

# DPS Chaparral



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## New Criminal Law Enforcement chief named

**Thomas Ruocco** has been named the chief of Criminal Law Enforcement for the Texas Department of Public Safety. His appointment took effect Feb. 2.

“Tom Ruocco brings a wealth of experience to DPS, and we are excited about the future of the Criminal Law Enforcement Division under his leadership,” said DPS Director **Stanley E. Clark**.

The Criminal Law Enforcement Division investigates multi-jurisdictional crimes such as narcotics violations, terrorism, motor vehicle theft, gambling, public corruption, fraud, theft and counterfeit documents. The division has 1,100 employees across the state.



*Thomas Ruocco*

“I look forward to working with the outstanding men and women of DPS. This agency has a proud tradition in law enforcement,” Ruocco said. “I know we can build on that to accomplish even greater things.”

Ruocco, 50, is the former Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the San Antonio Division, Austin Resident Agency, for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. His responsibilities included management and oversight of the Austin and Waco offices, as well as the counterterrorism program. During his career with the FBI, Ruocco was stationed in New York, Atlanta, Washington D.C. and San Antonio. He retired from the FBI in July 2008.

A native of New York, Ruocco has a bachelor's of science degree in criminal justice from St. John's University in Queens, New York.

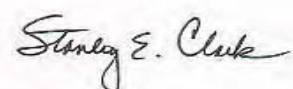
Dear fellow employee:

Good news to report on the legislative front. Our testimony before the Senate Finance and House Appropriations committees was well received. Also, individual legislators have expressed a willingness to work with DPS on addressing the pressing needs of our Agency.

Additionally, we have resource witnesses attending every committee hearing that would impact DPS to ensure visibility and the availability to provide information.

I applaud the tireless efforts of the many employees from various divisions who are monitoring the 31 DPS requested bills. Keep up the good work!

Finally, I also want to thank our commissioned officers and noncommissioned employees who come to work every day, work hard and do this agency proud.



## Briefs

### FBI graduate

Lt. **Kevin Wilkie**, Internal Affairs Austin, graduated from the 235<sup>th</sup> Session of the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, Dec. 12.

### Quarter Century Club meets

The next Quarter Century Club ladies luncheon and banquet will be held at the Georgetown Community Center on Friday, March 20. Call **Jennifer Hall** at 512-424-7297 for more details.

### Christmas cheer BIA style

Employees of the Bureau of Information Analysis in CLE brought a little Christmas cheer to an Army unit serving in Afghanistan. BIA donations filled 17 boxes with homemade cookies, snacks, books, magazines, hygiene products, hand warmers and other items. Letters from elementary students and Christmas cards signed by BIA employees also were included. By all accounts, the gifts were a hit with the soldiers spending Christmas far away from their loved ones.



### Trooper finds bus filled with marijuana

A DPS trooper discovered almost five tons of marijuana in an abandoned school bus in Webb County Jan. 31— one of the biggest Highway Patrol busts in DPS history.

Tr. **Luis Guzman**, HP Laredo, was on routine patrol when he noticed the school bus on the side of U.S. 59 outside of Laredo, and went to investigate. Inside the bus, he discovered 9,216 pounds of marijuana worth \$3.9 million. The 560 bundles of marijuana were covered by cardboard in the passenger area, and hidden in a secret ceiling compartment.

The bus was made to appear as if it was a legitimate school bus belonging to a Laredo area school district, but the markings were determined to be fake.

Investigators believe the bus developed engine problems, and DPS Narcotics is now conducting the follow-up investigation. At last word, no one had been arrested.

The bust appears to be the second largest marijuana seizure by DPS during routine Highway Patrol enforcement. The all-time record was 11,921 pounds seized in Bee County in a 2004 traffic stop.

### Commission adds to exceptional items

At an emergency meeting in early February, the Public Safety Commission approved a \$27 million additional exceptional item to the DPS legislative appropriations request for the next biennium.

If approved by the Legislature, this would allow the purchase of an additional 450 black and white patrol units for the Highway Patrol,

equipping virtually every trooper with their own patrol unit. The Commission ranked the additional vehicles as priority number five in the exceptional items' request.

The 2010-2011 exceptional items list is available on the front page of the DPS website.



*On the  
mend...*

Tr. **Steven Hoppas**, HP San Marcos, injured when vehicle struck by alleged drunk driver.

Good news! Tr. **Ronald R. Ramirez**, HP Alice, has returned to work.

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## Mile Markers

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### Promotions

#### Rangers

**L.C. Wilson**, Capt., Rangers Houston to Asst. Chief, Rangers Austin-HQ.

#### HP

**Kent Steven Radney**, Capt., IA Austin-HQ to Major HP Austin-HQ; **Fred Bailey Whisenant, Jr.**, Sgt., CVE El Paso to Lt., CVE El Paso; **Joe Robert Dennett**, Sgt., CVE Austin to Lt., CVE Waco; **Monty Gene Kea**, Sgt., CVE Garland to Lt., CVE Garland;

**Stephen Wayne Steadman**, Sgt., CVE Rosenberg to Lt., CVE Houston; **Frank Pellizzari**, Sen. Cpl., CVE Rockwall to Sgt., CVE Laredo; **Earl Wayne Heath**, Sen. Cpl., CVE Brookshire to Sgt., CVE Kingsville;

**Earl J. Vicknair, III**, Tr. II, CVE Baytown to Sgt., CVE Laredo; **Royal Andrew McMullin**, Cpl. II, CVE El Paso to Sgt., CVE El Paso; **Charles Ray Goble**, Sen. Cpl., CVE Victoria to Sgt., HP Austin.

#### Administration

**Phillip G. Ayala**, Lt., HR Austin to Capt., HR Austin-HQ.

#### Director's Staff

**David Franklin**, Lt., CIS Austin to Inspector II, OAI Austin HQ.

#### CLE

**Rene Ramirez, Jr.**, Lt., Narcotics Svc. Texas City to Capt.,

Narcotics Svc. Houston; **Christian Wayne Fogal**, Tr. II, CVE Goliad to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. San Antonio; **Clint David Bookout**, Staff Sgt., GPD Austin Capitol to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. El Paso/GPD Austin; **Christopher Hugh Dale**, Tr. II, HP Waco to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. San Angelo;

**Javier Valtazar Riojas**, Tr. II, HP Kingsville to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. McAllen; **Jose Maria Sanchez**, Tr. II, CVE Eagle Pass to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Eagle Pass; **Daniel Littlefield Pena**, Tr. II, HP Raymondville to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. McAllen;

**Dennis Wayne McBride**, Cpl. IV, HP Mt. Pleasant to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. San Antonio; **Troy Lamarle Hunter**, Tr. II, HP Humble to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. McAllen; **Richard Alan Wolf**, Tr. II, HP Conroe to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. McAllen;

**Dominic Zuniga**, Tr. II, HP Lubbock to Sgt., Narcotics El Paso; **Bryan Scott Hebert**, Tr. II, CVE Huntsville to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Laredo; **Eduardo Luevano Aguilar**, Sen. Tr., HP Austin to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Laredo; **John Randolph Logan**, Tr. II, HP Terrell to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Laredo;

**Moises Reyes**, Cpl. IV, CVE El Paso to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. El Paso; **Baltimore D. Chacon**, Tr. II, HP Rosenberg to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Laredo; **Zachary Seth Nichols**, Tr. III, HP Levelland to Sgt., Narcotics Service Alpine; **Orlando Juarez**, Sen. Tr., HP Laredo to Sgt., MVT Laredo;

**Steven Wade Tuggle**, Sgt., HP

Grandbury to Sgt., MVT Wichita Falls; **Justin Blain House**, Tr. III, CVE Seminole to Sgt., MVT El Paso; **David Lynn Dixon**, Tr. II, HP Austin to Sgt., MVT Austin;

**Lucian Paul Ebrom**, Tr. III, HP Jourdanton to Sgt., MVT Laredo; **Lester Clinton Keener**, Tr. II, HP Corpus Christi to Sgt., MVT Beeville; **James Lee Nelson**, Tr. II, HP Big Lake to Sgt., MVT El Paso;

**Marvin Jerard Richardson**, Tr. III, CVE Eagle Pass to Sgt. MVT McAllen; **Richard A. Hunter**, Tr. II, HP Mineral Wells to Sgt., MVT Wichita Falls; **Steven Scott Bailey**, Tr. II, HP Karnes City to Sgt., MVT Brownsville; **Brandon Edward Speed**, Sgt., HP El Paso to Sgt., CIS El Paso;

**Johnny Ray Barboza**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. McAllen to Sgt., CIS Weslaco; **Brett Christopher Varvel**, Tr. II, HP Marshall to Sgt., CIS El Paso; **Elias Escalon**, Cpl. III, CVE Weslaco to Sgt., CIS Harlingen; **Eric Wayne Wilson**, Tr. II, HP Dallas to Sgt., CIS El Paso;

**Glen L. Welters**, Tr. II, HP Rosenberg to Sgt. CIS Laredo; **Bryan J. Moczygamba**, Tr. II, HP Austin to Sgt., CIS Laredo; **Steven Ray Gleaton**, Tr. III, HP Sweetwater to Sgt., CIS El Paso; **Ronald Ray Gumm, Jr.**, Tr. II, PSB Midland to Sgt., CIS Van Horn;

**Charles Burwell Howell**, Tr. II, HP Kerrville to Sgt., CIS Eagle Pass; **Chris Ybanez**, Sgt., HP Beeville to Sgt., CIS Laredo; **Nathan Ray Mutz**, Tr. II, HP

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## Retirements

**Curtis Ray Johnson**, Tech., Gen. Svc. Austin, 30 yrs., 3 mos.; **Craig Michael Ashley**, Sen. Tr., HP Bryan, 26 yrs., 7 mos., 22 days; **Paul Terrel Davis**, Maj., HP Austin, 24 yrs., 22 days;

**Robert Frank Clark**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc., Del Rio, 21 yrs., 5 mos., 24 days; **Sammy Machuca Prieto**, Sgt., MVT San Angelo, 32 yrs., 4 mos., 16 days; **Alan Leroy Spears**, Lt., HP Pierce, 31 yrs., 1 mo., 2 days; **Clayton Blane Shuffield**, Sen. Tr., CVE Odessa, 27 yrs., 7 mos., 21 days;

**Homero Artemio Marines**, Sen. Tr., CVE Cotulla, 27 yrs., 18 days; **Barbara Ann Bentenbough**, Tech., DL Mineral Wells, 17 yrs., 8 mos., 25 days; **June Rhynell Sternnadle**, Evaluator, DL Austin, 14 yrs., 11 mo, 17 days;

**Richard Larry Stelling**, Examiner, DL Dallas, 14 yrs., 9 mos., 16 days; **Gerardo Javier De Los Santos**, Asst. Chief, Rangers Austin, 31 yrs., 24 days; **Lonnie Dale Harms**, Supv., Fleet Austin, 28 yrs., 9 mos.;

**Danny Joel Flowers**, Spec., IMS Austin, 26 yrs., 1 mo., 9 days; **Robert Leland Dymke**, Officer,

EMS Bryan, 18 yrs., 4 mos.; **Lana Faye Royal**, Tech., DL Beeville, 18 yrs., 1 mos., 19 days.

## Deaths

**Bobby Wayne McMahan**, ret. Tr. HP Fort Davis (February 1967 – August 1992) died January 13, 2009; **H. E. Bost**, Analyst II, IMS Austin (December 1967 – February 1992) died January 6, 2009; **Donald Frazier**, Tr. III, HP Crowell (December 1959 – June 1985) died June 2008; **Marvin Collins**, ret. Data Entry Operator, MCB Austin (August 1994 – June 2007) died January 19, 2009.



*Owen Castle, 2, sits in the cockpit of a DPS helicopter in Austin. The serene setting is nothing like the 14-hour ordeal that began when the boy wandered off Feb. 3 in rural Llano County, spending the night alone in sometimes subfreezing temperatures. A frantic search by hundreds of law enforcement personnel and volunteers ended the next morning when the shivering, barely responsive boy was spotted from the air by DPS Tactical Flight Officer **Benjamin Muller**, El Paso, and Pilot **Nick Granelli**, Austin, about a mile from where he had disappeared. The boy was loaded into the DPS chopper and flown to the nearest hospital. The next day, the boy's father brought a rejuvenated Owen to meet his rescuers.*



*At right, Owen sits with **Nick Granelli**, who was piloting the DPS helicopter when Owen was found.*