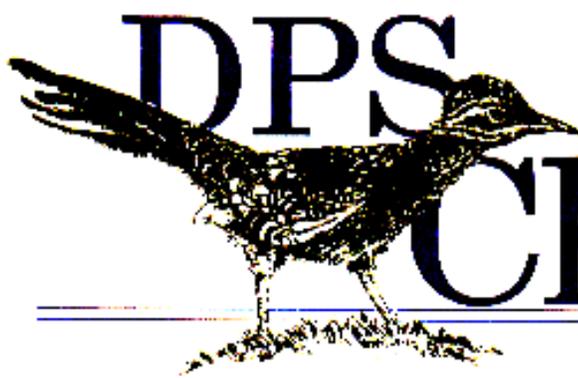


DPS Chaparral



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October 2010

Trooper killed in traffic crash

Corporal David Ralph Slaton, 56, was killed on September 20 in an on-duty, two-vehicle wreck two miles south of Ringgold in Montague County. He was the 84th DPS officer killed in the line of duty.

Cpl. Slaton, who was stationed in Bowie, was driving his patrol car northbound on U.S. 81. Brett Douglas Noga, 37, from Morrison, Okla., was driving a 2007 Peterbuilt truck-tractor-semitrailer southbound on 81. Investigators believe that Cpl. Slaton struck a cow in his lane, and the impact of the collision caused his vehicle to go into the southbound lane. The two vehicles struck head-on in the southbound lane. Brett Douglas Noga, the driver of the

truck-tractor-semitrailer, was not injured.

Cpl. Slaton had been stationed in Bowie since his graduation from recruit school in 1974. He is survived by his wife and a son.

“Corporal Slaton had a long, distinguished career with the Department, and he will be sorely missed. His contribution to safety of the citizens of Texas will not be forgotten. He will be remembered for the countless lives he impacted in a positive way during his career. Corporal Slaton and his loved ones will forever hold a special place in our hearts as part of the DPS family,” said Col. Steve McCraw, director of the Department of Public Safety.

Thousands of people attended



Corporal David Ralph Slaton

his funeral on Sept. 24. Law enforcement officers from as far away as California paid their respects to Cpl. Slaton and his family.

The Survey of Employee Engagement is Just the Beginning

Leadership planning and organizational development efforts were assessed a few months ago when the Director, Steve McCraw, asked for employee participation in responding to the Survey of Employee Engagement measurement tool.

The results of this tool provide an ability for management staff to review the measurements to identify weak areas throughout the

organization where improvement efforts are needed.

The evaluation of the results of the survey is only the first step in deciding on the proper improvement path the department should take. There are a number of other key events that need to take place to make sure the improvements will make a difference to DPS employees. Each department leader will meet with the Chief of Staff to dis-

cuss survey-identified weaknesses. From these meetings a course of action may include audits, focus group discussions and command visits.

On Aug. 30, 2010, the Director asked that every employee review the survey results and in particular look at five key areas for possible improvement: Internal Communications, Employee Engagement, Employee Development, Ethics,

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Mile Markers

Promotions

Director's Staff

Cheryl V. MacBride, Asst. Director, Finance Austin to Deputy Director of Services Austin.

Office of Inspector General

Stuart Platt, General Counsel, OGC Austin to Inspector General, Office of Inspector General.

Information Technology

Mark E. Doggett, Dep. Asst. Director, IT Austin to Asst. Director, IT Austin.

Administration

Tavia M. Wendlandt, Asst. Manager, Facilities Austin to Director of Facilities, Agency Support Austin.

Highway Patrol

Hunter A. Lewis, Cpl. II, HP Odessa-North to Sgt., HP Odessa-North; **Robert S. Orr**, Cpl. II, HP Balmorhea to Sgt., HP Pecos; **Matias Ochoa, III**, Cpl. IV, HP Rosenberg-East to Sgt., HP Brownfield.

Criminal Investigations Division

Michael J. Carrasco, Tr. II, HP El Paso to Agent, CID El Paso; **Andrew L. Conquest**, Tr. II, HP Georgetown-West to Agent, CID El Paso; **Lorenzo Diaz, Jr.**, Tr. II, El Paso to Agent, CID El Paso; **Troy D. Elizalde**, Agent, Executive Protection, Austin to Agent, CID El Paso;

Damien L. Lightfoot, Tr. II,

HP Houston to Agent, CID El Paso; **Steven K. Marks**, Tr. III, HP Stephenville to Agent, CID El Paso.

Law Enforcement Support

Gabriella R. McKittrick, Inspector, OAI Austin to Program Coordinator, LES Austin; **Michael J. Chernivec**, Operator IV, LES Austin to Supervisor, LES Austin; **Cynthia A. Gillam**, Operator IV, LES Texas City to Supervisor LES Lufkin.

Retirements

Dennis Ray Ramsey, Scientist III, Crime Lab, 40 yrs., 6 mos., 15 days; **John Wayne Hunt**, Lt., CVE San Angelo, 34 yrs., 10 mos., 2 days; **Armandina Diaz**, Supervisor, Finance Austin, 33 yrs., 1 mo., 18 days;

Cynthia Gale Hendricks, Evaluator, DL Austin, 25 yrs., 3 mos.; **Raul R. Reyna**, Clerk, Reprographics & Distribution Austin, 12 yrs., 7 mos., 26 days; **Beatrice Laqua**, Clerk, Reprographics & Distribution Austin, 11 yrs., 2 mos., 24 days;

Jerry Franklin Holloway, Sen. Programmer II, IT Austin, 9 yrs., 5 mos., 5 days; **Rebecca Woolley Rae**, Supervisor, Communications Houston, 40 yrs., 5 mos.; **Ronny Mack Griffith**, Ranger, Texas Rangers White Oak, 35 yrs., 10 mos., 25 days;

Thomas Hugh Cummings, Capt., CVE Midland, 32 yrs., 3 mos., 7 days; **Daniel Raymond Butts**, Sgt., HP Devine, 31 yrs., 2 mos., 18 days; **Jay Elton True-lock**, Agent CID Lubbock, 31 yrs., 2 mos., 18 days;



On the mend...

Tr. **Andrew Peavy**, CVE Houston, injured in a traffic crash.

Tr. **Andre Crathers**, HP Killeen, injured running after a fleeing suspect

Tr. **Larry M. Vaughan**, HP Winnsboro, shot during fugitive arrest.

Good news! Tr. **Teresa Vargas**, HP Laredo, Tr. **Charlie P. Potter**, HP San Marcos, and Tr. **Brett Whellis**, HP Helotes, have returned to work!

Lambert Adams Cantu, Capt., CVE El Paso, 30 yrs., 7 mos., 22 days; **Rowan Jude Schexnyder**, Maj., OAI Austin, 30 yrs., 7 mos., 22 days; **Kevin Scott Napier**, Dep. Asst. Director, DL Midland, 30 yrs., 2 mos., 20 days;

Justin D. Corp, Capt., CID San Angelo, 30 yrs., 2 mos., 20 days; **Pamela Catherine Lindsay**, Crime Analyst, Intelligence & Counter Terrorism Garland, 30 yrs., 1 mo.; **Charles L. Garrett, Jr.**, Sen. Tr., CVE Tyler, 29 yrs., 7 mos., 17 days;

Hector R. Luevano, Sen. Tr., CVE Uvalde, 29 yrs., 2 mos., 21 days; **Billy Claude Cooper**, Agent, CID Mineral Wells, 28 yrs., 2 mos., 22 days; **Jimmy Ray Pemelton**, Agent, CID Houston, 28 yrs., 2 mos., 22 days;

Robert Willis Reeves, Sen. Tr., HP Crockett, 27 yrs., 4 mos., 25 days; **Michael Lee Turner**, Agent, CID Corsicana, 26 yrs.,

7 mos., 20 days; **Jerry Douglas Byrne**, Capt., Rangers Midland, 26 yrs., 7 mos., 20 days; **Bernadine Wallace Moore**, Sgt., HP Dallas, 26 yrs., 2 mos., 18 days;

Dionicio Caro, Jr., Sen. Tr., HP Hebronville, 24 yrs., 2 mos., 20 days; **Janet Lynn Espinosa**, Grant Coordinator, Finance Austin, 23 yrs., 7 mos., 11 days; **Sharon Lea Ridlehuber**, Examiner, DL Hillsboro, 23 yrs., 2 mos., 16 days;

William Gary Rash, Lt., HP Austin, 20 yrs., 11 mos., 19 days; **Larry C. White**, Tr., Capitol Complex Austin, 17 yrs., 7 mos., 16 days; **Judith Ann Parks**, Secretary, HP San Angelo, 15 yrs., 7 mos., 7 days; **David Franklin Dodson**, Auditor, Regulatory Svc. Amarillo, 13 yrs, 11 mos.;

Larry Edward Martinez, Grounds Keeper, HP Midland, 6 yrs., 2 mos., 11 days; **Robert Louis Routt**, Security Officer III, Capitol Complex Austin, 16 yrs., 8 mos.; **Sharon Louise Wilson**, Secretary, Crime Lab Austin, 8 yrs., 4 mos., 17 days.

Deaths

Phyllis Jean O'Neal, ret., died August 19, 2010; **Ann Amaryllis Neumann Russo**, ret. Tech., Fingerprint Section Austin died August 26, 2010; **Joe B. Montgomery**, ret. Tr. III, HP Boerne (April 1949 – June 1985) died September 9, 2010;

David Ralph Slaton, Cpl., HP Bowie (October 1974 – September 2010) died September 20, 2010.

Briefs

Fitness Stars are shining bright

The Fitness Star program recognizes commissioned personnel for meeting certain standards on the physical readiness test. The standards differ for age and gender. These officers are rewarded with 32 hours of Administrative Leave and can wear the Fitness Star on their uniform. The following individuals met the Fitness Star standards:

Maj. Ron Joy, HP Austin

Tr. Rosario Lopez, HP Stephenville

Sgt. Robert McDonald, CVE Waxahachie

Tr. Roy Tower, CVE Carthage

Lt. Doug Wood, CID Mineral Wells

Agent James Johnson, CID Victoria

Agent Jordan Melson, CID Midland

Note: Please forward information on other fitness stars to the Public Information/Media Relations office.

Marksmanship Team wins

On Aug. 18, members of the DPS Marksmanship Team traveled to Oklahoma to compete in the Dale DeBerry Regional and the Oklahoma State Championship.

Lt. Odie Hitt and **Sgt. Dan Butts**, HP Devine, won the Two Officer Team event in the Regional and in the Championship match. **Cpl. Lynn Mays**, HP Wellington, was the high shooter

in the Classified Division. **Tr. Jimmy Phouthavong**, HP Amarillo, was the high shooter in the Sharpshooter Division. **Sgt. Kelvin Dews** placed fourth in the shotgun match. Hitt and Dews are assigned to Education, Research and Training in Florence.

Morris wins instructor award

Lt. Robert Morris, CID McAllen, was recognized twice at the 20th Annual Motor Vehicle Criminal Interdiction, Intelligence, Networking and Training Conference hosted by the Drug Interdiction Assistance Program (DIAP) and the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC). The event was held in August in New Orleans. Morris received the award for 2009 Commercial Motor Vehicle Instructor of the Year. Morris was also recognized as a nominee for the 2009 Interdiction Officer of the Year.

Arts & Crafts Fair

Come one; come all to the annual DPS Arts & Crafts Fair, Thursday, Nov. 4 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The annual event held in Building A at DPS Headquarters will have 75 booths—the biggest show ever! If you are still interested in having a booth, please contact **Reba Corder** at 512-424-2354 to see if there have been any cancellations. If you have any other questions, please contact Reba or **Robin Lovelace**, 512-424-5952.

2010 State Employee Charitable Campaign

The State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) is underway and runs through October 31. SECC makes it easy for an employee to donate to selected charities through payroll deductions. Participation is voluntary, and information regarding donations is confidential.

Information about Division and Regional fundraisers will be posted to the master SECC Calen-

dar on DPSNet. For more information about the 2010 Campaign, see <http://dpsnet/SECC/index.htm> or contact **Tina Holmes-Pitzer** at tina.holmes-pitzer@txdps.state.tx.us or 512-424-2534 or **Tracy Dalrymple** at tracy.dalrymple@txdps.state.tx.us or 512-424-7740. You may also contact your Division or Regional Coordinators, located under SECC Contact Information on DPS Net.

Awards

Retired **Texas Ranger Philip Ray Ryan** received two Purple Heart awards for two separate incidents while he was a Highway Patrol trooper and a Ranger. On April 5, 1969, Ryan was shot in the leg by a murder suspect as he tried to take him into custody near Cleveland, Texas. The man, who had killed his wife and child, was killed in a shoot-out with police. On Nov. 5, 1986, now-Texas Ranger Ryan was stabbed in the leg while trying to take an extortionist into custody in Decatur. Ryan had hidden on the floorboard of an extortion victim's car. The extortionist stabbed Ryan with a butcher knife when the Ranger attempted to arrest him.

Highway Patrol **Tr. Wendel McKee** of Lubbock received a Director's Citation for rescuing a woman from a car crash while he was off-duty. On March 26, McKee arrived on the scene of a five-vehicle crash inside the Lubbock city limits. One of the ve-

hicles was on fire, and the driver was bleeding and hysterical. Tr. McKee was able to remove the woman from the vehicle.

Highway Patrol **Troopers Lucas Abshire** and **Jeremy Carraway** of Beaumont received Director's Citations for saving an unconscious woman from drowning after her pickup truck crashed into a canal on March 21. The troopers were able to extract the woman from the cab of the pickup before it became completely submerged. The woman received only minor injuries from the crash. Trooper Abshire received cuts on his hands and forearms due to his efforts.

Highway Patrol **Tr. John J. Riggins** of Nacogdoches received the Life Saving Award for successfully performing the Heimlich Maneuver on an elderly man who was choking during a Rotary Club luncheon in Nacogdoches.

OGC Austin employee **Barbara Hinesley** received a Direc-

Survey of Employee Engagement, cont'd from page 1

and Diversity. These areas scored weaker than most others and demonstrate our greatest opportunity for improvement.

The Director values every employee's input and wants your additional input and improvement suggestions. Please take the time to review the survey results and provide suggestions for improvement to **Brian Smallwood** (brian.smallwood@txdps.state.tx.us) or, if you want to remain anonymous, send suggestions via inter-office mail to Brian.

tor's Citation for her work as the co-chairman of the DPS 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration, which included celebrations in six locations across Texas and in Austin.

Two members of the Texas Army National Guard Counter-Drug air crew received Director's Awards for their work in support of the DPS in the Rio Grande Valley from March 18 through April 16, 2010. CW3 **Joshua Hilewitz** and Sgt. **Andrew Gleason** flew 116.3 hours during that period and were responsible for seizing 5,271.5 pounds of marijuana and 10 narcotics-laden vehicles and the arrest of 134 suspects. In addition, they were directly involved in causing drug trafficking organizations to turn back 23 loads of narcotics.