



DPS Chaparral



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DPS SWAT team turns 25

The DPS SWAT team marks a milestone this month—25 years serving the state of Texas. The first SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team at the Department started in 1984 with limited equipment and a small trailer pulled behind a truck.

From those humble beginnings, SWAT's manpower has doubled, and the unit now has an equipment truck, command post, ATVs and four armored vehicles. Their specialty equipment includes up-to-date communications and surveillance equipment, explosive and shotgun breaching, high-grade ballistic shields and a revamped sniper squad with state-of-the-art capabilities. The unit pulls its manpower from the Department's commissioned ranks throughout the state.



Last month, the SWAT team showed its effectiveness helping free an abducted Katy ISD police officer. During a house-to-house search, the SWAT team located the suspect, who fired at officers as they closed in. After a day long standoff, the suspect—also a Katy ISD officer and the victim's ex-boyfriend—released the woman and fatally shot himself.

Yes, you can come home again

A former commissioned employee of DPS who was in good standing at the time of separation may be reinstated at any time. Before reinstatement, the former employee must meet the physical readiness standards in place at the time of reinstatement and pass a polygraph examination. The Department also will perform a modified background investigation covering the former employee's history between separation and reinstatement. The Director will decide whether a former commissioned employee will be reinstated on a case-by-case basis. This policy does not apply to commissioned employees who retired from state service.

Dear fellow employee,

I am honored to have been selected by the Public Safety Commission to lead the best law enforcement agency in the nation. We have the highest caliber of civilian and commissioned men and women who work together to protect and serve the people of Texas. High-performing organizations like the DPS constantly strive to improve and, with your help, we will continue to do so in the proud tradition of the Department.

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I would like to thank all of you who took advantage of my open-door policy. Your input has been invaluable in helping Deputy Director **Lamar Beckworth** and me identify and prioritize a variety of issues: flak jackets, tasers, THP schedules and uniforms, physical readiness, flashlights for firearms and non-commissioned pay classifications. You will be hearing more about these issues in the coming months.

Briefs

DPS Memorial Ride

The registration for the DPS Memorial Ride has been extended until Sept. 5. The entire \$250 entry fee and completed application must be received to participate in the event. For more information, contact Tr. **James Colunga**, james.colunga@txdps.state.tx.us.

Retiree meeting

The Region VI Retirees Association will hold their annual meeting on Saturday, Sept. 19, at the VFW Hall on Sun Valley Blvd. in Hewitt. Visiting will begin about 10 a.m. and lunch will be served around 11:30 a.m. E-mail bharpole@nctv.com for more information or call 254-485-2298.

Mile Markers

Promotions

Director's Staff

Freeman F. Martin, Lt., Rangers Austin to Inspector II, OAI Austin; **Kevin B. Wilkie**, Lt., Internal Affairs Austin to Inspector II, OAI Austin.

DL

Michael A. Kelley, Legislative Liaison, Director's Staff Austin to Chief, DL Austin.

HP

Heron L. Vidales, Sgt., CVE Brownsville to Lt., CVE McAllen; **Armando Garza**, Sgt., HP Refugio to Lt., HP McAllen; **Jeffrey T. Cummins**, Sgt., HP Childress to Lt., HP Austin;

Corey M. Pinnell, Cpl. III, CVE Brownsville to Sgt., CVE

Laredo; **Nathan P. Templeton**, Cpl. II, HP Odessa to Sgt., HP Pecos; **Darren R. Vacek**, Cpl. II, HP Sealy to Sgt., HP Hereford;

Daniel J. Keese, Tr. IV, CVE Alice to Sgt., Eagle Pass; **James B. Arnwine**, Tr. III, HP Coleman to Sgt., HP Odessa; **Steven A. Stanfield**, Tr. III, HP West Columbia to Sgt., HP Beeville;

Aurelia T. Hernandez, Tr. III, HP Carrizo Springs to Sgt., HP Del Rio; **David D. Chauvin**, Tr. III, HP Pierce to Sgt., HP Pierce; **Linda C. Galindo**, Tr. II, HP Rio Grande City to Sgt., HP Rio Grande City; **Brian K. Hemati**, Tr. II, HP Terrell to Sgt., HP Dumas;

Samuel D. Quinn, Tr. II, HP Bastrop to Sgt., HP Laredo; **Patrick M. Dark**, Tr. II, HP Tyler to Sgt., HP Brownsville; **Jo Ellen Heselmeyer**, Mgr., Vehicle Inspection Bureau to Director II, Vehicle Svc. Program Austin;

James Wayne Thetford, Supv. II, MVI Austin to Reg. Supv., Vehicle Svc. Program McAllen;

DL employees reducing backlogs

Driver License employees are working overtime to address backlogs in their respective areas—Driver Records, Customer Service, License Issuance and Driver Improvement.

As a result of this teamwork, some amazing things are happening. For example, IMS provided scanners, computers and printers so that Driver Records employees could begin entering data from more than 100 boxes of material each week.

Retirements

Mario Correa Escobedo, Capt., DL Corpus Christi, 30 yrs., 6 mos., 21 days; **Otto Henry Hanak**, Sgt., Rangers Brenham, 28 yrs., 1 mo., 21 days; **Mary Lynn Siebert**, Operator IV, Bureau of Law Enforcement Comm. and Tech., 19 yrs., 5 mos., 15 days; **Estella Diaz Valenzuela**, Lt., DL Midland, 29 yrs., 1 mo., 20 days;

Paul Keith Frazier, Sen. Cpl., CVE Brownsville, 28 yrs., 6 mos., 17 days; **Joan Haun**, Supv. IV, EMD Austin, 26 yrs., 5 mos., 29 days; **Kevin Lee McCasland**, Sen. Tr., CVE Queen City, 25 yrs., 1 mo., 18 days;

Patricia Kay Lanham, Tech., DL Abilene, 24 yrs., 2 mos., 11 days; **Linda Kay Rogers**, Tech., HP Weatherford, 19 yrs., 5 mos.; **David Oakley Wise**, Attorney, Regulatory and Licensing Svc. Austin, 9 yrs., 5 mos., 17 days;

Kenneth Ray Lee, Tr., HP Centerville, 7 yrs., 22 days; **Marilyn Jean Martinets**, Field Rep., CIS Austin, 22 yrs., 4 mos., 4 days.

For their efforts, DL Division Chief **Michael Kelley** rewarded all areas of DL with after-hours pizza parties. The hard work drew praise from DPS Director **Steve McCraw**.



On the mend...

Good news! Tr. **Steven Hoppas**, HP San Marcos, has returned to work on light duty.