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Trooper makes amazing comeback

By Tom Vinger

It wasn't long ago that Tr. **James Jones** was being transported to the hospital in a medical helicopter, his upper right arm in tatters from a bullet fired from a high-powered rifle. At the time, doctors weren't sure they could save his arm. But today, just a year and a half later, Jones is back on the job.

Jones was one of three law enforcement officers ambushed in May 2002 during an auto theft investigation in Hamilton County. A sheriff's deputy was killed and another was shot and injured. The suspect killed himself as law enforcement closed in.

"History probably will not record it, but I will remember James Jones as a true Texas hero," said **R.K. Elliston**, chief of the Texas Highway Patrol. "He, like many other troopers, put his life on the line and has endured a great deal for the people he took an oath to protect."

Jones' comeback was not an easy one. He underwent seven surgeries to reconstruct his arm, including bone, nerve and tendon grafts.

His law enforcement career began as a sheriff's deputy and it took him six years to realize his goal of becoming a Texas state trooper in 1996.

"I worked too hard to become a trooper and invested too much time doing this job to give it up," said Jones. "I was determined to come back and I got nothing but support everywhere I turned. Nobody said I couldn't do it."

Success wasn't guaranteed though. Just five months after the shooting, Jones returned to light duty in October 2002. "At first, I had trouble holding and writing with a pen and shining my boots—simple things I used to take for granted," said Jones.

The next year brought improvement as Jones adjusted to his limitations and continued his rehabilitation. Initially, he tried to do things left-handed, but then focused on working harder with his injured arm instead. His co-workers knew he was ready to return to regular duty when he went to a range and outshot his brother, who is also a Texas Highway Patrol trooper.

Jones returned to full-duty on Nov. 1, 2003 and transferred to Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Dec. 1 at his request. His duty station remains Goldthwaite.

"He became involved in a situation which should serve as a reminder to all of us that the job of a trooper is a very dangerous one," said Elliston. "James' story has a happy ending because he is a survivor, and for that I will always be thankful."

Dear Fellow Employee,

On Dec. 2, Waco DL techs **Amy Smith** and **Ayanna Brown** helped nab a suspected forger. The two became suspicious when he presented a fake Texas driver license and a fake immigration card while attempting to obtain a valid driver license. The man, who was an Iranian national, was arrested. The FBI has notified us that they plan to pursue federal charges against him.

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Cpl. **Adan Caro** and Tr. **Russell Green** had a pretty big day on Nov. 19: they seized a record \$5.3 million in cash during a traffic stop in Jim Wells County. The CVE troopers had pulled over a truck hauling a load of bread, and the truck's occupants lacked paperwork and gave conflicting stories. During an inspection of the cargo area, the troopers found the cash.

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Both the incident in the Waco DL office and the cash seizure show the importance of remaining vigilant. Heads-up work on the part of all four DPSers involved in these incidents helped stop a forger and took contraband off our streets. Keep up the good work.

Thomas A. Davis Jr.

Short Shots

Ranger golf tournament raises money for good cause

The Texas Rangers of Company "A" hosted a charity golf tournament benefiting Texas youth. The Rangers presented a check to Communities in Schools Houston for \$18,000.

Communities in Schools Houston is a non-profit organization that encourages at-risk students to remain in school by providing and coordinating social services that meet their physical and emotional needs. CIS also encourages these at-risk students to seek further training or higher education.

These are kids who come from families that live at or below the poverty line. The Rangers' contribution will help provide support for major dental needs; support goal-setting activities such as trips to college campuses and businesses; and meet the emergency needs of CIS students with a focus on the bare necessities: food and housing.

Mile Markers

Promotions

THP

Jackie Glenn Webster, Lt., HP Tyler to Capt., HP San Antonio; **Wayland Harvey Jennings, Jr.**, Supv., Veh. Insp. Houston to Reg. Supv., Veh. Insp. Midland; **Thomas C. Gonzalez**, Supv., Comm. San Antonio to Reg. Supv., Comm. McAllen;

Todd Early, Supv., Comm. Abilene to Reg. Supv., Comm., Austin; **Jo Ellen Heselmeyer**, Supv., Motor Carrier to Manager, Veh. Insp. Austin.

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CLE

Mark Milanovich, Lt., Narcotics Svc. Tyler to Capt., Narcotics Svc. San Antonio; **Frank Roger Paige**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Austin to Lt., Narcotics Svc. Austin; **Douglas N. Vance**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Austin to Lt., Narcotics Svc. Austin; **Jed Martin Shelton**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Beaumont to Lt., Narcotics Svc. Lampasas;

Shawn Scott Walsh, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Texas City to Lt., Narcotics Svc. Sulphur Springs; **Otto Edward Arnim**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Corpus Christi to Lt., Narcotics Svc. Austin; **Richard Fernandez**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Del Rio to Lt., Narcotics Svc. Del Rio.

Administration

Randy Ray Batten, Asst. Manager, Crime Records Austin to Manager Crime Info. Austin.

Director's Staff

Douglas Charles Kunkel, Lt., Narcotics Svc Austin to Insp. II, OAI Austin; **Martin Ladis Jackson**, Sgt., Aircraft Midland to Lt., Aircraft Midland.

Rangers

Brad Oliver, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Greenville to Sgt. Rangers Brownfield; **Jeremy Wallace**, Tr. II, HP Gainesville to Sgt., Rangers Midland.

DLD

Robert J. Sells, Sgt., DL Houston to Lt., DL Fraud Inv. Unit Austin; **Micki Sue Sheffler**, Sgt., DL Austin to Lt., DL Midland;

Danny Allison II, Supv., Lic Iss. Austin to Asst. Manager, SR Austin.

Retirements

Barry Means Detlefsen, Lt., Motor Carrier Austin, 33 yrs., 2 mos., 12 days; **Gary Lynn Hall**, Parts Clerk, Fleet Austin, 29 yrs., 3 mos., 4 days; **Juanita Castro Lester**, Tech II, Crime Records Austin, 28 yrs. 8 mos., 29 days; **Charlene Lanell Cain**, Policy Liaison Spec., Crime Records Austin, 30 yrs., 6 mos., 23 days;

Louis Reid Cardinal, Sgt., MVT Lubbock, 30 yrs., 2 mos., 4 days; **Larry Paul Marshall**, Capt., CVE Garland, 29 yrs., 9 mos., 24 days; **Richard Earl Easterwood**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Paris, 29 yrs., 9 mos., 24 days; **Mary Salazar**, Tech, DLD El Paso, 25 yrs., 11 mos., 25 days; **Victor Longoria**, Sen. Tr., CVE McKinney, 21 yrs., 10 mos., 17 days; **Missey Marie Micheletti**, Supv., Crime Lab Austin, 28 yrs., 5 mos., 27 days; **Vickie McArdle Blubaugh**, Tech., DL Lewisville, 20 yrs., 6 mos., 8 days.



On the mend...

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

Trooper Jack Lawson THP Bowie - Fell while chasing suspects.

Trooper Esther Racus DLD Houston - Injury to shoulder during space shuttle recovery effort.

Michael Reisen, HP Capitol, injured while tackling suspect in August.

Good news! Paul Sigman, HP Texarkana, and **Gary Stiles**, HP Killeen, have returned to work.

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