Crime labs improving DNA efficiency

Recently completed and upcoming technology improvements at DPS crime labs should help increase the output of DNA cases by about 25 percent. The eight DPS DNA Crime Labs, with the help of Lubbock Criminalist David Young, have recently replaced the computers and software that run the DNA analysis instruments. In addition, they are now using the latest DNA kits. Overall, demand from law enforcement officers for forensic DNA testing is now increasing by 25 percent each year. Many DPS DNA analysts are working overtime to try to keep up with this demand.

During the first nine months of 2004, Texas crime labs helped solve 125 cold cases by matching DNA profiles using the CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) database. Ninety-six percent of the hits were a match between DNA evidence from the unsolved crime and the DNA of a previously convicted offender. Ninety-nine of these “cold hits”—or unexpected matches—involves the Texas CODIS database, and 26 involved the national database. DPS has loaded DNA profiles from 180,000 convicted offenders into the CODIS Texas database since its inception in 1996.

IMS chief wins award

Mary Lauderdale, the chief of Information Management Service (IMS), was honored by the Government Technology Center with a prestigious lifetime achievement award. It is only the second time in the group’s history they have given an information technology lifetime achievement award. (The first was awarded to Carolyn Purcell, who retired as the chief information officer for the Texas Department of Information Resources.)

“This award is a tremendous honor and recognizes the exemplary efforts that Mary Lauderdale and IMS personnel provide the Department on a daily basis,” said DPS Director Col. Thomas Davis Jr. “Mary has accomplished a great deal during her career with DPS, and we have all benefited.”

Lauderdale began her career with DPS 22 years ago as a driver license statistician. For the last 11 years, she has been chief of IMS.

In giving the award, the Government Technology Center cited Lauderdale’s accomplishments with DPS and her overall contributions in the area of state technology.

Dear Fellow Employee,

November 2 (tomorrow) marks an important day for our country: It’s Election Day. Please be sure to take advantage of one of the most precious rights we have as Americans. Vote.

At last count, more than 130 of our DPS coworkers have been deployed (some more than once) through military activations since Sept. 11, 2001. Thank you for your service to our country and our state.

Many of us have coworkers who are on active duty; some of us have family members who are serving in the military.

As the calendar gets closer to Thanksgiving and the holidays in December, please take a moment to think of our armed forces stationed around the world. The next couple of months will be a tough time of year for those who have loved ones overseas. Let’s try to do what we can to comfort them.

Remember—go vote on November 2.

Thomas A. Davis Jr.
**Governor Protective Detail**

The THP Division is now accepting applications for sergeant positions on the Governor Protective Detail. All commissioned Department personnel not currently on disciplinary probation, with at least 48 calendar months service as a commissioned Texas peace officer, are eligible to apply. Applicants must contact Capt. Dale L. Avant at 512-475-4820 for instructions on the application process.

**Dive Team seeks members**

The DPS Dive Recovery Team will conduct selection try-outs on Tuesday, Nov. 30. Any commissioned THP trooper 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 Maj. David G. Baker in the THP Chief’s office. They must also notify Maj. Baker of their intent to apply by Tuesday, Nov. 16, either in person or by calling 512-424-2115.

**Golfing for Tr. Knapp**

Several friends of Tr. Kurt Knapp, who died in a duty-related crash in May, have created a scholarship honoring him at Texas State University. The first fundraiser for the scholarship is a golf tournament set for Saturday, Nov. 13 at the Plum Creek Golf Course in Kyle, Texas. Entry fee is $75 per person.

All proceeds raised from the tournament will benefit the Kurt Knapp Memorial Scholarship at Texas State University. Please call Steve Jimenez at 512-255-7305 or Rick Reza at 512-917-5929 for details.

**Promotions**

**CLE**

Jesus (Jesse) Flores, Asst. Cmdr., MVT Austin to Cmndr., MVT Austin; Kenneth Crockett, Capt., Narcotics Austin to Major, CLE Austin; Ruben R. Elizondo, Insp. II, OAI Austin to Asst. Cmdr., MVT Austin; Michael D. Adcock, Tr. II, HP Fairfield to Sgt., Spec. Crimes Garland; Randy Lee Johnson, Cpl., HP Baytown to Sgt., MVT Laredo.

**Rangers**


**Director’s Staff**

Randall Blake Prince, Lt., Rangers Houston to Insp. II, OAI Austin.

Deaths


**On the mend...**

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

- Tr. Jason Busby, HP Terrell, traffic wreck responding to call.
- Sgt. Chris Tibbitts, Narcotics Beaumont, back on light duty after his vehicle hit by DWI driver.

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