

# DPS Chaparral



Produced by DPS Public Information, (512) 424-2080

August 2004

## THP troopers continue setting records

By Tom Vinger

Assistant Chief of Media Relations

Drug seizures by DPS troopers increased in 2003—making it the third highest dollar total in DPS history.

According to 2003 statistics released by the Texas Highway Patrol, DPS troopers confiscated illegal drugs valued at \$156.6 million while on routine patrol duty. That ranks third all-time behind 1994 (\$196 million) and 2001 (\$169 million).

Texas troopers have led the nation in highway drug seizures for the last several years.

The 2003 totals represent a 15 percent increase from the year before when more than \$136 million in controlled substances were taken off the streets.

Cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamine seizures were all up compared to 2002.

Some of the highlights in 2003:

- Methamphetamine seizures of 145 pounds were a record for DPS troopers.

- The 2,118 drug arrests are the highest in DPS history.

- Troopers also confiscated more than 37 tons (74,299 pounds) of marijuana—the second highest in DPS history.

- Cocaine seizures topped one ton (2,356 pounds) worth an estimated \$105 million—fourth best in DPS history.

“Intercepting drugs intended for Texas neighborhoods is just one positive by-product of our normal patrol activities,” said DPS Director Col. **Thomas A. Davis Jr.** “Texas is a major drug corridor, and DPS enforcement efforts put drug smugglers behind bars and take large amounts of narcotics out of circulation.”



Dear Fellow Employee,

On August 6, yet another class of trooper-trainees will graduate from the DPS Academy. They've worked hard and learned a lot. Their loved ones should be proud of them.

I would say to the graduates that they should also be proud of themselves—and they should continue to behave in ways that will make the rest of us proud of them. Integrity is one of the things that makes our agency so well respected by other law enforcement agencies and by the public. Our integrity is diminished whenever one of our employees does something that reflects poorly on us.

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As our trooper-trainees head out into the field, school children across the state will be headed back to school. Be careful. And remember to watch out for school buses that are stopped to load or unload students: Motorists who are cited for driving past a stopped school bus whose red alternating flashing lights are activated can expect to pay up to a \$1,000 fine.

Be safe.

*Thomas A. Davis Jr.*

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## *Awards*

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David Clements of Bullzeye Tank Service and Don Alexander of Plains Marketing received Director's Awards on June 19 for their assistance in helping CVE in Houston obtain a cargo tanker for use in training exercises. Alexander, of Plains Marketing, offered to donate a cargo tanker to CVE. Several companies then were contacted to submit bids to modify the tanker to fit the training program's needs. Clements submitted a bid of \$0.00 for all parts and labor. The two were nominated by **Sgt. Glen Stafford** for going "above and beyond the average citizen in assisting the Department in its efforts to improve the training program relating to cargo tank/bulk packaging."

### **Motorcycle Safety wins award**

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation awarded the DPS Texas Motorcycle Safety Unit, headed by **Clifton Burdette**, with the 2003 MSF Outstanding State Program-Category III Award. The unit's service to current and prospective motorcyclists, and participation and support of the foundation's research laboratory were two of the reasons cited for giving the award.

### **Trooper wins USEOW award**

Congratulations to Sr. Trooper **Earl "Dub" Gillum**, THP Granbury for winning second place for his presentation entitled "THINK" at the Uniformed Safety Education Officers Workshop in Atlanta in June. "THINK" reminds motorists of the deadly consequences of drinking and

driving. Texas also took second place in the audio category of public service announcements.

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## *Short Shots*

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### **Dive Team seeks members**

The DPS Dive Recovery Team will conduct selection try-outs on Wednesday, Sept. 19. Any commissioned THP trooper, who is stationed in Travis County or within two contiguous counties adjoining Travis County, is eligible to apply. Dive certification is not a prerequisite, as successful candidates will receive the appropriate training and certification.

Those wishing to apply for consideration should submit a memorandum through their chain of command, forwarding the original directly to THP Maj. David G Baker in the THP Chief's office. They must also notify Maj. Baker of their intent to apply by Sept. 8, either in person or by calling 512-424-2115.

### **Applying for DPS jobs?**

The Human Resources Bureau has received several comments from DPS employees who have been screened out as applicants because they did not provide sufficient information in their employment history to meet the minimum qualifications for the job.

The DPS "Instructions to the Applicant" provide a detailed explanation to applicants on how to complete the state application. These instructions are available on the DPS website ([www.txdps.state.tx.us](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us)) in the employment section and are included with the state application available in the Human Resources

Bureau and DPS field offices.

All applicants are encouraged to read these instructions before completing an application for employment with DPS.

### **Sick Leave Pool reminder**

The Sick Leave Pool continues to benefit employees of the Department who have experienced the adversity of catastrophic illness or injury and have exhausted all accrued entitlements. Employees are again asked to contribute to this worthwhile cause.

Donations are accepted at any time and will be good for a period of one year from date of donation. Donations must be received before the discovery of the need for leave.

For additional information, refer to the insert in your August pay packet or General Manual, Chapter 7, Section 06.04. Also in the pay packet you will find an HR-36, Sick Leave Pool donation form. If you wish to contribute, please send the completed form to the Human Resources Bureau, attention Sick Leave Pool Administrator, PO Box 4087, Austin, Texas 78773-0251.

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## *Mile Markers*

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### **Director's Staff**

**William M. Diggs**, Lt. HP Austin-Capitol to Insp. II, Audit and Insp. Austin; **David Charles Sandlin**, Lt. HP Houston to Insp. II, Audit and Insp. Austin.

### **THP**

**Michael Shawn Scullin**, Lt. HP Hurst to Capt., HP Waco; **Michael Stephen Carlson**, Sgt. CVE Corpus Christi to Lt., CVE Lubbock; **Paul**

**David Webb**, CVE Huntsville to Lt., CVE Del Rio;

**Shanandoah Lyn Sharp**, Sgt. HP Austin to Lt., HP Austin-Capitol; **Casey Galen Goetz**, Sgt. HP to Lt., HP Houston; **Robert L. Smith**, Tr. III HP Kountze to Sgt., HP Austin-Capitol.

#### **DLD**

**Alvaro Ivan Adame**, Sgt. Dallas East to Lt., DL Waco; **Diane Michelle Heselmeyer**, Section Supv. Accident Records Austin to Asst. Mgr., Customer Svc. Austin.

#### **CLE**

**Jorge Luis Aguilar**, Sgt. Narcotics San Antonio to Lt., Narcotics San Antonio; **David Gregory Goodman**, Sgt. Narcotics Sherman to Lt., Narcotics Houston; **Dean Alan Fant**, Cpl. III HP Lubbock to Sgt., Narcotics Amarillo; **Kevin Ray**

**Odom**, Tr. II HP Woodville to Sgt., Narcotics Houston;

**Michael Anthony Moore**, Tr. IV HP Austin to Sgt., Narcotics Houston; **Lucinda Jaye Russell**, Tr. III Amarillo to Sgt., Narcotics Amarillo; **Barry Gene Washington**, Cpl. V HP Carthage to Sgt., Narcotics Houston; **James Earl Rohrman Jr.**, Tr. II HP Canton to Sgt., Narcotics Corpus Christi;

**Maurice Lamar Fisher**, Tr. III The Woodlands to Sgt., Narcotics Conroe; **Marquis M. Cantu**, Tr. III HP Waco to Sgt., Narcotics Midland; **Grady Allen Clark**, Tr. II HP Marshall to Sgt., Narcotics Laredo; **Lance Ray Yager**, Tr. II HP Terrell to Sgt., Narcotics McAllen;

**Michael D. Wylie**, Tr. II Decatur to Sgt., Narcotics Alpine; **Kevin Bryan Franklin**, Cpl. III HP Coldspring to Sgt., Narcotics McAllen; **Kevin Hagen Callihan**,

Tr. II HP Austin-Northwest to Sgt., Narcotics Austin;

**Jaeson Todd Jones**, Tr. II HP San Marcos to Sgt., Narcotics Brownsville; **Mark Aaron Melson**, Tr. II HP Caldwell to Sgt., Narcotics Brownsville; **Jeffrey Alan Buuck**, Sgt. HP Huntsville to Sgt., MVTs El Paso.

#### **Deaths**

**Jerry Burgtorf**, ret. SES/DL Examiner Amarillo (Dec. 1968 to June 1998), died June 20; **Jerome Preiss**, ret. Ranger, Co. D Harlingen (Aug. 1948 to March 1972), died July 12; **Kelli Cross**, ret. Sr. PCO Lubbock (Aug. 1982 to Nov. 2002), died July 15; **Glenn B. Krueger**, ret. Ranger, Co. D Beeville (Dec. 1948 to Aug. 1986), died July 17.

**Editor's note: Retirements will appear in the September Chaparral.**

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## ***DPS SWAT Team tryouts set for end of August; team assists agency***

Since its inception, the Texas Department of Public Safety SWAT Team has been used in hundreds of missions in all parts of Texas. SWAT membership is made up of Highway Patrol, Driver License, Special Crimes and Narcotics personnel. Any commissioned officer residing or headquartered within two contiguous counties of Travis or Williamson counties is eligible for selection.

Once selected, a probationary member will be sent to a Texas Tactical Peace Officer's Association accredited Basic SWAT School that consists of rigorous physical and specialized training and must be completed before full acceptance to the team.

After basic certification, team members are further sent to specialized training with some of the finest law-enforcement and military instructors worldwide. The team trains every other week, with most training sessions lasting well over eight hours.

Members are issued and required to carry a pager at all times and may be called upon to respond to situations at any time.

The team has provided assistance to various DPS divisions and services as well as outside law enforcement agencies.

The team can be called upon for use by contacting DPS Austin Communications (512-997-4131), who will immediately notify Lt. Ronnie M.

Tacquard or Sgt. Charles Palcer.

For pre-planned execution of warrants, the team will usually arrive at least a day prior and can assist in raid planning or conducting necessary surveillance to insure operational safety. (The team's personnel and equipment are provided directly by the THP chief's budget at no expense to local budgets.)

The DPS SWAT Team has scheduled tryouts for August 24, 25 and 26 to fill four vacancies.

To request information about services and equipment available, or for information regarding applying for membership, contact Lt. Tacquard or Sgt. Palcer by phone at 512/997-4130 or by DPS e-mail.

# ***Competitive promotional examinations announced***

The competitive examinations for the following positions will be conducted at the Texas Department of Public Safety Regional Headquarters Offices (Region 7 Examinations will be conducted in the Reagan Building located at 105 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, Texas. Region 8 Examinations will be conducted at the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office, 715 East El Cibolo Road, Edinburg, Texas) as follows:

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2004 at 8 a.m.

**Captain, Motor Vehicle Theft Service**

**Lieutenant, Motor Vehicle Theft Service**

**Sergeant, Highway Patrol Service**

**Sergeant, Driver License Division**

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2004 at 1:30 p.m.

**Sergeant, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement**

**Sergeant, Aircraft**

**Sergeant, Narcotics Service**

Thursday, Sept. 16, 2004 at 8 a.m.

**Lieutenant, Driver License Division**

**Sergeant, Motor Vehicle Theft Service**

**Sergeant, Special Crimes Service**

The competitive examination for the following positions will be conducted at the Texas Department of Public Safety Law Enforcement Academy as follows:

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2004 at 8 a.m.

**Lieutenant, Highway Patrol Service**

**Lieutenant, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement**

The competitive examination for the following positions will be con-

ducted at the Texas Department of Public Safety Criminal Law Enforcement Auditorium as follows:

Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2004 at 8 a.m.

**Captain, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement**

**Captain, Highway Patrol Service**

The Oral Examining Board will convene at the Texas Department of Public Safety Law Enforcement Promotional System Conference Room beginning at 8 a.m. as follows:

Thursday, Sept. 23, 2004

**Sergeant, Aircraft Section**

Friday, Sept. 24, 2004

**Captain, Motor Vehicle Theft**

Monday, Sept. 27, 2004

**Sergeant, Driver License Division**

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2004

**Sergeant, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement**

Monday, Oct. 4, 2004

**Lieutenant, Driver License Division**

Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2004

**Sergeant, Highway Patrol**

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2004

**Lieutenant, Highway Patrol Service**

Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2004

**Sergeant, Special Crimes Service**

Monday, Nov. 8, 2004

**Sergeant, Motor Vehicle Theft Service**

Monday, Nov. 15, 2004

**Sergeant, Narcotics Service**

The Oral Examining Board will convene at the Texas Department of Public Safety Human Resources Conference Room beginning at 9 a.m. as follows:

Thursday, Sept. 30, 2004

**Lieutenant, Motor Vehicle Theft Service**

Thursday, Oct. 13, 2004

**Lieutenant, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement**

The Oral Examining Board will convene at the Texas Highway Patrol Division Conference Room beginning at 1 p.m. as follows: *The interview board starting times for these two boards may be adjusted due to schedule conflicts. Candidates will be notified of any changes.*

Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2004

**Captain, Highway Patrol Division**

**Captain, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement**

The application form HR-106 should be submitted directly to the Human Resources Bureau. Applicants must also submit a copy of form HR-106 to their Service Commander through proper channels. Only those candidates who are qualified will be able to compete in the written examinations.

Applications should be addressed to the Human Resources Bureau, MSC 0251, Texas Department of Public Safety, Box 4087, Austin, Texas 78773, faxed to 512-424-5627, or emailed through DPS email system to "Tracey Carlile" and **should be received no later than 5:00 P. M. on Friday, September 3, 2004 for examinations conducted in September and Thursday, October 7, 2004 for examinations conducted in October.**

Announcements are forthcoming and will be placed in Outlook at Public Folders/All Public Folders/Law Enforcement Promotions. Application form HR-106 can be found in Outlook.