



2007
Annual Report
Texas Department of Public Safety

Mission Statement

The broad objective of this Department is
“to maintain public safety in the state of Texas.”



The Department works toward this goal within existing regulations and in cooperation with other agencies with mutual or related responsibilities.

The DPS seeks to preserve order by protecting lives, rights, property and privileges of the residents of this state.

The Department continues to uphold its motto:
“Courtesy, Service, Protection.”

Director's Message

Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas and
Members of the Texas Legislature:

We are pleased to present the Texas Department of Public Safety's 2007 Annual Report. This report contains valuable information about DPS and its activities in 2007, including:

- Installation of in-car computers for troopers—an exceptional item from 2007 (page 7)
- Helicopter rescues during flooding—additional helicopters were an exceptional item from 2007 (page 8)
- Numerous arrests of dangerous criminals (pages 9 through 32)
- The Driver Responsibility Program entered its fourth year (pages 33-35)
- Additional recruiting efforts to attract more trooper applicants are starting to pay off (page 44)
- The Department responded to many natural disasters (page 47-51)

Respectfully submitted,

By:

Thomas A. Davis Jr., Director
and
The Texas Public Safety Commission



Col. Thomas A.
Davis Jr.



Lt. Col. David
McEathron

The Department is led by a director and assistant director who oversee the agency's day-to-day operations. The director is appointed by the Public Safety Commission and must have at least five years of law enforcement or public administration experience. The director serves the commission in an advisory capacity. The director carries the rank of colonel and the assistant director carries the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Public Safety Commission

The Texas Public Safety Commission oversees Department operations. The Commission is made up of three Texas citizens appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Texas Senate.

Commissioners are appointed based on qualifications, including knowledge of laws, experience with law enforcement, executive ability, honesty, integrity, education and training. Members serve staggered six-year terms without compensation.

Members of the Commission in 2007 were Chairman Ernest Angelo, Jr. of Midland, Louis E. Sturns of Fort Worth and Allan B. Polunsky of San

Antonio. Commissioner Sturns left the commission in August and Elizabeth Anderson joined the commission in November.



*Ernest Angelo, Jr.
Chairman*



Louis E. Sturns



Allan B. Polunsky



Elizabeth Anderson

Office of Audit and Inspection

The Office of Audit and Inspection (OAI) provides the Public Safety Commission and Department management with independent, objective assessments of the accountability, integrity, effectiveness and efficiency of the Department's programs and operations. Based on audit and inspection findings, OAI also makes recommendations to management for improving the programs and operations reviewed.

Internal Audit

In fiscal year 2007, Internal Audit completed nine risk-based audits, nine follow-up audits, 12 Criminal Law Enforcement Division—Narcotics Service Imprest Fund and Seized Assets audits, 74 Driver License office audits and 11 petty cash audits. Based on the findings of the audits, numerous recommendations were

made to improve Department operations.

Inspection

In fiscal year 2007, OAI inspectors conducted inspections of law enforcement operations in two Highway Patrol Division regions, one Driver License Division region, two Criminal Law Enforcement districts and one Ranger company. During this same period, inspections of nine Headquarters operations were conducted. The inspectors also completed one headquarters fiscal study and one special inspection. As a result of these activities, 188 recommendations for improvement were developed.

Inspectors also served the Department in a number of other areas. As in previous years, an inspector chaired the Accident Review Board. In fiscal year 2007, the review board

processed more than 527 fleet collision reports and 340 fleet incident reports.

The Chief Inspector chaired the Awards Committee, which is responsible for reviewing and processing all Department performance awards. During fiscal year 2007, the Awards Committee approved four Purple Heart awards, five Medals of Merit and 11 Director's Citations for presentation to Department employees. Twenty-five Director's Awards were given to private citizens or personnel of other agencies. (*Please see list of Department award recipients on page 56.*)

Finally, inspectors taught numerous law enforcement training classes at the DPS Training Academy as well as at other police agency academies.

Texas Highway Patrol Division

The Texas Highway Patrol (THP) Division is primarily responsible for enforcing the state's traffic laws. The division is divided into eight regional commands headquartered in Austin (Capitol), Corpus Christi, Garland, Houston, Lubbock, McAllen, Midland and Waco.

The THP Division, led by Chief Randall Elliston, has 4,011 employees—2,706 commissioned officers and 1,305 civilian support personnel.

The division is comprised of the Highway Patrol Service, the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) Service, the Vehicle Inspection Service and the Communications Service.

The Highway Patrol Service secures and maintains order on Texas highways to ensure the safety of the motoring public. The Service is responsible for public safety education and police and security functions for the State Capitol and the Capitol complex.

CVE weighs and checks commercial vehicle traffic operating on Texas roadways to ensure compliance with statutes related to vehicle weight, motor carrier safety and the registration and transportation of persons, hazardous material and other property.

The Vehicle Inspection Service supervises all official inspection stations throughout Texas to help keep roadways safe and the environment clean by requiring vehicles to be inspected annually for conditions or defects that might

cause traffic collisions and contribute to pollution. Vehicle Inspection employees are authorized to detect and take appropriate enforcement action against anyone in violation of Texas laws.

The Communications Service operates a statewide network designed to serve the communications requirements of all criminal justice agencies. The system utilizes radio, telephone and landline telecommunication systems to connect with the Texas Crime Information Center, National Crime Information Center and other law enforcement databases. The Department has 34 communications facilities that operate 24 hours a day.

The THP Division also includes several units that handle a variety of specialized functions: the Governor Protective Detail, the Dive Recovery Team, the State Accident Reconstruction Team, the Drug

Detector Canine Program, the Explosive Detector Canine Program, the Regional Honor Guard and 16 Civil Disturbance Management teams.

Biohazard investigation near Capitol

The day before the State Legislature convened, Capitol troopers received reports of large numbers of dead birds falling from trees on Congress Avenue. Emergency personnel were summoned and the DPS Emergency Operations Center was activated. Troopers prepared to evacuate any state employees, state officials or others out of the threatened area if required.

Congress Avenue between Cesar Chavez and Eleventh streets reopened at 12:30 p.m. after any threat to public safety was ruled out. Biological samples sent to laboratories at Texas A&M and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Troopers and other first responders in downtown Austin await the all-clear after numerous dead birds were found on Congress Avenue in mid-January.

showed that the birds died from the cold weather and as a result of natural causes.

The following day, the Legislature convened as scheduled.

Escaped inmates captured

In February, Tr. Johnny Massey, HP Athens, initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle with a defective head lamp inside the Athens city limits. When Tr. Massey reached the vehicle, the driver accelerated and drove to a nearby residential area where the driver and passenger both fled on foot.

After troopers established a perimeter, they discovered that both men were escapees from the Van Zandt County Jail and that the vehicle was stolen out of Canton. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice provided dogs that tracked the subjects to a local business area where they were taken back into custody.

Cockfighting ring busted

In March, Tr. Derek Leitner and Tr. Brian Ihnen, HP New Caney, received a tip from a citizen about a large cockfighting ring in Splendora, Montgomery County. The troopers found a large arena with a rooster fight in progress. Of the 80 people detained, 29 were determined to be illegal aliens and were turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Citations were issued to the spectators. The Montgomery County Precinct 5 Constable took 120 roosters into custody. Another 200 roosters were found dead.



*In March, Tr. **Ramey Saenz**, CVE Riviera, responded to a commercial vehicle crash on US-77 in Nueces County. The Health Department also arrived on the scene to confirm that the load of popcorn shrimp had spoiled. After removing the first two pallets of shrimp, 987.8 pounds of cocaine and 68.46 pounds of methamphetamine were found hidden within the load. The driver and female passenger were transported to the hospital.*

Counterfeit inspection stickers discovered

An undercover investigation lasting five months netted the recovery of more than 1,453 counterfeit Texas Vehicle Inspection reports. Tr. Rhyann C. Droddy, Tr. Johnnie Freeman and Cpl. Kevin McNeil, all of the HP office in Houston, led the investigation. Investigators eventually arrested a man who was attempting to smuggle 11,000 counterfeit Texas Motor Vehicle Inspection Certificates into the United States. The certificates had an estimated street value of \$1.3 million.

\$2.2 million in cash seized

In May, Tr. Patrick Brookshier, HP El Paso, conducted a traffic stop on the driver of a 2005 GMC van traveling westbound on US-54 in El Paso County. DPS Narcotics had told Tr. Brookshier that certain suspects and vehicles were

transporting large quantities of currency to El Paso. Tr. Brookshier saw multiple indicators of possible criminal activity and obtained verbal consent to search the vehicle. He used a canine, Karo, provided by Tr. Jay Hawkins, CVE El Paso, and seized \$2,256,059 in U.S. currency that was found behind a flat-screen television set.

Kidnapper captured

On August 1, Tr. Gerald Corbell, CVE Center, heard a radio broadcast about a robbery and kidnapping in Shelby County. He assisted the Shelby County Sheriff's Office by positioning his patrol unit to create a roadblock.

Tr. Corbell saw the vehicle and suspect, who stopped and shouted several times, "Sir, please don't shoot me!" As the man accelerated in Tr. Corbell's direction, the trooper jumped out of the way to avoid being



Photo courtesy Pleasanton Express

On August 20, Tr. Clint Walker, HP Jourdan, assisted the Atascosa County EMS with Avean Escalante, age 4. Avean was crossing Texas Hwy 97 East in Pleasanton when an oncoming driver swerved to miss him. Avean ran into the driver's side door, and fortunately was not seriously hurt. However, he was screaming uncontrollably until Trooper Walker calmed and reassured him.

struck. Tr. Corbell fired his weapon and disabled two of the vehicle's tires. The suspect continued through a closed metal gate and down a private road where he fled into a wooded area.

After an extensive manhunt,

the suspect was apprehended the next day. He admitted that he had abducted an 89-year-old woman, forced her to withdraw money from a bank and then shot her in the head five times. Her body was found in the trunk of her abandoned car.

CVE Leadership Award

Texas was one of only three states nationwide to receive a first-of-its-kind honor for performing more than 200 compliance reviews on motor carriers during federal fiscal year 2006. CVE accepted this inaugural Leadership Award from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) in March during the Annual FMCSA Program Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

During FFY 2006, CVE performed more than 1,000 compliance reviews on motor carriers in Texas. The FMCSA noted that the state of Texas completed more compliance reviews than any other state in the nation during FFY 2006.

Drug interdiction awards

In September, DPS received two agency awards recognizing its success in drug interdiction.

In addition, several troopers received individual awards:

Tr. Billy Alexander, HP

Border inspection station opens

The Zaragoza/Ysleta Border Safety Inspection Facility in El Paso opened on September 5. This modern facility, constructed for DPS by TxDOT, is the second of eight permanent Border Safety Inspection Facilities being built on the Texas-Mexico border to become operational.

In addition to the two completed El Paso facilities, TxDOT will be constructing Border Safety Inspection Facilities in Eagle Pass, Laredo-World Trade Bridge,

Laredo-Columbia Bridge, Pharr, Los Indios and Brownsville.

Construction on the remaining six facilities is scheduled to be completed by June 2010.



(Above and left): Trucks travel through the Ysleta Border Inspection Facility near the Texas-Mexico border in El Paso.

Terrell, marijuana seizures:
7,198.4 lbs.

Tr. Darrin Bridges, HP
Borger, heroin seizures: 18.7 lbs.

Tr. Doug Hagler, HP Vega,
psilocybin mushroom seizures:
10.12 lbs.

Tr. Mark Lancaster, HP
Vega, ecstasy seizures: 42.9 lbs.

Tr. Kevin Marmor, CVE
Devine, methamphetamine
seizures: 65.34 lbs.

Alcohol testing bureau award

Randall Beaty, Assistant Manager of the Breath Alcohol Testing Bureau, was named the 2008 laureate of the Kurt M. Dubowski Award by a unanimous vote of the International Association for Chemical Testing (IACT) Board of Directors. The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding career-long contributions consistent with the ideals and achievements of Dr. Kurt M. Dubowski, a world renowned specialist in chemical testing. The award will be presented at the May 2008 IACT meeting in Tempe, Arizona.

Border Operations

Four strike force teams consisting of four sergeants and 40 troopers conducted law enforcement operations along the Texas-Mexico border in the vicinity of Del Rio, Laredo, the Rio Grande Valley and the Costal Bend area. Between September 12 and October 16, these operations resulted in 14,795 enforcement actions taken, including:

- 52 DWI arrests
- 59 criminal arrests
- 8 stolen vehicles recovered
- 1,573 lbs. of marijuana seized



Above: A trooper using the in-car computer

In-car computers making a difference

In recent months, the Highway Patrol began installing in-car computers with direct messaging and communications to troopers on patrol via a secure network that provides real-time alerts, digital photographs and homeland security information that can be acted on immediately. Vehicle automation gives troopers the ability to disseminate photographs of dangerous people and vehicles, identify thieves and rapidly identify wanted persons and stolen vehicles.

An example of how the system will help troopers: In August, Tr. Tony Crosthwait, CVE Lubbock, stopped the driver of a tractor-trailer for a routine inspection. After completing the inspection, the driver gave his license number and stated that he had left his license and medical card at home. With the new technology, Tr. Crosthwait was able to check the data and see that the image on that driver license number did not match the individual. The driver then gave his correct name and date of birth and admitted that he did not have a driver license. Charges were filed and the individual was arrested.

- 11,498 grams of cocaine seized
- 70 grams of methamphetamine seized

Border operations in 2007 also included the El Paso and Big Bend areas and are planned for 2008.

Pursuit captures bank robbers

In September, Tr. Simon Delacruz, HP Van Horn, saw a black Mercedes traveling eastbound on IH-10 at a speed of 137 mph. Tr. Delacruz attempted to initiate a traffic stop, but the driver refused to yield and continued at a high rate of speed. The Van Horn Sheriff's

Highway Patrol, Aircraft Service team up for high-water rescues



In August, heavy rains in south-central Texas caused massive flooding. The Aircraft Service was called in to assist the Highway Patrol with several high-water rescues. In the above photo, the helicopter has landed on Highway 90 just west of D'Hanis.



Above and left: Sgt. Stacy Holland (left) and Tr. Donnie Kindred (CVE Devine) rigging ropes for a rescue. Below: Tr. Kindred gets rigged up with assistance from the Uvalde County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Border Patrol agents.

DPS troopers and aviators rescued an adult female. They also assisted in locating other people who were stranded in the flooding, directing ground units to those areas.

Photos by Tr. Jeff Evans



Office located the driver at a motel parking lot, and placed him in custody. During the vehicle search, officers found \$628,334 in U.S. currency in the trunk. A follow-up investigation by Texas Ranger Sgt. Aaron Grigsby and by FBI revealed a possible connection to a \$1.9 million armored car robbery in the Dallas/Fort Worth area approximately two weeks earlier.

Criminal Law Enforcement Division



The Criminal Law Enforcement (CLE) Division investigates multijurisdictional violations such as terrorism, narcotics, motor vehicle theft, gambling, public corruption, fraud, theft and counterfeit documents. CLE provides specialized assistance to local law enforcement agencies and other DPS divisions and works with federal law enforcement agencies.

CLE, led by Chief Kent Mawyer, consists of 1,233 members, including 625 commissioned officers and 608 civilian support personnel. The four services that make up the Division are: Criminal Intelligence, Motor Vehicle Theft (MVT), Narcotics and the Crime Laboratory.

Criminal Intelligence Service Texas Syndicate members arrested

Seventeen members of the Texas Syndicate prison gang were indicted in Houston for conspiracy to violate the racketeering influenced corrupt organizations (RICO) statute. The charges stem from the suspects' involvement in illegal

activities since 1999, including various murders, armed robberies and drug trafficking, all of which were conducted in order to gain membership or increase their standing with the gang.

After the indictments were unsealed, a multijurisdictional task force arrested eight of the suspects throughout the Houston area. Task force members served arrest warrants to another nine suspects at various federal and Texas state prison facilities, where the suspects were already in custody on other charges. The indictments were the result of a five-year investigative effort by multiple agencies, including the DPS CIS, TDCJ, the FBI, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, Harris County Sheriff's Office and the Houston and Baytown police departments.

Operation Falcon locks up gang members

The DPS CIS assisted the U.S. Marshals Service with Operation Falcon, a nationwide felony warrant roundup. As a result of the operation, investigators arrested 284 fugitives in Parker, Wise, Tarrant and Harris counties on a variety of offenses, including aggravated assault, homicide and aggravated sexual assault of a child.

At least 10 of the arrested fugitives were gang members, including one member of Houstone Tango Blast. Other agencies participating in the roundup were the ATF, the Harris, Fort Bend, Parker,

Tarrant and Wise County sheriff's offices and the Dallas, Fort Worth and Houston police departments.

Los Zetas member jailed

A CIS sergeant arrested an associate of the Los Zetas organization for aggravated kidnapping and engaging in organized criminal activity. The suspect is a member of a group of hit men living in the Laredo area but who mostly operate in Nuevo Laredo and Monterrey, Mexico.

In early August 2006, the suspect shot at three people in Laredo, critically wounding one of them. Later that month, he also participated in the kidnapping and assault of two individuals who were believed to have been involved in the assassination of the group's local leader. The victims were bound, beaten and strangled and would have been killed if the police had not responded to a 911 call.

The assailants fled, leaving behind body armor, handguns and assault rifles. Warrants were issued for the suspect's arrest, but he had already fled to Mexico. In 2007, investigators received intelligence that the suspect was back in Laredo, and they located and arrested him. Investigators established his involvement in the kidnapping incident and linked him to the earlier shooting. Other agencies assisting with the investigation were ICE, the ATF, the FBI, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Marshals Service and the Laredo Police Department.

Aryan Brotherhood “general” and members arrested

CIS personnel arrested an associate of the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas (ABT) for conspiracy to commit capital murder. CIS received information regarding the suspect’s location, leading to her arrest at a La Quinta Inn near Nacogdoches. Investigators believe that the suspect was involved in the murder of an ABT member and his girlfriend, both of whom were found shot to death, execution style, in rural Nacogdoches County.

Investigators also arrested seven other suspected members and associates of the ABT in connection with this investigation, including a high-ranking “general” in the organization. The Texas Rangers, the FBI, the Nacogdoches Sheriff’s Office and the Angelina County Sheriff’s Office also participated in the investigation.

Eight-liner operation busted

CIS personnel assisted the Hunt County Sheriff’s Office with the six-month investigation of an illegal eight-liner

operation. Officers executed warrants at 11 businesses, resulting in the seizure of \$41,000 and \$900,000 worth of property, including the motherboards for about 485 illegal gambling machines.

Officers also arrested 37 suspects on a total of 33 felony and 42 misdemeanor charges. Owners and employees of nine of the targeted businesses were charged with engaging in organized criminal activity. About a week later, investigators seized another 44 motherboards from eight-liners that had been hidden by the owner. Officers also arrested eight more suspects on felony and misdemeanor charges.

The search and arrest warrants were conducted with the assistance of DPS Narcotics, MVT, Texas Rangers, Highway Patrol, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) and Communications. Also participating were personnel from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC), Texas Comptroller’s Office, U.S. Marshals Service, Hunt County DA’s Office and the Royse City, Commerce and

Greenville police departments.

Sex offenders arrested

DPS CIS personnel arrested five civil commitment (electronically monitored, high-risk) sex offenders

for failure to comply with civil commitment requirements. The arrested offenders were Ricardo Zamora, Joel Clark and Rodney Rhynes in Houston, Christopher Shaw in Fort Worth and Bryan Webb in Austin. These offenders violated their parole in various ways, such as walking away from their portable tracking devices and failing to attend treatment sessions.

Since the inception of the civil commitment program, 80 sex offenders have been placed under civil commitment, and 37 of them have been re-arrested. Thirty-one civil commitment offenders remain in various locations throughout Texas, with six additional candidates waiting for release.

Saudi Arabian illegal arrested

A CIS sergeant and DPS Highway Patrol personnel arrested a Saudi National who subsequently expressed support for terrorism. In September 2006, DPS Highway Patrol arrested the suspect in Parker County for DWI and found that he was in possession of a third-party check. CIS initiated an investigation and learned that the suspect did not have authorization to be in possession of the check. They also discovered that the suspect, a citizen of Saudi Arabia, was in the country illegally. CIS subsequently obtained a warrant for the suspect’s arrest for fraudulent use or possession of identifying information.

Investigators located and arrested the suspect in Ranger, and he was transferred to the Parker County Jail, where he was held on an immigration detainer. In late December



CIS personnel, assisting the Hunt County Sheriff’s Office with the investigation of an illegal eight-liner operation, executed search and arrest warrants at 11 businesses.

2006, routine mail screening at the county jail revealed a letter written by the suspect in which he espoused hatred for the U.S. government, expressed an interest in joining al-Qaida and threatened to commit acts of violence against the U.S. He also threatened violence against the sergeant who investigated him, in retaliation for his arrest and prosecution. As a result of the threat against the sergeant, an additional charge of retaliation is being filed with the Parker County District Attorney's Office.

Motor Vehicle Theft Service Stolen construction equipment recovered

MVT personnel recovered construction equipment valued at \$173,000 in Wilson and Guadalupe Counties. MVT Sgt. Brad Sanders assisted the Wilson County Sheriff's Office with the identification of an altered/stolen Massey Ferguson tractor and shredder.

Investigators had seized the tractor from two suspects after they were arrested for possession of a controlled substance. Investigators also received information regarding the location of additional stolen equipment, leading to the recovery of a bulldozer and a skid steer loader at a Gonzales County ranch. Investigators learned that the father of one of the two arrested suspects had brought the equipment to the ranch. Investigators traveled to Nixon, where they arrested the father and seized a stolen Caterpillar tractor.

Investigators also located a stolen backhoe in Guadalupe County. Sgt. Archie Harben

traveled to the location and recovered the backhoe. Officials have charged all three suspects with theft and engaging in organized criminal activity.

Criminal Intelligence Trends

Criminal Intelligence personnel have identified a number of trends related to criminal organizations, including:

Increased violence in Mexican border towns

The DPS BIA has tracked reports of increased violence in Mexican border towns, such as Nuevo Laredo, Matamoros, Reynosa, Rio Bravo, Miguel Aleman and Ciudad Juarez. Most of the violence is drug-related. As a result, many of these towns have seen a marked increase in military and police presence. Gun-fights between the Mexican military and drug cartels have been reported.

Cigarettes funding criminal enterprise

Illicit cigarette trafficking is beginning to rival drug trafficking as a funding choice for criminal enterprises with profits in the billions of dollars. The increasing attractiveness of cigarette trafficking appears to be the result of heightened border enforcement and the increase in state excise tax, which occurred in January 2007.

Los Zetas use juveniles

Los Zetas gang and other known smuggling organizations are beginning to use juveniles for smuggling illegal aliens and narcotics. The switch is reportedly the result of a common practice by federal prosecutors to refuse prosecution of anyone under the age of 18.

In addition, Los Zetas are believed to be in the process of "cleaning house" by eliminating or disposing of their current adult guides and scouts to make room for more juveniles.

Guatemalan Special Forces bolster Los Zetas

Former members of the Guatemalan Special Forces, known as Kaibiles, may be allying themselves with Los Zetas, the violent strongmen associated with Mexico's Gulf Cartel. With approximately half of the original members of Los Zetas being killed or captured, it appears that Kaibiles have been brought in to assist with training and to bolster their numbers. The potential for violence along the border may increase significantly as a result of this alliance.

Suspected child abusers arrested

MVT Sgt. Teresa Garrett assisted the Webster Police Department with the serving of two felony warrants for injury

to a child. The two suspects were wanted in Harris County for allegedly abusing their two-year-old son by pouring acid on his lower extremities and strangling him with a ligature device. Prior to the suspects' arrest, the victim and his four-month-old sister were taken into custody by Child Protective Services. During the operation, investigators also arrested four Guatemalan Nationals at the suspects' apartment for immigration violations, one of whom had a previous arrest in Harris County for two counts of DWI and one count of rape. ICE also assisted with the arrests.

Stolen equipment recovered

MVT Sgt. Randy Loewe recovered \$162,000 worth of stolen property at a location in Eagle Lake. Working with the Colorado and Wharton County Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Forces, and the Waller County Sheriff's Office, Sgt. Loewe conducted a consent search at the location and identified five stolen farm tractors and a stolen round hay baler. Charges are pending.



Working with the Colorado and Wharton County Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Forces and the Waller County Sheriff's Office, MVT Sgt. Randy Loewe recovered \$162,000 worth of stolen John Deere equipment in Eagle Lake.

Stolen-truck operation found

MVT Sgt. Art Barrera assisted the Edinburg Police Department with the recovery of several stolen Ford pickup trucks at a local ranch. The vehicles had been observed by a DPS pilot and an Edinburg police investigator while flying over the ranch.

Local police entered an adjacent property and wrote down the license plate of one of the vehicles, which was later confirmed as stolen in Houston. Sgt. Barrera and other officers subsequently entered the ranch and detained the property owner as he attempted to flee. The owner was later identified as a former Hidalgo County justice of the peace.

During the search, officers seized five pickup trucks, stolen from Houston, and detained 80 illegal immigrants from Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

The search warrant was conducted with the assistance of DPS Aircraft, the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office, and the

McAllen and Edinburg Police Departments.

Dozer and backhoe recovered

MVT Sgts. Donald Wilks and Alberto Maldonado identified and recovered a stolen Caterpillar dozer and backhoe loader from a lot in Hidalgo. Both vehicles had been stolen in Houston. When located, the dozer and loader were on a flatbed trailer that was towed by a Freightliner truck tractor. After further investigation, the officers determined that thieves had stolen the tractor and trailer in Rosenberg. The total value of recovered property is \$304,000.

Narcotics Service

Meth ring shut down

A DPS Narcotics sergeant concluded a two-and-a-half-year-long joint investigation of a criminal organization responsible for distributing 20-25 pounds of methamphetamine per month from Caldwell County. Investigators served 10 federal arrest warrants and six federal search warrants, resulting in the arrest of 11 suspects and the seizure of four vehicles.

Investigators also recovered numerous stolen items, including four 4-wheelers and three



MVT Sgts. Donald Wilks and Alberto Maldonado recovered a stolen Caterpillar dozer and backhoe loader, worth \$304,000, from a lot in Hidalgo. The equipment was stolen from Rosenberg.

firearms. DPS Highway Patrol, CIS, MVT, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office assisted in the investigation.

Marijuana seized

McAllen Narcotics personnel seized 2,358 pounds of marijuana during a traffic stop. A Narcotics investigator observed suspicious activity involving the driver of a truck-tractor semi-trailer. Investigators initiated a six-day surveillance operation, culminating in a traffic stop and drug seizure. They arrested one suspect. This investigation is ongoing.

Cocaine seized

A Narcotics sergeant and the Houston Police Department seized \$1,600,000 worth of cocaine. During an investigation of a cocaine-trafficking operation, DPS Narcotics personnel received information regarding a residence in Houston. Investigators established surveillance at the residence and subsequently seized 15 bundles of 37 pounds of cocaine. One suspect was arrested.

Italian Mafia suspects arrested

A Narcotics Service investigation linked a traffic stop in Texas to the Italian Mafia in Delaware. DPS Highway Patrol contacted a Narcotics sergeant following an interdiction traffic stop in Sutton County that yielded the seizure of \$146,700.

The Narcotics sergeant interviewed the suspect and obtained additional intelligence.

Motor Vehicle Theft Trends

Motor Vehicle Theft personnel have identified a number of trends in Texas, including:

High-end vehicle theft grows

In Florida, thieves steal high-end vehicles and send them to Texas. These vehicles are typically driven along Interstate 10. All recovered vehicles have displayed switched Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs) and fictitious Florida buyer's tags.

Bonded title process used in stealing vehicles

MVT investigators have seen thieves using the "bonded title" process to obtain titles on stolen vehicles in the Houston area. Law enforcement has recovered several altered/stolen trucks and SUVs in the Houston area. All of the vehicles displayed fictitious public VIN plates that had been obtained from previously-salvaged vehicles.

Construction thefts rise

MVT investigators have noticed increased thefts in Travis County of construction equipment left on job sites. In November 2006, a major theft ring was broken up in the area, resulting in the recovery of one pickup, three trailers, two welders, two generators, two water

pumps, three job boxes, copper wiring and assorted power tools. Investigators arrested one suspect, who was charged with theft.

Pickups stolen

MVT is investigating the theft of Ford, Dodge and Chevrolet pickups in Houston, San Antonio and Corpus Christi. Criminals use the pickups for transporting undocumented immigrants and narcotics. Some of these vehicles are illegally exported to Mexico to be used by drug cartels.

Valuables stolen

Thieves are targeting motorists who are refueling their vehicles at gas stations. While the victim is standing on the driver side of the vehicle, the thieves approach from the passenger side, discreetly open the victim's door and steal purses and other valuables that have been left on the seats. The thieves then flee in a vehicle before the victim is even aware of the theft.

Metal theft on the rise

Investigators have seen a rise in thefts of copper, aluminum and other metals from residential and commercial air conditioning units and from equipment belonging to agribiofuel businesses.

With the assistance of a DPS crime analyst, the sergeant identified two more suspects in California and Delaware and obtained a warrant for the Delaware suspect's arrest. The sergeant flew to Delaware and orchestrated a controlled delivery of the currency that had been seized in Sutton County.

As a result of the operation, investigators seized an additional \$109,642 and four vehicles worth almost \$500,000. The operation was conducted with the assistance of Highway Patrol, ICE and the Delaware State Police.

Marijuana operations busted

DPS Narcotics seized more than 1,000 marijuana plants



While conducting domestic marijuana eradication, DPS Narcotics seized more than 1,000 marijuana plants (above) and 35 pounds of harvested marijuana (below) in Collin and Rockwall Counties.



while conducting domestic marijuana eradication operations in the Collin and Rockwall County area. Narcotics received information from the Garland Police Department regarding an area where they suspected marijuana was being grown, a suspicion that was subsequently confirmed by DPS Aircraft.

Narcotics personnel obtained consent to search the property and discovered three outdoor locations, as well as an indoor operation at the house. Officers seized 1,095 marijuana plants from the four locations and 35 pounds of harvested marijuana. Officers also seized 119 firearms—five of which were short-barrel firearms—and a million dollars worth of ammunition.

The Narcotics Service is working with the ATF, the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Garland Police Department regarding the

prosecution of the suspect. Charges include manufacture/possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug crime and possession of a firearm not registered in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

Amarillo drug-traffickers busted

DPS Narcotics assisted the DEA with the execution of four search warrants and the indictment of 21 people, 17 of whom were arrested. The early-morning raid was the culmination of an investigation that began more than two years ago, targeting an Amarillo-based drug trafficking organization.

During the course of the operation, investigators seized 19 weapons (seven of which were stolen), 20 vehicles (two stolen), 14 pounds of methamphetamine and \$450,000. Also assisting with the operation were MVT, the Texas Rangers, the DEA, the Potter and Randall County Sheriff's Offices and the Amarillo Police Department.



Along with the marijuana, DPS Narcotics seized 119 firearms (above), including five short-barrel firearms, and a million dollars worth of ammunition from the owner of one of the marijuana operations.

Multistate drug-trafficking organization investigated

DPS Narcotics seized a significant quantity of illegal drugs as a result of a multi-agency investigation of a large drug-trafficking organization based in Texas.

Investigators established surveillance on a commercial motor vehicle in Mississippi that was known to contain a false compartment that would be used to transport contraband. Investigators followed the vehicle to Dallas, where it was loaded with cocaine and then driven to North Carolina.

Investigators subsequently seized 297 pounds of cocaine and \$1.6 million, which was intended as payment for the cocaine. Three suspects were arrested. Investigators also seized 370 pounds of cocaine. Other agencies participating in the investigation are the DEA, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.

Marijuana seized at checkpoint

A DPS Narcotics sergeant developed information that led to the seizure of approximately 4,109 pounds of marijuana. The sergeant was working with the DEA and the FBI when he received information regarding a truck-tractor semitrailer that was transporting narcotics. He relayed the information to U.S. Border personnel in Sierra Blanca, and they located and stopped the vehicle at a checkpoint. A canine alerted officers to the marijuana in the rear of the trailer.

Crime Laboratory Service Crime Lab accredited

In December, all 13 DPS Crime Laboratories received international accreditation—the most difficult lab accreditation to attain. The DPS lab system is the largest internationally accredited system in the program. Only three other state police laboratories in the United States have received the international rating, including the Oregon State Police, Utah DPS and the Idaho State Police.

Including the 13 DPS labs, only 55 labs in the United States have achieved this level of accreditation. The laboratories were awarded the international accreditation—which provides the highest set of standards for which a forensic laboratory can be accredited—after a stringent evaluation process that lasted several years.

Before an American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) assessment team visits, all of the laboratory system's operational and technical procedures are carefully reviewed along with numerous documents relating to personnel qualifications, training and evidence handling procedures.

The on-site assessment is comprehensive. Every aspect of the laboratory's operation is carefully reviewed, including its management practices, evidence handling procedures and laboratory security. Training programs, proficiency testing, competency testing and testimony evaluation files for each employee are reviewed. Accreditation is granted only after the laboratory has demonstrated compliance with all the requirements of the program.

The accreditation means that the ASCLD/LAB recognizes the DPS labs as meeting both the ISO 17025 standards for testing and calibration laboratories, as well as supplemental requirements for forensic-testing laboratories. The accreditation lasts for five years, with annual surveillance inspections performed each year for the next four years.



Narcotics personnel investigated a multistate, drug-trafficking organization, seizing 297 pounds of cocaine and \$1.6 million.

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The year 2007 was the busiest year ever for the DPS Crime Laboratories. The labs received evidence in a total of 70,210 criminal cases. The DPS lab system includes 13 laboratories, located in Austin, Garland, Houston, El Paso, Waco, Corpus Christi, McAllen, Tyler, Lubbock, Midland, Abilene, Amarillo and Laredo.

2007 busiest year yet for DPS Crime Laboratories

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The crime lab disciplines with the greatest increase in the number of cases received compared with 2006 were: blood alcohol (11 percent increase), toxicology (16 percent

increase) and firearms (40 percent increase). Despite the increase in cases worked, DPS lab personnel reduced the processing time for drug case results in nearly all labs to

approximately 30 days, and the number of short-tandem repeat (STR) DNA cases completed increased by 37 percent.

In 2007, the 80th State Legislature granted the labora-

Ballistics network links evidence to criminals

The CLE Crime Lab Service has taken the lead role in coordinating the state's National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN), which is a network of law enforcement computer workstations that are each connected to a microscope and camera.

Examiners at each workstation collect the magnified images of fired shell casings for firearms identification cases. The unique microscopic characteristics imparted by a firearm's firing pin and breech face onto the casings are recorded and stored into a database. Confiscated weapons are also routinely test fired and the resultant casings are recorded into the database.

The NIBIN software searches the images of casings for similar characteristics, across jurisdictional and state lines, and then generates possible matches. The network has linked routinely confiscated weapons to unsolved shootings. Using NIBIN,

investigators can link firearms to crimes and specific offenders.

Firearm linked to murders

Crime Lab personnel linked a recovered firearm to a murder in Lubbock County. In October 2006, a man robbed three employees of a cabaret as they were leaving for the night. After stealing \$10,000 from the

January 2007, the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office searched the lake and recovered parts of a firearm that they then sent to the DPS Crime Lab. A DPS firearms examiner cleaned all the parts and reassembled the firearm, which was a .45 caliber Taurus pistol. The firearm was

successfully test-fired and subsequently matched to the firearms evidence found at the crime scene.



NIBIN personnel successfully test-fired this .45 caliber pistol, recovered from a lake, that a suspect had used during a Lubbock County double homicide.

Aggravated assault linked to drug dealer's residence

The Kilgore Police Department submitted a Glock pistol seized during a raid on a suspected drug dealer's house. The pistol was entered into NIBIN by Crime Lab personnel in

victims, the suspect repeatedly shot them with a .38 Special revolver and a .45 caliber pistol, killing two and critically wounding another.

Several months later, investigators found that one of the firearms used in the shooting might be in a local lake. In

Tyler, where it was subsequently matched to evidence from an aggravated assault investigation in Dallas. The evidence from the Dallas investigation had been entered into the Plano Police Department's NIBIN database.

tory 64 new full-time employees and a substantial budget increase for both equipment and operating funds. This added manpower, new equipment and funds will assist the lab in processing the increased workload.

In addition, the people of Texas voted to pass a constitutional amendment (Proposition 4) in November. This amendment provided \$200 million for construction, including the building or expansion of eight of the 13 laboratories.

1997 murder solved through CODIS

The 1997 murder of a 92-year-old woman in Midland was solved through a Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) hit. Criminalist Brady Mills developed a DNA profile from a cigarette butt recovered from the crime scene.

The profile was entered into CODIS, where it matched to a convicted offender who was serving time in prison on an unrelated charge. After officials questioned the suspect in prison regarding the murder, the suspect committed suicide.

DNA links rape to known offender

DPS Crime Lab personnel in Lubbock linked a known suspect to a 2002 sexual assault. The victim was assaulted in her bedroom, but there was no semen detected at the crime scene. Because there was reportedly significant oral contact with the victim's chest, the DNA analyst made a swabbing inside the tank top the victim had been wearing during the assault. Crime Lab personnel

developed a DNA profile of a male subject from the swabbing and entered the profile into CODIS, where it was linked to a known offender.

DNA evidence encourages guilty plea

Five employees of the DPS Crime Lab testified recently at a murder trial. The suspect had been linked through DNA to the 1983 murder of five people at a Kentucky Fried Chicken in Kilgore. The original DNA work had been performed by Lorna Beasley, who also reexamined the evidence in 2001 at the request of the Texas Office of the Attorney General.

Analysts developed a DNA profile and submitted it to CODIS, where the profile matched to the suspect. The suspect's DNA had been stored in the state CODIS database due to an earlier felony conviction. During the trial, the suspect pled guilty to the murders. A second suspect is scheduled for trial next year.

Rape and murder suspect identified

Crime Lab personnel assisted the Navarro County Sheriff's Office with the processing of a rape and murder crime scene. The victim, a six-year-old female, had been brutally raped and hung from the rafters of a barn. The primary suspect was the mother's boyfriend, who was arrested for possession of child pornography shortly after the victim's murder.

DPS Forensic Scientists Blake Goertz and Brent Watson used a new portable Crime-Lite unit to identify a possible

semen stain on the victim's shirt. A full DNA profile was obtained from the stain and submitted to CODIS, where it matched to a convicted offender and not to the mother's boyfriend. The convicted offender was already in the county jail, arrested for burglary of a habitation. Officers subsequently interviewed the offender and arrested him for capital murder.

Murder suspects identified

DPS Crime Lab personnel helped link two suspects to a home-invasion robbery and double homicide in Sugarland. In 2004, two men forced their way into a home, broke into the gun safe and shot all four family members. The mother and younger son were killed, but the father and older son survived.

Investigators suspected that the older son had hired the robbers to break into the house and kill his family, so that he could inherit a \$1 million estate. Forensic scientist Devin Stasicha recovered paint from the tool marks on the gun safe and determined that the suspects had used a Dasco Pro tool to open the safe.

Two years later, one of the alleged suspects was arrested on unrelated charges, prompting him to confess to his involvement in the home invasion in exchange for a lighter sentence. He confirmed that the older son had hired them and that they had dumped the evidence in a nearby lake.

Investigators dredged the lake and recovered a garbage bag that contained a Dasco Pro tool, a Dust Buster with carpet

fibers from the victim's home and a water bottle. Crime Lab personnel used the water bottle to obtain a DNA profile of one of the suspects.

Rangers' TYC investigation bolstered by Crime Lab

DPS Forensic Scientist Christine Cenicerros linked a Texas Youth Commission (TYC) principal to evidence in a civil rights violation investigation involving inmates. In 2005, investigators submitted evidence from the principal's office in Pyote to the Crime Lab.

Cenicerros obtained DNA profiles consistent with one of the victims. The Texas Rangers continued the investigation and submitted other pieces of evidence for DNA analysis in 2007. Forensic Scientist Cenicerros subsequently linked the additional DNA evidence to two of the victims.

Palm prints on T-shirt link suspect to murder

DPS Latent Print Examiner Kirk Wilcoxson linked a known suspect to a June 2006 homicide in Palestine. The victim had been stabbed 56 times and his bloodstained T-shirt was submitted to the Crime Lab for latent print analysis.

Wilcoxson observed a bloody palm print on the shirt and had it photographed. The print was then compared to a known suspect's palm prints, resulting in a positive identification. This is only the third case involving identified prints on cloth by the DPS Latent Section in the last 25 years.

DPS lab manager's research published

The Journal of Forensic Science recently published the research of DPS Laboratory Manager Pamela Smith. The article describes a purification technique that enables a full DNA profile to be developed from extremely small amounts of DNA.

Unidentified Persons and DNA Unit formed

The Unidentified Persons and DNA Unit was formed in September 2007. The mission of the Unit is to assist Texas law enforcement in their mandatory requirement to enter all information regarding an unidentified deceased or living person into the state clearinghouse and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Unidentified Person File. In addition, the Unidentified Persons and DNA Unit assists law enforcement, medical examiners and coroners throughout the state with the coordination of DNA samples from unidentified human remains for entry into the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) DNA Identity Lab.

The Unidentified Persons and DNA Unit and the Missing Persons Clearinghouse (MPCH) have formed a partnership with the UNTHSC DNA Identity Lab to help link Texas' missing persons to unidentified human remains. For the year 2007, a total of 10 "cold" DNA matches were made between Texas missing and unidentified persons. (A cold DNA match is a match that would not have been made without the use of DNA because no other link was

suspected or known.) As a result of these 10 cold hits, investigators have cleared 20 unsolved cases throughout the state.

Hundreds of missing and unidentified persons cases processed

The MPCH processed a total of 555 cases in 2007. Although the Unidentified Persons and DNA Unit was established in September, the following statistics reflect numbers for both missing persons and what is now the Unidentified Persons and DNA Unit. Cases worked included 56 abductions, 169 missing persons, 177 runaways and 153 unidentified persons. Of those cases, 341 were located and seven were found deceased.

In 2007, the Missing Persons Clearinghouse received 40 requests for DPS-issued Amber Alerts. Of those requests, 10 resulted in the issuance of Amber Alerts. All of the 10 children, for whom alerts were issued, were recovered safely, and eight of those were recovered as a result of the DPS-issued Amber Alert.

The Clearinghouse also received 31 requests for Silver Alerts and issued 17. Of the 17 issued, the Silver Alert was a factor in the recovery of four missing individuals. The Silver Alert was not a contributing factor in 10 of the cases, and the missing person was recovered deceased in three instances.

New CLE bureau offers “all crimes” analytical approach

In September 2007, DPS merged the Department’s crime analysts into one new unit — the Bureau of Information Analysis (BIA). This new bureau, which is part of the CLE Division, assists DPS and other law enforcement agencies with investigations regarding terrorism, drugs, gangs, sex offenders, fugitives and other major felony offenses.

The BIA includes 12 commissioned officers and 130 analysts from the Texas Rangers, the Driver License Division, CIS, MVT and the Narcotics Service.

In addition, the BIA includes the Texas Intelligence Center (TIC), which provides 24/7 tactical support to law enforcement and a telephone tip line for the public. The TIC also includes the Post-Seizure Analysis Team, which analyzes information from contraband and currency seizures. Also within TIC is the Unidentified Persons and DNA Unit, which assists with cases involving homicide and unidentified bodies, and the Missing Persons Clearinghouse (MPCH), which assists with missing persons cases

and coordinates the state-wide Amber and Silver Alert programs.

BIA tactical analysts perform database searches and phone analyses and provide other types of investigative leads. BIA strategic analysts conduct in-depth research on suspect groups, persons of interest or criminal activity to help direct law enforcement resources toward combating crime and terrorism more effectively.

Texas Ranger Division



The Texas Rangers perform a variety of duties that consist primarily of conducting criminal and special investigations into felony crimes, such as murder, white-collar crime and public integrity cases. They also assist in apprehending wanted felons, suppressing major disturbances and rendering assistance to local law enforcement officials in suppressing crime and violence.

The Rangers perform other duties, such as serving as offic-

ers of the court during judicial proceedings, providing protection for elected officials and assisting the Governor's Protective Detail with security for the Texas Governor and other dignitaries.

The Texas Ranger Division, led by Chief Ray Coffman, is made up of 134 Texas Rangers and 26 noncommissioned employees, including one forensic artist, one fiscal analyst and 24 administrative assistants.

Company A—Houston Suspect indicted for murder

On January 4, the Fayette County Sheriff's Office requested that Ranger Sgt. Otto Hanak respond to a shooting in Schulenburg. A young male was found dead in an apartment. Law enforcement apprehended the suspect and

charged him with public intoxication. At the jail, investigators interviewed him regarding the shooting.

Evidence collected at the apartment indi-

cated that several shots had been fired into a wall. With the evidence and statements, investigators charged the suspect with murder. On January 11, the case was presented to a grand jury, and the suspect was indicted for murder.

Game warden's killer arrested

On March 17, a male engaged in a shoot-out with two Texas Parks and Wildlife game wardens, three Wharton County Sheriff's Office units and three Highway Patrol units. Before the shoot-out, a game warden had observed the male shooting at night off a public roadway, and a chase ensued. Two Highway Patrol units spiked the suspect's vehicle, flattening his tires.

The suspect got out of his vehicle with a semiautomatic handgun and fired ten shots at officers. Three of the officers returned fire. One of the game wardens left the cover of his truck to flank the suspect where he would have a clear shot. The suspect then got a rifle from his truck and began firing at the officers. The game warden wounded the suspect who then fired several rounds, striking the warden. The game warden died from his wounds.

Ranger Sgt. David Maxwell arrested the suspect and charged him with capital murder of a peace officer. He was placed in a Harris County Jail with no bond.

Murder suspect arrested

On July 23, Ranger Sgts. Ronald Duff, Kevin Pullen and



Ranger Otto Hanak investigated a shooting in Schulenburg. A young male victim was found dead in an apartment (right) in a two-story house (above). The suspect was indicted for murder.



Grover “Frank” Huff assisted the San Jacinto County Sheriff’s Office with a murder investigation. A woman was shot once in the chest inside her home. Her ex-husband, who lived in the same residence along with another male, was found to be the person who fired the shot.

The male residents stated that the victim and her ex-husband had argued about her addiction to “crack” cocaine. At one point, the ex-husband asked the victim to leave. Instead of leaving, the victim entered the house and asked the suspect where the gun was because she was going to shoot him. The suspect followed the victim into a bedroom. Both suspect and victim grabbed for the gun. The suspect got to the gun first and swung it toward

the victim, and the gun went off.

After conferring with the San Jacinto County District Attorney concerning statements and the evidence at the scene, Sgt. Pullen arrested the ex-husband and placed him in jail. The Rangers collected evidence, photographed the scene, and performed a trajectory study of the fired projectiles. The suspect, while in solitary confinement, died of natural causes.

Capital murder suspect arrested

On August 1, the Shelby County Sheriff’s Office requested that Ranger Sgt. Tom Davis assist them with a manhunt. A suspect had abducted an elderly woman and forced her to withdraw \$10,000 from

her bank at the drive-through window. The victim mouthed the words “help me” while acting nervous, which alerted bank personnel. The suspect, hiding on the floorboard of the victim’s vehicle, forced the elderly woman into the back seat. He drove the victim’s vehicle, eluding police.

The suspect pulled the vehicle over, forced the victim into the trunk and shot

her to death. The suspect started driving the vehicle again. A Highway Patrol trooper fired at the vehicle, causing severe damage to a tire. The disabled vehicle landed in a ditch, and the suspect fled into the woods on foot. During the night, the suspect entered a home, stole the keys to a resident’s vehicle and escaped in that truck. The suspect was found the following day in his aunt’s house, and the FBI located the \$10,000 in his room. Charges are pending.

Prison escapees captured

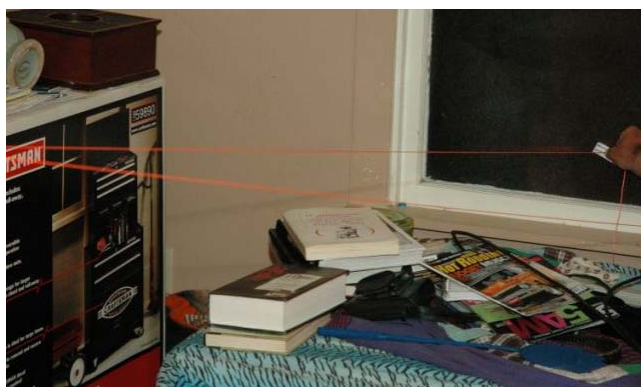
On September 24, two offenders housed at the TDCJ–Wynne Unit in Walker County escaped. They overpowered a correctional officer while working an outdoor detail on the Wynne Unit property. The correctional officer was unharmed, but the offenders took his service weapon.

In a nearby business parking lot, they engaged another TDCJ correctional officer, who was on horseback, with gunfire. During the gun battle, one of the offenders jumped into a city truck and ran over the officer and her horse, killing the officer. The offenders took her rifle and left the scene in the truck. The offenders later ditched this truck and carjacked a victim. The offenders and the kidnapped victim sped away with city police and county deputies in pursuit.

The pursuit ended approximately three miles away when the fleeing vehicle’s tire was deflated by police gunfire. Local police and the offenders engaged in another gun battle, and a large-scale manhunt



Rangers Ronald Duff, Kevin Pullen and Grover Huff collected evidence (above) at a murder scene in San Jacinto County and performed a trajectory study of the fired projectiles (below) to support or disprove the suspect’s version of the crime.



ensued. Both escapees were apprehended within a few hours. Local Texas Rangers, Highway Patrol troopers and DPS aircraft had assisted in the manhunt.

Ranger Sgt. Pete Maskunas was named lead Ranger in the follow-up investigation of the capital murder of a public servant, kidnapping and escape. Ranger Lt. L. C. Wilson, along with Sgts. David Maxwell, Brian Taylor, Otto Hanak, Crayton McGee, Ronald Duff, Grover Huff and Chance Collins all responded to the crime scene and assisted in the investigation. They obtained statements from the offenders and numerous witness.

Company B—Garland Murder suspect behind bars

On April 15, Ranger Sgt. Ronny Griffith was called to assist the Carthage Police Department in the investigation of the death of a juvenile male. The death was reported as a burglary/homicide. Investigators found the scene was set up and was not a break-in. They also determined that the suspect worked at a restaurant owned by the victim's family and was in the country illegally from Mexico.

Sgt. Griffith and Ranger Sgt. Steve Boyd worked and photographed the crime scene. A

Texas Ranger Division Criminal Statistics

Start Date: Jan. 1, 2007 — End Date: Dec. 31, 2007

Investigations — Offenses/Cases

Developed	Totals	Murder	Robbery	Burglary	Theft	Other*
Offenses - Activities*:	5,054	594	164	231	822	3,243
Charged Offenses:	1,712	260	90	153	314	895

Completed

Closed Files:	3,236	475	101	128	588	1,944
Criminal - Activity Disp*:	2,591	285	73	188	331	1,714

Arrests — Conviction results

Number of arrests: 2,070

Number of convictions: 1,798

* **Other** is all other criminal offenses (fraud, forgery, assault, etc.).

* **Activities** are warrant, civil, subpoena and fugitive.

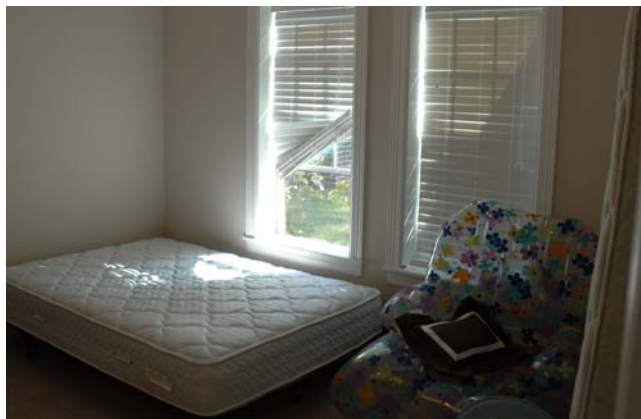
Carthage Police Department investigator and Sgt. Griffith took statements. The suspect had entered the young boy's room and sexually assaulted and killed him. The suspect then wrapped the victim in a comforter and staged the burglary. The suspect is jailed under a \$12 million bond.

Murder solved

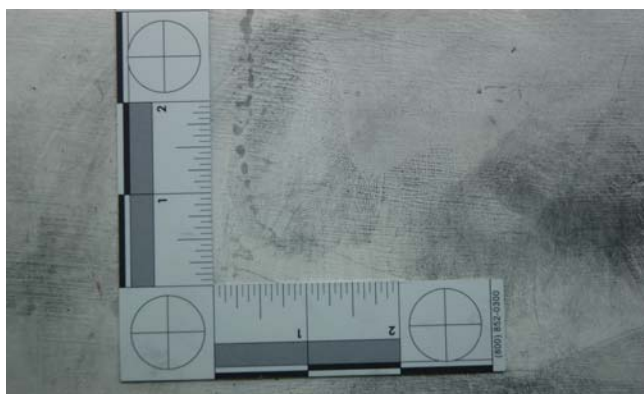
On May 10, a woman was reported as missing from the Dallas area. The body of a woman was found deceased inside a portable toilet at a construction site in Hewitt about 100 miles away. The Hewitt Police Depart-

ment began an investigation and requested assistance from Ranger Sgt. Matt Cawthon.

On May 15, the body was positively identified as the



Investigations by Rangers Ronny Griffith, Steve Boyd and the Carthage Police Department revealed that a juvenile victim's murderer staged the crime scene as a burglary.



missing woman from Dallas, and the Dallas Police Department requested that Ranger Sgt. Terry Welch assist in the investigation. Due to multiple jurisdictions involved, it was agreed that Sgt. Welch would assume the lead in this investigation.

On May 17, investigators served two search warrants at two residences in Dallas. Those two residences were occupied by the suspect, who was the last person to see the victim alive. Investigators recovered evidence at both residences; and on May 23, the Dallas Police Department and members of the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team captured the suspect. He was arrested and charged with aggravated sexual assault and violation of parole (original charge of murder).

Cold-case murders solved

Ranger Sgt. Roger Lough and the Red River County Sheriff investigated the 1987 double murder of a male and female. On March 27, law enforcement arrested one of the suspects on an unrelated parole

violation, and he was placed in the Red River County jail.

Sgt. Lough and the sheriff interviewed the suspect, found additional evidence and determined that two other males, one of whom was deceased, were involved. With the additional evidence and testimony, investigators arrested the two remaining suspects for capital murder in this 1987 cold case.

Man kills grandmother

On August 9, Ranger Sgt. Ronny Griffith was requested to assist the Gregg County Sheriff's Office, involving the shooting deaths of a male and female. Sgt. Griffith traveled to the location, collected evidence and interviewed witnesses. His investigation helped lead to the arrest of the suspect.

Sgt. Griffith found that the suspect had been smoking marijuana dipped in embalming fluid for several days before the murder. The suspect went to the home of his grandmother and uncle to get his grandmother's gun. He shot both and left. The suspect was placed in the Gregg County jail on capital murder charges.

Company C—Lubbock Floyd County justice of the peace shoots husband

On March 10, Ranger Sgt. Marshall Thomas assisted the Floyd County Sheriff's Office with a shooting investigation. A local justice of the peace had shot her husband. Sgt. Thomas



Ranger Russ Authier assisted the Parker County Sheriff's Office in investigating the hanging deaths of four children. A woman hanged her children and then herself in the closet of their mobile home.

photographed the scene, collected evidence and obtained witness and victim statements.

Sgt. Thomas processed the firearm for fingerprints and submitted several items of evidence, including shell casings, fired bullets, the victim's clothes and a semiautomatic pistol, to the DPS Crime Lab for analysis. The judge was arrested and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Mother hangs three children

On May 29, the Parker County Sheriff's Office requested that Ranger Sgt. Russ Authier assist at the scene of a multiple homicide. Law enforcement officials were summoned to the residence when a relative went to check on her sister's welfare and discovered her sister and her sister's four children hanging in a bedroom closet.

The youngest child was found alive and removed from the residence. Sgt. Authier assisted with the processing and collection of evidence at the residence and attended the

Continued on page 25



Ranger Marshall Thomas collected evidence, such as the above shell casing, at a Floyd County shooting that involved a local justice of the peace.

Texas Rangers Forensic Artist

Texas Rangers Forensic Artist Suzanne Birdwell assists law enforcement agencies with multiple forms of investigative-related artwork, including composite drawings, age progression updates of missing persons or dangerous fugitives, postmortem drawings and facial reconstruction on or from the skull.

These images are used both to aid in the apprehension of criminal offenders and to assist in the identification of victims of violent crime or otherwise questionable deaths. Birdwell travels throughout the state in the performance of her duties, assisting local, county, state, federal and military law enforcement agencies in their investigations.

Kidnapped baby found

On March 10, the Lubbock Police Department received a 911 call that an unidentified female had abducted a newborn from a local hospital. The abductor was dressed in medical attire. A review of the hospital's security footage revealed a female departing the hospital lobby carrying a large bag. An Amber Alert was issued in an attempt to locate the infant.

Ranger Sgt. Tony Arnold attended a multi-agency briefing at the Lubbock Police Department where



The suspect drawing (above left) by Forensic Artist Suzanne Birdwell assisted law enforcement in locating the kidnapping suspect (above right).



investigators requested a composite drawing of the suspect. Texas Rangers Forensic Artist Suzanne Birdwell drew a composite drawing of the abductor. Sgt. Arnold forwarded the composite drawing to local agencies. On March 11, the infant and the female suspect, Rayshaun Parson, were located in Clovis, New Mexico, and returned to Lubbock. On August 16, Parson pled guilty to one count of kidnapping and faces no less than 20 years and up to life in prison, as well as a \$250,000 fine and restitution.

Unidentified victim IDed by a drawing of her tattoo

On November 13, working with Birdwell and Ranger Sgt. Oscar Rivera, the DPS Public Information Office disseminated a statewide press release to publicize Birdwell's drawings of a deceased unidentified woman's tattoo and clothing.

That same day, a friend of

the deceased, who had seen the drawing in the San Antonio news media, called authorities. By the end of the day and following an investigation by the Rangers and with the help of the DPS Crime Lab, the woman was identified as 33-year-old Martina Trevino Alderete of San Antonio. She had been found dead in Live Oak County in May 2007.

Continued on page 25



This forensic drawing of an unidentified victim's tattoo led to her identification.

Texas Rangers Forensic Artist

Continued from page 24

The case is jointly under investigation by the Live Oak County Sheriff's Office and the Texas Rangers, and foul play has not been ruled out.

Drawing helps identify homicide victim

On Dec. 29, 2005, the skeletal remains of an unidentified teenage male homicide victim were found in Lubbock County. On Feb. 13, 2006, the Rangers released an original forensic drawing of the victim to the media, but the release did not produce any leads. On Oct. 18, 2006, Ranger Sgt. Tony Arnold requested that Rangers Forensic Artist Suzanne Birdwell conduct a facial reconstruction on the victim's skull. Birdwell completed the three-dimensional sculpture as well as a

new two-dimensional facial reproduction from the skull.

On Dec. 19, 2007, the DPS Public Information Office released the new two-dimensional forensic drawing to news media in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico. After seeing the resulting media coverage of the press release, the father of the victim came forward to say that he thought the victim looked like his missing son.

DNA tests confirmed that the father, who had contacted investigators after seeing the news coverage, and mother were the parents of the victim, identified as 17-year-old Bernard Wilson from Lubbock. The Texas Rangers and Lubbock County sheriff's office are continuing their investigation into his homicide.



A DPS press release, including the forensic drawing (left) of an unidentified homicide victim in Lubbock County, and the resulting media coverage led to the identification of the victim as 17-year-old Bernard Wilson (right) from Lubbock.

Continued from page 23

autopsies of all four victims. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office ruled the cause of death of all four as hanging. The manner of death for the children was homicide, and the manner of death for the adult female was suicide.

Man kills person with baseball bat

On March 19 in Wise County, a male was involved in a domestic disturbance with his girlfriend. When the victim attempted to intercede in the argument, the suspect struck the victim in the head with a baseball bat. The victim later died at a local hospital.

The Bridgeport Police Department contacted Ranger Sgt. Dewayne Dockery, requesting assistance with this investigation. Sgt. Dockery assisted the police department with interviews and obtained written statements from witnesses. Investigators arrested the suspect and charged him with murder.

Man commits "suicide by cop"

On September 5, the Wichita County Sheriff's Office requested the Rangers' assistance with a police-involved shooting investigation. The male suspect called the Sheriff's Office and said he needed S.W.A.T. at his residence. He had taken his girlfriend hostage and said he would be coming out of the house with a pistol.

The Wichita County Special Response Unit arrived on the scene. Attempts to make telephone contact with the suspect were unsuccessful. He exited

his house and fired four shots at officers. A police sniper fired one round, killing the suspect. Ranger Sgts. R.K. Johnson, Jay Foster, Dewayne Dockery and Russell Authier responded to the scene, interviewed witnesses and involved officers, collected evidence, assisted in obtaining measurements to construct a diagram of the crime scene and attended the autopsy.

Company D—San Antonio TYC House Superintendent arrested

On March 6, Ranger Sgt. Lance Coleman was assigned to assist the TDCJ Inspector General and the Texas OAG in an investigation of the Texas Youth Commission (TYC). This investigation was to identify TYC facility controls and misconduct involving TYC personnel. On March 8, Sgt. Coleman was advised that the TYC hotline in Austin received an anonymous tip that the Ayers House Superintendent in Bexar County was seen shredding documents in her office. Sgt. Coleman interviewed the house superintendent.

His investigation revealed that the house superintendent

had destroyed documents in her office. The documents shredded were employee performance evaluations, employee grievance notes, case planning review notes, youth grievance records and trust fund forms of monetary accounts. On March 9, Sgt. Coleman obtained an arrest warrant for the House Superintendent. She was arrested and charged with tampering with physical evidence.

Prisoner escapes using soap

On July 14, the Goliad County Sheriff's Office contacted Sgt. Oscar Rivera about the escape of a male prisoner from the county jail. The prisoner escaped by fashioning a makeshift pistol from a bar of soap. The suspect was in custody on drug charges and theft of a motor vehicle. After he escaped, he stole a vehicle and fled to George West.

A George West police officer pursued the escapee onto the highway, where after approximately three miles the escapee jumped from the vehicle and fled into the brush. DPS Aircraft, Live Oak County Sheriff's Office, Bee County Sheriff's

Office, Goliad County Sheriff's Office and Ranger Sgt. Oscar Rivera responded to the manhunt. The escapee was located and arrested without incident.

Felon roundup

On May 7,
law enforce-

ment officers from multiple agencies, including Ranger Sgts. Rocky Millican and Lance Coleman, U.S. Marshals, FBI, local sheriff and police departments, joined together with the goal of rounding up 17 wanted felons in Frio County. A total of 15 people were arrested.

Most of the wanted felons targeted for arrest during the round up were suspected affiliates or confirmed members of the Mexican Mafia. Fifteen of the seventeen warrants were for parole violators. During the arrest of one individual, officers discovered a significant amount of heroin, resulting in the arrest of two additional individuals.

Man killed for property

On June 14, the body of a deceased male was found at the base of a public boat ramp in Victoria County. The Victoria County Sheriff requested Ranger Sgt. Morgan Miller's assistance in an investigation of the death. Preliminary autopsy results indicated the victim drowned. A vehicle used by the victim was not at the scene and was found in Goliad County. Individuals in possession of the vehicle were identified as one male and three females.

Several of the females provided statements indicating that the male suspect killed the victim and took his vehicle and property. The witnesses claimed the suspect hit, kicked and stomped the victim and held his head under water until he died. On June 29, Ranger Sgt. Lance Coleman and the Lone Star Fugitive Task Force located the suspect in San Antonio and arrested him. On June 30,

Continued on page 28



Ranger Oscar Rivera assisted with the search for a Goliad County Jail escapee. The male prisoner fashioned a makeshift pistol from a bar of soap to use during his escape.

Why we have Texas Rangers

Ranger uncovers sexual abuse in TYC facilities and promises victims he will not fail them

*By Texas Ranger Captain Barry Caver,
Company E—Midland*

On September 1, DPS Director Col. Thomas Davis, Jr. presented a Director's Citation to Texas Ranger Sgt. Brian Burzynski for his investigation into sexual abuse at the West Texas State School, a maximum-security, all-male correction facility for juveniles in Pyote.

In February 2005, a math teacher, who volunteered at the institution, contacted Sgt. Burzynski and explained that several of his students had told him that the assistant superintendent was having sex with young inmates. During the next two months, Sgt. Burzynski interviewed 74 of the prisoners and secured 354 pieces of physical evidence. By July 2005, Sgt. Burzynski had identified three prison employees suspected of having sexual contact with incarcerated inmates.

Sgt. Burzynski presented his findings to the Ward County district attorney for prosecution. For almost a year and a half, Ranger Burzynski continued to gather proof while the DA decided what to do. Frustrated with so little response from the DA, Burzynski talked with the Texas Attorney General's office in November 2006 and generated enough attention to proceed with prosecution of the sexual predators.

As public awareness of the lack of prosecution grew, the Texas State Legislature wanted to know why the original three suspects presented to the Ward County DA had never been prosecuted. Sgt. Burzynski was asked to present testimony before a joint oversight committee regarding his investigation. During his testimony, he explained that he had promised the victims that he would not fail them. He said, "I'm here today



Texas Ranger Sgt. Brian Burzynski

because I've got a promise to keep." The Ranger's testimony was so compelling that the committee and those attending the hearing gave him a standing ovation.

As a result of his investigation, the Texas Attorney General's office and the Rangers have conducted a comprehensive investigation of TYC facilities across the state, and TYC board members and several key administrators have resigned from their positions. Ranger investigations have also uncovered cases of TYC officials tampering with government records. In addition, Sgt. Burzynski's investigations were the catalyst for a statewide review of the TYC's common methods of intimidation, sexual assault and sanctioned oppression. The TYC has since instituted its own investigation team.

When Col. Davis presented the Director's Citation to Sgt. Burzynski, he stated that Burzynski's "initiative, diligence, and commitment to pursuing prosecution . . . reflects the high moral standards the public has come to admire and respect from officers of the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Ranger Division. Senator John Whitmire also stated, "This is why we have Texas Rangers."

Much of this article was printed in the Fall 2007 issue of *The Texas Ranger Dispatch*, a publication of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum.

Continued from page 26
officers transported the suspect to Victoria, where he was placed in jail, in lieu of a one million dollar bond.

Company E—Midland Teacher arrested on multiple counts

On February 9, Ranger Sgt. Don Williams was requested to assist in the investigation of a sexual assault of a child in Gaines County. The Gaines County Sheriff's Office had received information that a Seagraves Junior High School teacher had engaged in sexual activity with a student. Sgt. Williams assisted in conducting interviews and collecting evidence in the case.

On February 28, the suspect was indicted by a grand jury on five counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child, five counts of indecency with a child by exposure, four counts of indecency with a child by touching, five counts of improper relationship between an educator and student and one count of tampering with evidence. On March 1, the suspect turned herself into the sheriff's office and bond was set at \$600,000.

Wanted fugitive at TYC

On March 14, Ranger Sgt. Nick Hanna, officers from the Texas OAG, TDCJ and the office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducted investigations into allegations of abuse at the Ron Jackson Unit of the TYC in Brownwood. Investigators identified a former guard for the agency as a fugitive, wanted for sexual assault. The fugitive was arrested at the Brown County Sheriff's Office.

Rangers respond to shooting of police officers

On September 8 in Odessa, a domestic violence incident was reported through a 911 call. The wife was confronted by her husband, who was intoxicated and assaulted her. The wife exited the residence. When the first officer arrived, she informed the officer that she could hear the suspect inside the garage where she had previously locked up numerous firearms. When another officer arrived, she gave the officers consent to enter the residence. As the two officers reached the back door, the suspect shot the two officers. One of them was able to run towards the side of the residence and was met by other responding officers, who transported him to the hospital.

Shortly after the initial shooting incident occurred, at least four other officers arrived. They proceeded with the search for the suspect. The suspect yelled at them and fired a shot, striking another officer in the head. Officers returned fire toward the inside of the residence. As two of the officers lay dead, the other officers retreated and formed a perimeter until additional officers arrived.

Ranger Capt. Barry Caver and Ranger Sgts. Jess Malone, Don Williams and Juan Lozano responded to the scene. After four hours of negotiations, the suspect surrendered without further incident. During the initial gun fight, the suspect had been shot in the right side and was transported to the hospital for treatment. The third officer



Bullet holes puncture the window screen of a house in Odessa, where a man shot and killed three police officers. Rangers Barry Caver, Jess Malone, Don Williams and Juan Lozano responded and the suspect surrendered.

later died at the hospital. The suspect has been charged with three counts of capital murder and three counts of attempted capital murder and is being held in the Ector County Jail.

Officer-involved shooting investigated

On March 12, a Highway Patrol trooper initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for failure to signal turn in Eastland. A Cisco Police Department K-9 unit officer was summoned to the scene for a drug search. The K-9 had a positive alert on the vehicle for narcotics. While searching the vehicle, the trooper located illegal narcotics. The officers attempted to place the suspect under arrest, but he ran from the vehicle. He was apprehended after a short foot pursuit by both officers.

A struggle ensued with the suspect grabbing hold of the police officer's weapon. The trooper drew his DPS-issued pistol and fired once, striking the suspect in the neck. The trooper summoned an ambulance, and the suspect was later pronounced dead. Ranger Sgt. David Hullum responded to the scene to investigate.

Company F—Waco

TYC official gives false report

On March 6, Ranger Sgt. Matt Cawthon began an investigation into allegations of abuse within the Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit (MOAU) of the TYC. This investigation was conducted in conjunction with the TDCJ, Texas Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the OAG as part of a statewide investigation into allegations of corruption within TYC.

As part of the initial investigation, the superintendent of the MOAU was interviewed regarding issues such as past allegations involving assaults and sexual assaults of inmates and employees. The superintendent assured investigators there had never been any sexual assaults during his tenure, and he said the worst cases he had seen involving use of force were minor incidents during the restraint of combative inmates.

The investigation of the MOAU revealed at least four cases of reported sexual assault and several incidents of staff members being assaulted and injured by inmates. These allegations had never been investigated by law enforcement. Sgt. Cawthon obtained and executed an arrest warrant, charging the superintendent with false report to a peace officer. Sgt. Cawthon and officers from the OAG, TDCJ and OIG participated in the arrest. The superintendent was booked into the Falls County Jail.

Fredericksburg arson and homicide investigated

On May 14, the Gillespie County Sheriff's Office received

a 911 telephone call from a citizen who reported a house fire in Fredericksburg. The Fredericksburg Volunteer Fire Department and the Fredericksburg Police Department responded to the fire. After extinguishing the fire, which caused extensive damage, officials found a female body in the rubble of the burned home. Preliminary autopsy results suggested the victim was deceased at the time of the fire, and had suffered multiple traumas consistent with homicide.

The police department requested the assistance of Ranger Sgts. Joey Gordon and Kyle Dean, the State Fire Marshal's Office and the DPS Crime Lab in processing the scene.

2001 murder solved and suspect sentenced

On February 7, the Travis County Sheriff's Office requested that Ranger Sgt. Matthew Lindemann assist with a missing person investigation. The victim was last seen in Travis County on January 14, 2001. Investigators located the victim's travel trailer and cars and obtained and executed search warrants, seizing both vehicles.

At the time of her disappearance, the victim was having a home built in Kingsland, and the victim's son-in-law was assisting with the construction of the home. Investigators searched the residence, and tests performed on-site indicated the presence of blood, indicating that foul play had occurred. Evidence also revealed that suspects had at-

tempted to conceal the crime.

Through subsequent investigation, officials determined that the victim's son-in-law had murdered the victim. The suspect was indicted in December 2005 for murder. In July 2007, the suspect was found guilty and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Suspect charged with the murders of five people

On August 24, the Marble Falls Police Department contacted Ranger Sgt. Garth Davis and requested assistance in locating a wanted person. A suspect had murdered an individual in a bar in Marble Falls.

The Travis County Sheriff's Office contacted Sgt. Davis stating the vehicle the suspect used was located at a residence in Jonestown. During the search of the residence, four people were found deceased. It was later determined the individual was suspected of killing the four persons and then fleeing to New York.

Sgt. Davis, along with Ranger Sgts. Joey Gordon and Matthew Lindemann, assisted in locating the suspect and gathering evidence at the crime scenes. The assailant was located in New York and arrested for murder. On September 19, the defendant was extradited from New York to Texas.

Texas Rangers

Unsolved Crimes Investigation Team

Cases Solved in 2007



The Texas Rangers Unsolved Crimes Investigation Team (UCIT) is led by a Ranger captain and lieutenant and staffed by eight Ranger sergeants whose mission is to provide Texas law enforcement agencies with a process for investigating unsolved murders and serial or linked criminal transactions.

Seguin murder suspect charged

On Feb. 27, 2000, a juvenile male was fatally stabbed while attending a party in Seguin. The Seguin Police Department had conducted an extensive investigation. However, the case went unsolved. Police investigators submitted the case to the Texas Rangers UCIT for review.

Following review, Ranger Sgts. Troy Wilson and Jeff Vajdos began re-investigating the homicide by locating witnesses and conducting

further interviews. Subsequently, they obtained viable leads in the case and identified a possible suspect.

Sgts. Wilson and Vajdos interviewed the suspect, who is currently incarcerated in TDCJ for an unrelated homicide. On August 8, the suspect pled guilty to the charge of murder and received an additional sentence of 22 years confinement in TDCJ.



Texas Rangers on the UCIT examine crime scene blood spatter that can yield clues in solving cold cases.

Drug-related murder solved

On April 11, 2005, Dallas Police Department homicide detectives requested assistance from the UCIT regarding the murder of a male in their city. The murder occurred on Dec. 26, 2003, and was believed to have been drug-related.

Ranger Sgt. Troy Wilson assisted police investigators and jointly conducted interviews with key witnesses related to the case. Subsequent to these interviews, investigators developed a suspect, who was ultimately indicted by a Dallas County grand jury. On February 22, the suspect waived trial and pleaded guilty to the murder. The defendant was sentenced

to eight years confinement in TDCJ.

1988 murder suspect indicted

On Dec. 27, 1988, a male was reported missing to Wilson County authorities by his family. He was last seen days earlier on December 24. On February 20, 1989, the body of the missing victim was located in a field in Poth. An autopsy

revealed the victim died of gunshot wounds to the head. The case, investigated by Wilson County law enforcement, remained unsolved.

Poth City Police Department officials contacted the UCIT for assistance in solving the case. Ranger Sgt. Trampas Gooding re-investigated the

case and conducted witness interviews, developing information that provided probable cause to arrest a suspect involved in the homicide.

On May 22, a Wilson County grand jury returned a "true-bill" indictment against the suspect.

Husband gets life sentence

On April 23, 1996, a female, who resided in Hallsville, was brutally murdered in her home. From the onset of the investigation, Harrison County Sheriff's Office investigators focused on the victim's common-law husband as a person of interest.

During the initial incident, the common-law husband said that a "home invasion" took place at his wife's residence while he was there. The alleged assailants attacked him, rendering him unconscious. He said that when he awoke, he discovered his wife dead, and nothing had been stolen from the residence.

Ongoing investigation revealed the suspect in this case had recently convinced the victim to claim common-law privileges in order for him to be sole beneficiary of her life insurance policy. Ranger Lt. Hank Whitman and Ranger Sgts. Ronny Griffith and Jeff (J.D.) Robertson conducted exten-

sive investigation into this homicide and yielded a grand jury indictment against the common-law husband.

After a two-week trial in Marshall, the suspect was convicted of capital murder on October 17 and sentenced to life in prison. He will not be eligible for parole until he has served 40 years.

Victim's son indicted for murder

In Guadalupe County in July 1997, a male was reported missing. Approximately three years later, his remains were



Texas Rangers from the UCIT piece together evidence from unsolved cases. Sometimes that evidence is uncovered in unusual places.

found near the Cibolo Creek in Bexar County. A subsequent autopsy ruled his death as homicide.

From the onset of the investigation, foul play was suspected. Few leads were developed and the case remained unsolved. In June 2004, the Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office requested assistance from the Ranger's UCIT.

Ranger Sgt. J.D.

Robertson developed new information and evidence that ultimately led to the identification of a suspect. The suspect, who was identified as the victim's son, was indicted by a Bexar County grand jury on June 27.

Stabbing suspect caught

On May 22, 2003, Lacy Lakeview police officers responded to a call regarding an unresponsive male sitting in a lawn chair in front of an apartment. The male had been stabbed and died at the scene.

During the initial investigation, officers identified a suspect and secured forensic evidence from the suspect's vehicle. Investigators requested that Ranger Sgt. J.D. Robertson assist in the investigation and resubmit DNA evidence for testing. After receiving the DNA results and conducting interviews, Sgt.

Robertson presented the case to a McLennan County grand jury. On

September 19, the grand jury returned a "true-bill" indictment against the suspect. This investigation remains open pending a trial date.

Murder suspect guilty

The Angelina and Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Offices submitted a homicide case to the Texas

Continued on page 32

Texas Rangers UCIT

Continued from page 31
Rangers UCIT for investigative consideration. The victim was last seen by his mother on Jan. 18, 1999, as he was getting into a vehicle with a subject later identified as an associate of the victim. The victim was never heard from again.

Due to the victim's propensity to disappear for extended periods of time, he was not reported missing until one year later. During that time, rumors surfaced the victim had been killed by various people for different reasons related to drug trafficking. Eventually, law enforcement gained information that indicated that the victim and his associate had an altercation, resulting in the victim's death. Also, the victim had not been located after several searches by local, state and federal authorities.

Ranger Sgt. A. J. Miller re-investigated the case and secured a grand jury indictment earlier in 2007. On Dec. 10, 2007, the defendant in this case was tried and found guilty of murder. He was sentenced to 20 years confinement in TDCJ.

Wife convicted of murder

On Oct. 15, 2003, a male victim was reported deceased to the Brownsville Police Department. He had allegedly been found by his wife. Responding police

officers observed the victim with a handgun in his hand, and the cause of death was ruled as undetermined.

At the request of the police department, Ranger Sgt. J.D. Robertson re-opened the case. His subsequent investigation revealed the victim's wife was having an affair. Sgt. Robertson's crime scene reconstruction efforts also indicated that the crime scene was staged to appear as a suicide.

On Aug. 10, 2005, a Cameron County grand jury indicted the victim's wife for the murder of her husband. After a two-week trial, the defendant in this case was found guilty of murder on Nov. 22, 2007. She received a sentence of ten years probation.



Driver License Division



The Driver License Division (DLD), led by Chief Judy Brown, issues Texas driver licenses (DL) and identification (ID) cards, collects, maintains and provides driver records and investigates identity fraud. The Division has 224 commissioned officers and 1,470 noncommissioned employees for a total of 1,694 personnel.

The DLD is comprised of the following services: Administrative License Revocation (ALR) Service, Field Service, Fraud Investigation Unit (FIU) and the Headquarters Service. The DL Headquarters Service encompasses Customer Service, Driver Improvement and Compliance (DIC), Driver Records and License Issuance.

Driver License Reengineering

The Driver License Reengineering (DLR) project is designed to update the Department's legacy driver license system and provide a more secure driver license and ID card for Texans.

The pilot date for the new Driver License System (DLS) was in 2008. During 2007, the team was testing and fine-tuning the programs and

testing the system's performance based on the anticipated transaction volumes. They also tested in conjunction with the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), a major interface that provides communication between the states for commercial and problem drivers.

The DLS pilot is scheduled to occur in two phases. The first phase is "going live" at DPS headquarters and encompasses the administrative functions of the DLD. The second phase includes installing the system at select driver license offices. After the pilot phase is completed, statewide deployment of the new equipment and system access will begin.



Driver Responsibility

The Driver Responsibility program was enacted during the 78th Legislative Session. This law established a system to assess surcharges based on certain traffic offenses. The Driver Responsibility Program (DRP) applies to offenses that occurred on or after Sept. 1, 2003.

This program does not replace other administrative suspensions, cancellations or revocation actions that result

from the same convictions. In contrast, the surcharges assessed for DRP are in addition to other reinstatement fees required for other administrative actions. The Department has contracted with a third-party vendor to process all surcharge notices and payment collections. The initial program notices were sent out in September 2004. Since that time, the number of participants enrolled in the program continues to grow.

Senate Bill 1723 passed during the 80th Legislative Session and became effective Sept. 1, 2007. After passage, the DLD developed rules for reestablishment of installment agreements and the Amnesty, Incentive and Indigency programs. The Legislature created these programs to provide a reduction of surcharges for individuals who comply with the law and efforts at rehabilitation.

The Division developed programs that reflect an individual's compliance with state traffic laws, as well as compliance with the surcharge program. As the various program requirements are completed, implementation will occur in a phased approach.

Image Verification System aids law enforcement

The Legislature authorized funding for inclusion of image verification technology into the Driver License System for the purposes of deterring and preventing identity theft and

DL fraud. It uses facial recognition and thumbprint comparison technology to compare existing photographs and thumb prints to the most recent images on file to locate multiple fraudulent license issues and unknown individuals.

The Image Verification System (IVS) is in use and has begun to provide assistance to law enforcement officials, who use the system to locate unknown individuals or identify individuals with multiple driver licenses or ID cards. In 2007, more than 20 million driver license and identification card photographs and more than 15 million thumb prints were enrolled into the IVS, and the process of comparing all photographs to locate suspicious issuance data began.

As a law enforcement tool, the IVS is proving to be extremely valuable to DPS and its goal of reducing identity theft and fraud. The IVS has identified multiple cases of fraud, ranging from individuals with two to nine different identities, through multiple issuances of driver licenses and identification cards. Requests from analysts across the agency to locate individuals suspected of having multiple identities through document fraud, or to identify unknown or missing individuals, is providing positive results.

The IVS was instrumental in identifying fraudulent activity with a case that occurred in December 2007. The DLD received a request from the Department's Bureau of Information Analysis to run the photograph of an unknown wanted person against all DL

and ID card photographs contained in the IVS in an effort to locate the subject's true identity. The suspect had presented a fictitious Texas driver license and fraudulent check to an Office Depot in Spring. After doing so, the suspect was scared off and left the fictitious driver license and fraudulent check behind. The fictitious photograph was extracted from the wanted bulletin and uploaded into the IVS system. The IVS system located the individual, and the Harris County Constable's Office positively identified the suspect. Charges and a warrant are pending in this case.

After DLR implementation, while utilizing the IVS, driver license issuance employees will be able to verify the identity of the individual at the time of issuance for a DL or ID card. Issuance employees will compare the current photograph of the individual against previous photographs on file. All original DL or ID applicant photographs taken during the course of business are automatically compared nightly against all photographs on file. Suspicious activity identified through this process is forwarded to the Division's Fraud Investigation Unit (FIU) for investigation.

Insurance Verification Project

The 79th Legislative Session approved Senate Bill 1670, which required the Texas Department of Insurance, TXDOT, Department of Information Resources and DPS to jointly establish an insurance verification program to maintain data on insured drivers from all insurance companies,

as well as data on self-insured entities. Following an extensive multi-agency procurement process, a vendor was selected to develop and maintain a database of insurance information. The program's goal is to reduce the number of uninsured motorists in Texas, which is estimated at 15 to 20 percent of all vehicles on the road.

Law enforcement officers, including the Highway Patrol, may use the database as an additional tool to assist in verifying insurance during traffic stops. Future plans for the program include use in Driver License offices and inspection stations across the state.

The Division's responsibility to this collaborative effort is to ensure that all individuals and companies that are "self-insured" report the required data to DPS, which will then provide the information to the vendor for storage in the database.

DRP surcharges

Two significant milestones achieved by the DRP at the close of the first three years of the program are:

- April 2007—One million participants in the program.
- September 2007—Exceeded \$300 million in revenue collections.

As of Dec. 28, 2007, the program had generated 3,168,857 surcharge cases. This includes first, second and third-year notices. Of these notices, 1,202,781 drivers have cases enrolled in the program.

The program had seen a significant impact on weekly collections with the third-year notices mailed in October 2006. While weekly collections

peaked at more than \$4 million in February 2007, collections averaged \$3.2 million for the remainder of fiscal year 2007.

The individuals participating in the program represent about six percent of all persons in Texas who are licensed to drive or hold a Texas ID Card.

- Approximately 80 percent maintain a driver license.
- 16 percent hold an ID card.
- Four percent are unlicensed records.

While the number of individuals in the program increases, the percentage for the types of offenses in the program remains constant.

The chart (above right) represents the number of surcharge notices in compliance and default.

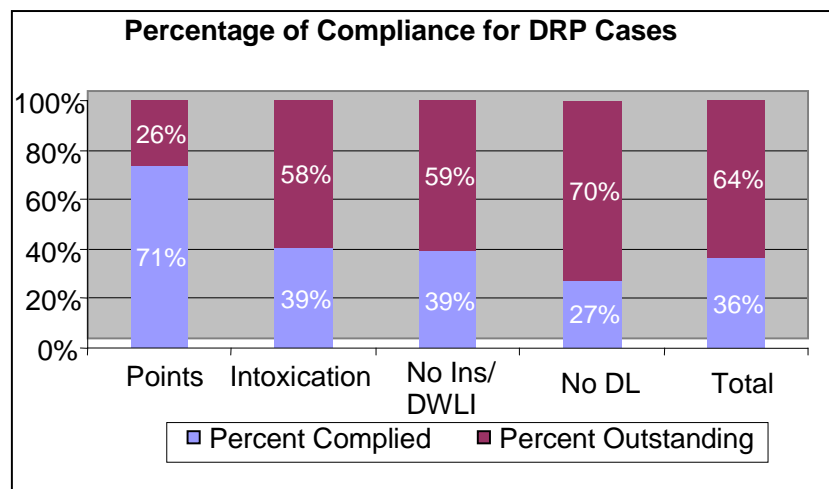
DRP revenue billed

On Nov. 30, 2007, the Department reached a significant milestone by exceeding \$1 billion in revenue assessed under the DRP law. As of Dec. 28, 2007, the program has generated a total of \$1,019,369,348 in billed assessments with \$341,165,572 collected. The majority of assessments are consistently for the convictions of intoxication and no insurance.

The graph (below right) demonstrates the disparity of intoxication and no insurance assessments compared to all notice types.

Crash Records Bureau moves to the Texas Department of Transportation

Pursuant to Senate Bill 766, the DPS and the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) have transitioned the



DPS Crash Records Bureau, including employees, salaries and budgets to TXDOT.

The request for proposal to obtain office lease space for the bureau was posted by the Texas Building and Procurement Commission on July 18, with a projected award of lease on September 4 and an expected lease start date of March 1, 2008, or earlier.

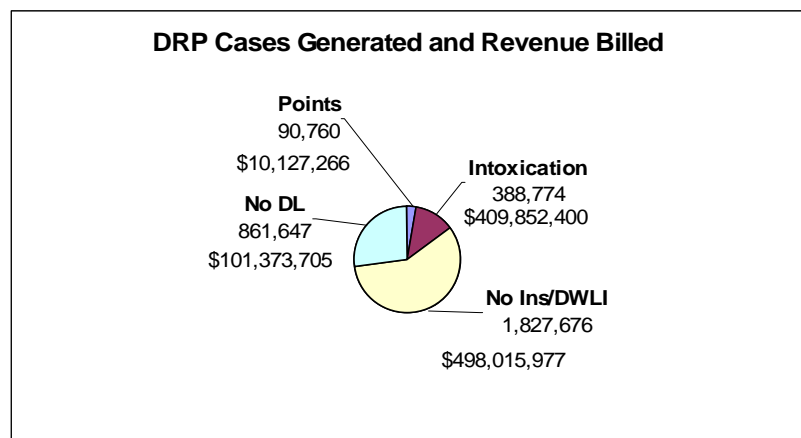
The Crash Records Information System (CRIS) continues to move forward. Processing of 2005, 2006 and 2007 crash reports in the CRIS system continues in a joint initiative between the Crash Records Bureau and their vendor.

The Highway Patrol Division began piloting the web

data entry (WDE) component of the CRIS application, and this component remains in the pilot stage. Troopers from HP Region Six, in Central Texas, are submitting crash data to Crash Records via a web-based data-entry application. With the successful completion of the pilot project, the WDE component of CRIS will become available to other areas in DPS. Deployment to outside agencies is scheduled to begin in 2009.

2007 Renew Online campaign

As an alternative to in-office driver license transactions, customers have the option to renew or change an address by using the Internet or mailing in their transaction via the U.S.



Postal Service. Additionally, customers without computers can use a telephone via an interactive voice recognition (IVR) system to renew their license.

Over the last two years, the Department has aggressively pursued campaigns to educate the public on the availability of alternative ways to handle their driver license business, without having to visit a driver license office. Advertising campaigns, featuring public service announcements, billboards, pamphlets, posters and website notices, have been very effective in reaching customers who may only visit the driver license office once every six years.

Chief of Media Relations Tela Mange coordinated the 2007 Renew Online campaign. This year's campaign focused on: San Antonio, El Paso, Beaumont, Midland, Odessa, Corpus Christi and Amarillo.

Statistically, our records support our efforts in educating the public because alternate renewal and change of address options are on the rise. This is excellent news as increased customer use of alternate driver license services reduces the number of visitors to the driver license office and ultimately, the

wait-time in the office.

The charts to the right depict alternate driver license renewal and change of address transactions for fiscal years 2003 to 2007.

Customer service contacts

In the 2007 calendar year, the Customer Service Bureau

handled approximately 552,000 phone contacts and approximately 72,000 e-mail contacts.

The three highest volumes of phone contacts received pertained to the:

DRP program—Customer inquiries include: questions regarding correspondence received, surcharge amounts owed, how to pay surcharges,

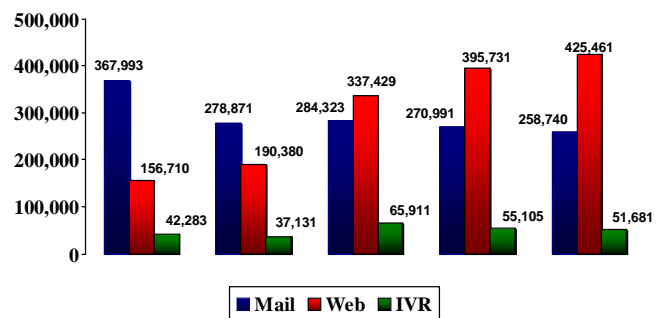
status of driving privileges and explanations of the law.

Driver status—Customer inquiries include: questions related to eligibility of driving status, license status and instructions on how to achieve compliance.

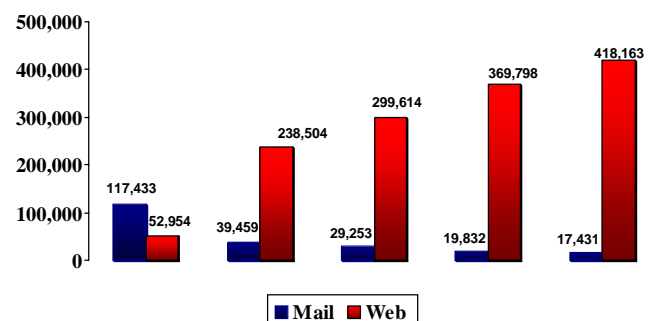
FMCSA announces grant awards

In May 2007, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced the award of \$1,060,846 in federal funding to Texas under the Commercial Driver License Program Improvement grant program, an annual

**Driver License Alternative Renewal Transactions
FY03-FY07**



**Driver License Alternative Duplicate Transactions
FY03-FY07**



DPS uses public awareness campaigns to educate the public on the availability of alternative ways to handle their driver license business, without visiting a driver license office. These advertising campaigns employ a variety of methods of reaching the public, including billboards, such as the one above.

competitive process to assist states with improving their Commercial Driver License (CDL) programs.

State proposals are evaluated for adherence to eligibility requirements and national priorities. Since funding is limited (only \$19 million was available in fiscal year 2007 or \$300,000 for each state), not all states received funding. In January 2007, Texas submitted four proposals, of which the following three were subsequently awarded:

- \$671,105 to extend automated CDL knowledge

testing to an additional 25 licensing offices,

- \$342,350 to conduct an image comparison of Texas drivers with states along the I-10 corridor for possible fraudulent activity, and

- \$47,391 for the development and implementation of an internal toll-free fraud hotline.

Driver Improvement programs—Customer inquiries include: questions related to convictions for driving without financial responsibility (liability insurance), how to obtain an SR-22 (monitored liability insurance) and how long the

SR-22 must be maintained.

As a part of the DLR project, the Division is moving forward with research for an interactive voice recognition system to increase customer satisfaction, reduce the amount of live customer contacts and enable agents to handle customers more efficiently.

Driver License Express provides curb-side service

The Driver License Express (DLE) is a 35-foot RV, introduced to the public in April 2001. It is outfitted with all the necessary equipment to provide on-the-spot driver license services, using a power generator and satellite connectivity. In 2007, it was refurbished and continues to serve customers across the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and beyond.

Technicians in the DLE have provided driver license renewals, original and renewal identification certificates to more than 36,000 customers at more than 345 organizations, including corporations, hospitals, community colleges, government organizations and universities. The DLE has also served as a backup office when offices are closed temporarily.

Above and beyond its regular duties, the DLE has expanded its service by participating in more than 49 community outreach programs, such as Boy Scouts of America conferences, local law enforcement and firefighter fairs, law enforcement youth days, local community public safety fairs and job fairs sponsored by the community.



By visiting the Driver License Express, customers take advantage of on-the-spot driver license services. The RV is outfitted with a power generator and satellite connectivity.



DLD wins award

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) announced the winners of the Public Affairs and Consumer Education (PACE) Awards for 2007. The DLD won this award in the print category at both the regional and international level for the Department's Renew Online Billboard entry.

The AAMVA PACE Awards recognize public relations, public affairs and consumer education excellence among the motor vehicle, law enforcement and traffic safety agencies across North America. The Renew Online Billboard campaign was recognized as creative and cost-effective with a well-crafted and executed message.

Texas Online Services

Texas Online is an official website for the State of Texas that provides access to customers for various state and government agencies. The DLD eCommerce section receives various requests for driver records through the Texas Online system that generate a significant amount of revenue for the state. These eCommerce customers are segmented into three different categories: small browser-based companies, exempt and nonexempt companies and any individual who would like to request their personal driver record.

The 223 small browser-based companies, on average, request more than 4,500 driver records per month, which is only a portion of the driver record requests that the eCommerce section obtains on a monthly basis. Other custom-

ers are the 23 nonexempt companies that also utilize the online services to attain approximately 775,000 driver records per month, resulting in more than \$3.4 million in monthly revenue to the state. Agencies that are exempt from paying the statutory fee for driver records request more than 17,000 records on a monthly basis. Also, more than 28,000 customers per month request their personal driver record via Texas Online, resulting in more than \$265,000 in monthly revenue.

Glenda Dawson Donate Life Texas Registry

Senate Bill 1500 renamed the Donor Education, Awareness and Registry Program to the Glenda Dawson Donate Life—Texas Registry. The registry name change required the DLD to update its website and several forms and develop program specifications for the new DLS.

The Department of State Health Services summarized the registry data, showing 49,651 certified donors entered into the Registry from September 2006 through May 2007 with DPS responsible for submitting 93.9 percent of certified donors to the Registry.



Katie's Law affects older drivers

Rick and Johna Bolka, parents of Katie Bolka, worked with DPS, Sen. John Carona and Rep. Dan Branch to successfully pass House Bill 84, referred to as Katie's Law. In 2006, Katie Bolka, 17, was killed by an elderly driver in a car crash in Dallas. The Bolka's goal is to create a uniform driving standard for elderly drivers across the nation.

Katie's Law amends the Texas Transportation Code by requiring individuals 85 years old or older to renew their driver license every two years instead of every six years. Effective September 1, the law also requires drivers 79 years of age and older to visit a driver license office to renew their driver licenses. These drivers will not be eligible for mail-in or web-renewal service. As with all drivers who renew in person, these drivers also will be required to pass a vision examination.

If DPS personnel decide that additional tests are necessary to determine if the person can safely operate a motor vehicle, then tests such as a written or driving exam may be required. Personnel may also refer drivers to the Medical Advisory Board if the driver indicates a possible medical condition that may preclude the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

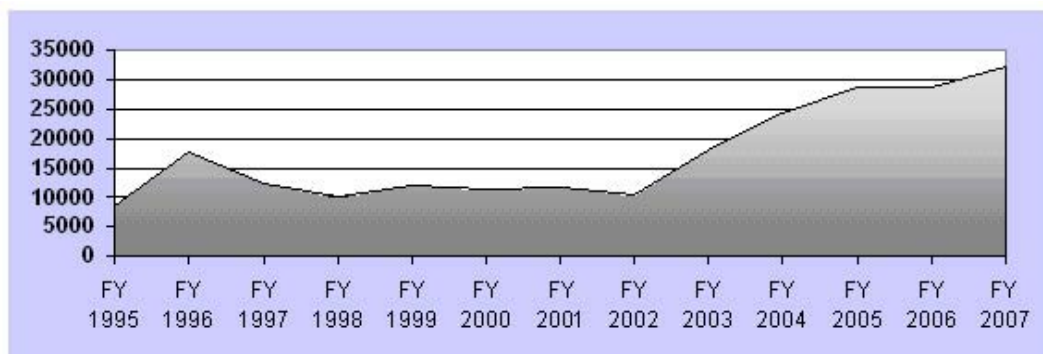
Administrative License Revocation

The Administrative License Revocation (ALR) program in the DIC Bureau continues to see a significant increase in the

number of hearing requests over the last five years.

Since the inception of the ALR program in 1995, DIC has scheduled more than 226,000 cases for administrative hearing, with a 32 percent increase in hearings requested during the previous 5 years.

The graph above represents the court cases scheduled for ALR hearings over the last 12 years.



The graph above represents the court cases scheduled for ALR hearings over the last 12 years.

Driver License Field Service

The DLD Field Service consists of noncommissioned and commissioned personnel.

Their responsibilities include but are not limited to: participating in safety programs, performing administrative tasks in support of an assigned area, conducting criminal investigations and implementing fraud prevention and protection programs.

Field Service noncommissioned personnel are responsible for identifying all applicants who apply for a driver license or identification card and must be extremely observant in order to detect persons presenting fraudulent documents. All Field Service personnel are trained in fraudulent document recognition. When technicians discover suspicious documents, troopers are alerted to scrutinize the suspected documents to verify if they are authentic or fraudulent. If the documents are fraudulent or being misused, the trooper will interview, arrest and file charges

on the subject if it is warranted. If interrogation reveals that additional subjects are involved in a counterfeiting or other fraudulent document activity, the information is turned over to the Division's FIU.

The Field Service commissioned personnel's enforcement duties vary greatly. During a routine day, troopers arrest subjects in the driver license office under the influence of alcohol and drugs and in some cases in possession of illegal substances. Troopers serve numerous criminal warrants each day ranging from check fraud to kidnapping and murder. Probation and parole violators, along with runaway children, are encountered in offices throughout the state. When serving warrants and executing arrests, troopers must at times pursue violators on foot or subdue those who physically resist arrest. Troopers searching subjects resulting in an arrest have encountered and confiscated illegal weapons such as guns and knives.

The following incidents reflect how noncommissioned and commissioned personnel use their exceptional training and experience in identifying fraudulent activities.

Illegal immigrant arrested with fraudulent documents

After Tr. Laurencio Adame checked with ICE on a subject who presented a counterfeit Social Security card and expired immigration documents to a technician in the Conroe office, he found that the man was in the country illegally. ICE officials asked that the man be transported to the Montgomery County jail, where a customs agent would take custody. A search of the subject turned up a Virginia driver license in another person's name with the subject's photo as well as phone numbers to persons in the Middle East. While questioning the subject, he indicated that he obtained the fake Social Security card in Virginia.

Fraud Investigation Unit

FIU troopers investigate leads from Field Service troopers and other sources regarding investigations that have led to subjects assuming multiple identities or providing fraudulent identity documents. Other cases involved thousands of fraudulent documents and the arrests of numerous subjects. FIU Troopers also serve as experts on identity and driver licensing issues on task forces throughout the state. These task

forces include the U. S. Secret Service Central Texas Electronic Crimes Task Force, the Secret Service South Texas Regional Task Force on Identity Theft Crimes, the North Texas Fraud and Identity Theft Task Force in cooperation with the Dallas County District Attorney and the Montgomery County District Attorney's Task Force on Identity Theft.

In conjunction with the FIU's enforcement activity, the unit assists the public by providing information and training on how to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft and procedures to restore the legitimate identity of a person who has become a victim of identity theft. The FIU developed a website and brochure for victims of identity theft. In addition, the FIU provides training for the law enforcement community in fraudulent document recognition and identity theft investigations.

Listed below are several examples of investigations performed by the FIU.

Officer Impersonation

FIU Analyst Brad Schamber assisted ICE with the investigation of an individual who had used altered documents (birth certificates) to obtain an Illinois driver license. The subject then used his Illinois license to obtain a Texas DL. Prior to the subject's arrest, he had falsely represented himself as a special agent with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), complete with a badge emblazoned "Special Agent", photo ID and business cards. On Aug. 1, 2006, the subject was arrested in Denton. Investi-

gators determined that he was an illegal alien from Mexico. On February 28, 2007, the subject was convicted on one count of false statement and subsequently was ordered deported by an immigration judge.

Identity Theft

The U.S. Department of State requested FIU Investigator J.R. Rean to assist in an investigation regarding an unknown individual who had assumed the identity of a deceased 12-year-old boy. The suspect was identified using the Image Verification System and confirmed through additional analytical research.

In March 1997, the suspect had presented a Utah DL with the victim's identifying information to obtain a Texas DL. On Feb. 5, 2006, the suspect renewed the Texas DL in the DPS Plano DL Office. Since obtaining the deceased boy's identity, the suspect acquired and registered 11 vehicles with the Texas Department of Transportation and purchased a home valued at more than \$220,000.

On August 29, 2007, with the assistance of the U.S. State Department, ICE and the North Texas Identity Theft Task Force, DPS officers arrested the suspect at his home. During the execution of the warrant,



A suspect assumed the identity of a deceased 12-year-old boy. After obtaining identification documents in the boy's name, the suspect bought 11 vehicles and the home, pictured above, using the false identity.

officers seized more than 20 credit cards, a State of Texas plumber's license, four bank accounts, a Social Security card, a Texas DL and a U.S. Passport (all in the victim's name). It was known that the suspect was not in the U.S. legally and appeared to be subject to removal proceedings. An ICE hold was placed on the suspect. Federal charges under the Federal Identity Theft Act are pending as well.

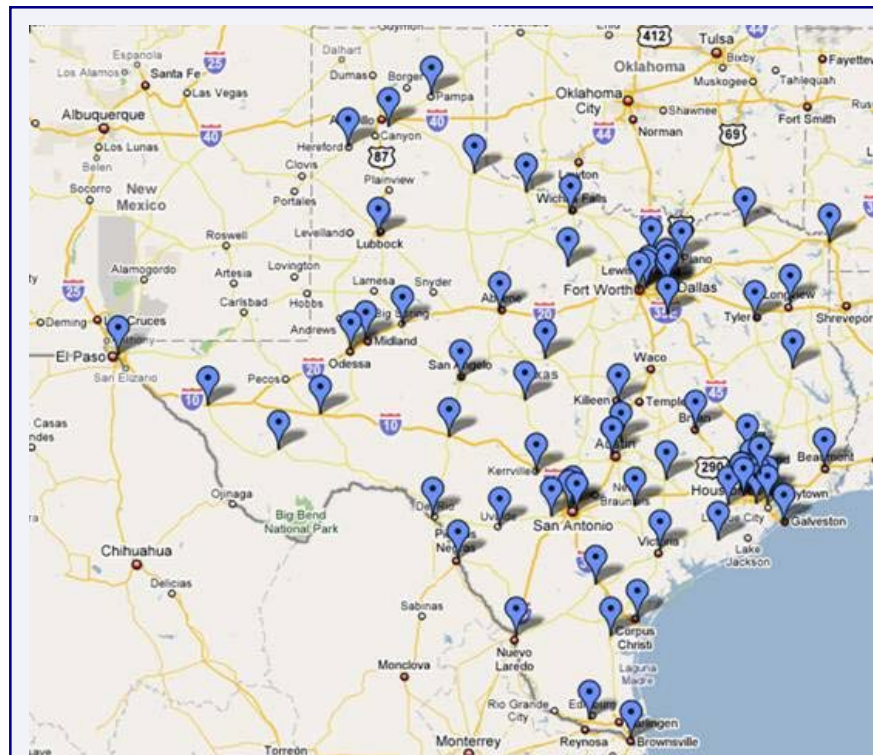
Administration Division

The Administration Division provides a wide variety of core support functions for the Department. The division includes the Crime Records Service, the Regulatory Licensing Service and the Staff Support Service. The Administration Division, led by Chief Burton Christian, has 868.5 employees—58 commissioned and 810.5 non-commissioned.

Crime Records Service

The Crime Records Service is the Texas state control terminal for three national criminal justice programs: the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), the national Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program and the Interstate Identification Index, which is a national index of criminal history records. Each system requires the compilation of records from local agencies throughout the state into a statewide file from which data is forwarded to FBI national databases. The systems provide critical operational data to law enforcement agencies in Texas and throughout the country.

The Texas Crime Information Center (TCIC) provides immediate access 24 hours a day, seven days a week to law enforcement agencies throughout the state to data regarding the status of stolen property and the wanted, missing, sex offender or protective order status of persons. TCIC is accessed via the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS), which provides re-



FAST (Fingerprint Applicant Services of Texas)

Increased legislative requirements for fingerprint-based criminal background checks created problems for local jails (where those who needed fingerprints for jobs or to adopt children would normally go). DPS entered into an agreement with a vendor to provide fingerprinting services at neutral locations across the state. The above map shows where fingerprinting services are available. Ninety-nine percent of all Texans can find fingerprinting services within 50 miles of their home.

sponses within 12 seconds to inquiries from police departments, sheriffs' offices and other criminal justice users. TCIC also provides a direct link to the NCIC so that law enforcement officers throughout Texas know instantly whether a vehicle, a boat or other property under investigation is stolen or a person is wanted anywhere in the country.

In 2007, the Crime Records Service completed the installation of LiveScan fingerprinting

devices in all 252 counties that have their own jail. The program, which took nearly two years to complete, will provide quick, accurate arrest information to DPS.

The UCR program gathers data on crimes reported to, or known to, the police and publishes these statistics semiannually. The statistics are used by researchers and policy makers to study trends, allocate resources and set policy.

Under Texas law, all persons

arrested for offenses categorized as Class B misdemeanors and above are fingerprinted. The fingerprints are then sent to the Crime Records Service for processing through the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). After the person has been identified through AFIS, the arrest data is entered into the Texas Computerized Criminal History file and is available over TLETS to all law enforcement agencies in Texas. More than 80 percent of the fingerprints submitted to DPS are sent electronically via livescan devices that take fingerprints electronically rather than by the old-fashioned ink-and-paper method.

In 2007, Crime Records took over management of the Texas Data Exchange (TDEx) from the Texas Governor's Office and the Governor's Division of Emergency Management. TDEx is a law enforcement incident sharing system designed to be used by all local law enforcement agencies in Texas as a significant aid to investigations. It also is designed to be the state's method of connection to the FBI's National Data Exchange, which was scheduled to start in February 2008.

The Crime Records Service also is responsible for the statewide sex offender registration database, which compiles sex offender registration information it receives from local police agencies responsible for handling sex offender registration. There were more than 50,000 registered sex offenders in Texas at the end of 2007.

Regulatory Licensing Service

The Regulatory Licensing Service administers concealed handgun and private security licensing and regulation responsibilities.

The Private Security Bureau administers Chapter 1702 of the Texas Occupations Code. Functions include the commissioning of private security officers, the licensing of companies and the registration of the following individuals: private investigators, unarmed security officers, alarm system installers, security salespersons, personal protection officers, private security instructors, security consultants, locksmiths and electronic access installers. Companies licensed include private investigation, guard, alarm system, guard dog, armored car, electronic access control, armed courier and locksmith companies.

The Concealed Handgun Licensing Bureau processes applications for Texas concealed handgun licenses under Chapter 411 of the Texas Government Code. Activities include evaluation of the application to determine eligibility, creation of the license and maintenance of the license record. The bureau takes action to suspend or revoke licenses when statutory provisions are violated.

The bureau also certifies qualified handgun instructors following a process very similar to the concealed handgun license application activities. The bureau administers the application and review process in coordination with other DPS areas for the field background investigations of applicants, creation of the actual concealed

handgun license document, training of handgun instructors and other necessary functions.

Staff Support Service

Staff Support Service performs many diverse support functions for the commissioned and noncommissioned employees throughout the state, including employee recruitment, training, promotion and wellness. The bureaus within the service are responsible for maintaining all DPS-owned buildings, fleet vehicles, employment and training records.

The service consists of the following bureaus: Building Program, Fleet Operations, General Services, Human Resources, Psychological Services, Radio Frequency Unit and the Training Academy. Staff Support Service also includes the Equal Employment Officer.

Building Program Bureau

The Building Program Bureau (BPB) works with Department employees, the Texas Facilities Commission, architects, engineers, contractors and regulatory agencies to coordinate building design, renovation and new construction projects, as well as the purchase of land.

The bureau also manages telephone services and equipment, coordinates headquarters recycling efforts and assists field offices with major repairs and utility cost monitoring. The Department owns 268 office buildings and leases 44 facilities throughout the state. BPB manages approximately 1,978,291 square feet of floor space at headquarters and in the eight regions.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office

The EEO Officer is responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state statutes governing employment law, discrimination and sexual harassment. As part of this responsibility, the EEO officer receives and processes complaints of discrimination and harassment from applicants and

employees in collaboration with the Employee Relations Office.

The EEO officer is charged with providing EEO and sexual harassment prevention training to all new headquarters employees during their initial orientation session. The EEO officer also coordinates this training for Department employees hired in field locations.

Fleet Operations Bureau

Fleet Operations is responsible for the acquisition, installation, maintenance and disposal of the Department's emergency equipment, two-way communications and vehicles.

This bureau manages a fleet of approximately 3,673 vehicles and consists of the Automotive Shop, the Communications Shop, the Parts Department and the Fleet Office.

General Services Bureau

The General Services Bureau provides support for department employees through the General Services office staff, Mail Operations, Reproduction, General Stores, Receiving Warehouse and Surplus Property sections.

Human Resources Bureau

The Human Resources Bureau is responsible for training and advising Department management staff and employees regarding human resources policies and procedures.

The staff ensures compliance with the Family Medical Leave Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the State Workers' Compensation Act and the State Classification Act. The staff also administers the Department's sick-leave pool, other extraordinary leave programs and the mandatory drug testing program. The bureau is the custodian of records of 8,041 current employees and 2,904 former employees.

The Recruiting Office provides an ongoing recruiting effort to attract qualified applicants for Department commis-

Physical Readiness Program

DPS has been conducting employee physical readiness testing since August 1, 2006, in compliance with a 2005 legislative rider. The rider requires the Department to develop a minimum physical standard that all commissioned employees under Schedule C must meet to receive any promotion or legislative pay increase.

The Department developed and validated seven physical activities to gauge the physical preparedness of our commissioned officers.

Employees unable to pass all seven activities are provided the opportunity to participate in alternate scenario testing conducted only at Austin Headquarters. The validated Job Task Scenarios are three timed events that commissioned members of the Department could reasonably be expected to encounter and overcome in their duties as peace officers that demonstrate minimum physical abilities required for the job.

All employees were encouraged to participate during the first year. The initial

testing standard for current commissioned employees was 80 percent of the validated minimum standard. Recruits have to meet the 100 percent standard to graduate from recruit school.

The 80 percent standard testing allowed employees to gradually become acclimated with the testing requirements.

Testing results received from the field offices and headquarters through August 31, 2007 indicate that 88 percent of DPS commissioned officers participated in testing with a pass rate of 95 percent.

The pass rate for the male officers was 96 percent and 79 percent for the female officers.

The pass rate for officers 40 years or older was 93 percent and 97 percent for officers younger than 40.

Beginning September 1, 2007, the standards were raised to 90 percent of the minimum established standard for all commissioned officers.

All commissioned officers will be required to participate in the testing process by March 2008.

Looking for hundreds of good men and women: DPS steps up recruiting efforts

Faced with filling upwards of 600 anticipated commissioned openings over the next two years, DPS recruiters have had to become much more creative in finding qualified applicants.

In April, DPS was able to film a public service announcement with NASCAR driver Tony Stewart, who encouraged viewers to consider a career with DPS. Troopers also staffed an information booth about DPS career opportunities at the Texas Motor Speedway during a race.

Among other changes made in the recruiting process:

- The Department implemented a paid internship program that allows successful applicants to join the DPS payroll until the next recruit school begins. Interns are stationed throughout the state and receive a broad overview of the Department. The first part of the internship program is a weeklong orientation at DPS headquarters in Austin. Interns then go to a field office for the remainder of the internship, learning more about the Texas Highway Patrol, the Driver License Division, the Criminal Law Enforcement Division and the Texas Ranger Division.

- Applicants and the chain of command can sign a letter that guarantees that the applicant will be assigned to a particular duty station follow-



In April, NASCAR driver Tony Stewart filmed a television commercial urging viewers to consider becoming Texas state troopers. Stewart, who drives a Chevrolet, tells viewers that if they join the DPS, they could "drive the company car" too.

ing graduation. Currently, guaranteed stations are considered only for hardship stations that are traditionally hard to fill.

- Recruiters are using off-site testing when appropriate. The military Army Career and Alumni Program centers and colleges contacted have agreed to provide test sites with advanced notice of testing. The Army Career and Alumni Program centers will advertise scheduled test dates.

- Department members have identified large minority church groups in Alabama and Mississippi, and these groups have agreed to advertise on behalf of the

Department on the radio and in newspapers at no cost to DPS. Local troopers will be encouraged to reach out to minority community leaders in Texas to establish positive recruitment efforts.

- Consideration is being given to providing current employees a savings bond for successfully recruiting a qualified applicant.

- Recruiters have visited several states with limited job opportunities, hoping to attract applicants.

Right: A DPS pursuit vehicle was on display at the Texas Motor Speedway during a race. Tr. Lonny Haschel was among troopers who talked about DPS with the crowds.

Photo by Eddie King



sioned and positions. During 2007, this office tested 577 applicants to staff four recruit schools, ultimately calling 419 of those applicants to the schools. In 2007, the office hired four sergeants to administer pre-employment polygraph examinations to applicants and established the DPS internship program.

The Law Enforcement Promotional Section administers the promotional process for commissioned positions and some noncommissioned field positions. In 2007, this office administered 42 separate promotional processes that resulted in 2,200 applications and 195 candidates being placed on eligibility lists.

The Risk Management Section processed a total of 593 workers' compensation claims resulting in lost time from work or medical expenses. In 2007, workers' compensation for the agency were \$2,198,620.

The Employment and Compensation Section completes job analyses and evaluations of agency job descriptions and salary classifications. The section also oversees agency job postings, including the processing of approximately 15,265 applicants for employment in 2007.

Psychological Services

The Psychological Services Bureau provides a comprehensive program of psychological services to DPS employees and family members, to victims of crimes and to affected communities.

The bureau consists of a staff psychologist, a victim services director, an administra-



The Florence Firing Range provides state of the art firearms training to DPS officers and those from other agencies.

tive assistant and seven grant-funded victim service counselors stationed throughout the state. Programs within the bureau consist of specific services provided by the staff psychologist, Victim Services, Critical Incident Response Team and the Employee Assistance Program.

In 2007, the staff psychologist had 202 individual psychotherapy sessions. The Victim Services director and regional counselors assisted 3,448 crime victims, providing assistance to 1,554 victims on an ongoing basis. The volunteer chaplains contributed 2,015 hours to victim services. The Critical Incident Response Team had 30 contacts with the Employee Assistance Program, reporting 96 requests for assistance from employees and family members.

Radio Frequency Unit

The Radio Frequency Unit works to facilitate interoperable radio communications throughout the state by providing guidance and assistance to local, regional, state and federal public safety entities.

Training Bureau

Training provides an array of training courses to the Department's commissioned and noncommissioned employees and officers from other law enforcement agencies at local, state and federal levels of government. The bureau also includes the Administrative Training Unit, the Motorcycle Safety Training Unit and the Bicycle Safety Program.

In 2007, Training taught more than 204 different courses in the three major programs: Recruit School, In-Service Schools and Specialized Schools.

City, county and federal agencies frequently use the Florence firing range. The Florence staff regularly tests equipment, such as protective vests and weapons and has facilitated the transition to a holographic sight system for the newly acquired rifle as a result of testing and recommendations.

The Administrative Training Unit provides the resources to encourage individual values, growth and opportunity by providing instruction on a

variety of topics spanning management and supervisory issues, employee communications issues, professional development, safety, wellness and motivation.

The Motorcycle Safety Unit administers the Texas Motorcycle Operator Training and Safety program and the ATV Education and Certification program. Contracted basic and

advanced motorcycle operator training courses are offered in more than 80 locations across Texas. The courses include 15 hours of instruction consisting of five hours of classroom and ten hours of range activities.

More than 34,072 Texans attended motorcycle training in 2007.

The Training Academy oversees the Bicycle Safety

Program, which certifies bicycle safety instructors, maintains bicycle collision data and distributes bicycle safety information and materials.

Emergency Management Division

The Emergency Management Division (EMD) is charged with carrying out a comprehensive all-hazards emergency management program for the state and with assisting cities, counties and state agencies in implementing their own emergency management programs. The Division, led by Chief Jack Colley, has 176 employees and a reserve corps of more than 200 part-time workers who are activated during disasters.

A comprehensive emergency management program includes pre- and post-disaster mitigation of known hazards to reduce their impact; preparedness activities, such as emergency planning, training and exercises; provisions for effective response to emergency situations; and recovery programs for major disasters. EMD is also responsible for supporting development and implementation of the

Governor's homeland security strategy and administering homeland security grant programs in the state.

Preparedness

EMD maintains the *State of Texas Emergency Management Plan* and other specialized state emergency plans, such as the *State Hurricane Evacuation & Sheltering Plan*. Part of the evacuation plan in 2007 included developing procedures on identifying and tracking evacuees during major evacuations.

EMD promulgates state standards for local emergency management plans, assists cities and counties in developing emergency plans and reviews those plans for compliance with state planning standards.

During 2007, the EMD Plans Unit reviewed more than 5,700 local planning documents

from jurisdictions throughout Texas.

The Preparedness Section worked with the De-

partment of State Health Services on planning for the state's response to a potential pandemic influenza outbreak.

The EMD Training and Exercise Unit provides a diverse curriculum of emergency management and hazardous materials training for state and local emergency responders, state, local and regional officials and volunteer groups that assist during disasters. Training is conducted at facilities in Austin and at other locations around the state by the EMD staff and instructors from other state agencies. During 2007, EMD training programs delivered more than 59,000 student-hours of instruction.

The Training Unit also assisted local governments in planning and conducting emergency exercises to test plans and procedures, training and equipment and monitored local emergency exercises. Cities and counties reported conducting more than 125 emergency exercises during the year. EMD also sponsors an emergency exercise program of state, local and regional emer-



The Ultimate Roadblock

Traffic across the Texas Panhandle was stopped due to the heavy snow which occurred the week following Christmas. The photos (above and right) were taken on January 4, 2007, on US-87 at Texline in Dallam County. The Texas Department of Transportation moved the snow on the Texas side of the line, but New Mexico was a little slower to respond.





Flooding in the Central Texas area in May caused much damage. This vehicle was washed off the road near Temple.

Photo courtesy Waco Tribune-Herald

agency exercises funded by homeland security grants. Exercises are planned, conducted and evaluated by a contractor with input from EMD and the participants.

The EMD Preparedness Section administers U.S. Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management Performance Grants, which support both EMD and local emergency management programs. EMD contracts for operation of a statewide mutual aid system, state and local radiological emergency preparedness and emergency shelter and mass care support. The Preparedness Section also operates the Special Needs Evacuation Tracking System, which is used during major disasters to identify and monitor the location and status of evacuees with special needs, pets and companion animals and evacuation buses.

The Preparedness Section continued updates of state emergency plans, reviews of

local emergency management planning documents and delivery of emergency management and hazardous materials training. The Preparedness Section and other EMD staffers also organized the 2007 State Hurricane Preparedness Conference conducted in Galveston and the 2007 State Homeland Security Conference in San Antonio. More than 2,000 state and local emergency responders and officials attended the Hurricane Conference and more than 2,700 attended the Homeland Security Conference.

Threat monitoring and emergency response

EMD manages and staffs the State Operations Center, which serves as the state warning point and primary state direction and control facility. It operates around the clock to monitor threats, make notification of threats and provide information on emergency incidents to local, state and federal officials.

The SOC staff coordinates state assistance to local governments when the capabilities and resources available to those governments are insufficient to deal with emergency situations. During major emergencies, the state agencies and volunteer groups that comprise the state Emergency Management Council convene at the SOC to identify, mobilize and deploy state and volunteer group resources to respond to emergencies.

The SOC is co-located with the Bureau of Information Analysis, staffed around the clock by Criminal Intelligence Service personnel. The BIA collects, analyzes and disseminates information on suspicious incidents and potential security threats to local, state and federal agencies and officials. (For more information on BIA, please see page 19.)

EMD's Regional Liaison Officers (RLOs) are the division's eyes and ears around the state. They assist local



Texas Military Forces photo
by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert Gale

During flooding in June in Central Texas, a family prepares to be evacuated via helicopter from Smithwick near Marble Falls.

officials in conducting emergency preparedness programs, teach a variety of emergency management courses and identify needs. They also advise local officials during incidents and disasters and help coordinate state emergency resource support. During the year, new RLO positions were added in Victoria, Mineral Wells and Alpine.

In 2007, the SOC monitored more than 10,000 incidents around the state and EMD carried out field responses to more than 500 serious local emergencies. The vast majority of those responses were related to high winds, tornadoes and floods:

In January, a cold front pushed into the Texas Panhandle, bringing freezing rain, sleet and some snow in the Panhandle and North Texas. Freezing rain and some flooding were experienced in Central Texas, Northeast Texas and Houston areas during the following week. Texas Military Forces (TMF) deployed personnel and vehicles to support winter weather response operations on the IH-20 and IH-40 corridors. Assets were staged in Abilene, Fort Worth, Terrell, Waco, Corsicana and Dallas.

The Public Utility Commission closely monitored utility infrastructure to meet the challenge of maintaining electric power service. Texas Department of Transportation personnel and equipment treated roadways over a wide area. Major transportation corridors affected included IH-10, IH-20, IH-30, IH-35, IH-40 and IH-45—most of the interstates in Texas.

In April, the State Operations Center responded as severe storms and tornadoes struck Cactus in Moore County and Tulia in Swisher County, while Denton experienced serious flooding. State resources were activated April 24 due to a high threat of severe weather to 70 counties across a 60,000-square-mile area.

A tornado that struck Eagle Pass on April 24 may have had wind speeds of up to 150 mph, with a path nearly one mile long and one-quarter mile wide. Ten people were killed. President George W. Bush issued federal disaster declarations for Moore, Swisher, Maverick and Denton counties early in May.

Meanwhile, an extremely intense series of storms threatened Texas continuously from the end of May through June

and July – leading to unprecedented and prolonged operations. In terms of time, National Weather Service experts said the low pressure system that sat over Texas for weeks, beginning about May 23, caused one of the longest lasting storm and flood events in the last 100 years. In terms of the sheer size of the geographical area, these response and recovery operations were the largest ever conducted in Texas history. At one point, state resources, including boats, trucks and aviation resources coordinated by EMD, were deployed from Wichita County in the north to Cameron County at Texas' southernmost tip.

Numerous personnel with Texas Task Force 1 and Texas Task Force 2, Texas Military Forces, the Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife, the General Land Office and swift water rescue teams, were deployed along the length of the I-35 corridor, along with high-profile vehicles, patrol vehicles, hovercraft, boats and helicopters. The severe weather, floods and flashfloods occurring across an area the size of the state of Mississippi began to be described by weather experts as "rain bombs." Marble Falls experienced a "rain bomb" on June 27 as 18 inches of rain struck the town. Eventually, a total of 78 counties were listed under the federal disaster declaration.

Texas continues to lead the nation in the number of federally declared disasters. The events described above resulted in three federal major disaster declarations and a federal emergency declaration.

In mid-September, Hurricane Humberto made history as it ramped up from a tropical depression to a Category One hurricane in only 12 hours. Humberto struck Texas near High Island and Sea Rim State Park between midnight and 2 a.m. on Sept. 13. The National Hurricane Center said no storm ever reached this intensity at a faster rate this close to landfall. A state disaster proclamation was issued for Galveston, Jefferson and Orange Counties.

Texas also continues to support other states through mutual assistance agreements. In early May, the Lone Star State Incident Management Team deployed to Georgia to assume command of fighting a 70,000-acre wildfire. The team stayed for two weeks and then passed command of the incident response to a team from North Carolina.

Border Security Operations

The Border Security Operations Center (BSOC) plans, coordinates, monitors and evaluates border security operations. Representatives of state, local and federal agencies and contractors staff the facility. The BSOC oversaw several joint operations throughout the year in various parts of the Texas border area.

In September, the Operations Section and the BSOC began coordinating a new series of joint state-local border security operations under the name "Border Star." The operation ran through the fall and focused on areas closest to the border and the southernmost portion of the Texas Coast. These operations continued into 2008.



An example of hazard mitigation: This lot at the former 124 Gregory St. in Conroe is now part of a Frisbee golf course, adjacent to an existing city park, taking a home out of the floodplain.

Disaster Recovery

Disaster Recovery personnel implement programs to assist individuals and families whose homes, businesses and personal property have been damaged or destroyed in restoring their lives and property.

EMD Recovery personnel also work closely with local governments, state agencies, school districts, public hospitals and other eligible public entities to develop projects to repair or reconstruct facilities that have been damaged or destroyed in disasters and to replace equipment rendered unusable by disasters. Most recovery programs are supported by federal disaster grants that require a state or local cost share.

Hazard Mitigation

The EMD Mitigation Section administered several post-disaster federal mitigation grant

programs for local governments and state agencies authorized for new and previous disasters. It also administered many pre-disaster mitigation grant programs designed to reduce the impact of future disasters. The EMD Mitigation staff also provides training and technical assistance on mitigation programs to local officials.

The Mitigation Section administered more than a dozen pre-disaster and post-disaster mitigation programs that were underway during 2007. The Mitigation Section also assumed responsibility for administering the federal Repetitive Flood Claims program in Texas, which buys homes that have been repeatedly damaged during floods.

Texas prepares for hurricanes

On Aug. 14, Tropical Storm Erin began threatening the Texas Coast. To prepare for anticipated flooding impacts, the State of Texas took deliberate preparedness actions in order to provide an immediate and effective response. The EMD deployed search-and-rescue resources to Central and South Texas.

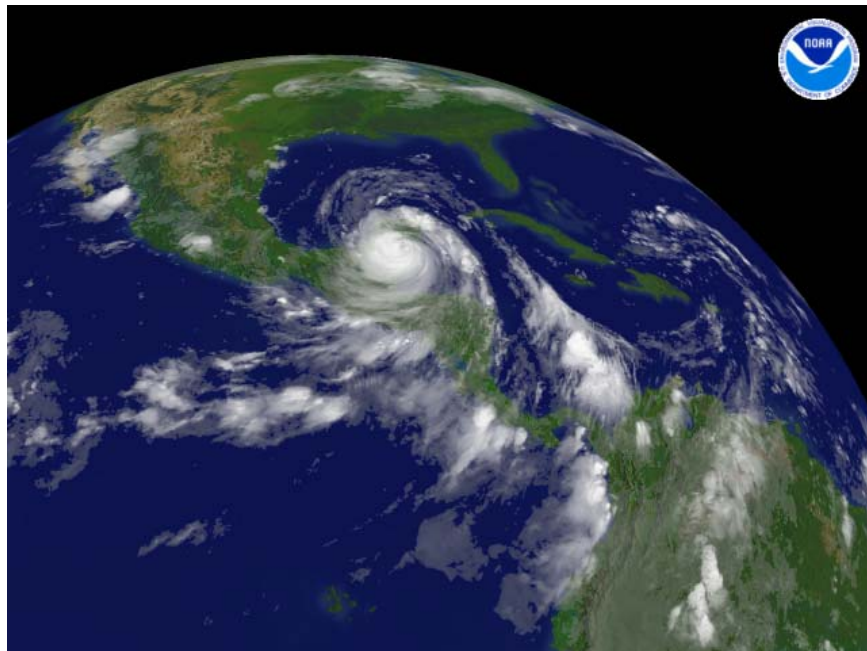
The TMF activated three Blackhawk helicopters, two in San Antonio and one in Austin. Each helicopter had hoist capability to support water rescue operations. TMF also deployed 30 high-profile vehicles (HPVs) to support rescue operations. Twenty HPVs were staged in Weslaco and 10 were staged in San Antonio.

The Texas Extension Service (TEEX) deployed elements of Texas Task Force 1, including six swift water rescue teams to stage in San Antonio and six helicopter rescue personnel to stage with the TMF helicopters in Austin and San Antonio. TEEX also provided search-and-rescue liaisons to the SOC and the District Disaster Committees (DDCs) in San Antonio and McAllen. Erin made landfall near Corpus Christi on Aug. 16.

Later on Aug. 16, the state refocused preparedness efforts to respond to a possible impact from Tropical Storm Dean. Dean quickly strengthened to a Category 5 hurricane as it crossed the Caribbean on a path that threatened the lower Texas coast.

The SOC operated at Level 1 (Emergency Conditions); the full Texas Emergency Management Council, consisting of 32 state agencies and two volunteer groups, was activated. Six federal agencies and 38 private sector organizations also deployed staff to the SOC for round-the-clock operations that began August 18.

The Governor issued a Disaster Proclamation, effective Aug. 17 and requested federal assistance from the President. The request for



Federal assistance was approved on Aug. 18.

The emergency declaration, FEMA-3277-EM, authorized FEMA to provide emergency protective measures (Category B) including direct federal assistance. The Governor directed the full activation of the state's response capability to include up to 10,000 TMF personnel with equipment, Texas Task Force 1 and Texas Task Force 2 for search and rescue, Task Force Lone Star, 250 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens with boats for rescue, and four Regional Incident Management Teams. The state Shelter Hub system was also activated.

Priorities were:

- Implementation of hurricane evacuation plans
- Deployment of search and rescue forces
- Activation of shelter hub system
- Preparation for re-entry operations

On Aug. 21, the threat to Texas diminished as the projected track of Dean took the storm into Mexico, well south of Texas. The SOC conducted the last conference call and began focusing on the demobilization of state resources, the safety of demobilizing first responders and accountability and storage of state assets.

Director's Staff

Accounting and Budget Control

Accounting and Budget Control prepares and supervises the Department's budget. Accounting's duties include administering employee insurance programs, processing the payroll and maintaining all financial records and capital property inventory.

In addition, this area handles purchasing of supplies, services, equipment and construction. Other responsibilities include the processing of receipts and disbursing funds; administering the

Historically Underutilized Business program and accounting for federal grants, travel reimbursement and revenue processing.

The section, led by Chief Oscar Ybarra, has 135 full-time employees.

Aircraft

The DPS Aircraft Section is based at Austin Bergstrom Inter-

national Airport. The DPS fleet has nine helicopters, seven single-engine airplanes and one twin-engine turboprop airplane that support both state and local law enforcement operations. Each helicopter is equipped with an infrared unit and a 30-million-candlepower searchlight for night operations.

The Aircraft Section participates in a variety of investigations, including providing support for criminal interdiction, performing rescue missions and assisting local law enforcement agencies with theft

investigations. DPS pilots often carry tactical flight officers (TFOs) with them on missions. TFOs assist the flying pilot by operating the police radio, the infrared systems and spotlights. They perform other duties such as spotting items or people on the ground. They also assist in safely loading and unloading passengers. Pilots flying alone cannot safely perform those duties and fly the aircraft at the same time.

In 2007, the Aircraft Section's pilots flew 2,802 missions for 6,237 hours. Their



In January, the Garland helicopter assisted the Highway Patrol with a manhunt near Van. An intoxicated, handcuffed suspect escaped from the trooper's vehicle and fled on foot. The helicopter joined ground officers and a canine unit as the search for the suspect continued. The helicopter's FLIR located the suspect as he attempted to burrow under a fallen tree about 1/8 mile from the traffic stop. Officers were directed to the suspect, and he was arrested for felony DWI, felony escape, making a terroristic threat and outstanding warrants.



support of criminal investigations resulted in 566 felony arrests.

Some notable missions in 2007 include:

In January, Lt. John Brannon and a Garland PD technical flight officer crewed the Dallas helicopter as they assisted Dallas, Mesquite, and Irving police departments with a vehicle pursuit of a narcotics trafficker. Dallas PD had conducted surveillance on the suspect and attempted to arrest him for a narcotics warrant when the suspect fled. The helicopter joined the pursuit, with FLIR and search light to monitor the vehicle and suspect, as the vehicle traveled through Garland on IH-635 and continued through Dallas to Irving. The suspect's vehicle was spiked at least twice during the pursuit before he used his cellular telephone to call a police communications operator to advise of his impending surrender. The suspect then stopped, surrendered and was arrested without further incident for felony driving while license invalid.

In April, the Austin, Corpus Christi and San Antonio helicopters participated in a search for two severely mentally impaired children who had wandered away from their home in Bandera County. Various search teams, including the Texas Highway Patrol and deputies from several counties, horse search teams, a dive recovery team, Texas Department of Criminal Justice bloodhounds and more than 125 volunteers searched for the children. One of the children was found within two hours

but she was unable to communicate about the whereabouts of the other child. About 24 hours later, the 8-year-old was located safely.

In May, Sgt. Gordon Wade in Midland assisted the Sheffield Police Department and the Pecos County Sheriff's Office with a search for an 11-year-old boy who had been missing since the previous day. The aircraft crew located the boy and directed ground crews to him. He was in good condition.

Also in May, the Garland helicopter assisted the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) in a search for two men who had escaped from a commercial prison near Mineral Wells. The TDCJ officers, some of whom were on horseback, were unable to keep up with their tracking dogs as they traveled quickly over rough terrain. The helicopter was able to follow the dogs as they ran up a steep embankment, across a highway and onto a wide median. The helicopter located the escapees hiding under a tree. They were apprehended by TDCJ officers who arrived on the scene.

Later in May, Sgt. Ed Burris flew the San Antonio helicopter to Hondo, where he rescued two elderly motorists who were stranded in a low-water crossing that had not been barricaded when waters rose after a storm.

In June, the Dallas helicopter assisted the Garland Police Department in arresting five felons who had committed a home invasion robbery and had committed a burglary at another residence.

In August, the Dallas heli-

copter assisted the DPS Motor Vehicle Theft Service, the North Texas Auto Theft Prevention Task Force and the Dallas Police Department in an operation that recovered three stolen truck tractors, four stolen semi-trailers and a partial load of stolen tires. Total value of the stolen items was estimated at \$352,000. Five suspects were arrested on felony theft charges.

Also in August, the San Antonio helicopter flew to Helotes, where the crew assisted Texas Task Force 1 with rescuing a flood victim from a low water crossing after he attempted to cross during a flood.

(Please see page 8 for another rescue by the Aircraft Section.)

Employee Relations Office

The Employee Relations Office (ERO) manages two Department programs.

The *Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution Program* provides training, one-on-one conflict resolution coaching, interest-based problem solving, workplace facilitations and mediation to all employees and managers. The program currently has 17 active mediators and 21 coaches and trainers statewide.

The *Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Complaint Investigations Program* reviews all complaints and investigations involving unprofessional conduct, discrimination, sexual harassment and related retaliation.

Information Management Service

The Information Management Service (IMS) provides information technology services

to DPS and other law enforcement agencies on a statewide and nationwide basis. The service provides access to critical systems and data 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The section has 233 full-time employees.

The IMS organization significantly contributes to the day-to-day success of the agency by providing protection and management of technology assets, monitoring and managing networks and systems, creating customized programming for business applications and providing technology consultation to internal agency divisions and external criminal justice entities. Additionally, IMS supports the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS) by conducting technical security reviews, providing specialized TLETS training and monitoring and issue resolution of satellite and terrestrial network interruptions. TLETS customers depend on the agency to provide critical information to officers on the streets so they can perform their jobs in an efficient manner.

Internal Affairs

Internal Affairs conducts investigations of personnel complaints and administrative inquiries, which are a type of complaint investigation, as assigned by the Director, Assistant Director or Public Safety Commission. All employee firearm discharges resulting in injury or death are investigated by Internal Affairs. All investigations and inquiries not conducted by Internal Affairs are given a detailed review for

completeness, investigative thoroughness and sufficiency of evidence.

Internal Affairs also provides investigative assistance to the Office of General Counsel, the Employee Relations Office and the office of Health and Safety.

Legislative Liaison

The Legislative Liaison Office serves as an ombudsman between the Department and Texas public officials.

Michael Kelley and Janie Smith coordinate the Department's efforts to receive the budgetary and statutory authority needed to accomplish its mission by maintaining positive relations with state and federal officials.

The Legislative Liaison Office serves as the DPS point of contact for state public officials. It works with Department officials to monitor legislative meetings and provide Texas lawmakers with input regarding current and proposed DPS-related state policies.

In 2007, the Legislative Liaison Office responded to 1,736 Texas public official inquiries and produced 652 identification cards for Texas state officials and their staffs.

Office of General Counsel

The Office of General Counsel (OGC) advises the Director and management in legal areas affecting the Department. Areas of legal practice include employment and personnel, criminal law, traffic law, litigation, tort claims, administrative law, property and contracts.

On a monthly basis, OGC publishes the *DPS Legal Bulletin*, an electronic newsletter that

addresses issues affecting day-to-day law enforcement operations. On a biannual basis, it publishes the *Laws Affecting DPS*, a collection of new laws passed during the most recent legislative session, and contracts with private publishers to provide Department personnel with the *Texas Criminal and Traffic Law Manual*, a bound compilation of current law enforcement statutes.

During FY 2007, OGC oversaw 73 active lawsuits; processed 2,830 open records requests; reviewed 303 contracts and grants; assisted in handling 83 subpoenas; processed 104 claims against the agency; reviewed 59 firearms discharges; reviewed 242 personnel matters and processed 225 contested cases.

Public Information Office

The Public Information Office (PIO) represents the DPS in the news media. Staff members serve as media liaisons and provide internal communication venues, such as the Department's *Chaparral* newsletter, for agency employees. Public information officers also provide media relations and effective communication training to DPS employees and other law enforcement professionals. In addition, the office publishes the DPS Annual Report.

During 2007, PIO coordinated the agency's media response on a wide variety of topics, such as a trooper's death, sex offender issues and new laws. In coordination with regional troopers, PIO also spearheaded media coverage about driving safety, especially

during the holidays.

The office fielded thousands of calls and e-mails from the news media and public in 2007:

- Total media calls: 6,534
- Monthly media call average: 544
- Total public contacts and e-mails: 28,299
- Monthly public contact and e-mail average: 2,358

In addition, PIO fielded numerous calls relating to the Texas Rangers' investigation of a game warden's homicide in Wharton County (See Page 20), and generated media coverage highlighting the Highway Patrol Division's record drug seizures. (See Pages 6-7)

Working with a Texas Ranger and the Rangers' forensic artist, a PIO press release

resulted in a tip that helped identify a woman found dead in Live Oak County. The case turned on a distinctive butterfly tattoo on the badly decomposed woman's leg. After all other leads were exhausted, the forensic artist replicated the tattoo, and it was included in the press release. An acquaintance of the victim saw the media coverage and called local authorities, which led to the identification of the 33-year-old San Antonio woman. (See Pages 24-25)

In a separate Lubbock County and Texas Rangers homicide investigation, a PIO press release, which included a forensic drawing of the victim, was widely covered by the news media. The father of the victim

came forward to say that he thought the victim looked like his missing son. DNA tests confirmed that the victim was his son, a 17-year-old. This homicide investigation continues. (See Page 25)

The PIO staff also joined the multi-agency public education effort to highlight the need for the \$1 billion Proposition 4 bond issue, which voters approved in November. As a result, DPS will receive \$200 million for new building construction, expanded and renovated crime labs and an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course in Williamson County.

The Public Information Office also includes an occupant safety coordinator who oversees traffic safety programs concerning airbags, car seats and safety belts. During 2007, the occupant safety programs coordinator taught three national certification courses and eight continuing education courses. She also worked with several hospitals and retail stores to present 17 child passenger safety workshops across the state.



A 2007 Public Information Office press release highlighted record-shattering drug seizures by the Texas Highway Patrol in 2006. The PIO also posted photos on the DPS Web site, generating additional media coverage.



2007 Awards

Medal of Valor

The Medal of Valor is the highest award presented by the Department. It may be issued to any member of the Department who distinguishes himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life. The deed performed must have been by voluntary act and of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to distinguish clearly the individual for gallantry and intrepidity above his comrades, and must have involved risk of life, known to the member before performing the act.

Leopoldo Sanchez, Texas Highway Patrol

Memorial Cross

The Memorial Cross shall be awarded to the immediate family of any member of the Department who loses his life in performance of duty or in the act of performing a law enforcement capacity while off duty under honorable circumstances.

Todd Dylan Holmes, Texas Highway Patrol

Purple Heart

The Purple Heart Award was given for the first time in 2005. The award may be given to commissioned officers of the Department who are seriously injured in the line of duty. The guiding philosophy in issuing this award is to recognize the individual's sacrifice incurred while in the immediate and direct performance of a law enforcement action.

Alfredo Barrera, Criminal Law Enforcement

Steven M. Stone, Texas Highway Patrol

Medal of Merit

The Medal of Merit is awarded to any member of the Department who has rendered a service beyond the normal course of duty, performed an act that clearly exceeds what is normally required or expected, or makes an important contribution to achievement of the goals of the Department or the law enforcement profession. It may be issued for acts or accomplishments of a nonrecurring nature.

Burton Christian, Administration

Director's Citation

The Director's Citation is given to any member of the Department who has rendered a service beyond the normal course of duty, because of his or her timely observation, diligence, perseverance and judgment in the performance of a difficult task that has resulted in the protection of life or property; the prevention of a major crime; the apprehension of a dangerous criminal; or for performing an act that clearly exceeds what is normally required or expected.

Todd Adkins, Texas Highway Patrol

Alfredo Barrera, Criminal Law Enforcement

Jason Brewer, Driver License

Brian Burzynski, Texas Rangers

Elias Escalon, Texas Highway Patrol

Christian W. Fogal, Texas Highway Patrol

Sammy Newell Lattner, Texas Highway Patrol

Royal Andrew McMullen, Texas Highway Patrol

Brett Wheelis, Texas Highway Patrol

Neshell Williams, Driver License

2007 Memorial Service



Members of the DPS Honor Guard assist Mrs. Stephanie Holmes and her son, Tyler, in laying a wreath at the DPS Memorial Monument during the 2007 Memorial Service. Mrs. Holmes is the widow of Trooper Todd Dylan Holmes, who died in a traffic crash in March 2007.

The DPS Memorial Monument is dedicated to DPS officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Each year, a family member of a DPS officer killed in the line of duty is invited to lay the memorial wreath at the monument.



(Left to right): Dakota Alexander, Tyler Holmes and Breanna Alexander place flowers near the name of Tyler's father on the Memorial Monument.

Photos by Kent Kinkade

In Memory



Tr. Todd Dylan Holmes died March 14, 2007, in a two-vehicle crash just north of Marshall, when his patrol unit was struck broadside by an 18-wheeler as he attempted to cross the highway to pursue a vehicle. Tr. Holmes had been with the DPS since 2005. He was stationed in Gilmer. He is survived by his wife, Stephanie, and four children, one of whom was born after Tr. Holmes passed away.