

DPS Chaparral



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

November 2000

To: All DPS Employees
From: Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr.
Re: Traffic Stops

The DPS strategy of aggressive traffic enforcement accompanied by a philosophy of “looking beyond the traffic stop” in an effort to interdict and apprehend wanted fugitives, drug traffickers and other criminal offenders has been very successful. Our troopers and officers have gained national recognition for their efforts in that regard and I continue to strongly support and encourage their efforts.

Recently, concern has been raised across the nation relating to the concept of “profiling.” The act of profiling, simply stated, means that the decision to initiate a traffic stop and/or subsequently conduct a search of a vehicle is based upon the vehicle occupant’s race, ethnic origin, gender, or economic status. Although such a practice has never been promoted, encouraged, or permitted by the Department, publicity surrounding it continues to create questions about the integrity of all law enforcement agencies. For that reason, I want to reiterate, in the strongest possible terms, the Department’s position on this important issue.

The prevailing opinion among law enforcement professionals, as recently voiced in an International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) paper on professional traffic stops, is that profiling is illegal, inconsistent with the principles of American policing, and an indefensible public protection strategy.

I unequivocally share that opinion and expect DPS Troopers and Officers to base their decisions to stop a vehicle only upon an observed violation of the law, credible information that the occupant(s) have committed a violation of the law, or for an emergency reason.

please see “Colonel’s memo” on page 3 for more

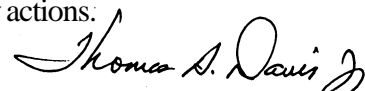


Dear Fellow Employee:

The November general elections are only a few days away. I want to urge each of you to vote for the candidates of your choice on Nov. 7. The right to vote is special, and it’s important to exercise that right whenever you have the opportunity.

Welcome back to our DPSers who were away in Bosnia for eight months with the 49th Amored Division of the Texas National Guard. We’re glad you’re back, and that you all returned with no serious injuries. Thank you for your service to the United States^¾ and to Texas.

At the left, you will see an article regarding traffic stops by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Let me emphasize that traffic stops or vehicle searches based upon the occupant’s race, ethnic origin, gender, or economic status have no place in this agency. Racial profiling is illegal, inconsistent with the principles of American policing, and an indefensible protection strategy. Individuals found to be engaged in profiling, and supervisors found to have condoned, encouraged, or ignored patterns of profiling will be subject to disciplinary actions:



Awards

When he needed assistance, Texas Ranger Sgt. **Doyle Holdridge**, Laredo, rounded up the help of a Webb County Sheriff's chief deputy in a search that ended in Mexico. Chief Deputy Meme Martinez accompanied Holdridge to Mexico in pursuit of three suspects



connected with the beating of a DPS trooper. Martinez' relationship with the Mexican authorities and his assistance were instrumental in apprehending the subjects, earning Martinez a Director's Award. Sgt. **Roger "Rocky" Millican**, HP Pleasanton, nominated Martinez for the award.

A heated situation netted ex-firefighter Sherry Shona Hormuth a Director's Award. On June 27th, the tire of a woman's white Mustang blew out, forcing the vehicle under a tractor-trailer in Nueces County. Hormuth pulled up beside the vehicles, grabbed the victim's arm and removed her from the burning car. The Mustang exploded as the two were running from the scene. Tr. **Michael Cantu**, HP Mathis, nominated Hormuth for the award.

*From Capt. **Tony Marshall**, Special Crimes Garland, and family:*

My words are inadequate to properly thank Department employees for the many months of

support my family and I have received prior to and following (my wife) Ann's death. We have received countless prayers, cards, phone calls, and other caring gestures throughout her illness which were a constant reminder of everyone's caring spirit. We are very blessed to be part of the DPS family.

Short Shots

Range named for DPS troopers

A new gun range in Memphis, Texas, will bear the names of two deceased DPS troopers. The Tucker-Booth Memorial Range will have facilities for pistol, rifle, shotgun and bow and arrow competitions. **Bobby S. Booth** was with DPS from 1987 to 1993. **Tomie M. Tucker** served from 1967 to 1976 and was a member of the award-winning DPS pistol team. Tr. **Daniel Hawthorne**, HP Memphis, was instrumental in obtaining land and grants for the range's construction.

Habitat helps again

A DPS employee will soon be a new homeowner thanks to one of the State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) organizations. **Barbara Bonner**, Accounting Austin, tried for years to move herself and her two sons from the two-bedroom duplex that was damaged three years ago. Her call for help was answered by Habitat for Humanity, a charitable organization that builds low-cost, no-interest homes for low-income families with volunteer help. Bonner is

required to contribute 400 hours to the project. Anyone interested in lending a hand should contact Bonner for more information, 512-424-2060.

New CHL agreements OK'd

Kentucky, Florida and Tennessee are the latest states to negotiate CHL reciprocity agreements with Texas. The other states are Arkansas, Louisiana, Arizona and Oklahoma. The reciprocal agreements allow citizens with concealed handgun licenses issued by those states to legally carry concealed handguns in Texas, and vice versa.

Building up

Two DPS building projects were completed in October. A new DPS facility opened in Borger and an expansion and renovation project was completed in Plainview. Grand opening ceremonies are scheduled this month.

On the mend...



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

Tr. Sam Orta, HP Houston
Tr. Kenneth Rushing,
L&W Conroe
Linda Swails, DL Examiner Carrollton
Tr. Leslie Grace, HP DeLeon
Tr. Wayne Whiteaker, HP Uvalde

Colonel's memo, continued from page 1

Likewise, a decision to request consent to search the vehicle shall have no bearing on either of these decisions.

It is the task of supervision, at every level, to ensure that members are not engaged in profiling and that they clearly understand that profiling will not be tolerated. Reviews of reports with a focus toward identifying profiling patterns, line/administrative inspections, as well as reinforcement through local training are among the methods that should be employed. Individuals found to be engaged in profiling, as well as supervisors found to have condoned, encouraged, or ignored patterns of profiling will be subject to disciplinary actions.

Again, this is to reiterate the Department's position that traffic stops and/or vehicle searches based upon the occupant's race, ethnic origin, gender, or economic status have no place in this agency.

The DPS Traffic Stop Data Report is available on the DPS Website, www.txdps.state.tx.us.

Mile Markers

Promotions

CLE

Robert Welton Duvall, Capt., Narc. Midland to Asst. Commander, Narc. Austin; **James Leon**

Blodgett, Lt., Special Crimes New Braunfels to Capt., Special Crimes Austin; **Michael Angelo Espinoza**, Lt., MVT Corpus Christi to Capt., Special Crimes Corpus Christi; **John Michael Payne**, Sgt./Inv., Special Crimes Texarkana to Lt., Special Crimes New Braunfels.

DL

Norma Linda Garza-Jennings, Sgt., DL Houston to Lt., DL Conroe; **Mary Emily Geil**, Training Spec. IV., DL Austin to Mgr., DL Cust. Svc. Austin; **Donna Kreger Kennedy**, Tr. IV, DL Waco to Sgt., DL Waco; **Timothy A. Baker**, Sr. Tr., DL Austin to Sgt., DL Austin;

Micki Sue Scheffler, Tr. III, DL Austin to Sgt., DL Austin; **Joseph Max Glenn**, Sr. Tr., DL Georgetown to Sgt., DL San Antonio; **Steven Ross Anderson**, Tr. IV, DL Tyler to Sgt., DL Lufkin; **Robert J. Sells III**, Tr. III, DL Humble to Sgt., DL Houston.

Retirements

Dorothy M. Kirk, Cashier, Acct./Budget Control Austin, 22yrs., 1 mo., 17 days; **Daniel K. Wilbanks**, Tr. V, HP Athens, 19yrs., 3 mos., 20 days; **Patricia A. Thornal**, Tech., DL Bryan, 17 yrs., 11 mos.; **Sharon Kay Fiero**, Sec. to Chief of Admin. Austin, 30 yrs., 4 mos., 4 days;

David James Williams, Jr., Sgt., DL San Antonio, 29 yrs., 4 mos., 20 days; **Daniel Lee Pina**, Tr. V, DL Conroe, 28yrs., 4 mos.; **Enrique Vecchio Garcia**, Svc. Commander, Special Crimes Austin, 28 yrs., 1 mo., 6 days; **Dudley**

Samuel Ivie, Tr. V, L&W Gainesville, 24 yrs., 16 days;

James William Shea, Tr. V, HP New Braunfels, 21 yrs., 3 mos., 18 days; **Kendall Ray Meadows**, Pilot Inv., Aircraft Section Garland, 39 yrs., 4 mos., 13 days; **Oscar T. Bengtson, Jr.**, Offset Oper., Gen Serv. Austin, 37 yrs., 6 mos., 19 days; **James K. Jackson**, Comm. Installation Supr., Fleet Oper. Bureau Austin, 33 yrs., 4 mos., 15 days; **Stanley Thomas Gouge**, Sgt./Inv., Narc. Amarillo, 31 yrs., 1 mo., 9 days;

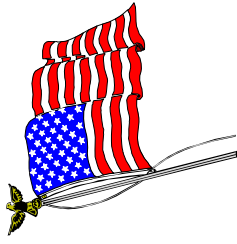
Billy Don Ivey, Cpl. V, VI Houston, 29 yrs., 11 mos., 9 days; **Charlie Joe Simmons**, Sgt., HP Waxahachie, 27 yrs., 1 mo., 14 days; **John Mitchell Holland**, Tr. V, HP McLean, 24 yrs., 10 mos., 3 days; **Martha Ann Phillips**, Field Sec., Region IV Staff Odessa, 19 yrs., 4 mos; **Daniel Gibson, Jr.**, Police Comm. Oper. IV, Comm. San Antonio, 19 yrs., 3 mos., 17 days; **Rufus Lee Hollis**, Tr. IV, DL Dallas, 22 yrs., 11 mos., 17 days.

Deaths

James Edward Henson, Jr., Insp. III, VI Irving (Dec. 1991-Sept. 2000) died Sept. 20; **Marilyn Rodell**, Tech., DL Pasadena (Nov. 1993-Sept. 2000) died Sept. 17; **Robert Montgomery**, ret. Lt., Criminal Intelligence San Antonio (Nov. 1964-Sept. 1993) died Sept. 24.

Adios

from Chaparral editor **Mike Cox**, Chief of Media Relations, who is leaving DPS for the private sector after 15 years of service.



DPS Holiday Listing

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Agency Status</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Day of Week</u>
Veteran's Day	***	Nov. 11, 2000	Saturday
Thanksgiving Day	All agencies closed	Nov. 23, 2000	Thursday
Day after Thanksgiving	All agencies closed	Nov. 24, 2000	Friday
Christmas Eve Day	***	Dec. 24, 2000	Sunday
Christmas Day	All agencies closed	Dec. 25, 2000	Monday
Day after Christmas	All agencies closed	Dec. 26, 2000	Tuesday
New Year's Day	All agencies closed	Jan. 1, 2001	Monday
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	All agencies closed	Jan. 15, 2001	Monday
Confederate Heroes' Day	Skeleton crew required	Jan. 19, 2001	Friday
Presidents' Day	All agencies closed	Feb. 19, 2001	Monday
Texas Independence Day	Skeleton crew required	March 2, 2001	Friday
Cesar Chavez Day	***	March 31, 2001	Saturday
Good Friday	Optional Holiday	April 13, 2001	Friday
San Jacinto Day	***	April 21, 2001	Saturday
Memorial Day	All agencies closed	May 28, 2001	Monday
Emancipation Day	Skeleton crew required	June 19, 2001	Tuesday
Independence Day	All agencies closed	July 4, 2001	Wednesday
LBJ's Birthday	Skeleton crew required	Aug. 27, 2001	Monday

***Certain holidays that fall on weekends will not be observed.

