accustomed to the sensations of living in a tense state and think of these as ‘normal.’

While stress can help in the short-term, making us more alert and motivating us, in the longer-term, unchecked, it can cause problems with our health, our relationships, and our work. Balancing daily stress with relaxation techniques can help your mind and body remain healthy and work at their best.

Want a better strategy to cope with stress? Deep breath. We can help. Contact the DPS Employee Assistance Program at 512-424-2211.

Briefs

2009 SECC Campaign

The State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) is underway and runs through Oct. 31. SECC makes it easy for an employee to have charitable contributions to select organizations automatically deducted from each paycheck. Participation is voluntary, and donations confidential. For more information, see www.sectexas.org or contact Rhonda Trumble (512-424-2037) via Outlook e-mail.

Mandatory comp time notice

State law requires that if an employee submits a written request (HR-11) for time off at least 90 days prior to the date accrued state equivalent compensatory time is set to lapse, the supervisor must (1) approve the requested leave time, or (2) provide the employee with an alternate date to use the compensatory time prior to the lapse date. For more information, refer to Chapter 7, 07.06.08, of the General Manual.

Promotions

Director’s Staff

Rhonda C. Fleming, Major, DL Austin to EEO Officer Austin, Director’s Staff; Manuel F. Espinosa, II, Lt., CIS McAllen to Inspector II, OAI Austin.

DL

Kevin S. Napier, Capt., HP Midland to Asst. Chief, DL Austin; Elizabeth G. Goins, Attorney IV, OGC Austin to Deputy Administrator, DL Austin.

Rangers


On the mend...

Tr. Richard Black, DL Dallas, injured during a fugitive felony arrest.

Mile Markers

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Rangers Harlingen; **Cody L. Mitchell**, Tr. II, HP Bayton to Sgt., Rangers Austin.

**CLE**


**Retirements**

**Dorothy Wright**, Secretary, Director’s Staff Austin, 36 yrs., 5 mos., 19 days; **Jacquelyn Muehlbrad**, Evaluator, DL Austin, 34 yrs., 5 mos., 25 days; **Steven Edward Davis**, Sgt., MCB Georgetown, 28 yrs., 7 mos., 17 days; **Debra Sue McCombs**, Operator IV, Bureau of Law Enforcement Comm. and Tech. Texarkana, 27 yrs., 11 mos., 21 days; **James Lee Nicholson**, Tr., DL Universal City, 22 days, 7 mos., 11 days; **Wilma J. Placker**, Sec. Officer III, HP Austin-Capitol, 6 yrs., 4 mos., 6 days; **Linda Danielson Boline**, Project Mgr., DL Austin, 31 yrs., 3 mos., 28 days; **Patricia Marie Mungenast**, Tech., DL Cedar Hill, 29 yrs., 10 mos., 1 day; **Bobby Stephen Turner**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Waco, 27 yrs., 7 mos., 19 days; **Francisco Elizondo**, Lt., MVT McAllen, 26 yrs., 4 mos., 25 days; **Martin Canas Santiago**, Sen. Tr., DL Midland, 25 yrs., 2 mos., 18 days; 


**Deaths**
