Dear Fellow Employee,

In September, our state was involved in an unprecedented event—the mass evacuation of residents from one state to another because of a natural disaster. As I could have predicted, DPS and the people of Texas came through for the hundreds of thousands of evacuees from Louisiana and the other affected states. I have been proud to see DPS on the front lines of this effort, even before Hurricane Katrina hit. For example, Emergency Management employees worked around the clock assisting with response coordination for shelters and other services; others of us have been helping provide security at shelters. These are just a few of the ways that DPS employees helped in this effort.

On Sept. 10, Vice President Dick Cheney visited the Emergency Operations Center to learn more about the state’s response to Hurricane Katrina. He left very impressed with the work we have done here in Texas. I have been proud to see DPS on the front lines of this effort, even before Hurricane Katrina hit. For example, Emergency Management employees worked around the clock assisting with response coordination for shelters and other services; others of us have been helping provide security at shelters. These are just a few of the ways that DPS employees helped in this effort.

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DPS has named a new Texas Ranger chief and assistant chief. Capt. Ray Coffman has been named chief of the Texas Rangers and Capt. Jim Miller has been named assistant chief. Coffman replaces Senior Ranger Capt. Earl Pearson, who retired as of August 31.

“I am confident that Capt. Coffman will do an excellent job of guiding the Texas Rangers,” said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Coffman, who will hold the rank of Senior Ranger Captain, had been assistant chief of the Rangers since May 2004. Coffman has been with the DPS for more than 29 years, serving as a Highway Patrol trooper and DPS Narcotics lieutenant. He promoted to the Rangers in 1986 and promoted to Ranger lieutenant in 1996. In 2001, he promoted to Ranger captain in San Antonio’s Co. D. Coffman is a native of McAllen.

“I am truly honored to be considered for this position. I appreciate the Director having enough confidence in me to allow me the opportunity to lead the Texas Rangers. I will miss my good friend and mentor Chief Earl Pearson, but look forward to the new challenges ahead,” Chief Coffman said.

Miller, now the assistant chief of the Rangers, became captain of Company C in Lubbock in 2002. He transferred to Company A in Houston in 2004. Miller has been with DPS since 1975. He was a Driver License trooper, then a Highway Patrol trooper. He promoted to Ranger sergeant in 1987 and to lieutenant in 1997. In 2002, Miller was promoted to captain. Miller is a native of Woodville.

The Texas Rangers are one of five major divisions of DPS, along with the Texas Highway Patrol, Criminal Law Enforcement, Driver License and Administration. The Rangers specialize in investigating felony crimes such as murder, white-collar crime and public integrity cases.
**Awards**

Two good samaritans who risked their lives to save a man from a burning car were honored with Director’s Awards. Pleasanton residents Donnie Boatwright and Luciano Garibaldi were on their way home from work in Dec. 2004 when they drove up on the scene of a crash. The driver of a pickup had fallen asleep and crashed head-on into a tree. The vehicle burst into flames and Boatwright and Garibaldi worked feverishly to free the passenger, who was being burned by the fire. After several tries, the two men and Tr. Luciano Ebrom, HP Jourdanton, freed the passenger, who despite serious injuries, survived. The driver died in the crash. Sgt. Sidney Pullin, HP Jourdanton, nominated the two men. Ebrom received a Director’s Citation for his part in the rescue.

Crime fighters come in all shapes and sizes, including an 8-year-old who helped solve two bank robberies and eight burglaries across five counties that resulted in the recovery of $50,000 worth of property. In Feb. 2005, Hilaria Rosales and her 8-year-old-son, Luis, were in a bank drive-thru lane in Lufkin when the boy told his mom someone was robbing the bank. After she observed a man in a mask and employees loading money into bags, she called 911 and stayed on the phone to provide information on which way the robber was fleeing. The suspect was captured within minutes by HP and local police. The suspect later confessed to the other crimes and implicated his two accomplices. The crime fighting duo was nominated by Texas Ranger Sgt. Tom Davis, Co. A Nacogdoches.

Four men received Director’s Awards after rescuing a man from a burning vehicle, saving him from certain death. In Dec. 2004, a pickup struck a guardrail in Coleman County and landed in a ditch before bursting into flames. Jake Hargett, Jason Sparks, Frank Winn and Robert Yates witnessed the crash and went to help. The driver was unconscious, and the four men began removing him from the vehicle. However, the driver, who was later charged with DWI, woke up and became combative. He grabbed the steering wheel and refused to move. As the driver resisted his rescuers and the fire spread closer to the cab, the four men were finally able to pull the uncooperative man from the pickup moments before it was engulfed in flames. The men were nominated by Tr. Karl Keesee, HP Brownwood.

A Bell County bank employee refused to be intimidated by armed robbers and helped authorities apprehend the two suspects, earning a Director’s Award. In Dec. 95, Carolyn Falk was in the bank parking lot where she worked when she noticed a man leave the bank with a plastic bag, get into a vehicle and leave the scene. She called 911 as she followed the vehicle into Williamson County even when the suspects tried to dissuade her by pointing their loaded weapons at her. HP troopers and a Williamson County constable picked up the pursuit and apprehended the suspects, who were both convicted felons, after a high-speed chase. Falk was nominated by Texas Ranger Sgt. Matt Lindemann, Co. F Georgetown.

Jimmie Badgett, District 1A Regional Liaison Officer for the Division of Emergency Management, has received the Marvin Austin Distinguished Leadership Award from the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), which publishes training manuals for emergency services personnel. The manuals are written and validated by volunteers who have experience in fire service, emergency management or law enforcement. Badgett has served on 17 manual committees and served as chair of the Fire Cause Determination and Emergency Management Handbook committees.

**On the mend...**

Best wishes for a speedy recovery from line-of-duty injuries go to:
- Tr. Joseph Vogel, HP Beaumont, injured in traffic crash;
- Tr. Rene Cordova, HP Eagle Pass, injured in traffic crash;
- Tr. Robert Villafranca, HP Austin, injured during traffic stop;
- Tr. Steven Oliver, HP Denton, shot in leg by a suspect;
- Tr. Wilton White, HP Hempstead, struck by a drunk driver while directing traffic.

Good news! Tr. Joshua Ray, Sgt. Ted Riojas, Tr. Frank Bonilla and Tr. James I. Weaver have returned to work on full duty.
Short Shots

Special Crimes renamed

Effective Sept. 1, the Special Crimes Service was renamed the Criminal Intelligence Service.

Mandatory comp time notice

State law requires that if an employee submits a written request (HR-11) for time off at least 90 days prior to the date accrued state equivalent compensatory time is set to lapse, the supervisor must (1) approve the requested leave time, or (2) provide the employee with an alternate date to use the compensatory time prior to the lapse date. For more information, refer to Chapter 7, 07.06.08, of the General Manual.

Basic Critical Incident Response Team Training set for December

The Critical Incident Response Team is accepting applications for the next basic training to be held in Austin on December 5-7. The team especially needs new members in Regions IV, V and VIII. Employees can obtain an application for the team by contacting Brenda Hardin in the Psychological Services Bureau at 512-424-2211 or by e-mail at brenda.hardin@txdps.state.tx.us.

Critical Incident Response Team members provide support and assistance to DPS employees and their families who are experiencing work-related or personal stress or trauma. The DPS team is also available to respond to other law enforcement agencies upon request.

Feel crafty?

The DPS Arts and Crafts Fair is

Keen eye leads to meth bust

Tr. Peter Mason, HP Tomball, was working off-duty when he helped bust a meth lab. Mason was accompanying a Harris County apartment manager to deal with a problem tenant. When the tenant opened the door, Mason observed items known to be used in meth production, and he detected strong chemical odors. The resident, who was behind on his rent, was arrested on drug charges. Methamphetamine and chemicals with a reported street value of $450,000 were seized.

Mile Markers

Promotions

Texas Ranger Division
Raymond (Ray) L. Coffman, Asst. Chief, Rangers Austin to Chief, Rangers Austin; James (Jim) L. Miller, Capt., Texas Rangers Houston to Asst. Chief, Texas Rangers Austin.

HP

Administration
Phillip G. Ayala, Sgt. HP Austin to Lt., Administration Austin.

CLE


DL

Adrian Orlando Rivera, Sgt., DL McAllen to Lt., DL McAllen; Paul Hernandez, Sen. Tr., DL Plano to Sgt., DL Laredo.

Director’s Staff

Nicholas Anthony Granelli, Tr II, HP Sherman to Sgt., Aircraft Section McAllen; Adam Clay Kinslow, Sgt., HP Weatherford to Sgt., Aircraft Section McAllen.

Retirements


Jack Puckey Downs, Sgt., HP Gonzales, 31 yrs., 2 mos., 19 days; Bobby Lynn Perry, Sen. Tr., CVE Livingston, 29 yrs., 10 mos., 2 days;

Michael Dwain Morgan, Admin. Asst., IMS Austin HQ, 28 yrs., 8 mos., 16 days; John Jay Lubbock, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Seguin, 27 yrs., 8 mos., 24 days;

Manuel Alaniz, Capt., Narcotics Svc. Austin HQ, 26 yrs., 7 mos., 21 days; Michael Ray Hobson, Sen. Tr., CVE Graham, 26 yrs., 7 mos., 21 days; Ruben V. Duran, Lt., Narcotics Svc. Kerrville, 26 yrs., 2 mos., 18 days; Otto Edward Arnim, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Corpus Christi, 24 yrs., 7 mos., 17 days;

Modesto Saavedra, Jr., Custodian IV, HP McAllen, 25 yrs., 4 mos.; Michael Thomas Brown, Sgt., Spec. Crimes Svc. Mt. Pleasant, 23 yrs., 8 mos., 26 days; Monti Sue Fox, Tech., DL Decatur, 17 yrs., 4 mos., 5 days; Harvie D. White, Custodian III, HP San Angelo, 11 yrs., 9 mos., 17 days;


Deaths