



THE BLUE LIGHT



October 2007

THE HONORABLE BOB RILEY
Governor

COLONEL J. CHRISTOPHER MURPHY
Director

LT. COLONEL F.A. BINGHAM
Assistant Director

MAJOR PATRICK MANNING
ABI Division

MAJOR HUGH McCALL
Driver License Division

MAJOR ROSCOE HOWELL
Highway Patrol Division

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS
Service Division

CAPTAIN KEVIN M. CLAUNCH
Administration Division

CAPTAIN TODD FULMER
Protective Services Division



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2007-A Graduation

The Colonel's Corner

Col. J. Christopher Murphy, Director



I just returned from the Alabama Department of Public Safety's joint picnic with the Mississippi Highway Patrol at Bladon Springs State Park in Choctaw County. This first-ever liaison event provided an opportunity for MHP to thank us for the ways DPS responded to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi two years ago. Since Katrina, MHP has received donation of an 18-wheel trailer that is equipped as a full commercial kitchen. It can produce 800 to 1,000 hot meals and boxed lunches twice a day for extended periods of time. MHP now also has portable showers and toilets, as well as tents, outside grills, and everything to support the troops during an emergency. Our Mississippi colleagues wanted to show everything off, test it out, and thank us with a meal of roasted chicken, fried fish, hush puppies, slaw, and pecan pie. Sure beat MREs!

A great deal of work went into the organization of this event. I want to thank and express my great appreciation to *Picnic Coordinator* Sgt. Chris Brown (he has the pin to prove it), Lt. Tim Pullin, and from the Grove Hill Post, Cpl. Brad Napp – all who worked under the careful and gentle tutelage of Major Roscoe Howell. In all seriousness, it did take a good deal of work under the category of “other duties as assigned.” I also appreciate all who attended, including from my command staff, Lt. Colonel Bubba Bingham, Major Patrick Manning, Major Hugh McCall, Major Howell, and Major Charles Andrews.

In addition to the obvious liaison advantages with MHP, the exposure and relationships with other entities are positive developments for DPS. The most significant was attendance of Governor and Mrs. Haley Barbour of Mississippi, as well as Colonel Michael Berthay and Commissioner George Phillips. From our state were Governor Riley's Chief of Staff, Dave Stewart, and Conservation Commissioner Barnett Lawley. Sheriff James Lovette of Choctaw County also dropped by. These are all important relationships for DPS.

Speaking of relationships, I want you to know the value I place on relationships. My staff and I have worked hard to cultivate relationships with the Governor and his staff. It is significant that the Governor would come out with us for our *Take Back Our Highways* campaign, that the CoS would go with us to see the condition of the Mobile Post and the Academy, and this week attend our picnic. Executive Counsel Michael Robinson is working with the Governor's Legal Advisor, Ken Wallis, on a number of issues; and PIO Martha Earnhardt works on a regular basis with the Governor's Press Secretary, Jeff

The Colonel's Corner (CONTINUED)

Emerson. My staff and I also have worked hard to cultivate strong relationships with the Legislature – on both sides of the aisle. It is significant that Representative Richard Lindsey would be our keynote speaker at the most recent academy graduation, that Senator Hank Sanders would attend the retirement dinner for Captain Oscar Kyles, that Representative Alvin Holmes would compliment us in the media for implementation of *Take Back Our Highways*, that Senator Jabo Waggoner and Representative Mike Hubbard would initiate contact with me on personal matters, and that legislators from both parties would feel free to call Lt. Colonel Bingham or me on a myriad of issues.

Ours is a huge state agency with an extremely important mission, and we do not operate in a vacuum. My staff and I work to keep the function of law enforcement “apolitical.” But in order for all of us at DPS to do our jobs, our agency needs positive relationships with the Governor and his staff, the Legislature, the business community, and other state agencies, as well as county and local agencies. Much of that occurs in the director’s office and among the members of my staff, but what each of you does on a day-to-day basis has a tremendous impact on these vital relationships. I am so proud of the compliments that are passed along to me on your behalf, due to your service and professionalism ... from citizens who call or write after a positive encounter with a trooper, to a corporation like Hyundai sponsoring ABI agents to attend an Academy of Forensic Facial Reconstruction workshop. These positive relationships make a difference for DPS and for each of you who answer telephone calls, greet visitors at HQ or at a post, keep us technologically sound, enter the sex offender registry data, patrol and protect our facilities and personnel



in the Capitol complex, keepsafeourprotectees, examine driver license applicants, or respond to a traffic crash. Each and every employee is important to this department, and each employee acts as an ambassador for DPS with every contact during work hours or while off duty. Thank you for being an effective and positive ambassador!

Murphy and Berthay at the picnic on Sept. 19.



Class 2007-A Formally Welcomed to DPS

For the 18 members of Trooper Class 2007-A, Sept. 7 was a day of accomplishment and a time for friends and family to celebrate as the recruits were commissioned into the trooper ranks in a ceremony at the Alabama State Capitol Auditorium. The 12-week abbreviated class comprised candidates with previous training in law enforcement, and built upon their APOST certification with a specialized trooper training program.

Capt. Herman Wright, commander of the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center, greeted those in attendance, including proud family members and friends, DPS directors and staff, and the instructors at the academy.

Class coordinator Cpl. Thaddeus Chandler presented awards recognizing outstanding achievement in Class 2007-A. Jonathan L. Gregg earned the Academic Award for achieving the highest grade point average. George W. Parker received the Highway Response and Driving Award for demonstrating a high level of knowledge and ability in defensive and pursuit driving. The Firearms Award went to Joseph W. Champion for exhibiting the highest level of knowledge, skill and safety in firearms training. Class president Steven McWaters accepted the Fitness Award, for attaining the highest level of physical fitness.



McWaters presents Wright the plaque for Class 2007-A.

Additionally, McWaters was chosen as the class's top performer overall, and received the prestigious Commander's Award for exhibiting exceptional leadership, professionalism and dedication to the class and DPS, while also maintaining a high academic average.

When asked how previous police training has impacted their experience at the academy, McWaters responded, "Our entire training, including any previous training, and the knowledge we acquired from the academy, will only go to benefit the citizens as a whole, as a trooper."

"I think I can speak for the group as a whole when I say we all had a wonderful experience at the academy. I know, as class president, we are all ready, and it truly feels great to finally be a state trooper," McWaters said.

As class secretary, Gregg added, "Our experience to this point has been one wonderful journey. We're essentially getting ready for a new beginning. None of

Class 2007-A Formally Welcomed to DPS (continued)

us are strangers to law enforcement, and we all *chose* to be here. We've come to join the greatest law enforcement agency in Alabama."

While Gregg admitted to some difficulties during their time at the academy, most notably being away from family for the duration, he remained upbeat and concluded, "Fellowship is, without a doubt, the greatest thing to happen to me over the last 12 weeks. Also, our training at the academy was superior, and for that, I am grateful."

With graduation following the Take Back Our Highways initiative, Col. J. Christopher Murphy underscored the quality of Alabama state troopers and the importance of the Department of Public Safety as a whole.

"Today, you join the elite, as this is the premier law enforcement agency in the state of Alabama," said

Right, Tpr. Trainee William Gifford awaits the ceremony as the Honor Guard prepares to post the colors. Below, family, friends, and colleagues enjoy the reception in the State Capitol.



Murphy. He reiterated to the audience the value and importance of the work of troopers in protecting Alabama's residents and visitors, citing as an example the life-saving work of troopers during Take Back Our Highways.

This theme of quality and superiority in public service was carried over in the graduation address from state Rep. Richard Lindsey. Lindsey took time to reflect on his own decision to serve the state of Alabama through his political career, and how his work has impacted and benefited the lives of so many.

"To serve this state in the public sector is the most rewarding decision I've made," said Lindsey. He commended the service of Alabama's state troopers and said, "Your work impacts entire families without them even knowing what could have hit them, by stopping that drunk driver."

Following graduation, the new troopers have reported to their initial assignments in Highway Patrol, and have 10 weeks of additional field training to look forward to, under the close supervision of veteran state troopers.

New Trooper Academy on Horizon

In a recent interview for *The BLUE LIGHT* about the evolution of the trooper academy, Col. J. Christopher Murphy said, “Training is the heart of professionalism.”

From definition of the academy’s nine core values to the \$24.5 million partnership to move the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center across Selma to the campus of Wallace State Community College, the new attitude toward training at DPS is fresh and forward-thinking. Redesigned from the ground up, the all-new trooper academy presents an entirely different philosophy of success. More importantly, this new viewpoint is, likewise, successful.

With Murphy’s arrival in December 2006, DPS incorporated a new vision for the academy. Gone are the days of a boot-camp driven academy that prided itself on failing more candidates than it passed. Instead, Murphy’s focus shifted to education, a focus that is emulated in Capt. Herman Wright’s interpretation of these ideals. As ACJTC commander, Wright understands that people learn from their mistakes, and he applies that understanding to grooming troopers.

The intent is remarkably similar to that of Murphy’s inspiration: America’s higher education system. Rather than “weeding out” only a select few troopers from every class of candidates, the candidates are more carefully chosen, and the so-called weeding process begins the moment the application is first submitted. Recruitment is crucial in this process, and it, too, has been streamlined to accommodate the new academy. In order to meet Murphy’s stringent hiring schedule of two classes a year — one in June, and a second in October — a systematic schedule of high-priority, localized recruitment is materializing, beginning in the Mobile area, and continuing statewide.

Murphy’s restructuring of the academy was only the beginning, however. His focus was then directed to revitalizing the facility itself, currently located on the old Craig Air Force Base. After years of disrepair, the academy’s



Trooper Class 2007-A lines up for a detailed examination on inspection day at the academy.

New Trooper Academy on Horizon

(continued)



Above, a bird's eye view of the future location of the ACJTC on Wallace State's campus. Right, Murphy scrutinizes every nook, cranny during a room inspection at the academy.

reinvigorate the college's own criminal justice program. And Wallace State and DPS would not be the only beneficiaries from this partnership: With the new academy's focus on academia, trooper candidates also will receive college credit toward the completion of a degree.

So, the philosophy of success rings true. DPS was included on the state educational bond issue, and the department's partnership with Corrections and Wallace State will bring an entirely new academy to the college campus. Proposed for the new ACJTC are six buildings: two academic/administrative buildings (one for DPS and another for Corrections), two dormitories, a gymnasium, and an auditorium/cafeteria. Proposals have been received from 20 different architectural firms, and selection of a proposal is forthcoming. The estimated completion date of the new academy, which promises to breathe new life into training successive generations of troopers, is between late 2009 to mid-2010.

antiquated buildings could only be repaired and brought up to standard at a cost that was not feasible. Inspired by the ideals of higher education, Murphy then did something truly novel for DPS: he proposed developing a partnership with higher education to physically move the academy to a college campus.

Talks first began with Gov. Bob Riley, and after aggressively lobbying the Legislature — even taking Alabama senators and representatives on a tour of the academy at Craig — Murphy and DPS were poised to accomplish what many had said was impossible.

Murphy knew it was a long shot, but everyone he approached with the idea greeted it with enthusiasm. Wallace State Community College, DPS's proposed partner, was more than enthusiastic: Its sentiment was that moving the ACJTC on campus would bring exposure to and



Core Values, One Core Mission

When Capt. Herman Wright recently sat down to discuss with *The BLUE LIGHT* how nine core values shape the outcome of training new troopers, he said, “What you have to understand is the core values have always been central to DPS, now they are more scrutinized.”

So, what exactly are these nine beacons of truth? Here is Wright’s discussion of the simple, straightforward values that guide training at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center:

1. **Honesty** – The single most reliable mark of a trooper’s value is to be able to admit when he or she is wrong and go forward.
2. **Sense of Urgency** – Troopers realize the importance of prompt response to traffic crashes and other calls for service.
3. **Attention to Detail** – Troopers realize that if something is worth doing, it is worth doing well and thoroughly.
4. **Team-Oriented** – Members of the department and members of law enforcement in general are a team, of which the individual components are not as valuable as the whole.
5. **Professionalism** – A trooper must show respect for every person he or she encounters. Professionalism also means being punctual, courteous, prepared and well-groomed.
6. **Adaptability** – Troopers must maintain flexibility with a high degree of performance. A trooper’s job is never the same from one day to the next. He or she must be able to make changes and still perform the job to the highest degree.
7. **Self-Discipline** – Accountability for every action, both on and off the job, is expected of every trooper. Every trooper must recognize what job needs to be done and then do that job well. Law enforcement officers have a responsibility to those they serve to be accountable for their actions.
8. **Performance-Driven** – Being performance-driven means working hard. Troopers are driven to perform because success is measured in both quality and quantity. Troopers are constantly reminded of, and driven by, the department’s mission.
9. **Officer Safety** – This is the final core value instilled in a trooper. Troopers must maintain a high level of awareness in every situation.

Interestingly, the ingenuity here is not in the core values themselves, but in how they are presented at the new academy. The three phases in which the core values are taught instill strength, first as a group, and later on an individual basis. Just as learning is a building process, the nine core values reinforce what it means to be a trooper, said Wright.

Laptops Help Streamline Traffic Citation Process



Tpr. Darryl Phillips demonstrates e-Citation to Gov. Bob Riley following a traffic stop on Aug. 14, during Take Back our Highways.

The Highway Patrol Division recently acquired 20 new laptops, adding to the 433 previously purchased and effectively providing every trooper in the division with mobile data computer capability. This most recent laptop acquisition was made possible thanks to the Administrative Office of Courts, which is working in partnership with the Department of Public Safety in implementing Alabama's e-Citation program.

"E-Ticket," as it has come to be known, has changed a lot about how tickets are both written and processed, according to Capt. Marc McHenry, Highway Patrol Division assistant chief. Troopers now issue tickets much more quickly and with fewer errors.

Tickets are "written" on the mobile data computer by swiping a driver license through a scanner. The data encoded on the driver license fills in the appropriate information

in a template on-screen, and the trooper adds specific information manually such as time, location, and offense. The trooper then has to validate the ticket, checking for any inaccuracies before submitting and printing a copy of the citation for the offender.

Paperwork also is minimized with e-Citation, as tickets immediately are sent electronically directly to the AOC. This system receives applause, not only from the troopers issuing citations on Alabama's roadways, but also from the many court clerks avoiding redundant data entry.

ADECA and NHTSA gave money to AOC for the most recent purchase, and the other 433 laptops were funded with MCSAP grants from FMCSA, as well as funding from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services in 2001 and 2002.

MHP to DPS: Thank You!



In the midst of the 2007 hurricane season, the Mississippi Highway Patrol thanked DPS for coming to Mississippi's aid in Katrina's aftermath by hosting a cookout of epic proportions. Held Sept. 19 at Bladon Springs State Park in Choctaw County, the picnic was a reunion of friends and an effortless display of camaraderie and fellowship.

The devastation of Katrina virtually crippled MHP. Alabama troopers responded to help Mississippi, and were dispatched to provide security patrols and assist the many victims along coastal Mississippi. In the weeks following Katrina, dozens of troopers remained in the hardest hit areas, working seven-day rotating shifts to maintain a continuous presence throughout the devastated region.

In the days and weeks following the 2005 disaster, troopers working grueling hours often went without food and water, because both simply were unattainable in certain areas. MHP found this unacceptable and totally preventable, and immediately began cooking up ideas to circumvent catastrophe's effect on the food supply. What resulted from this endeavor is the Pat Taylor Mobile Kitchen, the only state-operated FEMA Type I-Ready Unit in the nation.

Made possible with several donations from the private sector, the entire professional-grade kitchen is neatly housed within the confines of a semi-truck trailer. Additional perishables are transported via a separate refrigeration truck, and finishing touches on the outfit include an industrial smoker and a premium barbecue grill. When necessary, the entire setup is equipped to feed two hot meals per day to 800 to 1,000 hungry workers.

While the turnout did not quite approach those numbers, several scores of Alabama and Mississippi troopers ventured into the Choctaw County wilderness for the event. The scenic backdrop of Bladon Springs State Park proved a fitting location for the picnic, with little more than green trees and blue skies for miles. The temperate autumn weather made the picnic even more enjoyable.



MHS to DPS: Thank You (continued)

It was MHP Lt. Col. Joe Rigby’s idea to bring the entire outfit to Bladon Springs to thank Alabama DPS for its efforts in Mississippi’s recovery. “For a while, our troopers were really in need. I just wanted to show our thanks, and pay it forward, so to speak,” said Rigby.

Col. Mike Berthay, director of MHP, added, “Rigby and I wanted desperately to show you our gratitude and repay you for graciously helping us with Katrina. We are very fortunate to have something like this kitchen unit, and this is just a little way for us to give back to you for your wonderful contributions.”

The picnic also brought Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour to Bladon Springs. He, too, expressed gratitude to Alabama DPS, and affirmed that government’s chief role and responsibility is protecting its citizens.

“Nothing we do could be accomplished without Public Safety,” said Barbour. “We understand the risk you take each and every day. Thank you.”

Maj. Roscoe Howell offered kind words of appreciation to Barbour for attending and to MHP for making the event possible; Capt. James Lyons asked the blessing; and appreciative troopers from both sides of the state line tucked into plates of roast chicken and fried fish.

Following the picnic, Tpr. John Reese took a moment to reflect as he said, “The picnic was full of old war stories and great food. You really had to be there to feel the great respect each agency has for one another. Although the ladybugs were a little annoying, it didn’t stop the chattering and laughter which echoed throughout the park. This truly was a time to reflect on building a greater working relationship with our neighbor, as well as sharing ideas.”

If you by chance missed the picnic at Bladon Springs, a second picnic is planned to be held at a later date.



Above, Gov. and Mrs. Barbour shake hands with Tpr. Frank Sazera at the picnic. Right, Rigby shows Maj. Charles Andrews around the kitchen.



'Task Force Zero' Looking to Go Statewide

TFZ troopers assist during a nighttime driver license check on U.S. 231.

While field sobriety tests have been used for years to help determine impaired drivers on Alabama roadways, the equipment necessary to confirm drunken driving historically has been difficult to transport. At least that was always the case, until two bright-eyed state troopers interested in finding a better way to handle DUI cases put their heads together to take the lab out into the field.

Task Force Zero began in Montgomery with the help of Cpl. Phil Taylor and Tpr. Jay Penton as a sort of grassroots campaign to embattle state troopers against the state's drunken drivers. Literally armed with an old bread truck equipped with a breathalyzer and a digital camera, the TFZ troopers began making prosecuting DUIs a little easier and a little less time-consuming.

"The system just works," said Capt. Marc McHenry, assistant chief of the Highway Patrol Division. "The van is a great enclosure for the breathalyzer equipment, and it is only a bonus that the lab is mobile."

Maj. Roscoe Howell, Highway Patrol Division chief, agrees, and has requested other posts to follow suit, creating make-shift labs using whatever equipment they have to make a mobile DUI testing facility.

McHenry estimates that properly outfitting nine vans — one for each troop — with breathalyzer equipment, emergency lighting, and digital cameras would run approximately \$600,000. DPS has applied to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs for grant funding for TFZ and hopes to receive financial support to purchase and equip the vans.



Agencies Cooperating to Boost Trooper Patrols

\$5.6 million effort focuses on roads with high numbers of deadly crashes

Gov. Bob Riley announced this month that ALDOT and DPS are cooperating to boost state trooper patrols on roads where there have been a high number of deadly crashes in recent years.

The leaders of both agencies signed an agreement for a two-year special law enforcement program that will focus extra patrols in areas that have had the greatest number of crashes involving excessive speed and impaired driving. To help in accurately pinpointing these problem areas, the CARE Research and Development Laboratory at the University of Alabama will compile statistical data gathered throughout the state.

ALDOT will use \$5.6 million from the federal Highway Safety Improvement Program to fund this enhanced safety effort. The funding will provide overtime pay for state troopers to patrol the routes after their normal duty hours or on an off-day. Some of the funds will also be used to purchase additional radar equipment.

“Most fatal crashes in Alabama involve speeding and drunk driving. That’s why this effort will focus special attention where speed and drunk driving crashes have caused an especially high number of deaths and injuries,” said Riley. “The state continues working to

improve safety on our roads and to protect our citizens, and I commend the leaders of both these agencies for this innovative agreement that will save lives.”

“Public Safety appreciates the opportunity to work with the Department of Transportation on this valuable, new project to save lives on Alabama’s roadways,” said Col. J. Christopher Murphy, director of Public Safety. “We know that when troopers are on patrol to enforce traffic law, assist motorists, and respond to emergencies, our roadways are safer. Increasing patrols in known high-crash areas on a continuing basis will greatly enhance troopers’ work to reduce traffic crashes, injuries and deaths in our state.”

“Using federal safety funds to provide overtime patrols is a proven life-saver,” said Transportation Director Joe McInnes. “Traffic crashes in 2006 claimed over 1,200 lives in Alabama, and this is one part of an overall effort by state government to make Alabama’s highways safer. These overtime patrols funded by ALDOT will be combined with other patrol initiatives to save lives, and we will also continue efforts to use engineering techniques to make our highways safer.”

The officials noted that funding for the effort comes from a dedicated safety program so it will not result in loss of funds for transportation projects.



Goodner: Proud to Wear Badge

Just months after taking over the helm at Protective Services, Maj. Robert Goodner announced his retirement from the department effective Oct. 1. Days before leaving, Goodner took time away from packing up his office to reflect upon his career at DPS.

TBL: *Thinking back over your career, in your opinion, what is your biggest accomplishment?*

Goodner: My accomplishments are not my own; they belong to the department. The department has stood by me through wonderful times and truly tragic times. It means a lot to me to work in a place where everyone is committed and driven to do what needs to be done. I think credit, too often, is handed to people in power only because they are the most visible. The department is one, and its accomplishments belong to all. With that, it's been a privilege and an honor to be a trooper, and I feel accomplished by just belonging to such a wonderful organization.

TBL: *What are you most proud of?*

Goodner: There are so many things that I am proud of in my life, but what stands out, in particular, is I am most proud to be able to wear that trooper badge. Of course, I am proud of the department and of the people within it. I was lucky in that I was well-guided and influenced by everyone with whom I came into contact here at DPS. This is truly an organization everyone in the state of Alabama can be proud of, and I am definitely most proud to have belonged to that same family.

TBL: *What is your greatest source of inspiration?*

Goodner: Bar none, first and foremost, my greatest inspiration is Jesus Christ. With that said, however, there are many other inspirations, from Maj. Ben Gamel, E.C. Dothard, Bobby Haynes, Col. Ned McHenry, and Bill Bailey, to name a few. For me, inspiration comes from people that make an initiative and carry through with it. Truly, though, my heroes are the road troopers that face danger in their jobs every day, and the PCO's that watch out for them.

TBL: *What first made you want to become a trooper?*

Goodner: Maj. Gamel was a hero, and it was following him that first made me want to be a trooper. Before that, however, I put my first badge on as a safety patrolman in the fifth grade. It was wearing that badge, and the honor it bestowed, that made me realize it was my role in life to serve for the betterment of others.

TBL: *What makes being a trooper so special?*

Goodner: The hardest thing I've ever had to do on my job is tell someone their loved one is deceased. Unfortunately, I've had to do that too many times in my career. This job has shown me the many realities of the world. Some are



Goodner: Proud to Wear Badge (continued)

difficult to even face, others are a joy to share. Being a trooper is unlike any other job on this planet, and it has taught me a lot. One of those things I learned is that even 'though this is a serious job, it's still OK to enjoy your work.

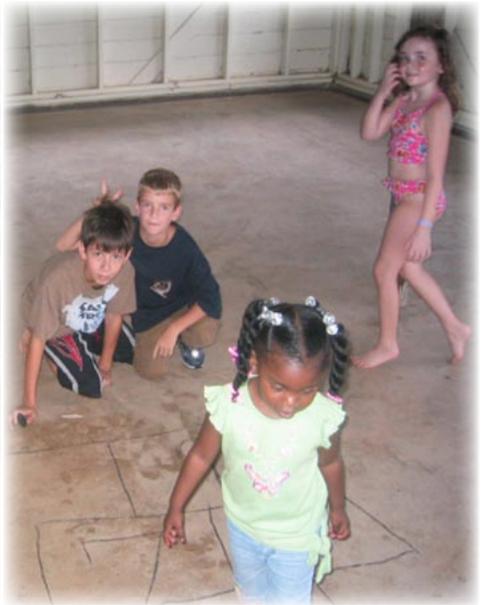
TBL: So, what's next?

Goodner: Thankfully, a lot of doors have come open for me since my decision to retire. I have many attractive business ventures to explore, and I am just focusing on my family. I think Capt. Jeff Standridge said it best at his retirement banquet when he said, "My family has sacrificed for me for many years now. It's time for me to sacrifice for them."

TBL: What are you going to miss the most about DPS?

Goodner: The people. Without a doubt, I am going to miss the day-to-day contact with everyone at the department the most. I dare say there is not another group like them anywhere.

Goodner is shown instructing troopers special operation tactics in January.



DOTHAN HAS A LITTLE 'FUN IN THE SUN'

The Dothan Post held its annual "Fun in the Sun Picnic" on Saturday, Sept. 1. Tpr. John Helms reigned over the barbecue while the rain poured overhead. Before the rain came, Amy, daughter of Tpr. Johnny Senn, enjoyed cooling off in the pool. Afterwards, many of the children could be found playing hopscotch indoors. Despite the uncooperative weather, smiles were shared by all who came to Lake Tholocco that day, and everyone enjoyed a delicious meal.



**Thanks to DPS,
Trail of Tears
Motorcycle Ride
Safe, Successful**



State troopers were on hand for the 14th annual Trail of Tears motorcycle ride, the world's largest organized bike ride. An estimated 150,000 participants pulled into McFarland Park in Florence Sept. 15, following a 210-mile trek from Chattanooga, Tenn., along one of the trails used during the 1838 removal of Native Americans from their homeland to Oklahoma.

Following research in the early 1990s showing that the original Trail of Tears removal had taken a route along present-day U.S. 72, conservationist Bill Cason decided to organize a motorcycle ride to promote public awareness of Native American culture. On Oct. 8, 1994, the Trail of Tears motorcycle ride began with only eight riders, and through the years has evolved into the popular event that it is known as today.

Troopers provided escort and assisted in directing traffic along the route, while a DPS helicopter also kept an eye on the action from above. State troopers provided escort all the way to Waterloo, the traditional stopping point of the Trail of Tears ride.



Above, thousands of bikers with their motorcycles fill McFarland Park. Below, Cpl. Thaddeus Chandler directs the many participants as they arrive at their destination.





*Scenes from
Take Back Our Highways*

August's TBOH campaign was a resounding success for DPS, with troopers in all divisions on patrol throughout the state. As these scenes show, DPS worked on many fronts to increase safety and save lives during the initiative.



People You Know!

New Employees

Emily Hodges	8/16/07	PCO I	HP/Birmingham
Christopher Hopkins	9/04/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Opelika
Anthony Howard	9/01/07	Supply Officer	SER/Supply
Rickmon McClellan	8/16/07	ASA I	DL/DL Services
Dennis Nichols	9/04/07	PCO I	HP/Birmingham
Jessica Richards	8/16/07	ASA I	DL/Records
Clifford Scarbrough	8/16/07	PCO I	HP/Birmingham
Brandi Simpson	8/16/07	PCO I	HP/Decatur
Rodney Tarvin	8/16/07	Accounting Technician	HP/Birmingham
Charodavia Thomas	8/16/07	ASA I	DL/Safety Responsibility

Promotions

Joel Baker	9/01/07	Corporal	HP/Huntsville
Blake Baughman	9/01/07	Corporal	HP/Gadsden
Richard Beasley	9/01/07	Corporal	HP/Birmingham
Jason Black	9/01/07	Corporal	HP/Alexander City
John Cleveland	9/01/07	Corporal	HP/Birmingham
Jimmie Fordham	9/01/07	Corporal	HP/Tuscaloosa
Anthony Frost	9/01/07	Sergeant	PS/Montgomery
Gary Gates	9/01/07	Corporal	HP/Decatur
Ashley Grant	8/16/07	ASA II	ADM/PI/E, FARS
John Henderson	9/01/07	Captain	HP/Jacksonville
Jamaine Isaac	9/01/07	Sergeant	HP/Selma
Michael McBrayer	9/01/07	Corporal	HP/Huntsville
Tim McGlothlin	9/01/07	Captain	HP/Evergreen
Marshall Merrill	9/01/07	Corporal	HP/Jacksonville
Raymond Norred	9/01/07	Corporal	HP/Opelika
Samuel Pickett	9/01/07	Corporal	HP/Dothan
Guy Rush	9/01/07	Lieutenant	DL/Headquarters
Barkley Shaw	9/01/07	Corporal	HP/Gadsden
Charles Ward	9/01/07	Captain	HP/Dothan
John Whitaker	9/01/07	Lieutenant	ABI/Capitol Police

Transfers

Brittney Andrews	8/16/07	Clerical Aide	HP/Motor Carrier
Meredith Carr	8/16/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Mobile Examining
Valerie Givan	8/16/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Montgomery Examining
Winston Harbison	8/16/07	Trooper	HP/Tuscaloosa



People You Know!

Transfers (continued)

Donald Leger	9/01/07	Trooper	HP/Dothan
Joseph McClellan	8/16/07	Sergeant	ABI/Homeland Security
James Morrison	9/01/07	Sergeant	PS/Division Operations Officer
Jerod Peak	8/16/07	Trooper	HP/Dothan
Daniel Setzer	8/16/07	Trooper	HP/Mobile
Derrick Tellis	8/16/07	Trooper	HP/Opelika
Gregory Ward	8/16/07	Trooper	HP/Mobile

Military Leave

Walter Huchinson	8/02/07	DL Examiner	DL/Montgomery
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Resignations

Kimberly Adams	8/17/07	Clerical Aide	DL/Hearing
Faye Boyd	8/17/07	PCO I	HP/Dothan
Janet Davis	8/14/07	PCO I	HP/Opelika
Julie Fuller	8/16/07	Clerical Aide	ABI/CIC
Jimmecca Harper	7/12/07	PCO I	HP/Opelika
Amanda Kent	8/10/07	Clerical Aide	ABI/Identification
Jacqueline Lindstrom	8/02/07	Clerical Aide	ABI/Identification
Christopher Mullins	8/08/07	Clerical Aide	HP/Motor Carrier
Monique Pace	8/17/07	Clerical Aide	DL/DL Services
Michael Parsley	8/31/07	Service Patrol Officer	HP/Birmingham
Troy Spivey	9/10/07	PCO I	PS/Capitol Police
Margaret Watson	9/15/07	DL Supervisor	DL/Tuscaloosa

Retirements

Oscar Kyles	8/31/07	Captain	HP/Mobile
Monteresa Sanders	8/31/07	ASA I	HP/Birmingham

Alabama Department of



Public Safety

CONTRIBUTING:

- Capt. Marc McHenry, HP
- Lt. Clay Barnes, ABI
- Sgt. Karl Youngblood, ABI
- Tpr. David Richards, ADM
- Tommy Giles, Photography

EDITOR:

Ryan Godfrey

RSA Criminal Justice Center Montgomery, Ala.



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Questions? Comments? Concerns?

STAY IN TOUCH WITH *THE BLUE LIGHT*.
 PLEASE EMAIL ALL REQUESTS TO:
 RYAN.GODFREY@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

On Your Calendar

Monday, October 8

Columbus Day

Monday, November 12

Veteran's Day

Thursday, November 22

Thanksgiving

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day

To Whom it May Concern:

A few weeks ago my wife and I were driving on I-65 when our vehicle struck some debris along the interstate which caused a blowout on our vehicle. It was rush hour and the interstate was extremely busy.

When I began to change my vehicle's tire, one of your ASAP vehicles pulled up and offered assistance. Jacob Goolsby was the employee who assisted us and I wanted to pass along a kind word about how fast he was there to assist us and his professionalism. While I am more than capable of changing a tire, the presence of his vehicle w/lights along this busy section of interstate and his assistance were greatly appreciated. Please pass along my thanks to Mr. Goolsby and we appreciate you offering this program to ensure we have safe passage through your state.

Again, great job!!!

Thank you,

Steve Ward
 Park Manager
 Radnor Lake State Natural Area, Tenn.

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THE BLUE LIGHT

