

Texas Department of Public Safety

Annual Report 2008



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 2008 Annual Report. This report contains valuable information about DPS and its activities in 2008, including the agency's:

- Preparation for and response to Hurricane Ike and other natural disasters.
- Fight against organized crime, such as violent crime activity, terrorism, illegal drug-trafficking, gambling and motor vehicle theft throughout Texas. Operation Border Star concentrated on illegal activity near the Texas/Mexico border.
- Creation and organization of the state's largest intelligence gathering and analysis bureau, including all-crimes threat assessments.
- Successful growth of the DPS Crime Laboratory to meet the ever-increasing demand for its services that are provided free of charge.
- Investigation of crimes such as murder, rape and robbery.
- Implementation of technology to assist all divisions of the Department as they strive to maintain public safety.

Respectfully submitted,
By:

Stanley E. Clark, Director
and
The Texas Public Safety Commission



Col. Stanley Clark



Lt. Col. Lamar
Beckworth

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. Stanley E. Clark became director of the agency when Col. Thomas A. Davis, Jr. retired on Aug. 31, 2008. Lamar Beckworth became assistant director when Lt. Col. David McEathron retired on Aug. 31, 2008.

Public Safety Commission

The Texas Public Safety Commission oversees Department operations. The Commission is made up of five 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 2008 were Chairman Allan B. Polunsky of San Antonio, Tom Clowe of Waco, Carin Marcy Barth of Houston and Elizabeth Anderson of Dallas.

Ms. Anderson resigned from the Commission in September, and two commissioners—Ada Brown of Dallas and John Steen of San Antonio—were appointed in October, bringing the commission to full strength.



Allan B. Polunsky



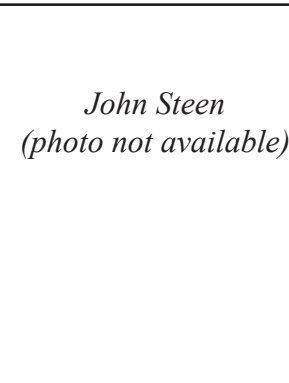
Tom Clowe



Carin Marcy Barth



Ada Brown



*John Steen
(photo not available)*

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

Internal Audit finished 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 in FY 2008. Based on the findings of the audits, numerous recommendations were made to improve Department operations.

Inspection

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 11 headquarters operations were conducted. The inspectors also completed one special inspection. As a result of these activities, inspectors developed 218 recommendations for improvement.

Inspectors also served the Department in a number of other areas. As in previous years, an inspector chaired the Accident Review Board. The review board processed more than 480 fleet collision reports and 370 fleet incident reports.

The Chief Inspector chaired the Awards Committee, which is responsible for reviewing and processing all Department performance awards. During fiscal year 2008, the Awards Committee approved one Purple Heart award, one Medal of Merit and seven Director's Citations for presentation to Department employees. Thirteen Director's Awards were given to private citizens or personnel of other agencies. (*Please see list of Department award recipients on page 55.*)

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

Hurricane Ike



Hundreds of chartered buses await inspection at Kelly USA in San Antonio before they are dispatched to the Texas coastline to assist in evacuating residents who did not have transportation out of the potential hurricane strike zone.

As Hurricane Ike approached the coast of Texas, state and local governments began preparations for the large storm's landfall. Three days before the storm hit, the eventual location of Ike's landfall was still unknown. Millions of coastal residents from Orange to Corpus Christi either evacuated or took action to make themselves safer in case the storm struck near them. After the storm made landfall near Galveston, hundreds of DPS troopers and officers traveled to the area to provide assistance and a law enforcement presence to maintain public safety. *(For more hurricane response information, please see pages 11 and 47-49.)*



Troopers carry supplies to their patrol vehicles in preparation for their deployment to the coast.



DPS troopers pose with employees from an HEB store in the impact area in southeast Texas. Many stores made space available for troopers needing supplies or temporary shelter.

Hurricane Ike



Many homes along the coast near Galveston were destroyed, while some were relatively unscathed. The debris field stretched for miles.



Streets in Orange were under water for several days after the storm hit. Troopers patrolled by boat.



The storm surge washed numerous items onto surrounding roads, including this huge barge, which came to rest on a highway.



DPS troopers worked with the Texas Military Forces to assist Texas residents affected by the hurricane.

Hurricane Ike



Hurricane Ike flooded many areas, including a cemetery in Orange. DPS troopers and the Texas Military Forces assisted in recovering caskets that had floated away. (Photos courtesy Associated Press.)



After the storm, residents of Bridge City thanked city officials and local and state law enforcement officers for their hard work. (Photo courtesy Orange Leader newspaper.)

Texas Highway Patrol

The Texas Highway Patrol (THP) Division is 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 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



Tr. John Sampa, HP Houston, and two local police officers place an injured student under "arrest" during the Shattered Dreams program at a Katy high school. The program uses real students and their parents to portray the potential consequences of teen drinking and driving. DPS has been a participant in these reenactments for a number of years.



During a traffic stop, troopers in Brooks County found 26.5 pounds of cocaine hidden in the console of an F-150 pickup truck.

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 uses 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.

Operation Border Star

The Highway Patrol Division continues to provide law enforcement resources to ensure the safety, security and quality of life to



Above and right: A traffic stop in the Big Bend area during Operation Border Star resulted in the confiscation of thousands of illegal tobacco products, including Cuban cigars. Smugglers hoped to avoid the state's tobacco tax.

the citizens along the Texas/Mexico Border.

Beginning in January 2008, 18 THP strike force teams conducted law enforcement operations in the El Paso, Big Bend, Del Rio, Laredo, Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend areas. Between January 20 and October 25, these operations resulted in 417,258 enforcement actions taken, including:

- 470 DWI arrests
- 1,379 criminal arrests
- 242 stolen vehicles recovered
- 11,947 lbs. of marijuana seized
- 274,553 grams of cocaine seized
- 594 grams of heroin seized
- 13 grams of methamphetamine seized
- 256 grams of prescription drugs seized

Fundamentalist Church of Latter Day Saints

On April 3, the Texas Highway Patrol assisted the Texas Rangers and the Texas De-



Highway Patrol troopers assisted local law enforcement and the Texas Rangers with the search warrants served on the FLDS property in Schleicher County. This included the evacuation of hundreds of children from the property. (Photo courtesy Kathy Mankin of the Eldorado Success.)

partment of Family and Protective Services in serving a search warrant at the Yearning For Zion Ranch of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (FLDS) in Eldorado. Due to the large number of children at the ranch, the services provided by Texas Highway Patrol Division involved more than 200 Troopers and more than 3,900 man hours. The THP Division assisted with the search of the ranch, securing the scene during the search, the removal of the children from the ranch, security during transport and security of the children while away from the ranch. With awareness and concern over the possible psychological impact that this separation could cause to the FLDS children, members of the Texas Highway Patrol made great efforts to establish friendly relationships with these affected children. The troop-



Highway Patrol Major John Reney and Chief Pilot Billy Nabors discuss personnel deployment needs in the State Operations Center during Hurricane Ike.

ers who served in this capacity provided outstanding service in making the FLDS children feel safe, secure and cared for while in the custody of the Department of Family and Protective Services.

Hurricane Ike response

On September 13, Hurricane Ike made landfall over Galveston Island at approximately 2 a.m. Severe winds and high tides caused damage to houses throughout the coastal region. Millions were left without electricity and at least 82 people were killed. Before landfall, Highway Patrol troopers coordinated traffic direction and evacuation of the coastal area. More than 500 troopers were pre-staged near the coast to respond quickly to the ravaged area after the event. Another 91 troopers and civilian inspectors performed inspections on 809 buses to ensure their safety for evacuation transportation.

During the next weeks and months, members of the Texas Highway Patrol played an intricate role in providing security and

resources to the coastal area and citizens affected by the hurricane. Disaster districts in Beaumont, Lufkin, Houston, Conroe and San Antonio were directed by the Texas Highway Patrol to provide state resources to local jurisdictions.

Ike was the third most destructive hurricane to hit the United States. Members of the Texas Highway Patrol worked long hours and in severe conditions to minimize the loss of life and property during this event.

In-car computer project

The 80th Legislature funded \$15 million to implement an in-car computer system in all patrol units within the Texas Highway Patrol Division. This system provides direct messaging and communications to troopers on patrol via a secure network that provides real-time alerts, digital photographs, homeland security information, electronic citations, and equips the units with Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.

This gives the troopers the ability to disseminate photographs of wanted suspects and instantly identify wanted and stolen vehicles. To date, 1,734 patrol units have been installed with a statewide completion in spring 2009.

The GPS system provides real-time map-

ping of patrol units inside the Department's 32 communications facilities, eliminating the need for troopers to give location and speed over the radio during high-speed pursuits allowing them to focus on driving safety. The system also proved beneficial during the 2008 fire season and the Hurricane Ike response, allowing troopers to navigate in unknown territories and limited visibility.

Awards

In June, Lt. Bob Gilbert, HP Houston, and Senior Trooper Garry Parker, HP Austin, attended the 41st National Uniform Safety



Troopers across the state now have computers installed in their patrol vehicles.

Education Officers Workshop in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Tr. Parker's DWI safety program, "Alcohol, the Ultimate Reality," was awarded first place in the competition. The multi-media presentation illuminates the fact that 9,600 people were killed by DWI drivers in the same length of time that 1,000 soldiers were killed in the Iraq war.

DPS received the state agency award from the Texas Association of State Systems for Computing and Communications (TASSCC). The association gives two excellence awards each year to recognize state agencies and institutions of higher education for projects that use leading edge technology in an innovative manner. DPS received the honor for designing a wireless data card solution with GPS in the THP In-car Computer Project. With this technology, approximately 2,000 trooper patrol cars receive secure, wireless connectivity and access up-to-date information immediately, regardless of their location.

Criminal Law Enforcement



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 consists of 1,120 members including 553 commissioned officers and 567 civilian support personnel. The four services that make up the Division are: the Criminal Intelligence Service (CIS), Motor Vehicle Theft (MVT), Narcotics, Bureau of Information Analysis and the Crime Laboratory.

Criminal Intelligence Service

Illegal eight-liner gambling suppressed

The CIS participated in a statewide, multi-agency investigation of the illegal use of gambling devices commonly known as eight-liners. Working in conjunction with

local police departments, county sheriff's offices and federal agencies, CIS officers conducted enforcement action throughout the state.

Working together, officers seized 1,617 eight-liner devices, arrested 45 suspects, seized more than \$1.2 million, two weapons and one vehicle.

Despite these efforts, illegal eight-liner gambling continues within Texas because criminals benefit from the enormous amount of revenue that it generates. As a result, officers are continuing their efforts to suppress this illegal activity. Some of the agencies assisting in this cooperative initiative are the Dallas Police Department, the San Antonio Police Department, the Corpus Christi Police Department, the Arlington Police Department, the Fort Worth Police Department, the Texas Attorney General's Office and the Texas Lottery Commission.

Violent gang members jailed

In 2008, gang violence escalated throughout the state. This violence involved individuals who are members of gangs that have been identified as security threat groups by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The DPS CIS was involved in developing intelligence for the apprehension of these violent gang members statewide.

Working with several federal and local agencies in operations such as "Smoking

Gun" and "Thunder Storm", officers apprehended approximately 36 violent gang members in the Houston, Corpus Christi and Dallas/Fort Worth areas and seized \$4.6 million in cash, 12 weapons, a firearm silencer and other assets.

These cooperative efforts have served to significantly disrupt the security threat groups, such as the Texas Syndicate, the Mexican Mafia, the Aryan Brotherhood and Hermandad de Pistoleros Latinos (HPL).

Despite these collaborative efforts, gang violence continues to plague the state, most notably along the Mexico border. Continued cooperative efforts by state, federal and local law enforcement agencies are needed to disrupt and dismantle these threat groups.

Firefight between prison gangs stopped

A CIS sergeant and a Laredo Police Department investigator were attempting to locate a fugitive wanted for robbery in a Laredo residential area. While searching for the fugitive, the officers came upon a stand-off between members of the Mexican Mafia and the HPL prison gangs in front of a residence. The two groups were composed of six to eight members, armed with AK-47-type assault rifles and handguns in plain view.

The officers ordered the apparent HPL leader to go inside his home in an attempt to diffuse the threat of a shoot-out. The CIS sergeant and the Laredo police investiga-

tor, with the assistance of additional Laredo Police Department officers, apprehended the six remaining suspects.

The officers obtained consent to search the home and vehicles and seized one AK-47 assault-type rifle, one 9 MM handgun and one .40 caliber handgun with loaded magazines. Some of the weapons and ammunition were found on the gang members.

The Department awarded the CIS sergeant with a DPS Director's Citation and honored the Laredo police investigator with a Director's Award. These awards were given to honor their bravery in the face of a potentially deadly situation.

Hurricane relief fraud-ring busted

CIS personnel and the U. S. Secret Service conducted a fraud investigation involving pastors and employees of a well-known Houston church. Two pastors and a deacon were indicted by a federal grand jury on nine counts of bank fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud. Two church employees were also indicted for conspiracy to defraud the federal government, which stemmed from money received from FEMA during Hurricane Katrina. The Secret Service arrested all of the defendants.

CIS personnel had initiated the investigation on the pastors and deacon in January 2007. Subsequently, they learned that suspects had obtained approximately \$4 million in fraudulent student loans by persuading young church members to obtain loans for church purposes with the promise of repaying the loans within six months. The loans were

never repaid, and the suspects used much of the money for personal use.

CIS investigators discovered that the Secret Service was investigating the same group for alleged involvement in FEMA fraud and a check kiting scheme. CIS investigators and the Secret Service initiated a collaborative investigation, resulting in federal charges filed against the suspects.

Violence in Mexican border towns spills into Texas

The CIS has noted an increase in violence along the Mexico border as drug cartels in Mexico continue to battle for control of the established smuggling routes into Texas. The corruption, known as "Plata o Plomo" or "silver or lead" (money or a bullet), contributes to the increased violence. As the violence escalates, the threat of it spilling north into South Texas is extremely likely. Continued and increased concentrated efforts such as Border Star and similar enforcement efforts are needed to combat this trend.

Bureau of Information Analysis

The Bureau of Information Analysis (BIA) was created at the end of 2007 to combine all of the Department's intelligence and analysis functions into a single unit. The DPS merged approximately 158 analysts from several services and divisions, creating the largest analytical component in the Department's history and the largest in the state.

As with any such reorganization, significant challenges were addressed, such as stan-

dardizing operational policies and processes and establishing cohesiveness. The BIA personnel accomplished this with great professionalism, while continuing their productivity and support of law enforcement.

Statewide all-crimes fusion center created

The most significant accomplishment during the BIA reorganization was the establishment of a statewide all-crimes fusion center. The Texas Fusion Center (TXFC) includes a secure compartmentalized information center. It also includes a robust 24/7 intelligence watch center, known as the Texas Intelligence Center. Physically located within this center, numerous external law enforcement agencies participate, including the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC), the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCEN), the U.S. Marshals Service and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The BIA has also placed its own analysts at the other regional fusion and intelligence centers located throughout the state.

BIA begins first statewide all-crimes threat assessment in DPS history

In 2008, the BIA produced numerous intelligence products, including the first statewide all-crimes threat assessment in DPS history, as well as numerous threat assessments

of significant events and critical infrastructure. The BIA continues to receive significant accolades for its intelligence products, such as *The DPS Perspective*, which is a law enforcement-sensitive monthly publication that is disseminated to thousands of officers and intelligence personnel across the nation and world.

BIA supports high-profile investigations

The BIA supported several high-profile investigations throughout 2008, including the investigation of the murder of DPS HP Trooper James Scott Burns in East Texas, the investigation of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (FLDS) and the investigation of the Governor's Mansion arson.

In addition, BIA analysts worked with the Texas Attorney General's Office to check shelters for sex offenders who had evacuated from the Houston/Galveston area during Hurricane Ike. Analysts researched more than 26,000 names and forwarded 706 possible sex offender matches to CLE field personnel for investigative follow-up. In addition, the BIA provided instrumental support to a number of other criminal investigations. A list of those investigations follows.

- A BIA analyst assigned to the Metal Theft Program provided a lead to the Ector County Sheriff's Office, resulting in the arrest of a suspect. The analyst had become suspicious after analyzing data about aluminum irrigation pipe that was being sold by two different people driving the same vehicle. The two male subjects had made several

visits to recycling businesses and sold \$8,051 in aluminum piping.

An employment search revealed that both men worked for a company that deals with aluminum irrigation pipe. However, the men were paid in cash, instead of by check, which is normal business practice. The information was disseminated to the Ector County Sheriff's Office, which determined that the two men were not stealing from the business. Instead, they had been acting on instructions from their supervisor, who pocketed approximately \$3,000 of the money. The supervisor was fired from his job and charged with theft and deceptive business practices.

- The BIA Unidentified Persons and DNA Unit (UPDU) was instrumental in helping to solve a 2003 cold case involving an unidentified child whose body was found in a Houston dumpster. In 2008, an UPDU analyst worked with Houston authorities to give the case new exposure by featuring the information through a variety of media outlets, including a Spanish-language network.

As a result, law enforcement received a call from family members, who had recognized the photo of the child as 5-year-old Jose Bernado Martinez. The tip led authorities to the child's mother, who confessed that she had been unable to care for the child and had left him in the dumpster. (The child had been in very poor health due to malnutrition and lack of care.) The child's mother was arrested for felony murder-injury to a child by omission.

- On October 4, the TXFC received notification from an outside source that an un-

identified individual had made threats to kill his Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) squad. With little information, TXFC personnel identified the individual and provided the lead to the DPS CIS.

Investigators from CIS contacted the individual's parents and determined that the individual did not present an immediate threat. However, authorities recommended a voluntary psychological examination. Officers also notified the commander of the JROTC squad and the city and school district's police departments about the situation and the outcome.

- The BIA Threat Assessment Group (TAG) assisted the Weimar Police Department in locating \$700,000 on a Mexican commercial bus. On November 5, local officers in Weimar contacted the BIA regarding a Mexican bus that was stopped en route from Atlanta, Georgia, to Reynosa, Mexico, with only the driver and co-driver onboard.

Analytical personnel with TAG provided the officers with information and photographs of concealment locations known to be used by traffickers in passenger buses. As a result of this information, the officers located the currency inside a compartment that runs along the base of the seats.

- A TAG analyst placed a Texas Data Exchange (TDEX) watch on leaders of a gang he was tracking, so that he could be notified if any of them were arrested. TDEX is a system that compiles law enforcement incident records and other non-intelligence criminal justice information into a central state repository for sharing across jurisdictional lines.

A couple of weeks after the analyst placed a TDEX watch on the gang leaders, a homicide occurred that reportedly involved one of the identified gang leaders. Five days later, TDEX alerted the BIA analyst via e-mail that the suspect had been arrested on unrelated charges by another agency. Information indicated that the suspect was due to be released at 11 a.m. that morning on two \$10,000 bonds. The BIA analyst immediately contacted the homicide investigators, who were not aware of the arrest. The bonds were raised to \$500,000 each, and the suspect was prevented from bonding out.

As a result, investigators confiscated a potential murder weapon and possible blood evidence. One of the investigators stated that, “We may never have had access to this evidence had it not been for the heads-up from the BIA.”

Narcotics Service

In 2008, the Narcotics Service engaged in a multitude of diverse criminal and administrative investigations across the state and nation.

Although there have been several significant narcotics seizures across the state, the most meaningful changes are evident in the ability of Narcotics Service personnel to adapt to a constantly changing criminal and administrative environment. Modern technologies, media publications and the use of established threat groups (Zetas, Aryan Brotherhood, Texas Syndicate, Mexican Mafia and many others) to transport narcotics across the

state, require Narcotics Service personnel to be innovative, flexible and proactive beyond traditional investigative thinking.

The Narcotics Service continues to expand on and create new programs within the service to address the growing demands of the citizens of Texas and our law enforcement partners. Programs under the Narcotics Service include the Technical Unit, the Computer Information Technology and Electronic Crime (CITEC) Unit, the Controlled Substance Regulatory Unit and the Diversion Enforcement Unit.

The Technical Unit provides specialized surveillance equipment, such as cameras and body bugs—electronic listening devices, to the Narcotics Service, other parts of DPS and under special circumstances, external law enforcement. They also provide and service the monitoring equipment for wire intercepts, as well as assist in the preparation, review and approval of the probable cause affidavits for the same. The Technical Unit can install tracking devices and monitor them with the proper court order and conduct counter-measure sweeps to detect illegally installed listening equipment. In 2008, the Technical Unit showed significant increases in the number of requests for technical support on high-profile investigations. The Technical Unit provides supervision for the CITEC Unit.

The Controlled Substance Regulatory Unit administers a prescription drug program to monitor Schedule II through V controlled-substance prescriptions as they progress from the registrant (prescription writer) to the ultimate user or customer. The unit is also in

charge of the registration of people or entities that handle prescription drugs or controlled substances through the Controlled Substance Registration Program.

In 2008, the Narcotics Service created the Diversion Enforcement Unit. The unit was created to assist and compliment the already active Prescription Drug Regulatory Program. Prescription drugs have become the second most-abused drug among youths. With this increased use, and legislation mandating that the Department track the distribution of controlled substances in Schedules III through V, the Narcotics Service redirected positions and personnel to target the large-scale diversion of controlled substances. Almost immediately, the Diversion Enforcement Unit proved successful through the disruption of a nationally recognized gang organization engaging in the theft of pharmaceutical drugs and the theft of ATM machines in cities along interstate highways in Texas.

Each of these Narcotics Service units provide a variety of assistance and services to all divisions within the Department and to a multitude of agencies outside the Department. With a high level of expertise, the personnel assigned to these units are nationally recognized for the work that they perform. In addition, they are often sought as advisors and provide quality training within and outside of the Department.

The Narcotics Service also has a multitude of ancillary investigative and administrative duties, including but not limited to responding to all significant Highway Patrol seizures, management of all asset forfeitures

for the Department and management of the DPS' imprest funds. The Narcotics Service also chairs the CLE training programs' participation in the state's Drug Demand Reduction Program. In addition, the Service provides the Region III at-large member for the National Alliance for State Drug Enforcement Agencies, the executive board member on all four Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Committees (HIDTA) and the chair for the state's advisory committee for the Department's official prescription program.

In 2008, the Narcotics Service initiated and assisted on a number of major investigations that were instrumental in disrupting the transportation and distribution of narcotics across Texas and the nation.

2008 Narcotics Seizures

Meth-trafficking organization dismantled

Narcotics personnel obtained state and federal indictments against 22 suspects as part of an investigation into a methamphetamine drug-trafficking organization operating in the San Angelo area. Charges include engaging in organized criminal activity, drug conspiracy and weapons offenses. Investigators conducted a round-up operation and arrested 21 of the suspects, most of whom were active in Brady and Mason. The arrests have had a significant impact on the illegal distribution of methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana in these communities.

Other agencies assisting with the arrests were the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATFE), the U.S.

Attorney's Office, the Kimble County District Attorney, the Tom Green, McCulloch, and Mason County sheriff's offices and the Brady Police Department.

East Texas illegal drug-trafficking targeted

Narcotics personnel continue to work a local, state and federal joint investigation into the Latin Kings street gang's drug-trafficking activities in the East Texas area. The investigation has resulted in multiple drug seizures and the arrests of approximately 60 suspects. A number of these suspects have received extensive prison terms, while many of the others are still awaiting sentencing.

Meth-trafficking organization disrupted

Fourteen suspects were indicted because of a Narcotics Service investigation targeting a drug-trafficking organization. The investigation was initiated following a DPS Highway Patrol interdiction seizure. The investigation targeted the distribution of approximately 40 pounds of methamphetamine from the Dallas area throughout East Texas and western Louisiana.

Because of the investigation, officers seized 17 pounds of methamphetamine and obtained federal indictments against 14 suspects for conspiracy to distribute meth, possession with intent to distribute meth, aiding and abetting, use of communication facility to facilitate a felony and possession of a firearm during a drug-trafficking crime. Investigators have arrested 13 of the 14 suspects and seized two stolen firearms and a four-wheeler.

Narcotics assists in shutting down murder-for-hire

DPS Narcotics officers in Beaumont were called to assist the Texas Rangers in a murder-for-hire investigation. DPS Narcotics provided the technical support and an undercover Narcotics sergeant to meet with a suspect who wanted his girlfriend murdered. The undercover officer met with the suspect in the Nederland area and negotiated the murder. Investigators arrested the suspect for solicitation of murder and possession of a controlled substance.

Galveston County gang's organizational structure dismantled

DPS Narcotics Service personnel are involved in a multi-agency, two-year investigation of members of a gang known as the "4th Street Bloods", also known as the "4th Street Playas", in Galveston County. The 4th Street Bloods are involved in the illegal distribution of methamphetamine (also known as "ice"), cocaine powder and "Crack" cocaine.

The gang was formed in the mid 1990s and derived its name from the associated location of 4410 4th Street, Baycliff. During the last four years, more than 47 percent of major crimes in northern Galveston County were directly connected to the 4th Street Bloods. Through extensive investigative activities, including surveillance, undercover operations, search warrants and a wire intercept, the gang's primary organizational structure has been dismantled. Twelve gang members were charged and indicted and 10 have been arrested thus far.

Narcotics locates large marijuana grow

During July, the Narcotics office in Garland located 12,390 marijuana plants growing in Freestone and Navarro Counties. Investigators located the marijuana fields with the assistance of the Texas National Guard Counter Drug Aviation Division and the Navarro County Sheriff's Office.

The growers were using irrigation systems to pump water from nearby creeks to the plants. They had also set up living quarters, such as tents and tarps, around the marijuana fields that were tended by Mexican nationals. In addition, officers located stashes of food and weapons. Thus far, officers have arrested three suspects.

Marijuana found growing on public land

The Narcotics office in Conroe located 1,436 marijuana plants growing in the Sam Houston National Forest in San Jacinto County. The National Forest Service had located more than 2,000 additional plants also growing in the Sam Houston National Forest several days earlier.

Potent marijuana indoor-growing operation found

In Houston, Narcotics officers executed a search warrant and discovered 150 marijuana plants grown hydroponically inside a residence. (Plants are grown hydroponically when they are cultivated in nutrient solutions rather than conventional soil.) Officers seized numerous artificial lighting assemblies and various hydroponic mechanisms. This method of growing marijuana is becoming

very popular. With the use of hydroponics and other technological advances, cultivators increase the potency of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive ingredient in cannabis plants. The price of this type of marijuana can reach up to 10 times the price of outdoor-grown marijuana. Overall, 25,212 marijuana plants were reported seized in 2008 in Texas.

Narcotics officers seize drugs, weapon and money from the Texas Syndicate

In Corpus Christi, DPS Narcotics officers conducted an investigation that led to the seizure of approximately 22 pounds of cocaine and steroids, three weapons and more than \$26,000.

The suspects targeted in the investigation are suspected to have ties to the Texas Syndicate—one of the largest prison gangs in Texas. The Syndicate is actively involved in the transportation and distribution of narcotics across the state.

Officers arrest Mexican Mafia member

In August, San Antonio DPS Narcotics, along with the San Antonio Police Department, executed search warrants on two locations in San Antonio. While executing the warrants, officers seized 31 guns, heroin and cocaine, one stolen police-issued ballistic vest, numerous stereos, tools and jewelry.

The suspect arrested in this investigation is a confirmed Mexican Mafia member from San Antonio. Investigators believe that the suspect was trading guns and other stolen items for narcotics. The Mexican Mafia, a large prison gang known to rival the Texas

Syndicate, has been at war for many years with other gangs for control of the narcotics trade on this side of the border with Mexico.

Investigation impacts Crips gang

In February, an Operation Border Star traffic stop in Pecos County resulted in the arrest of two Crips gang members from California and the seizure of approximately two gallons of Phencyclidine (PCP). Following the drug seizure, the Narcotics Service and the DEA conducted a nine-month investigation that led to the execution of federal search-and-arrest warrants in Anaheim and Compton, Calif.

Investigators dismantled a clandestine lab, seized more than three gallons of PCP and arrested three additional Crip gang members. The operation has resulted in the dismantling of a significant portion of a gang-related drug network stretching from California to Texas. The Crips gang was founded in 1969 in Los Angeles, Calif., and is one of the largest and most violent street gangs in the United States.

Investigation dismantles drug-trafficking organization

During a separate investigation, DPS Narcotics, the FBI and the Austin Police Department dismantled a major drug-trafficking organization. This three-year, multi-agency investigation, a large part of which included a wire intercept operation, resulted in 30 indictments with 29 arrests thus far and the seizure of methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana. Investigators also seized numerous vehicles

and U.S. currency. This investigation is linked to another major drug-trafficking organization with links throughout the U.S. and ties to the Gulf Cartel.

Investigators disrupt meth operation

In October, an investigation involving the Hill County Sheriff's Office, the DEA and the DPS Narcotics Service resulted in the disruption of a significant methamphetamine operation. After a four-month investigation, an undercover DPS Narcotics sergeant arranged to purchase six pounds of what turned out to be 87 percent pure meth. The suspect was also in possession of a loaded .45 caliber handgun at the time of delivery.

Narcotics investigators executed a search warrant in Dallas, seizing an additional four pounds of meth and making another arrest. The two suspects were federally indicted and have possible ties to other border states and the East Coast.



DPS Motor Vehicle Theft personnel seized more than 100 illegally re-built Mustangs during a major fraud investigation. The scheme began in the Las Vegas prison system and moved to the TDCJ.

Investigation nets 15 meth traffickers

In Palo Pinto County, a 22-month Narcotics Service investigation that included numerous undercover operations, surveillance and debriefings by Narcotics personnel and other local agencies led to 17 indictments against methamphetamine traffickers. To date, law enforcement officers have arrested 15 of the 17 suspects.

Motor Vehicle Theft Service

Prison system auto-theft ring shut down

MVT personnel seized more than 100 re-built vintage Mustangs as part of a major fraud investigation involving a high-profile company. The fraud scheme involved the use of prison labor to strip and re-build donated vintage cars using after-market replacement parts.

In some cases, the company would have the prisoners re-stamp the replacement parts



The fraud scheme involved the use of prison labor to strip and re-build donated vintage cars using after-market replacement parts.

with the original vehicle's VIN. The company then sold these vehicles to unwitting customers at vintage prices. The company's client list includes owners of major sports franchises, professional sports athletes and movie actors. Total losses to customers are estimated to exceed \$39 million. The company first developed its scheme in the Las Vegas prison system before moving its operation to Texas.

Suspected thief used stolen identities to illegally purchase vehicles

DPS MVT personnel initiated an identity theft investigation that resulted in two indictments. The primary suspect had fraudulently obtained six vehicles worth approximately \$163,000 from a Hyundai dealership in Harris County, where the suspect had been employed as a salesperson.

The suspect used personal identifying information from former customers without their consent or knowledge and obtained additional personal identifying information from an accomplice, who worked as a finance manager at a different dealership. The suspect would then alter Texas driver licenses and other documents to secure financing in the victims' names. As a result of the investigation, officers recovered all six vehicles and charged the suspect and his accomplice with felony theft. Also assisting with the investigation was the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Pari-mutuel race track inspections

MVT personnel continue to conduct compliance inspections on pari-mutuel race

tracks. These inspections have resulted in investigators filing charges for unlawful influence on racing, dangerous drugs and possession of a firearm in a prohibited place, practicing veterinary medicine without a license and administrative violations, which were referred to Texas Racing Commission enforcement officers for disciplinary action.

Southbound Operations stopped criminals

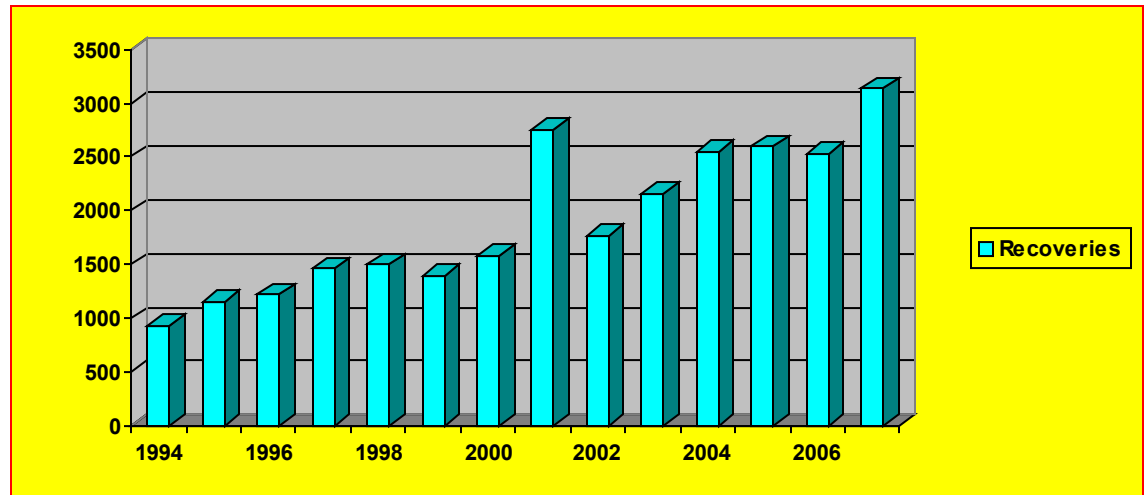
In conjunction with the DHS Custom and Border Protection inspectors, MVT Service personnel conducted nine “Gate Operations” at various ports of entry and at different times during the year. They inspected 1,726 vehicles, recovered eight stolen vehicles, made two arrests and five undeclared currency seizures totaling \$156,300.

BATIC recovers stolen vehicles

The MVT Service’s Border Auto Theft



MVT worked with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Custom and Border Protection to increase law enforcement presence at the border. They stopped criminals carrying illegal drugs and cash and driving stolen vehicles.



The Motor Vehicle Theft Service’s Border Auto Theft Information Center (BATIC) assists law enforcement officers in Mexico, Central America and Canada in the recovery of stolen vehicles that are taken out of the U.S.

Information Center (BATIC) provides unique assistance. BATIC continues to receive international recognition for the assistance its personnel provide to U.S. and foreign law enforcement agencies. In 2008, BATIC surpassed 200,000 assists to law enforcement in Mexico, Central America and Canada, along with identifying more than 4,000 stolen vehicles. More than 2,100 vehicles will be repatriated to the United States, with a stolen property value of more than \$35,000,000.

Motorcycle-theft ring dismantled

MVT personnel and Arlington Police Department detectives dismantled an Asian motorcycle-theft ring. They arrested four suspects involved in the ring that was operated out of a residence. Investigators recovered a total of 13 motorcycles, along with parts belonging to other motorcycles.



MVT and the Arlington Police Department arrested suspects in a motorcycle theft ring and recovered stolen motorcycles and motorcycle parts.

Crime Laboratory Service

Two suspects in Kilgore Kentucky Fried Chicken murders identified and charged

On Sept. 23, 1983, five employees were

abducted from the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in Kilgore, taken to a remote oil field road and executed. Investigators collected evidence at the restaurant and where the bodies were found and submitted it to the DPS Crime Laboratories in Tyler and Garland. In the Tyler Laboratory, personnel examined the bullets recovered from the victims and compared those bullets to test-fired bullets from many pistols submitted by investigators over several years. The weapons that fired the evidence bullets were never identified.

DPS Garland Lab Manager Manuel Valadez performed blood typing on blood stains recovered from inside the restaurant, and blood stains from a napkin were found to be foreign to all five victims. One suspect was excluded in 1983 as a source of the blood stains on the napkin. The evidentiary stains were filed in the Garland laboratory freezer pending the apprehension of any additional suspects. The Garland laboratory maintained custody of the blood evidence in this case for more than 20 years.

In 1995, one man was indicted on five counts of capital murder after a fingernail found on one of the victim's clothing was said to match him. Charges were later dropped when the fingernail was determined to have come from one of the victims.

In the DPS Garland laboratory in 2001, Lorna Beasley performed DNA typing on the evidentiary blood stains from the restaurant. One blood stain from a box, previously associated with one of the victims based on conventional serological typing, was de-

termined to be foreign to that victim. DNA profiles from the blood stain from the napkin, the blood stain from the box and a semen stain from one of the female victim's pants were entered into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). Between October 2001 and January 2002, CODIS hits linked two Texas inmates to the crime scene—Darnell Hartsfield to the box and Romeo Pinkerton to the napkin.

Darnell Hartsfield told a Rusk County grand jury in 2003 that he was never in the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in Kilgore. Manuel Valadez and Lorna Beasley testified in Hartsfield's perjury trial on October 26, 2005. The next day, the jury found Hartsfield guilty of aggravated perjury and sentenced him to life in prison.

In October 2007, Valadez and Beasley testified in New Boston, after a change of venue, at the trial of Romeo Pinkerton, which ended when Pinkerton pled guilty to the murder of the five victims.

In September 2008, Valadez and Beasley testified a third time in this case. A change of venue moved the trial to Bryan, where Darnell Hartsfield was convicted of five counts of capital murder and received five life sentences. Without current DNA analysis methods and the CODIS database, this "cold," unsolved, case might never have been solved.

The source of the semen stain from one of the victim's pants remains unknown. Since 2001, the Garland and Austin labs have performed DNA analysis on numerous items from potential suspects. So far, the identity of the third suspect remains a mystery.



DPS purchased a drug incinerator and placed it in Hidalgo County. Local, state and federal law enforcement officials use it to destroy drug contraband.

Drug incinerator in service

DPS purchased a large air-curtain incinerator and installed it on 32 acres of DPS land in Hidalgo County in September. County officials built a road into the site, and the facility began operations in October. By November, DPS and other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies were using it to incinerate drug contraband. It can incinerate 5,000 pounds of marijuana per hour. Agencies schedule incinerator service with the DPS Crime Laboratory staff in McAllen, which operates it.

Crime Lab hires and trains new personnel

One of the greatest accomplishments of the Crime Laboratory Service for 2008 was the hiring and training of 26 new employees. DPS provides crime lab services for free to the Department and external law enforcement agencies from across Texas, so it conducts an enormous amount of laboratory work.

To deal with this huge case load, the Crime Laboratory Service needed additional personnel. Interview boards selected the best candidates and in-depth training is provided by Crime Lab staff.

This 25 percent increase in personnel will help to reduce work backlogs and provide faster lab service on evidence from all crimes, including testing on firearms, latent fingerprints, DNA and drug and toxicology testing. Seventy-eight employees have received training in order to begin examining evidence.

Timely service a priority

A goal for the Crime Laboratory Service is to provide timely services. When it comes to drug cases and DWI cases, the labs define timely service as work completed within 30 days. By December 2008, essentially all drug cases and alcohol cases were completed within 30 days. These cases make up approximately 84 percent of all crime lab cases.

Backlogs of other types of cases were also reduced during 2008, as shown in the chart (top right).

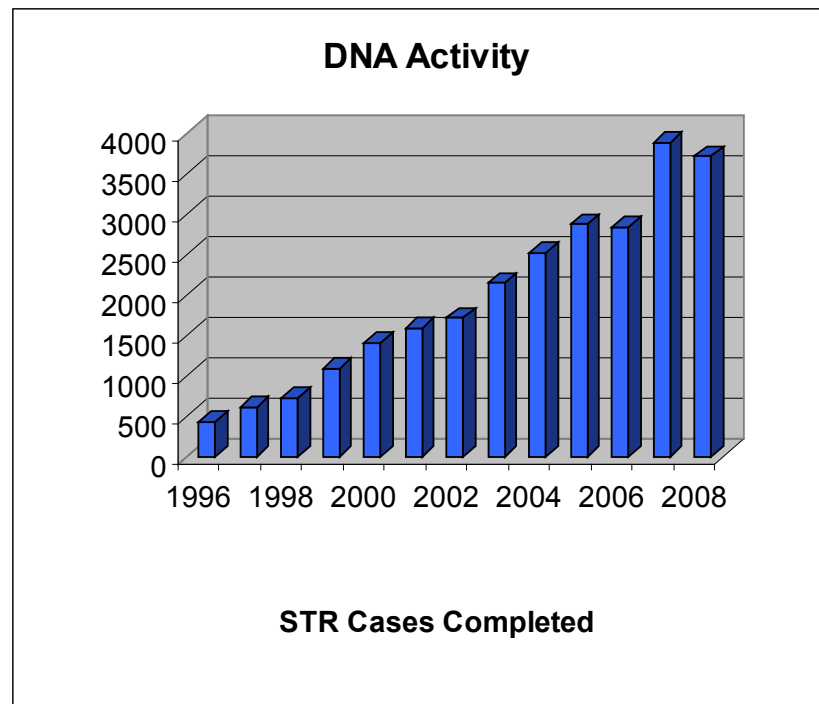
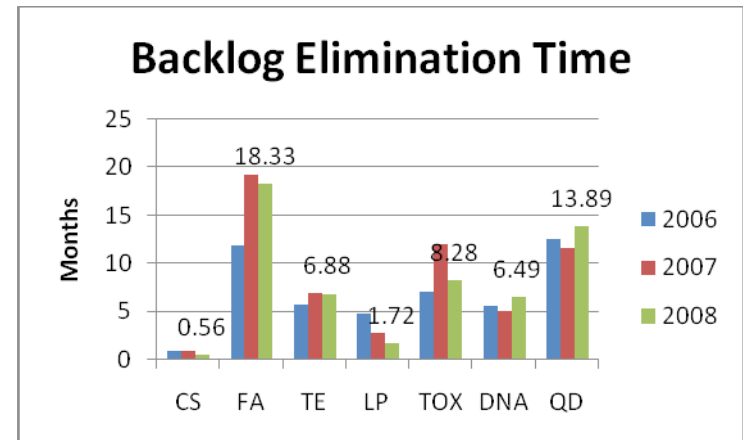
DNA data added to the CODIS database, reducing backlog

DPS DNA analysts examined evidence in approximately 5,100 criminal cases during 2008, completing DNA testing on more than 4,000 of these cases.

CODIS analysts added DNA data to the CODIS database on samples from 69,000 offenders during the year. This reduced the backlog of offender samples awaiting completion of testing by 22,000 samples—26

percent during 2008. The results of this DNA work yielded CODIS hits, helping to solve many unsolved crimes. With the DNA analysis on more than 4,000 forensic cases and with the addition of more than 69,000 offender DNA profiles into the CODIS database, close to 1,000 hits were achieved during the year for the state.

Among the cold cases solved were: 51 homicides, 445 sexual assaults, 445 burglaries and thefts and 59 robberies.



Forensic analysts use short-tandem repeat (STR) to test minute and degraded biological evidence to determine a DNA profile.

Texas Rangers



The Texas Rangers are the oldest law enforcement organization on the North American continent with statewide jurisdiction.

Personnel and organizational structure

Today, the Rangers consist of 160 members, including 134 commissioned officers, a fiscal analyst, a forensic artist and 24 support personnel. The Rangers are supervised by a senior captain (chief), an assistant chief, a Headquarters captain and lieutenant, seven field captains and fourteen lieutenants. The force is organized into seven companies, "A" through "G". Each of the seven company headquarters has a captain, a lieutenant and two to four Rangers. Other Rangers are stationed in various towns and cities in the state, with each Ranger having responsibility for a minimum of two to three counties, some with even larger areas.

In January 2008, one Unsolved Crimes Investigation Team (UCIT) sergeant was assigned to each of the seven companies. Each UCIT sergeant is responsible for conducting

investigations of unsolved murders or what appear to be serial or linked criminal episodes.

Job Duties

The responsibilities of the Ranger Division consist of conducting criminal and special investigations; apprehending wanted felons; suppressing major disturbances; protecting of life and property and rendering assistance to local law enforcement officials in suppressing crime and violence.

Company A—Houston

Murder and robbery solved

On June 13, a male convenience store clerk was found shot to death inside the store. Bay City police investigators believed the shooting occurred during a robbery attempt and contacted the Rangers for assistance. Ranger Sgts. Kip Westmoreland, Joe Haralson and Noe Diaz responded to the scene. The criminal investigation resulted in the identification of a suspect vehicle and ultimately, a suspect. On June 16, Ranger Sgts. Westmoreland and David Maxwell and Bay City investigators interviewed the suspect.



A suspect, who had threatened to harm his girlfriend, led officers on a pursuit that ended when the suspect committed suicide in Huntsville. After the pursuit ended, the Texas Rangers investigated multiple crimes scenes related to the case.

During the interview, the suspect confessed to his involvement in the aggravated robbery that resulted in the death of the clerk.

Crime scenes investigated following suicide

On June 19, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Communications broadcasted an "attempt to locate" on a Chevrolet pickup truck. The male driver was reportedly armed and had expressed intentions to harm an ex-girlfriend. A Montgomery County Sheriff's deputy and a Precinct 1 Constable's deputy located the suspect vehicle near Willis and attempted a traffic stop. The suspect refused to stop and fled north on IH-45 through Mont-

gomery County and into Walker County.

The suspect shot at the officers, injuring two and damaging their vehicles. State, county and local agencies continued to attempt to stop the suspect and exchanged gunfire with him. The suspect pulled into a rock quarry in Huntsville where additional gunshots were exchanged. The suspect's vehicle crashed into a marked police car after he shot himself in the head. The suspect died while receiving treatment at a Houston area hospital. Both injured officers were transported to hospitals, treated and released. Ranger Sgt. Steven Jeter, along with other Company "A" Rangers, responded to multiple crime scenes and conducted the on-scene investigations.

Texas Ranger Division Criminal Statistics

Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2008

Investigations/Offenses/Cases

Developed:	Totals	Murder	Robbery	Burglary	Theft	Other*
Offenses/activities*	5,180	828	179	269	786	3,118
Charged offenses	1,797	282	129	129	375	882

Completed:

Closed files	2,683	418	97	149	440	1,579
Criminal/activity disp*	2,622	219	84	164	354	1,801

Number of arrests: 2,410

Number of convictions: 1,701

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

* Activities are warrant, civil, subpoena and fugitive.

Juvenile murder suspect to stand trial

On July 6, the body of a male was discov-



Rangers Joe Haralson and Frank Huff investigated a murder in Chambers County. A juvenile female is scheduled to stand trial for murdering the victim, whose house (shown above) was set ablaze. An adult male, who fled to Oklahoma with the female, has also been indicted for this murder.

ered in a partially burned Chambers County residence. The Chambers County Sheriff's Office requested assistance from the Texas Rangers. Ranger Sgts. Joe Haralson and Grover "Frank" Huff responded to the scene. Investigators determined that the man had been murdered, and they suspected an adult male and a juvenile female had committed the crime. They believed the suspects may have fled to Oklahoma after the murder.

On July 7, law enforcement officers arrested the adult male suspect in Muskogee, Okla., on an unauthorized use of a motor vehicle warrant from Texas. Officers detained the juvenile

female as a runaway. On July 8, Rangers Haralson and Huff and Chambers County investigators traveled to Oklahoma. Ranger Haralson interviewed the adult suspect who claimed the juvenile killed the man and set the house on fire. The suspect waived extradition, and Rangers Haralson and Huff transported him back to Texas on July 9.

After he was back in Texas the adult suspect admitted to his involvement in a physical confrontation with the victim when the juvenile suspect began stabbing the victim. The juvenile returned to Texas, and she will stand trial as an adult for murder.

Love triangle leads to murder charge

On September 7, the body of a male victim was found in the living room of his residence in Bronson. Investigators determined that he had been shot with a shotgun through

a window, by someone standing outside the house. Ranger Sgt. Pete Maskunas assisted with the investigation and processing the crime scene.

Investigators identified a male suspect and learned that he and the victim were both romantically involved with the same female. Additionally, the suspect had previously threatened the victim. Witnesses also saw the suspect near the victim's house at the time of the shooting. A murder warrant was issued for the suspect, and he was arrested in Tyler on October 24.

Company B—Garland

Ex-wife charged with murder

On June 18, Ranger Sgt. Brad Oliver assisted the Grayson County Sheriff's Office with what began as a missing person investigation. The victim was reported missing to the sheriff's office by a woman who was later learned to be romantically involved with the victim.

Investigators learned the victim had recently gone through a bitter divorce and was awarded the residence. However, his ex-wife refused to move out, and eviction procedures were initiated. The victim's vehicle was found abandoned at a nightclub in Dallas, and his body was later discovered in Louisiana.

The investigation identified a suspect, who was an associate of the victim's ex-wife. The suspect's cellular phone records placed him in the area where the body was located. Authorities arrested the suspect and charged

him with murder. He later confessed and implicated the victim's ex-wife, and investigators corroborated the suspect's statements. A cooperating individual made undercover recordings of conversations with the ex-wife, further implicating her. Officers also arrested the ex-wife and charged her with murder.

Children kill mother and are arrested

On September 12, Ranger Sgt. Tracy Murphree assisted the Roanoke Police Department with a homicide investigation. The police department had received a call from the Yankton, South Dakota, Police Department concerning a vehicle that was registered to someone from Roanoke. The vehicle was driven by a 16-year-old juvenile who had been reported as a runaway. The two passengers in the vehicle, a 17-year-old female and a 13-year-old male, were identified as the children of the car's registered owner.

The Roanoke police had received a welfare-concern call from the car owner's mother on the previous day. They discovered the deceased body of the car owner at her residence. Ranger Murphree, Roanoke police and Denton County Sheriff's Office investigators processed the crime scene. Evidence indicated the victim was beaten and stabbed multiple times.



Investigating a murder in Bronson, Ranger Pete Maskunas used a laser light to show the bullet's path from the suspect's shotgun, through a window and into the victim's house.

Investigators traveled to South Dakota to interview the suspects and transport the juveniles to Texas. Witnesses informed the investigators of a plan the juveniles had to steal the victim's vehicle and travel to Canada. Evidence collected from the victim's vehicle and the crime scene linked the juveniles to the murder. All three suspects have been charged with capital murder.

Two suspects arrested for capitol murder

On November 17, the Hunt County Sheriff's Office requested the assistance of Ranger Sgt. Laura Simmons in what was originally reported as a missing person investigation. Investigators located the victim's vehicle and a 9 mm Ruger pistol with what was believed to be human blood. Ranger Simmons and investigators identified two suspects, one male and one female. Ranger Simmons obtained a



At a murder scene in Lubbock County, Rangers collected evidence that indicated the murder witnesses were lying. Investigators sprayed a chemical used in forensic investigation called Bluestar at the scene (above) to reveal tiny blood evidence that was invisible to the naked eye.

confession from the male suspect who then led investigators to the victim's remains.

Ranger Simmons assisted with processing evidence and interviewing witnesses. Evidence indicated the victim was shot at least three times. Ranger Simmons and investigators from Hunt County obtained a confession from the female suspect. Both suspects were charged with capital murder.

Company C—Lubbock

Juvenile pleads guilty to manslaughter

On August 7, Ranger Sgts. Jamie Downs, Martin Hood and Todd Snyder assisted the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office with an at-

tempted murder/home invasion investigation. Witnesses told investigators an unknown male knocked on the door of their residence and shot the male victim in the face when he opened the door. Rangers Downs, Hood and Snyder processed evidence and photographed and measured the crime scene. Ranger Downs also constructed a detailed forensic map of the scene.

The evidence they developed at the scene conflicted with witness statements. When confronted by investigators, the witnesses admitted that they committed a burglary earlier that same day, and one of the suspects, a juvenile, fired a stolen gun at the victim's face. He said he was unaware that the gun was loaded. He plead guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to serve time in a Texas state juvenile correction facility.

Evidence helps lead suspect to confess

On August 15, the Hall County Sheriff's Office requested the assistance of Ranger Sgt. Marshall Thomas in the murder investigation of a male who was found deceased with three gunshot wounds to the head in Turkey, Texas. Ranger Thomas processed the crime scene, collected evidence, interviewed witnesses and attended the autopsy of the victim. On August 16, Ranger Thomas interviewed the suspect and obtained a confession from him. The suspect was arrested on a murder charge.

Modern tools aid in murder arrest

On November 22, Ranger Marshall Thomas assisted the Tulia Police in a homicide investigation. The victim, a 55-year-old



Ranger Marshall Thomas processed a murder scene in Turkey, Texas. A suspect was arrested and charged with murder.

female, was beaten to death in her home in Tulia. Her boyfriend, recently paroled after serving time for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, could not be located and family members said there had been problems between him and the victim.



While investigating a murder in Tulia, Ranger Marshall Thomas used leucocrystal violet, a chemical dye, to locate drag marks and bloody shoe prints on the carpet near the body. The victim's boyfriend was charged with murder.

Using leucocrystal violet, a chemical dye that enhances blood evidence not completely visible to the naked eye, Ranger Thomas located bloody shoe prints on the carpet near the body and drag marks (caused by the dragging of the body) into the master bedroom. Ranger Thomas interviewed the victim's boyfriend and noticed his shoe soles were similar to shoe prints found at the crime scene. Ranger Thomas examined the shoes and observed what appeared to be blood and hair on the shoe sole and toe. Using Hemastix, a chemical used to detect the presence of human blood, on the shoe showed positive results. On November 14, Sgt. Thomas arrested the victim's boyfriend for murder.

Company D—San Antonio

Assault suspect arrested in San Antonio

On April 3, the San Antonio Police Department contacted the Wilson County Sheriff's Office about an aggravated kidnapping and sexual assault that originated in La Vernia. The suspect was detained by Wilson County Sheriff's investigators. Ranger Sgt. Rodolfo Jaramillo responded to the crime scene at the motel in San Antonio.

Following a 911 call made by the victim's young son, investigators discovered that the suspect abducted his estranged wife and son and drove them to the motel. At the hotel, the suspect repeatedly assaulted and sexually assaulted his estranged wife while in the presence of his son. The suspect is charged with aggravated sexual assault, aggravated assault, two counts of aggravated kidnapping and

unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Victim tortured and killed by gang

On May 5, Ranger Sgts. Dewayne Goll and Tony DeLuna traveled to Atascosa County to assist the Sheriff's office with a capital murder investigation. The male victim had been tortured and killed in a rural field, and his body was found the next day. The victim had been cut, stabbed and shot, and his ankles and wrists had been bound with duct tape. The victim's left hand also received severe trauma with several fingers partially severed.



The investigation revealed the murder was related to members of the criminal street gangs, Aryan Brotherhood and Aryan Circle. It is also believed the victim was murdered because he had stolen drugs from the Aryan Brotherhood. After interviewing several individuals, investigators arrested four suspects for this homicide.

Mayor arrested for assault of juvenile

On August 15, a 12-year-old female made an allegation that she was sexually assaulted

by the mayor of Poteet. The victim alleges the sexual assault occurred sometime during 2007 at the suspect's place of business located in Poteet. The Atascosa County district attorney requested Ranger Sgt. Tony DeLuna to assist with the preliminary investigation.

Ranger DeLuna interviewed witnesses regarding the victim's outcry. On September 23, investigators presented their findings to the Atascosa County grand jury, which issued true-bill indictments against the Poteet mayor for aggravated sexual assault of a child. Ranger Sgts. DeLuna and Shane Staley arrested the mayor at his place of business without incident.

Company E—Midland

Law enforcement investigates YFZ Ranch

On March 31, the Schleicher County Sheriff contacted Ranger Sgt. Brooks Long and advised him that a crisis center had received several "outcries" from a 16-year-old female who was pregnant and had an 8-month-old child. She also said she was married to a 50-year-old man from the Yearning for Zion (YFZ) Ranch in Schleicher County. The female requested to be removed from the ranch and made allegations of physical abuse from her husband.

The YFZ Ranch is owned and controlled by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (FLDS). Ranger Long prepared an affidavit for a search and arrest warrant and was assisted by the 51st Assistant District Attorney. On the same day, the 51st Judicial district judge signed a search

warrant in San Angelo. Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (CPS) obtained a court order from the same District Judge ordering the interview of females between the ages of 7 and 17 at the YFZ Ranch.

Officers of the DPS, Midland, Tom Green, Schleicher and Sutton County sheriff's departments agreed to assist in the search. Officers entered the ranch with CPS investigators. The CPS investigators conducted interviews of young YFZ females inside the ranch and obtained the names of young females identified as potential victims.

CPS obtained additional orders from the 51st Judicial District Judge in removing all females under the age of 18 from the ranch. Later, a subsequent court order was issued to remove all children under the age of 17, including males. CPS and law enforcement officers had believed the ranch was occupied by approximately 150 to 200 FLDS members. During the removal process, it was determined that more than 450 children inhabited the ranch.

During the subsequent search, officers located information and documents showing evidence of criminal activity. Presently, a Schleicher County Grand Jury has returned 23 indictments against 12 defendants, ranging from sexual assault of a child and bigamy to unlawful marriage ceremony to a minor.

Suspect jailed for 50 years for murder

On May 4, Ranger Sgt. Philip Vandygriff was called to assist the Scurry County Sheriff's Office with the investigation of a shooting. When Ranger Vandygriff arrived at

the location north of the Snyder city limits, he was advised that an adult male had been shot in the chest or neck area by another adult male.

Ranger Vandygriff, the Sheriff and Scurry County deputies processed and collected evidence from the scene, ultimately locating three vehicles that were at the scene. The victim succumbed to his neck wound shortly thereafter. Investigators identified a suspect and arrested him for the murder. He later pled guilty to murder and accepted a sentence of 50 years in the Texas Department of Corrections Institutional Division.

Fugitive and suspected killer arrested

On July 22, Ranger Sgt. Brian Burzynski responded to a manhunt near Iraan for an adult male believed to have committed several crimes, including capital murder in Crane County earlier that same day. After fatally stabbing a homeowner, who was returning home from work, the suspect fled in the victim's vehicle and led officers on a multi-county pursuit before crashing the vehicle in a pasture in Pecos County.

Officers located and apprehended the suspect within miles of the crash site. Ranger Sgt. Jess Malone assisted the Crane Police Department in processing and investigating the crime scene at the victim's residence. Ranger Burzynski submitted the knife believed to have killed the victim to the DPS Crime Lab in Lubbock for trace and ballistic examinations. On August 7, the lab informed Ranger Burzynski that they had made a positive match of the broken knife blade parts



Ranger Philip Vandygriff processed a murder scene near Snyder. One piece of evidence was this gun (above). The suspect pled guilty and received a 50-year sentence.

found at the scene and in the victim. This suspect was a fugitive from justice in Colorado.

Company F—Waco

Mansion fire investigation continues

On June 8, the Austin Fire Department responded to a fire at the Governor's Mansion. The State Fire Marshal's Office and the ATF began in investigation into the origin and cause of the fire. Video surveillance footage from the mansion's cameras identified the cause of the fire as arson, showing what appeared to be a man throwing an incendiary device at the front door of the mansion.

Ranger Sgts. Jimmy Schroeder and Rocky Wardlow responded to the scene on the day of the fire to provide assistance to the State Fire Marshal's Office and ATF. Investigators collected video surveillance tapes from locations near the crime scene and reviewed the video to try to identify potential suspects or witnesses. In an attempt to locate possible

suspects, they also interviewed potential witnesses. This investigation continues.

Coach indicted for sexual assault

On July 23, the Marble Falls Police Department requested the assistance of Ranger Sgt. Garth Davis in a possible sexual assault of a child investigation. A member of a select basketball team, not affiliated with a public school, reported that another member of the team, a 16-year-old female, had received sexually explicit text messages from the adult male coach of the team and that he had possibly had oral sex with the female.

Ranger Davis interviewed several witnesses and the victim. They alleged that the suspect had also sexually assaulted the victim in the Houston area. Investigators drafted a search warrant for the suspect's residence in Lubbock, which was executed by Ranger Sgt. Todd Snyder. Ranger Davis obtained an arrest warrant for the suspect for the offense of possession of child pornography, and the suspect surrendered himself to the Burnet County jail on July 28.

On August 14, Ranger Sgt. Crayton McGee obtained a warrant for sexual assault of a child in Harris County. For this warrant, on August 19, the suspect, who had previously bonded out of jail, again surrendered himself to the Burnet County jail. On December 12, he was indicted on two counts of sexual assault of a child in Harris County.

Neighbor shoots and kills suspected thief

On July 30, the Llano County Sheriff's Office requested assistance from Ranger Sgt.

Kyle Dean. A Kingsland resident confronted three individuals who were committing theft from an unoccupied neighboring home. As the suspects' vehicle departed the scene, the Kingsland resident fired a handgun at the vehicle, striking the vehicle and causing serious bodily injury to one of the suspects, who was sitting in the back seat of the vehicle.

Emergency responders evacuated the suspect by helicopter to a hospital in Austin. Ranger Dean assisted in processing the crime scenes and interviewing witnesses. On August 5, the Kingsland resident was arrested. The injured suspect died on September 18, and on November 9, a Llano County grand jury indicted the resident for criminally-negligent homicide.

Company G—McAllen

Minor charged with capitol murder

On June 16, Ranger Sgt. Rolando Castañeda assisted the Harlingen Police Department with the investigation of a male schoolteacher's body that was discovered in his apartment by apartment employees. The victim had stab wounds to his neck. His vehicle, wallet and cell phone were missing.

Earlier that same day, officers had arrested a juvenile for driving under the influence, and he was driving the victim's vehicle. As a result of the investigation, the Rangers arrested the juvenile, and he was charged with capital murder.

Toddler murdered and suspect arrested

On July 29, the Hidalgo County Sheriff's

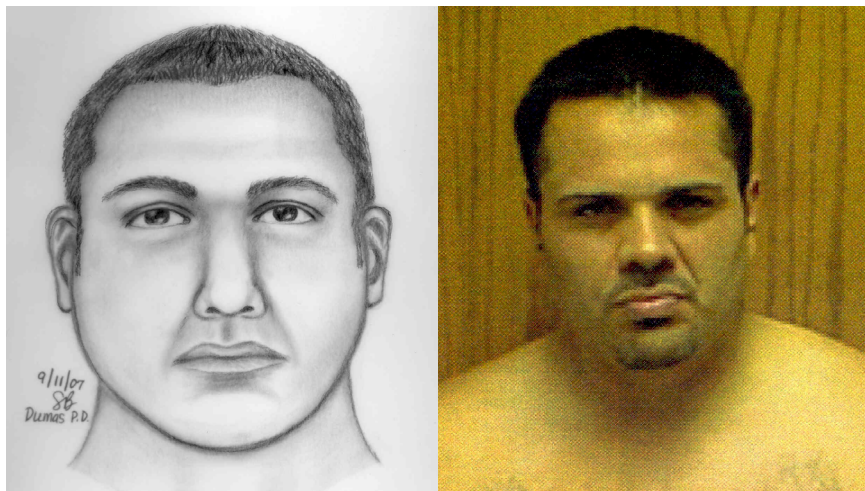
Office requested that Ranger Sgt. Robert Matthews assist them with a murder investigation. A vehicle was traveling north on a road in Edinburg, when a Ford Taurus abruptly entered the victim's lane of traffic and stopped in the roadway. Two male suspects exited the Taurus and discharged multiple rounds into the passenger's side compartment and fled the scene. A 3-year-old female passenger in the victim's vehicle was shot in the head and killed by the unknown assailants. Investigators arrested one suspect, and this investigation continues.

Murder suspect arrested

On September 1, Ranger Sgt. Robert Hunter was contacted by the Webb County Sheriff's Office for assistance with a possible homicide investigation. When Ranger Hunter arrived at the scene, he saw a person lying in an open cesspool. The property owner identified the suspect, who was apprehended by U.S. Border Patrol agents at the IH-35 checkpoint into Mexico. On September 23, Ranger Hunter presented this investigation to a grand jury and a true bill was returned.

Texas Ranger Forensic Artist

Texas Rangers Forensic Artist Suzanne Lowe (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



At the request of the Dumas Police Department, the Ranger's forensic artist drew this rape suspect drawing (left). As a result of the investigation, which included the publication of the drawing, the suspect was arrested and given three life sentences.

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

Serial rapist sentenced to life

On Aug. 13, 2007, around midnight, a 15-year-old female was in the front yard of her grandmother's house in Dumas when she was grabbed from behind and "something sharp" was pressed to her neck. A man dragged her across the yard and hit her in the face as he attempted to remove her sweatpants. A neighbor, who heard the commotion, went outside to see what was happening, and the male suspect fled from the scene.

The Dumas Police Department was contacted. Then, they contacted Ranger Todd

two weeks later, on August 27, another young woman was attacked. She was taking out her trash after nightfall and was grabbed from behind with the suspect's arm around her neck. She bit him in the crook of his right arm. A fire truck with its sirens going drove past nearby, and the suspect fled. This victim never saw his face.

On Sept. 10, 2007, exactly two weeks later, at approximately 5:30 a.m., a 27-year-old woman opened her back door into her privacy-fenced backyard to let her puppy out. A man forced the door open, put his left arm around her throat and dragged her into the yard. They struggled as he threatened to kill her several times. She fought back, but he choked and raped her and then fled. She had seen the "wanted" posters and knew she could add to the image. The next morning, Lowe flew to Dumas, interviewed the victim and developed a second drawing (left).

Snyder, who referred them to Forensic Artist Lowe. She met with the victim, who described the suspect, and developed a drawing of him on Aug. 24, 2007. The drawing was distributed to area media. "Wanted" posters were put up and the image was sent to law enforcement.

Through investigation, the police department identified several suspects, but exactly

The suspect's roommates saw the drawing and called police. One of the victims picked his driver license photo from a photo line-up on Sept. 12, 2007. Local police put Rufus Sito Nanez, III, 33, under surveillance, and later that same day, stopped him for transporting a child without a safety seat. They arrested him on previous warrants from another city. He had packed his truck in an attempt to leave town. In his truck, officers discovered the clothes that he had worn the morning of the Sept. 10, 2007, attack.

DPS Crime Lab testing proved that the clothing yielded the third victim's blood. Special analyses involving animal DNA were conducted at the veterinary genetics lab at the University of California—Davis, proving that fecal matter on the suspect's shirt matched the third victim's dog. Photos, taken of Nanez on the day of his arrest, documented semi-circular-shaped bruises in the crook of his right arm, bruises on his stomach and scratches on the right and back of his neck.

On Oct. 11, 2007, he was indicted on three counts—aggravated sexual assault and two counts of attempted aggravated sexual assault. On Dec. 10, 2008, Nanez, 34, was found guilty of two aggravated sexual assaults and burglary of a habitation with intent to commit other felony. He received three life sentences.

Rapist put behind bars for life

On Aug. 11, 2006, a 72-year-old woman, living alone, was sexually assaulted in her home in Cameron. The victim reported being attacked again on Sept. 16, 2006. DNA



Investigators arrested this man (above), who committed four rapes and multiple crimes in Cameron. A multi-agency investigation, including a composite drawing of him (left), and DNA evidence led to his arrest.

evidence from both assaults was submitted to the DPS Crime Lab in Waco. The same victim was sexually assaulted, yet again, in her home on Feb. 16, 2007. The victim was unable to state if it was the same suspect each time and unable to provide a description other than a “young, thin, black male.” For the third time, DNA evidence was sent to the DPS Crime Lab in Waco.

On March 19, 2007, an unknown black male forced his way into a 69-year-old female’s Cameron residence. He threatened her with a knife, sexually assaulted her and stole her cash. Both the sexual assault kit and the victim’s wallet were sent to the Waco Lab for DNA and fingerprint analysis.

On March 26, 2007, an aggravated robbery and assault occurred at the residence of a 43-year-old female in Cameron by a young, black, thin male. She was able to fight him off and view his face. He stole her cell phone as he ran out the door.

On April 13, 2007, the Cameron Police

Department requested assistance from the Texas Ranger forensic artist in the form of a composite drawing. Artist Lowe met with the victim and developed the drawing on April 18, 2007. The drawing was widely circulated by the media.

That same month, Ranger Matt Lindemann and the Cameron Police Department were informed of a case-to-case, unsolved CODIS query match, linking the first three sexual as-

saults to an unidentified assailant.

By the end of April, the results from the March 2007 attack were still pending, but public tips had identified Lloyd Anthony Nelson as a person of interest. A witness then picked him out of a photo line-up, and authorities took a DNA sample from him and sent it to the DPS Waco Lab.

By May 2, 2007, the Crime Lab had developed Nelson’s DNA profile, which linked him to all four sexual assaults. Authorities also analyzed the fifth victim’s cell phone records, which showed that the phone had been used to call Nelson’s mother on the day after the fifth attack.

The Cameron Police Department arrested Nelson for one charge of aggravated sexual assault of an elderly person. While in jail on May 4, 2007, Nelson was also served with arrest warrants on the other assaults.

He was indicted in June 2007 on charges of first-degree felonies of burglary of habitation with intent to commit robbery and sexual

assault, second-degree felonies of robbery and burglary with intent to commit theft and first-degree felonies of aggravated robbery and aggravated sexual assault.

A year and a half later, two weeks before his scheduled trial, on Oct. 31, 2008, Nelson pled guilty to first-degree felony aggravated sexual assault. This was with the understanding that the sentencing would include all charges to keep the victims from having to testify, according to Milam County District Attorney Kerry Spears. Shortly before Christmas 2008, 20th District Court Judge Ed Magre sentenced Nelson, 19, to life in prison.

Texas Ranger Unsolved Crimes Investigation Team

The Texas Legislature authorized the creation of the Unsolved Crimes Investigation Team (UCIT) on Sept. 1, 2000. Beginning in January 2008, one UCIT Ranger sergeant was stationed within each of the seven Ranger companies. Each UCIT sergeant is responsible for conducting investigations of unsolved murders or what appear to be serial or linked criminal episodes within their respective company. Because there is no statute of limitation for the offense of murder, the state has a moral and statutory obligation to pursue these cases to a successful resolution.

Company C UCIT

On Dec. 29, 2005, the skeletal remains of an unidentified teenage male homicide

victim were found in Lubbock County. Texas Ranger Company C UCIT Sgt. Tony Arnold assisted the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office in searching for additional remains.

On Feb. 13, 2006, an original two-dimensional forensic drawing was released to the media but produced no leads. On Oct. 18, 2006, Ranger Arnold requested that the then-new Texas Rangers Forensic Artist Suzanne Lowe conduct a facial reproduction of the skull. Lowe completed a three-dimensional reproduction of the skull and subsequently completed a new two-dimensional facial reproduction of the skull.

On Dec. 19, 2007, the DPS Public Information Office released the new two-dimensional facial reproduction to news media in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico. The press release generated new leads to the Texas Rangers and the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office.

As a result of the media release, family reference sample DNA kits were collected from potential paternal and maternal sources

and submitted to the University of North Texas (UNT) DNA Identity Laboratory, where the victim's DNA profile was already on file. On Feb. 20, 2008, the UNT Laboratory reported the DNA profile from the skeletal remains matched the submitted DNA family reference samples and the identity of the 17-year-old male victim was confirmed as Bernard Wilson.

On March 5, 2008, Ranger Arnold and Lubbock County Sheriff's Office Investigator Doug Sutton located the 2005 murder scene of Bernard Wilson. Company C Texas Rangers processed the three-year-old crime scene.

Ranger Arnold and Investigator Sutton identified and interviewed several witnesses and suspects, and murder warrants were issued for the suspects. On April 22, 2008, a Lubbock County grand jury issued indictments for the murder of Bernard Wilson for six suspects. The following is a list of the defendants and the sentences they received: Keyairra Brown, 29 years; Leslie Evans, 25 years; Carnell Littlejohn, 10 years; Joe Ragan, 10 years; Tamar Snyder, five years and Wanda Wilson, five years.



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



The condition of the skeletal remains (shown above) prompted a murder investigation by UCIT Ranger Tony Arnold and the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office.



Following an investigation involving the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office, the Texas Rangers, their forensic artist and the DPS Public Information Office, Keyairra Brown pled guilty to murder on Dec. 22, 2008, and was sentenced to 29 years in prison. In addition, five other suspects were sentenced to TDCJ for terms of five to 25 years.

Company F UCIT

Skeletal remains found and analyzed

On April 9, 2000, a fisherman found a human skull in a rural area of Falls County near the community of Blevins. Law enforcement conducted a search and located additional human remains, however they were unable to identify the body. The skeletal remains were held as evidence until May 31, when Ranger Sgt. Matt Cawthon released them to Forensic Artist Suzanne Lowe.

Lowe agreed to attempt a facial reconstruction from the existing skull in an effort to identify the victim. After examining the remains, however, she explained that the

mandible, which is the lower jaw bone, was missing and would be needed for an accurate reconstruction. On November 7, investigators and forensic anthropologists conducted a search at the original site, where the skull was found. In addition to a ground search, the DPS Dive Team searched the stock tank. Searchers found several more human bones. This investigation continues.

UCIT helps solve oldest cold case in San Diego history

On Dec. 28, 1971, Gerald Jackson was stabbed to death in his apartment in San Diego, Calif. The crime remained unsolved for 37 years, until an intern working for the San Diego Police was reviewing old case files in 2007 and discovered fingerprint evidence suitable for Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) submission. As a result, AFIS identified the latent fingerprint as belonging to Gerald Metcalf, now 62-years-old and living in Chandler, Texas.

In 2008, UCIT Ranger Matt Cawthon began assisting the San Diego Police in the case. He located Metcalf, and on August 27, Ranger Cawthon and San Diego Police Homicide Detective John Teft

interviewed him. They obtained fingerprint and DNA evidence, and Metcalf confessed, claiming self-defense even though he had allegedly stabbed the victim more than 50 times. Ranger Cawthon arrested him on Oct. 14, 2008. The investigation and suspect's confession closed the oldest unsolved murder in the history of San Diego. The suspect is currently awaiting trial in San Diego.

Murder of City Dog Catcher

On June 18, 2007, City of Bellmead Texas Animal Control Officer Bobby Evans was gunned down as he entered the city animal shelter in a remote area of Bellmead. Ranger Sgt. Steve Foster (now retired) originally assisted the Bellmead Police with the investigation.

In 2008, UCIT Ranger Matt Cawthon began an investigation that resulted in the arrest of two suspects, Jerry Mack Newland and James Ramirez. Newland and Ramirez had apparently been in the process of manufacturing methamphetamine when Officer Evans arrived at the shelter. The suspects, believing that Officer Evans had discovered them, approached the officer and shot him several times in the back.

On Dec. 18, 2008, both Newland and Ramirez were indicted for murder by the McLennan County Grand Jury. Both suspects are in custody and awaiting trial in McLennan County.



UCIT Ranger Cawthon re-opened a case from the year 2000, in which only a human skull was found. A search for additional human remains by law enforcement and anthropologists yielded more bones for investigators to examine in trying to solve the case.

Driver License



The Driver License Division (DLD) has 223 commissioned officers and 1,463.9 noncommissioned employees for a total of 1,687.9 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 bureaus.

The mission of the DLD is to provide customers with an exceptionally positive experience, promote public safety and enhance safe driving on all Texas roadways by:

- Issuing quality driver licenses and identification cards.*
- Collecting, maintaining and providing reliable accurate records.*
- Enforcing and administering laws in a way that upholds our reputation for integrity and fairness.*

Driver Responsibility Program

Program enhancements

During the 80th Legislative Session, Legislators passed Senate Bill 1723, authorizing the Department to implement additional collection methods for the Driver Responsibility Program (DRP). As a result, the DRP vendor contract was amended to introduce new methods of communicating with surcharge customers in addition to mailing notices. In May 2008, Municipal Services Bureau (MSB) began mailing supplemental surcharge notifications and on Sept. 2, began making courtesy telephone calls to surcharge customers who are in default.

During the first week of courtesy calls, the vendor connected with 151 surcharge customers, some of whom indicated they were not aware of the status of their driver license. By the end of November, more than 92,000 telephone contacts had been attempted. Of this number, only 3 percent of the contacts actually reached the customer, a comparable percentage to the contact rates for other collection programs. The most up-to-date telephone and address information is available to the vendor via the U.S. Postal Service and other services used for contacting as many customers as possible.

Additionally, the bill amended the procedure for installment plans. Implemented on June 23, surcharge customers can re-establish

a defaulted installment agreement. All accounts with an installment agreement default were advised of the option to re-establish the agreement. Customers can also move their due date to a more convenient time of the month based on their ability to pay.

Legislative update

The House committees on Public Health and Transportation were charged with conducting an interim study of the effectiveness of the DRP and providing recommendations for increasing the collection rate of assessed penalties. In April, the joint committees held a hearing in which the DLD provided an overview of the program. The hearing prompted further contacts from various legislators to discuss the surcharge program and possible legislative changes for the 2009 session. The DLD provided a presentation at the State Capitol on Nov. 17. The presentation included a brief overview of the program, a review of the current compliance rate and strategies implemented to improve the compliance rate.

Public education

The Division continued to expand its DRP education efforts with the publication of a pamphlet that covers program information. The DLD is coordinating with Texas court and other associations to provide the pamphlet for distribution to the public.

TexasSure

The Department worked in conjunction with the Texas Department of Insurance, the Department of Information Resources and the Texas Department of Transportation to develop a database that identifies uninsured



drivers in Texas. The program consists of a secure database that currently matches 16 million-plus vehicle registrations on passenger vehicles to insurance records reported on personal auto insurance policies by more than 200 Texas insurance companies.

In February, the multi-agency committee for the Financial Responsibility Verification Program met and selected the name “TexasSure” with the tag line of “Vehicle Insurance Verification.” Additionally, the committee worked together with the selected advertising agencies to develop media goals and a media relations plan. The campaign, which launched in June, incorporated a strong grass roots effort along with radio and outdoor media to reach target audiences.

In May, the Department completed comprehensive testing and in June, the Texas Highway Patrol (THP) in the Austin area began a 60-day pilot of the program. The database was used as an additional tool to assist law enforcement in verifying insurance at the time of a traffic stop. The assessment period included a focus group of several THP troopers who used the system extensively and

expressed confidence in the information that it provides.

The pilot program further satisfied expectations regarding the integrity of the data. It was determined that the system was a beneficial tool for law enforcement.

Statewide implementation of the program began October 1. Statistics gathered for the first month of full implementation indicated that nearly 2.3 million queries were performed with 92 percent returning a response. The remaining 8 percent required additional research.

Texas Hold 'Em

On June 19, Governor Rick Perry held a press conference to announce the “Texas Hold 'Em” initiative. This program, developed by the U.S. Border Patrol in conjunction with DPS, establishes a process for reporting convictions of commercial drivers who have committed felonies by transporting drugs or undocumented aliens in a commercial vehicle. Texas is the first state to participate in this type of program.

DPS participated in the Governor’s press conference to support the collaborative efforts between DPS and the U.S. Border Patrol. DLD Chief Judy Brown provided information on the campaign’s positive impact to promote the Department’s goal of increasing



Texas Governor Rick Perry announces Texas Hold 'Em, a process for reporting convictions of commercial drivers who have committed felonies by transporting drugs or undocumented aliens in a commercial vehicle.

safety on the public roadways and the security of our nation’s border.

The program’s major initiatives include:



Driver License Chief Judy Brown speaks at the Texas Hold 'Em press conference held at the State Capitol building.

- Disqualifying the commercial driving privileges of drivers convicted of felony offenses.
- Increasing awareness of the penalties for human smuggling and drug trafficking.
- A public service campaign to deter illegal activity.
- Creating a “tipster” hotline, including rewards for information leading to felony smuggling convictions.

As a result of the Texas Hold 'Em initiative, 106 cases have been filed, resulting in the disqualification of the individual's commercial driving privileges, including 22 lifetime disqualifications. In one specific case, a Texas licensed driver committed a drug offense using a commercial vehicle in 2002 and then committed the offense of smuggling illegal aliens in September 2007. This is the first known repeat offender reported through Texas Hold 'Em. In another case, one Texas driver was convicted of both transporting undocumented aliens and using a commercial vehicle for drug trafficking. This driver received a lifetime disqualification.

While some of the drivers committing offenses under the Texas Hold 'Em initiative are licensed in Texas, 56 are licensed in other states, including: California, Michigan, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, Ohio, North Carolina, Alabama, New Mexico, Kansas and Nebraska. One recent case involved the smuggling of 50 illegal aliens from Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala by a driver licensed in Florida. All respective licensing jurisdictions have been notified of

the conviction and withdrawal in Texas in order to ensure reciprocal action is taken in the driver's home state.

Customer Service initiatives

The DLD began researching initiatives to enhance customer service that could be rapidly implemented. Key areas for consideration focused primarily on enhancing the connection with our customers. The DLD successfully implemented several initiatives in 2008.

On Nov. 3, the Customer Service Bureau (CSB) implemented a compressed work week consisting of 10-hour shifts while continuing eight-hour shifts in the Contact Center. This initiative was executed as a 90-day project and extended the business hours of the Contact Center from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. This extension of service helps to better meet the needs of our customers, improves the efficiency and timeliness of customer contacts and enables the Contact Center to assist more customers on a daily basis. Additionally, this new schedule allows the Contact Center to remain competitive with outside customer service centers by providing our employees with a flexible work schedule to help meet family, community and commuting obligations.

Further customer service initiatives included the implementation of a new e-mail template on the Department's website that requires pertinent customer information prior to the submission of a request. Contact center representatives can then respond more

efficiently without the need for additional information to provide an accurate response. In addition, CSB management redistributed work tasks so that contact center representatives focus more time on live calls, increasing the ability to handle the number of calls received daily.

With the implementation of these initiatives, the CSB assisted 16 percent more customers in November. This resulted in an average of 47 percent calls answered and a reduction of wait-time in the call queue from 14 minutes to seven minutes, reducing customer wait-time by 50 percent.

In addition, an e-mail tag line, including a link to the customer service survey, was incorporated into the electronic signature of all DLD personnel. By including this link in each e-mail, all customers are reminded of the opportunity to participate in the DLD Customer Service Survey. This provides management with vital information related to workforce issues that affect the quality of service delivered to our customers. The DLD's e-mail tag line reads as follows: “The Driver License Division is committed to quality and excellence in customer service. Please share your thoughts with us via our online customer service survey at <http://survey.utexas.edu/txdps/>.”

Image Verification Section

The Image Verification System (IVS) was approved by the 78th Legislature in 2003. It is a tool for comparing the facial images of driver license (DL) and Texas Identifica-

tion (ID) card applicants to the existing file of driver license images to locate potential matches under different identities. The IVS vendor performed an initial “scrub” (search) of the entire driver license file of images and identified approximately 2.9 million DL and ID card records that required further evaluation due to multiple image matches. An image match occurs when more than one file may contain the photo of the same person. In May 2008, the DLD created an Image Verification Section consisting of 10 verification specialists and one supervisor. The directive of this section is to discover individuals and groups of individuals that use identity fraud to perpetuate other crimes, including terrorism. Cases suspected of having possible criminal activity are sent to DLD commissioned officers for criminal investigation. Additionally, this section works to identify any errors within the system and correct records accordingly.

Commissioned DL troopers are expected to handle thousands of criminal investigations resulting from the IVS case assignments. DL troopers are the subject-matter experts in DL fraud-related crimes. It is expected that numerous arrests and prosecutions will result from these investigations. Above is a graph showing a breakdown of the investigations assigned thus far, including records that received a potential match indication that were not fraudulent attempts but clerical errors. The table also includes a

projection of the total cases expected, based on the current rate of case assignment.

The IVS also has the capability to upload external images from investigators to locate unknown individuals or to provide other identities a suspect may have which could be the key to solving a case. This system is an excellent tool for law enforcement and has proven to be successful.

After Driver License Re-engineering implementation, DL issuance employees will be able to verify the identity of the individual

2.9 Million Scrub Images Possible Matches IVS results May 1 - Dec. 10, 2008

- Total images reviewed – 99,036
- Total criminal investigations assigned – 780
- Total clerical errors found – 13,451
- Percentage of criminal cases to date – approximately 8 percent
- Anticipated future criminal investigations – 232,000

at the time of issuance for a DL or ID card. Additionally, all original DL or ID applicant photographs taken during the course of a business day will be automatically compared, nightly, against all photographs on file by the Image Verification Section. Suspicious activity identified through this process will also be prepared for criminal investigation by DLD field and fraud troopers.

Fraud Investigation Unit

The mission of the DL Fraud Investigation Unit (FIU) is to identify, eliminate and

deter identification fraud through the successful application of investigative techniques resulting in the arrest and prosecution of violators and to inform, advise and educate the public regarding DL fraud and identity theft.

Commissioned FIU personnel assume the responsibility for investigating identity theft and driver license fraud and conducting special assignments. The FIU also assists DL commissioned officers, state, county, city and federal agencies in their investigations of criminal cases involving driver license identity theft and fraud and driver license counterfeiting. Also, the FIU is responsible for internal investigations, including the misconduct of DL employees.

Investigations

Thief assumes others’ identities

A FIU trooper investigated an identity theft involving two Nebraska victims who have never been to Texas. The suspect fled from Nebraska to Texas due to legal trouble and then assumed the identities of both Nebraska victims. This suspect obtained Texas ID cards, under the assumed identities of the victims, and used those cards in the course of criminal activity ranging from motor vehicle crashes and traffic citations to criminal arrests. Investigators identified the suspect using fingerprint analysis from Nebraska criminal records and the suspect’s Texas ID card applications. The suspect is currently incarcerated on unrelated charges. The investigating FIU trooper ob-

tained a written confession from the suspect for the crime of identity theft.

Identity theft ring uncovered

The Oakridge North Police Department requested the assistance of the FIU in an investigation of an identity theft ring. An Oakridge North patrolman had observed a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot of a local business. The patrolman stopped the vehicle and subsequently arrested both occupants. Investigators charged the two suspects with fraudulent use and possession of identifying information, forgery, possession of marijuana and theft of a firearm. During Oakridge North's investigation, investigators determined that the two suspects arrested were connected to a much larger identity theft ring in Houston.

FIU Troopers investigating the case identified six other criminals with extensive criminal affiliations. The investigation resulted in one subject receiving a one-year sentence to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Another subject had his parole revoked for theft and forgery. Investigation of a third suspect by FIU troopers resulted in two charges of tampering with a government record to defraud or harm, which is a second-degree felony.

Financial Crimes Task Force identifies organized identity theft criminal activity

A FIU trooper, working with the Central Texas-Austin Police Department Financial Crimes Task Force, investigated a suspect who was using the identifying information

of victims with high credit scores to facilitate the purchase and financing of vehicles. The suspect engaged in organized criminal activity, along with his accomplice, who had outstanding warrants in Hays, Travis and Williamson counties. The suspect and his accomplice are also under investigation by the Brownsville, Georgetown and San Marcos police departments for similar offenses and narcotics violations.

and sale of fraudulent Texas driver licenses, ID cards, Social Security cards and permanent resident cards at a Houston flea market located on Windswept Drive. While acting in an undercover capacity, FIU troopers purchased a Texas ID from an ID shop located inside the flea market. During the operation, they obtained warrants and seized all equipment used in the manufacturing of the counterfeit Texas driver licenses and ID cards.

FIU Generated Activities

Jan. 1 - Dec. 30, 2008

- Total cases assigned and investigated – 184
- Total cases resulting in arrest – 30
- Total warrants – 8
- Task force assignments – 15
- Subject matter expert assistance – 100

Identity Theft investigation uncovers voter fraud

A suspect assumed the identity of another by presenting documentation and making false statements to obtain a Texas driver license. In addition, the suspect used the Texas driver license as identification while making false entries on a voter registration application with the Bexar County Elections Department. A FIU trooper obtained a third-degree felony warrant on the suspect for fraud.

Operation Windswept

A FIU trooper initiated operation "Windswept," involving the illegal manufacturing

Administration

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 division has 886.5 employees—59 commissioned and 827.5 noncommissioned.

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-

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.

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 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 ink-and-paper method.

The Texas Computerized Criminal History file is also used by authorized licensing and employment agencies to screen persons for positions of trust, especially related to

children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Through a contractor, the Crime Records Service has deployed a network of livescan fingerprinting devices across the state to serve these non-criminal justice applicants. In 2008, that fingerprinting service electronically captured the fingerprints and photographs of approximately 500,000 individuals and transmitted that data to the Crime Records Service for criminal history background searching.

The Texas Data Exchange (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. During 2008, TDEx historical data from 2004 to present was forwarded to the FBI's National Data Exchange for inclusion in the national file as it begins production. The daily updates to that file are also sent to the FBI. In addition, the Crime Records Service 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 2008.

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.

In 2008, the bureau participated in the agency's disaster relief efforts as a result of Hurricane Ike. Private Security Bureau troopers provided law enforcement support and ensured Private Security Act compliance from those companies responding from out of state. The Private Security Bureau Licensing Section also provided support during Hurricane Ike by establishing a temporary licensing monitoring system for those security companies providing support from adjacent states.

The Concealed Handgun Licensing Bureau processes applications for Texas concealed handgun licenses under Chapter 411 of the Texas Government Code. The purpose of the concealed handgun licensing statute is to enable eligible individuals to carry a concealed handgun on or about their persons. Activities include evaluation of the application to determine eligibility, creation of the license and maintenance of the license re-

cord. A concealed handgun license is issued for four years for first-time applicants and for five years for a renewal. 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. An individual desiring to be licensed to carry a concealed handgun must obtain an application for a concealed handgun license, and then attend a course taught by a certified concealed handgun instructor that is no less than 10 hours and no more than 15 hours in length for the initial license. 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, as well as providing services for other state agencies and the general public.

The service consists of the following bureaus: Building Program, Fleet Operations, General Services, Human Resources, Psychological Services 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 as well as environmental projects including underground and aboveground storage tanks. The Department owns 148 office buildings and 121 storage, shop and radio transmission equipment shelters throughout the state. BPB maintains approximately 1,977,745 square feet of floor space at headquarters and in the eight regions.

On September 12, Hurricane Ike struck the shores of Texas, leaving devastation in its path. The BPB responded quickly, providing and installing an emergency portable generator in Beaumont and assessing the damage to DPS facilities. Minor repairs quickly commenced and major repairs to the Galveston facility are in the planning stages. BPB also assisted with repairing minor damages to the facilities caused by Hurricanes Gustav and Dolly.

Building Program completed major renovation projects in the Abilene Crime Lab, the Corpus Christi Crime Lab, the Texas Fusion Center, the Victoria Area Office, the Brownwood Area Office and the Denton Area Office.

Staff also oversaw several minor renova-

tion projects, such as the Ranger offices in Laredo, the Information Management Service offices at Headquarters, the Region 7 (Capitol) offices in Austin and building a computer classroom in the Headquarters Training Academy.

Construction was completed on the new Waxahachie Area Office in November.

Several major construction projects are underway in Garland, Bryan and Waco and they are slated for completion in 2009.

Building Program is supervising the design of an emergency vehicle operations course in Florence, a regional office in Weslaco, a regional office in Lubbock, as well as crime laboratories in Abilene, Tyler, Corpus Christi, El Paso and Houston. An area office in Rio Grande City is planned.

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 vehicles, two-way communications and the associated emergency equipment used by the Department.

The bureau manages a fleet of approximately 3,712 vehicles and consists of the Automotive Shop, the Communications Shop, the Parts Department and the Fleet Office. The Automotive and Communications Shops are full-service facilities capable of handling

the installation, maintenance and repairs of fleet vehicles, communication equipment and any other associated emergency equipment.

During 2008, the Bureau was heavily involved throughout the year with the installation of the in-car computer systems in the patrol vehicles. Communications technicians and installers were dispatched throughout the state to perform the installations. This new project also significantly challenged the Parts Department, which not only had to purchase all of the equipment, but also was tasked with

Physical Readiness Testing

DPS has been conducting employee physical readiness testing since August 1, 2006, in compliance with a 2005 legislative rider that required 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. A 2007 bill added meeting the standards as a requirement of employment in Schedule C commissioned positions.

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. 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.

Fiscal Year 2009 is the final year of a three year phase-in of the mandatory testing, and the Department is currently testing at the 100 percent standard. At the end of FY2008, the Department employed 3,444 commissioned officers. Of those, 3,340 (97 percent) have a passing score on file at the 80 percent level or higher. Only 44 officers have been unable to meet the standards at any level; however, we also have 47 officers who have temporary medical conditions that prevent them from testing and 13 officers who are on military leave or currently suspended.

the responsibility of getting it to the installation site so that the aggressive installation schedule could be met. With the redirection of most of the resources from the Communications Shop to support the in-car project, the Automotive Shop was called on to provide significant assistance with the new car installation process throughout the year.

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.

The General Services Office Staff manages the sales of publications, including various forms and books used by the public and other law enforcement entities, and it is responsible for issuing and distributing department manuals and revisions.

General Stores/Receiving Warehouse is responsible for purchasing and maintaining stocked inventory and issuing supplies. In 2008, this section destroyed 588 confiscated firearms, outfitted 241 recruits (three schools) and processed 4,500 items of surplus property through the Receiving Warehouse.

Reproduction consists of Graphics, Quick Copy, Print Shop and Bindery. In 2008, the section printed 1,900 General Manuals, created, updated and maintained more than 2,000 numbered forms, completed 2,337 jobs and printed more than 45 million impressions. Mail Operations folded/inserted 2,111,736 items of outgoing mail (a 3 percent increase over 2007), metered 4,303,568 items (a 7 percent increase over 2007) and prepared more

than 70,000 Concealed Handgun License packets.

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 and 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 8,125 current employees and 4,426 former employees.

The Recruiting Office provides an ongoing recruiting effort to attract qualified applicants for Department commissioned positions. During 2008, the office tested 448 applicants to fill three recruit schools, ultimately offering positions to 268 of those applicants. The office also conducts ongoing physical readiness testing for current employees on a regular basis throughout the year and coordinates the DPS trooper-trainee internship program.

The Law Enforcement Promotional Section administers the promotional process for commissioned positions and some noncommissioned positions. In 2008, the office administered 46 separate promotional processes that resulted in 2,000 applications and 255 candidates being placed on eligibility lists.

The Risk Management Section processed a total of 576 workers' compensation claims resulting in lost time from work or medical expenses for the agency that totaled \$2,260,000 in 2008.

The Employment and Compensation Section performs job analyses and evaluations on agency positions, conducts market surveys on local, state or national levels, makes recommendations for appropriate classification and equitable compensation as well as career ladders and composes/revises agency job descriptions. The section also oversees agency job announcements, posting 1,330 vacancies and processing and testing approximately 18,536 applicants for employment in 2008 through November.

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 and two administrative assistants located at headquarters in Austin. The staff also includes 14 associate psychologists stationed at regional headquarters and district offices throughout the state. Programs operated by the bureau consist of specific services provided by the staff psychologist, Victim Services, Critical Incident Response Team and the Employee Assistance Program. The Bureau also provides administrative oversight for the Department's 50 volunteer chaplains and provides consultation

and administrative support for the Department's Veterans Assistance Program.

From January through November, the staff psychologist conducted 145 individual psychotherapy sessions. The victim services director and regional counselors assisted 3,352 crime victims, providing assistance to 1,091 victims on an ongoing basis. The volunteer chaplains contributed 2,010 hours to serve crime victims. The Critical Incident Response Team had 104 contacts and the Employee Assistance Program reported 58 requests for assistance from employees and their family members.

Other activities for 2008 include responding to the line of duty death of Trooper Scott Burns in May by providing services to his family, friends and co-workers. Bureau staff also provided services to the victims and first responders involved in the raid on the Yearning for Zion Ranch in Schleicher County in April and to emergency responders in the wake of Hurricane Ike in September.

Training Bureau

The Training Bureau provides an array of training courses to the Department's commissioned and noncommissioned employees and officers from other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The bureau is comprised of the Training Academy, Administrative Training Unit and the Motorcycle Safety Training Unit.

Training Academy

In 2008, the Training Academy instructed

more than 226 different courses for a total of 552,024 training contact hours in the three major programs: Recruit School, In-Service Schools and Specialized Schools, a 23 percent increase in the total student contact hours provided from 2007 and includes graduation of three recruit schools—C-07, D-07 and A-08 for a total of 272 new troopers.

In November 2007, voters approved bonds for the construction of the Emergency Vehicle Operation Center in Florence. The center will be a state-of-the-art driving facility, filling a tremendous void in police driver training for all law enforcement in Texas. The preliminary phase of construction began in October 2008. The first phase involves construction of the skills pads for recruit driver training in 2009 with the remainder of the project scheduled to be completed by March 2010.

City, county and federal agencies frequently use the Florence firing range. The Florence staff regularly tests equipment, such as protective vests, weapons and ammunition. The range personnel facilitated the transition from the Remington 870 pump shotgun to a Mossberg M590A1 shotgun with higher round capacity as a result of their recommendations. The Florence staff continues to provide basic and advanced firearm training with individualized training as needed. The Training Academy staff instructed 63 percent more new concealed handgun license instructors in 2008 from the previous year.

Administrative Training Unit

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 Administrative Training Unit conducted a training needs assessment for each division and is developing curriculum to meet those needs and using different delivery mechanisms for learning, such as e-learning and interactive video simulcast.

Motorcycle Safety Unit

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 100 locations across Texas. The courses include 15 hours of instruction consisting of five hours of classroom and ten hours of range activities. More than 41,000 Texans attended motorcycle training in 2008.

Governor's Division of Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Division (EMD) is charged with carrying out a comprehensive all-hazards emergency management program for the state and assisting cities, counties and state agencies in implementing their own emergency management programs. The Division, led by Chief Jack Colley, has 176 employees and an organized corps of part-time disaster reservists 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 and public awareness campaigns; 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, coordinating joint state and local border security activities, 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 and Sheltering Plan and the Drought Contingency Plan. The Preparedness Section worked with the Department of State Health Services on planning for

During activation, the State Operations Center (SOC) fills up with representatives from state, federal and voluntary agencies, and the private sector. The SOC serves as the state warning point and primary state direction and control facility.



the state's response to a potential outbreak of pandemic influenza. 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 2008, the EMD Plans Unit reviewed more than 2,000 local planning documents from local governments throughout Texas.

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 respond during disasters.

Training is conducted at facilities in Austin and locations around the state by the EMD staff and instructors from other state agencies. During 2008, EMD training programs delivered more than 65,000 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.

EMD sponsors a program of regional and state-level emergency exercises funded by homeland security grants. Exercises are planned, conducted and evaluated by a con-



A surge marker displayed in the DPS Headquarters lobby gives some perspective on how much water a hurricane can bring onshore during a storm surge.

tractor with input from EMD and the participants; 21 state and regional exercises were conducted during 2008. Cities and counties reported that they conducted more than 150 emergency exercises during the year.

The EMD Preparedness Section administers U.S. Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management Performance Grants, which support both state and local emergency management programs. EMD contracts for operation of a statewide mutual aid system, incident management training and emergency shelter and mass care support. The Preparedness Section also operates the Special Needs Evacuation Tracking System (SNETS), 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 SNETS received recognition as part of the Computerworld Honors Program and an excellence award for innovative technology from the Texas Association of State Systems for Computing and Communications.

The Preparedness Section and other EMD staffers also organized the 2008 State Hurricane Preparedness Conference conducted in Galveston. More than 2,000 state and local emergency responders and officials attended the Hurricane Conference. The 2008 State Homeland Security Conference, scheduled for December in San Antonio, was postponed until March 2009 due to ongoing disaster recovery operations for Hurricane Ike.

Threat monitoring and emergency response coordination

EMD manages and staffs the SOC, which operates around the clock to monitor threats and ongoing incidents, 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, other volunteer groups, industry partners and liaison teams from federal agencies convene at the SOC. They identify, mobilize and deploy state and industry resources and volunteer groups to respond to emergencies.

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

In 2008, the SOC monitored more than 6,200 incidents around the state and EMD Regional Liaison Officers carried out field responses to more than 600 serious local incidents.

Border Security Operations

The Border Security Operations Center (BSOC) planned, coordinated and evaluated joint state and local border security operations intended to supplement the efforts of Federal law enforcement agencies to keep

criminals from exploiting the porous Mexico border. Representatives of state, local and federal agencies and contractors staff the facility. The BSOC planned and coordinated a large number of joint law enforcement operations throughout the year along various sections of the Texas border and the South Texas coast. EMD contractors served as border liaison officers to support border security operations at six joint operations intelligence centers in El Paso, Marfa, Del Rio, Laredo, Edinburg and Victoria.

In previous years, border security activities were funded by a variety of state and federal grants. In 2007, the Legislature appropriated funding specifically for border security activities for fiscal years 2008 and 2009. EMD has been administering a series of grants that will total more than \$60 million in state funds over two years to local and state law enforcement agencies for border security operational costs, training and specialized equipment and technology.

Disaster Recovery

In the aftermath of a major emergency or disaster, EMD Disaster Recovery personnel deploy to disaster impact areas to perform joint damage assessments with local and federal officials and to begin implementing FEMA individual assistance programs to aid individuals and families that have become disaster victims and whose homes, businesses and personal property have been damaged or destroyed.

EMD Recovery personnel also work closely with local governments, state agen-

cies, school districts, public hospitals and other eligible public entities to develop public assistance 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. In 2008, the EMD Disaster Recovery staff provided more than \$130 million in public assistance funding to state agencies, local government and other eligible organizations for disaster recovery projects.

Hazard Mitigation

The EMD Mitigation Section administered a number of annual pre-disaster mitigation grant programs for local and regional entities during 2008. The section also administered post-disaster federal mitigation grant programs for local governments and state agencies authorized for previous disasters, as well as new disaster mitigation grant programs authorized in the aftermath of recent federally-declared disasters. The EMD Mitigation staff also administered the federal repetitive flood claims grant program for Texas, which buys homes that have been repeatedly damaged during floods.

During 2008, the EMD Mitigation Section distributed approximately \$49 million in federal funding to local governments and other entities for more than a dozen pre-disaster and post-disaster mitigation programs dating back to 2000 that were still in progress during 2008.

State Administrative Agency operations

The EMD State Administrative Agency (SAA) administers U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants for homeland security programs and projects within the State. In 2008, the SAA continued to administer approximately \$490 million in 2005, 2006 and 2007 DHS homeland security, infrastructure protection and specialized grant programs. The vast majority of all grant funding is awarded to local governments, emergency response organizations, state agencies and other eligible entities to enhance their prevention, emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

During the year, the SAA received some \$184 million in new DHS FY 2008 grant funding for 13 different grant programs that will be distributed to local governments, state agencies and other eligible entities to fund approved homeland security projects.

2008 major emergencies and disasters

EMD began 2008 with the SOC at Level I (Emergency Conditions) to support wildfire response operations. The fire threat continued to increase and spread to 75 percent of the counties in the state during the next three months, with more than a million acres burned. The Texas Forest Service, Texas Department of Transportation and Texas Military Forces took the lead in Texas' wildfire response, but a number of other states also provided firefighters and equipment to battle the fires.

On March 14, the President approved an emergency declaration (EM-3284) for 184

counties in Texas due to the wildfire threat. The declaration authorized FEMA to provide emergency protective measures (Category B), limited to direct federal assistance under the Stafford Act for uncontained fires beginning March 14. Thirty-two additional counties were approved for the same assistance on March 24 and 13 more were approved on March 27, bringing the total number of counties approved for this declaration to 229. Significant numbers of wildfires continued in most areas of the state into the early summer.

Elements of the state emergency management organization were activated at the

SOC for several weeks in April to coordinate shelter, mass care and medical support in San Angelo for at-risk children and other family members removed from the FLDS Yearning for Zion Ranch by state and local law enforcement agencies at the request of the Department of Family and Protective Services.

The SOC was activated on July 20 to carry out preparedness activities for Hurricane Dolly. Dolly made landfall on South Padre Island on July 23 and caused widespread power outages and major and persistent flooding in large areas of the lower Rio Grande Valley. State and local governments,

volunteer groups and industry partners carried out a major shelter and mass care operation plus a large-scale logistics effort to move food, water, ice and other supplies to affected areas.

In response to a request from Governor Perry, President Bush authorized a federal major disaster declaration (DR-1780) for the storm on July 24, and FEMA activated the tele-registration system for disaster victims to enroll for individual assistance programs shortly thereafter. A joint field office staffed by FEMA and EMD recovery, mitigation and community outreach personnel was established in McAllen to coordinate recovery operations with local governments and eligible non-profit organizations. More than 38,000 people registered for disaster assistance and FEMA approved more than 1,100 disaster recovery projects for local governments, state agencies and other public entities.

On August 3, the SOC and the Emergency Management Council activated to plan and execute an appropriate response to Tropical Storm Edouard, which was forecast to become a Category 1 Hurricane and strike the upper Texas coast. Edouard made landfall on the upper Texas coast on August 5 and caused minimal damage.

On August 18 and 19, the state again activated at Level 1 (Emergency Response) in order to respond to significant flooding in Starr County in South Texas and Wichita County in North Texas, which received in excess of 15 inches of rain in a two-day period. Local governments, state agencies and volunteer groups provided assistance with



Emergency Management Division personnel helped coordinate the evacuation, housing and care for more than 400 women and children who were removed from the Yearning for Zion Ranch in Schleicher County in April. (Photo courtesy Kathy Mankin of the Eldorado Success.)

food, water, ice and temporary power for critical facilities.

On August 26, the state emergency organization was activated to coordinate preparations to respond to Hurricane Gustav, which was forecast to become a very powerful hurricane that presented a direct threat to Louisiana and southeast Texas.

FEMA and other federal agencies deployed liaison teams to the SOC. Governor Perry issued a state disaster declaration for counties in southeast Texas based on imminent threat and requested federal assistance.

Mandatory evacuation orders were issued for Jefferson, Orange and Hardin counties and the Southeast Texas hurricane evacuation plan was implemented. An estimated 280,000 evacuees from Southeast Texas evacuated in their personal vehicles. In addition, state and local agencies assisted in the evacuation of approximately 10,000 medical patients and individuals with mobility or self-care limitations by plane, bus and ambulance. A large group of shelters was activated in the Tyler area and shelters were also opened in a number of other cities.

While supporting ongoing evacuations in Texas, at the request of the State of Louisiana, Texas emergency responders evacuated 66 critically ill patients from New Orleans by military aircraft to Texas hospitals. Gustav made landfall in southwest Louisiana as a Category Two hurricane. President Bush issued a federal emergency declaration (EM-3290) for this storm. The President and FEMA Director David Paulison visited the SOC on September 1 for briefings on Hurri-

cane Gustav response activities.

On September 8, the Emergency Management Council, private sector partners, volunteer groups, federal agencies and local jurisdictions again activated at the SOC in order to prepare for impacts from Hurricane Ike, which would prove to be a catastrophic disaster for southeast Texas. An estimated 2.2 million people from Corpus Christi to Orange evacuated. The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, several prisons and two state schools were also evacuated. Nine hundred and fifty buses used to evacuate individuals with special needs and those who lacked transportation; 535 ambulances and para-transit vehicles and 13 medical evacuation helicopters were deployed to assist in the

evacuation of medical patients and special needs groups.

The search and rescue (SAR) response to Hurricane Ike appears to have been the largest SAR effort ever conducted in Texas. SAR teams and aircraft rescued more than 600 people before the storm came ashore and more than 2,900 were rescued after Ike made landfall. SAR units also provided evacuation assistance to 5,800 people before and after landfall. *(See pages 6-8 for additional photos.)*

San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, College Station and cities in East Texas served as major shelter hubs, as more than 500 shelters opened. Approximately 45,000 people were housed in general population shelters and



Members of the national news media wait in the State Operations Center for a briefing with President George W. Bush, Governor Rick Perry and State Coordinator Jack Colley during the state's hurricane response operations.

about 2,800 people in special needs shelters.

State Resource Staging Areas (RSAs) were established in San Antonio, Houston, Beaumont and Tyler. More than 60 points of distribution (PODs) operated by state, federal and local government personnel and volunteers distributed more than 48 million bottles of water, 1,200 truckloads of ice and 9.7 million meals to disaster victims.

The Governor activated Texas Military Forces (TXMF) personnel and equipment in support of response operations. TXMF provided soldiers to staff RSAs, evacuation departure hubs, PODs and temporary refueling points and also delivered supplies and equipment using trucks and helicopters. Mutual aid resources were provided by other states pursuant to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, including incident management teams from Georgia, Florida and Virginia. Numerous communications systems and aviation support were provided by National Guard units from other states. In addition, local resources, which were requested as part of the Statewide Mutual Aid System, provided five public works response teams, local law enforcement units and personnel, EMS units, sanitation trucks and crews and debris removal equipment and crews to assist affected local jurisdictions. It is estimated that more than 20,000 local, state and federal responders and more than 15,000 volunteer group and industry responders participated in Hurricane Ike response activities.

The President issued an emergency declaration (EM-3294) for Hurricane Ike before landfall that covered emergency protective

measures, and a disaster declaration (DR-1791) after landfall. More than 30 fixed and mobile disaster assistance centers were operating in areas impacted by Hurricane Ike and more than 700,000 people have registered for Federal disaster assistance. FEMA estimates some 6,000 disaster recovery projects will be put in place to assist local governments, state agencies, school systems, public hospitals and other eligible entities in repairing or rebuilding facilities and replacing equipment that was destroyed or damaged. Some of these rebuilding projects will take years to complete.



Texas Task Force 1 members performed search and recovery operations after Hurricane Ike, assisting hundreds of residents who wanted to leave the island. Texas Task Force 1 is part of the Texas Extension Service.

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 has 140 full-time employees.

Aircraft

In 2008 the Aircraft Section saw increases in both personnel and equipment. This growth assisted the section in meeting the Department's challenges of border security and the natural disasters of the coastal hurricanes, the West Texas fires and the Presidio floods. Due to the increase in demand, the section ended 2008 with a record year of 7,610 hours flown.

By the fall of 2008, 10 troopers had been added to the section as tactical flight officers. The Tactical Flight Officer (TFO) is important to police helicopter operation because



of their expertise in the use of specialized infrared camera equipment, advanced mapping technology and multiple police communication radios. The value of the position has been demonstrated by the two Garland Police Department officers, assigned to the DPS Garland helicopter station for the last several years, and the increased effectiveness of that station as the result of the TFOs' work. With the two Garland officers and the 10 TFOs recently added, the section needs only three additional FTEs to provide each duty station with this specialized crew member.

Five new duty stations, along with five new helicopters, were added to give the section a total of 14 helicopter stations.

The new Amarillo helicopter will serve an area the size of South Carolina and assist 61 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, serving more than 300,000 citizens in the Panhandle. The other four stations

were added along the Mexico border: El Paso, Alpine, Del Rio and Laredo.

The primary purpose of these stations will be assisting local law enforcement agencies with air support as they combat the criminal elements established along, and moving across, the Rio Grande River. The additional 2008 equipment included a twin engine EC-145 helicopter stationed in Austin. The primary purpose of this helicopter will be to respond to rescue operations with hoist capabilities and to transport specialized units into operational areas.

Hurricane Ike

In the early morning of September 13, a strong hurricane came ashore on the Texas coast between Galveston and Beaumont. The section responded with eight helicopters crewed by pilots, TFOs, THP Dive Team rescue swimmers and numerous additional support personnel and equipment on the ground, including three 500-gallon jet fuel trailers. Before noon, three helicopters were assessing the damage on Galveston Island, searching for victims and reporting back to the Houston regional communications facility.

Within hours of landfall, all eight helicopters were spread out along the coast and surveying the damage to assist the Department in a rapid and effective response of emergency personnel and equipment. For the following five weeks, the section worked

closely with THP and Emergency Management Division personnel to assist with various missions including disaster reconnaissance and looter patrol over the stricken areas. The section flew a total of 395 hours in response to Hurricanes Dolly, Gustav and Ike.

Flooding

For nearly three weeks, floods threatened homes in the Presidio and the Big Bend regions of the Rio Grande. The Aircraft section responded to the record-setting flood with a continued helicopter presence, a fuel trailer and crew members to assist state and local officials with the response. Aircraft also maintained the temporary duty station until the threat subsided.

Fires

The summer of 2008 also brought large fires to West Texas. The section flew more than 225 hours to provide firefighters with aerial command and control platforms and to assist with the disaster reconnaissance of fire damage.

Border Star

Aircraft flew more than 2,095 hours in support of Border Star, a program that provides law enforcement resources to ensure the safety, security and quality of life to the citizens along the Texas/Mexico Border. The DPS aircraft were primarily used for night operations in order to maximize the effectiveness of the helicopters' night vision and infrared detection technology. The air crews were directly responsible for the location and



detention of 588 subjects, the recovery of 8,065 pounds of marijuana and the recovery of 28 stolen vehicles. The border initiative is a sustained program that will require a dedicated and determined effort from all those involved in public safety, and the Aircraft section will be on the front edge of those active participants.

Employee Relations Office

The Employee Relations Office (ERO) provides direct guidance and assistance to both employees and management through the two programs it manages.

The *Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution Program* provides conflict management, interest-based management and mediation training; one-on-one conflict resolution coaching; interest-based problem solving; workplace facilitations and mediations to

all employees and managers.

The 3-½ day Interest-Based Management (IBM) school has now been incorporated into both the Texas Highway Patrol and the Criminal Law Enforcement Divisions' mandatory first-line supervisor schools. During 2008, IBM schools were held in El Paso, Midland, Corpus Christi and Austin. Eighty supervisors were trained in these advanced communication, conflict-management and problem-solving leadership skills. Ten additional employees, from rank of trooper to lieutenant, received the 40-Hour Mediation Training. The Department currently has 26 mediators (10 are trainees) and 29 facilitators/trainers throughout the state. Nineteen mediations and workplace facilitations were conducted. A number of these were referred by upper management and resulted in resolutions, thereby avoiding the time and costs required for additional complaint investigations.

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

During 2008, the office conducted 77 investigations, an almost 10 percent increase over 2007.

In March 2008, 128 new supervisors received the eight-hour mandatory training under this program. Throughout the year, additional classes in sexual harassment and discrimination have been provided to Criminal Law Enforcement, Communications, Capitol Security and Highway Patrol.

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 239 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, 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 other internal 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 assists Department leaders by helping them to provide Texas lawmakers with input and committee testimony regarding current and proposed DPS-related state laws; updating them regarding news and media reports about the agency; and informing them about lawmakers' concerns with agency policies and procedures. It assists state lawmakers and their staff by providing these officials regular updates regarding issues impacting or related to DPS, assistance with constituent casework and responses to their policy inquiries.

The Legislative Liaison Office in November 2008 hired two assistants to handle legislative inquiries, constituent casework and bill monitoring and tracking. It responded to 2,268 Texas public official inquiries and produced identification cards for Texas State Officials and their staffs.

Office of General Counsel

The Office of General Counsel (OGC) advises the Public Safety Commission, the di-

rector 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. There are 11 attorneys in OGC.

During fiscal year 2008, OGC monitored 93 active lawsuits; administered responses to 2,293 open records requests; reviewed 321 contracts and grants; assisted in handling 65 subpoenas; processed 119 claims against the agency; reviewed 39 firearm discharges; reviewed and advised on 245 personnel matters and processed 127 contested cases before the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

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 comprehensive compilation of law enforcement statutes.

OGC is also responsible for coordinating the records management program for the Department, administrative rulemaking and the internal agency policy manual.

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 2008, PIO coordinated the agency's media response on a wide variety of topics, such as a trooper's death, sex offender issues and an arson attack on the Governor's Mansion in Austin. 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 2008:

- Total media calls: 8,215
- Monthly media call average: 684—up from 544 in 2007
- Total public contacts and e-mails: 39,979—up from 28,299 in 2007
- Monthly public contact and e-mail average: 3,331—up from 2,358 in 2007

In addition, PIO handled media relations during a Texas Rangers investigation into allegations of child abuse at a ranch owned by the Fundamentalist Church of Latter Day Saints (FLDS) in Schleicher County. Two PIOs were on the scene in Schleicher County and assisted the elected sheriff with media relations for several months afterward.

The Public Information Office handled media calls after the Governor's Mansion was burned by an arsonist, conducting several briefings in conjunction with the State

Fire Marshal's Office and the Governor's Press Office.

During Hurricane Ike landfall, PIO assisted reporters who stayed in the DPS media room at headquarters in Austin.

PIO assisted with a news conference in Houston announcing a number of arrests related to a dog-fighting investigation that included the Harris County District Attorney's Office and the Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

During 2008, PIO worked with numerous television production companies and writers who were researching potential shows. PIO also joined Twitter, a micro-blogging web site, under the user name TexasDPS_PIO.

The Public Information Office also includes an occupant safety coordinator who oversees traffic safety programs concerning airbags, car seats and safety belts. During 2008, the occupant safety programs coordinator taught four national certification courses and four continuing education courses. She also worked with several hospitals and retail stores to present 12 child passenger safety workshops across the state.

DPS Historical Museum Grand Opening



Carmen Gossett (widow of former DPS director Leo Gossett) cuts the ribbon to formally open the DPS Historical Museum. Also assisting were B.C. Lyon, museum director, and Col. Tommy Davis, DPS director.



The DPS Historical Museum, housed in the main lobby of the Austin headquarters building, opened in May. The museum features items such as a 1951 Highway Patrol car, a 1930 Harley-Davidson motorcycle used for training as well as a communications center from the 1960s and 1970s.

The museum organization still aspires to an even bigger stage—a full-fledged, stand-alone museum on DPS-owned land in Austin—but the effort is funded entirely by donations and memberships. Fund-raising has slowed in recent years.

For more information, you can call Museum Director B.C. Lyon at 512-424-7536, e-mail txdpsmus@flash.net, or visit www.texasdpsmuseum.com.



Awards

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.

James Scott Burns, 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.

Larry W. Buxton, 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.

Ronald R. Snow, Director's Staff: Office of Audit and Inspection

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.

Derek Leitner, Texas Highway Patrol

Paul Kohleffel, Texas Highway Patrol

Jose Ortiz, Criminal Law Enforcement: Narcotics

Steven Bailey, Texas Highway Patrol

Juan E. Hernandez, Criminal Law Enforcement: Criminal
Intelligence Service

John Kopacz, Texas Highway Patrol

Cody Louis Mitchell, Texas Highway Patrol

National Law Enforcement Memorial Service



Tr. Scott Hewitt helps Tyler Holmes light his candle at a candlelight vigil during the 2008 National Police Week in Washington, D.C. Tyler's father, Tr. Todd Holmes, died in a one-vehicle crash in the line of duty in 2007.

In Memory



On April 29, Highway Patrol Trooper James Scott Burns, 39, was shot and killed by a driver he had stopped near the intersection of FM 729 and FM 1969, northeast of Lake of the Pines in Marion County. He was the eighty-third DPS officer to die in the line of duty. He is survived by his wife and six-month-old daughter.