



TEXAS STATE TROOPER

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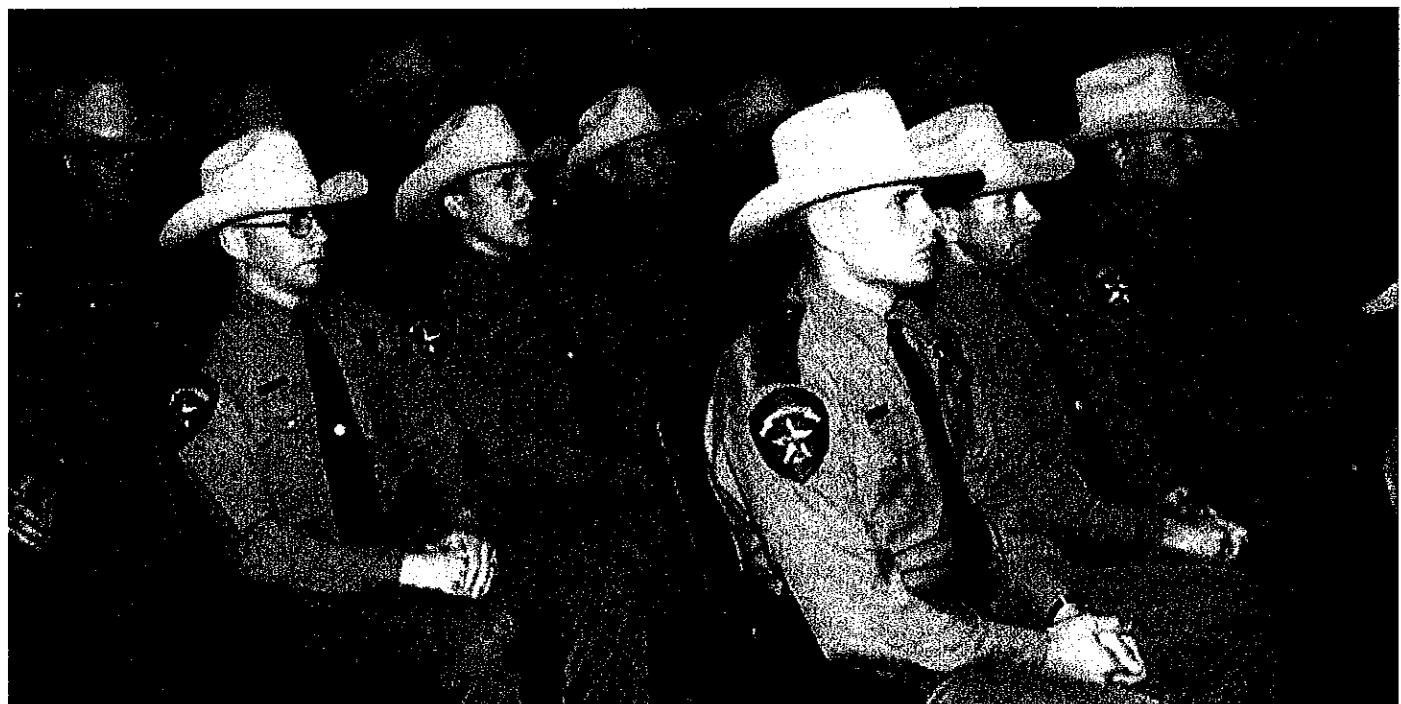
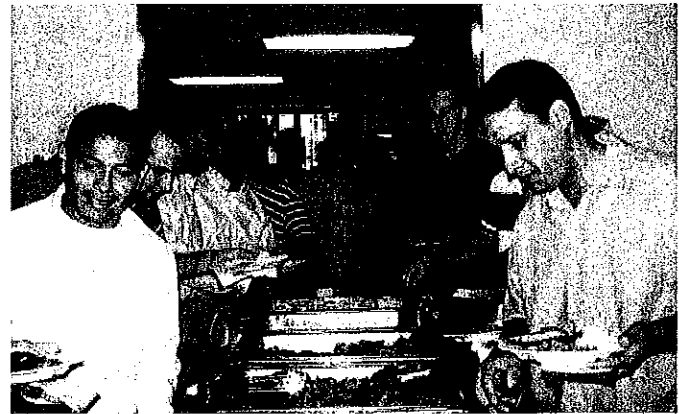
DPS graduates 166 new troopers

TSTA throws big barbecue dinners for two different classes last days before graduation

It was one of the largest DPS recruit training academy classes in the history of DPS. And it was probably the largest audience ever as to parents, spouses, brothers, sisters, sweethearts, relatives and friends who came from everywhere to Austin's Shoreline Christian Center to honor them on graduation day. Keynote speaker was Governor Rick Perry, who said, "In these times of heightened security concerns, our citizens deserve the best possible protection and this class fits that bill. Texans can all sleep soundly knowing that people of this caliber with training of this quality are maintaining a vigilant watch over our state. I congratulate DPS for assembling such a fine group of new officers."

The big reason why the group was so large is that it was two different recruit classes (C-2007 and D-2007) who started training simultaneously on the same date last September and finished on the same date, March 28. Forty-six percent of the new troopers who graduated had served in the U.S. military before joining the DPS.

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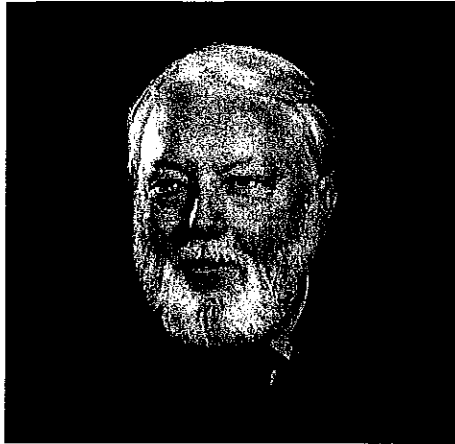
Recruits classes C-2007 and D-2007 graduated together.

(Photo courtesy Kent Kinkade, DPS Crime Lab)

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Court's In Session

By Judge Larry Gist



It's Working

Our prisons are overflowing at a cost of billions of dollars a year to operate. And there is, unfortunately, a great probability that many of those released when their sentence expires or when granted parole will return again.

Some argue that's because of funding limitations. We have removed many rehabilitative programs that could help keep offenders from returning. Most of the money we spend in Texas today on our prisons is used for security. And in that area we do an excellent job.

But the revolving door just keeps on-a-swinging. Things changed last legislative session. Substantial attention was given to seeking ways to keep offenders from returning to the criminal justice system.

Under the strong leadership of Rep. Jerry Madden in the House and Sen. John Whitmire in the Senate, hearings were held seeking input from everyone involved in the system. And they listened and learned. When it was all over, substantial funds were appropriated to address proven methods that would reduce recidivism.

Most of the attention was directed at probation alternatives for non-violent offenders. If front-end programs would work, it could prevent large numbers of offenders from entering prison in the first place.

So the 80th Legislature provided significant new funding to include:

• \$63.1 million increase for 1500 additional new Substance abuse Felony Punishment treatment beds.

• \$32.2 million increase for 800 additional new Community Correction Facility beds.

• \$28.8 million increase for 1400 additional new Intermediate Sanction Facility beds, shared with Parole.

• \$10 million increase for basic probation supervision.

• \$10 million increase for Outpatient Substance abuse Treatment.

• \$10 million increase for Mental Health Treatment.

Now we know without a doubt that offenders with substance abuse or mental health problems are flooding the system. And an awful lot of offenders suffer from both. Unless we can get a handle on these areas, the cycle of crime will continue.

The legislature also required that drug courts be created in our large counties and provisions were made to allow them in smaller jurisdictions. Special DWI courts were also established in several communities. They will address a problem everyone recognizes.

Other improvements would work to reduce caseloads for probation and parole officers. Because caseloads were so high, many officers had become basically bookkeepers, having little time to actually supervise offenders.

It was also apparent that the very best probationers were kept under supervision only because they paid regularly. And those fees helped fund the probation departments all across Texas. So the better you were, the longer we kept you under supervision because we needed your money.

To address this problem, attempts to alter the method of state funding were examined in order to permit the early release from supervision of those offenders who had made excellent progress in their rehabilitation efforts.

Another area of concern was the staggering number of probation revocations based on administrative reasons. In so many cases, probation was revoked not because the offender had committed a new offense but because some administrative rule was broken. So a system of progressive sanctions was designed where violating offenders could be punished locally in ever increasing ways. And a series of reduced sanctions was put in place when the offender began to follow the rules again. Before these new techniques were put in place, a very large portion of offenders sent to prison went solely because of administrative or technical violations.

Well, just how are these reforms working? It's still very early to make firm evaluations, but the preliminary information is very positive and encouraging. Probation departments who received additional state funding have reduced total felony probation revocations by 7.3% and administrative or technical revocations are down by 15.8%.

Caseloads for departments receiving additional funds are down by over 17%. And early release from supervision is up in those counties by 34.6%. The early discharges of low risk successful probationers contributed to reduce caseload sizes thus allowing probation officers to concentrate on higher risk offenders.

Rep. Madden's HB 530 expanded the number of counties required to establish drug courts, instituted a fee to help fund them, and established court programs for persons arrested for, charged with or convicted of a DWI offense. Drug and DWI courts have been exceptionally successful in diverting offenders from returning to the criminal justice system. And it's done at a fraction of the cost of incarceration.

These programs are not soft or easy. In fact most offenders find prison much more preferable to these tough but successful rehabilitation programs.

We are certainly going in the right direction. Through the appropriate use of these alternative sanctions, we can

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TSTA Prepares For Legislature's 81st Session



By Donald W. Dickson II, Esq.¹

The 81st Session of the Texas Legislature will convene in January, 2009, and TSTA's legislative affairs consultants and executive staff are already hard at work on several issues of concern to active and retired members of the Association.

We hope to persuade the Legislature to do right by the Senior Troopers who were all but left out of the substantial pay raise everyone else received last session.

We intend to urge the Legislature to do right by our retirees by preserving their benefits and by authorizing a "13th check." In the last session, legislators approved the 13th check for retirees but did not appropriate the funds to make it happen.

We will work to preserve the actuarial soundness of the law enforcement and corrections officers' supplemental retirement fund. In every session there are proposals to add new categories of state employees to the LECOS fund. We've fought hard and successfully against these proposals in the past, and we will continue to do so.

We plan to address several workplace concerns of widespread interest to Association members, including paid time for maintaining physical fitness, changes to unduly burdensome residency and secondary employment rules, re-engineering of the evaluation process, and due process for disciplined and discharged employees.

During this Session, the Department will be undergoing "Sunset review." This is a term you may have heard before and never fully understood. Most state agencies have a "sunset provision" in the statute which created them. The sunset provision literally puts the agency out of business on a certain date unless the Legislature specifically determines that there is a need for the agency to continue to exist, and provides for its continued existence.

The Legislature established the Sunset Advisory Commission, a bipartisan commission, to conduct periodic "sunset reviews" of state agencies as their sunset dates approach. Sunset review has developed into an often useful means of evaluating and re-evaluating the mission and the methods of state agencies.

The Sunset Advisory Commission has invited TSTA's participation in its current review of the Department's mission and methods, and we look forward to working with the Commission during this process.

The Association will again be represented during the

Session by former Senator Carl Parker, and by Deborah Ingersoll of Legislative Solutions, Inc. We've got the best in the business working for you. But your personal participation in the legislative process is every bit as important. We urge you again this year to establish and maintain a personal relationship with your Senator and your Representative. Make your personal concerns known to them. Make yourself available to them if you can assist them in any way, such as by keeping an eye on their homes and families while they are away on legislative business, escorting staffers to their cars at odd hours, or facilitating their transportation within their districts, and between their districts and Austin. Let them know you've got their safety and best interests at heart, and they'll do the same for you.

¹ Mr. Dickson is an associate in the Austin office of The Parker Law Firm, and provides legal counsel to TSTA members in matters arising in the good faith performance of their duties. He is also TSTA's "webmaster" and you can e-mail him at webmaster@texasstatetroopers.org.

Remember our TSTA member officers now serving in the armed services!



Their families may have special needs due to the military separation. TSTA has names and addresses. You may be that special person who can help.



Call TSTA at 1-800-289-8782.

Class never runs scared

Class never runs scared. It is sure-footed and confident. It can handle whatever comes along.

Class has a sense of humor. It knows that a good laugh is the best lubricant for oiling the machinery of human relations.

Class never makes excuses. It takes its lumps and learns from past mistakes.

Class knows that good manners are nothing more than a series of small, inconsequential sacrifices.

Class bespeaks an aristocracy that has nothing to do with ancestors or money. Some wealthy "blue bloods" have no class, while some who are struggling to make ends meet are loaded with it.

Class is real. It can't be faked.

Class is comfortable in its own skin. It never puts on airs.

Class never tries to build itself up by tearing others down.

Class is already up and need not strive to look better by making others look worse.

Class can "walk with kings and keep its virtue and talk with crowds and keep the common touch." (Thank you, Rudyard Kipling.) Everyone is comfortable with it. If you have class, you've got it made. If you don't have class, no matter what else you have, it doesn't make any difference.

Reprint: Ann Landers

DPS graduates 166 new troopers...continued from front cover

Several of these had seen combat duty in Iraq and most of them were Marines.

The troopers began the 28-week training academy in September. Instruction covered more than 100 subjects, including counter-terrorism, traffic and criminal law, arrest and control procedures, accident reconstruction, first-aid and Spanish. They also received extensive training in use of force, communication skills, firearms, driving, criminal interdiction, cultural diversity and physical fitness. They are now at duty stations all around Texas. They will spend their first six months in on-the-job training with a senior trooper.



At the TSTA barbecue, which class ate the most?

It's hard to say. TSTA just noticed that the barbecue disappeared fast. Both C-2007 and D-2007 were noisy and happy – happy to be only hours away from graduation, freedom from the rigid discipline of the training academy and soon to be with loved ones at graduation ceremonies. Also, free to hit the road away from Austin to far away homes and families all over the state.

On separate nights, the two classes met TSTA staff and mingled with each other in a totally relaxed atmosphere. On March 18 and 25th, the graduating troopers heard TSTA Executive Director Claude Hart briefly explain TSTA's functions and the advantages of being a TSTA member. They perused copies of the TSTA newsletter and chatted with TSTA editor Jack Lawler, who took lots of pictures.

Members...it's yours to enjoy! TSTA In-Service Hospitality!

Monday-Thursday

Half-price drinks for TSTA members
Bar Hours 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.
(Monday Nights until Game is over)

PLUS

Enter drawing for \$200 door prize
Drawing each Friday
Check Mailed

Many are shown on following pages. Marines in the group quickly got into USMC talk with Lawler, a Marine from years past.

Academy training officers expressed great pride for both classes. One of them observed that having two training classes simultaneously – on the same weekly schedule – was tough work, but that it had advantages. "There was a rigorous competition between the two classes to outperform the other. This showed inside the gym, outside on the P.T. field, and even when they marched past each other in the hallways. This competition enhanced performance."

Class 2007-C had one enhancement that 2007-D did not have. They had females. Class 2007-D had none. But "D" compensated at the TSTA affair. When the nickel-odeon music got busy near the dance floor, guys danced with guys!

TSTA is proud of both classes and pleased to have met them at the barbecues.

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New Troopers (left to right) Maria Perales, Amelia Hernandez, Tina Lopez and Yvette Gonzales. One training Sgt. Said, "I'm extremely proud of these gals!"

Health Tips

Protein sources

It's generally recommended that adults eat about 9 grams (g) of protein for every 25 pounds they weigh. Try to get your protein from sources with lower levels of saturated fat and cholesterol, such as:

- Beans and lentils – A cooked half-cup typically gives you between 6 and 10 g of protein with almost no fat and zero cholesterol. Peanuts and soybeans – both lentils – contain heart-healthy monounsaturated fat.
- Fish – a 3-ounce fillet of mackerel, salmon, trout or tuna provides between 18 g and 25 g of protein. The fats they contain are mostly the good, unsaturated types – including omega-3 fatty acids.
- Soy products – Although products vary, 1 cup of soymilk or a soy burger gives you between 10 and 15 g of protein with no cholesterol and a small amount of saturated fat.
- Skim milk and other fat-free dairy – One cup of skim milk has about 8 g of protein. One cup of fat-free yogurt has about 14 g of protein. Both have a negligible amount of fat and cholesterol.
- Egg whites – The whites of two large eggs contain about 7 g of protein and virtually no fat or cholesterol.
- Nuts – An ounce of almonds or walnuts provides about 5 g of protein and no cholesterol. Most nuts are high in fat, but for most it's predominantly monounsaturated.

Reprinted with permission from Mayo Clinic Health Letter, Dec. 2007, Rochester, MN.

Here are some of the new troopers who graduated from recruit Classes C-2007 and D-2007. You may meet them soon!

(Continued from page 4)



Left to right: new troopers Jacob Gamez, Joe Salas, Jaime Zapata.



New Trooper Brian Coleman



New Trooper Ricardo Trejo



New Trooper Danielle Blair. She hails from Galveston. Assigned to Cleburne-HP.



New Trooper Alfredo Amaya. He's from Las Cruces, N.M. He's married, is assigned to Fort Hancock-HP.



New Trooper Ronald C. Melton. He's from Atlanta, TX, and is assigned to Jacksboro-HP. Ron was class chaplain for 2007-D. Classmates said he organized prayer/spiritual help sessions for struggling recruits at the close of tough training days. His grandfather was a minister.



New Trooper Otis C. White. As a Marine with 21 years service, he saw combat, was a D.I. (drill instructor) and also Gunnery Sgt. Hails from Dallas, is married, duty station is Ennis. How did he like commanding recruits in USMC boot camp? "I loved it."



New Trooper Aaron Early chats with TSTA editor Jack Lawler. 7-year veteran Marine Early is from Buda, is assigned to Bryan-HP. He was in the initial Iraq invasion, saw combat as "the tip of the spear." His wife is an Aggie.



New Troopers Franklin Shanks (left) and Kurt Kelm.

TSTA Membership Advantages

- * Free Last Will & Testament
- * Free AD&D Insurance
- * Legal Assistance
- * Recreational Facilities
- * Legislative Representation
- * Personal Counsel

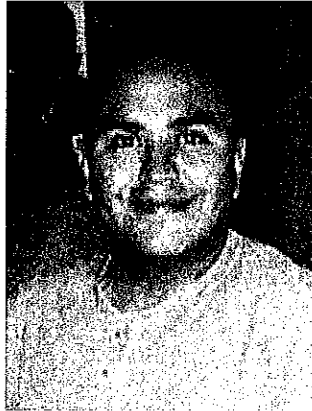
There are no routine stops.

46% of the 266 new troopers are ex-military (many Marines)

(Continued from page 5)



New Trooper Joseph LaBorde. Joe is from Plano, is assigned to Waco-HP. He and his wife Hillary have a daughter, age 3. His years in the Marine Corps included combat in Iraq and 6 years as a sniper. He carried a 30 lb. scoped rifle with a max range of 2000 yards.



New Trooper Carlos Miranda. Hometown El Paso and is assigned to El Paso-HP. Served 9 years in USMC, final rank, S/ Sgt., was aircraft analyst for versatile "Harriers". He and his wife Lillian have 3 children, ages 12, 2 and 1.



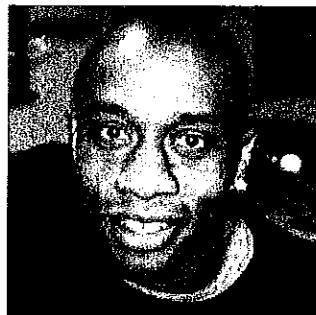
New Trooper Juan Martinez, Jr.



New Trooper John Ramos talks to new trooper Dennis Miller about his haircut.



New Trooper Michael Greene II. He's from Tallulah, LA., and is assigned to Denton -HP. A 4-year Marine veteran.



New Trooper Eric C. Robinson is assigned to Rosenberg-HP. Hometown is Mt. Pleasant where he played high school football. Says he came aboard at DPS because "my happiness is to see others happy and safe."

Words to Remember

Do illiterate people get the full benefit of alphabet soup?

Don't take life too seriously. You're not going to get out alive anyway.

Church bulletin announcement: At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Then there was the blonde who was trapped on the escalator because the power went out.

The second mouse gets the cheese.

Since its the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

The lions in our path are often chained.

Excellence is never an accident.

Imagination is more important than knowledge.

WE CARE
Texas State Troopers Association

Southwest Sports Foundation, sponsored by TSTA, helps young baseballers develop

Some young baseballers never reach their maximum potential. Some never make the starting line-up. Many never advance from high school baseball to college baseball. Some with championship potential never quite develop that edge that changes them from an occasional winner to a champion. And some youngsters with good abilities get bypassed by coaches. It was to help young baseball players in these areas that the Southwest Sports Foundation (SSF) was formed in 1999.

It was founded by James Ellison, an Austinite who was a former pitching coach for the Texas Longhorns, prior to that he was an outstanding pitcher at St. Edward's University in Austin. With a heart for high schoolers, he assembled a highly qualified group of coaches and instructors. He got a board of directors, did fundraising and secured donations. He knew coaches and sports fans who knew where the kids were. He found many. An early basic need was for a place to meet, teach, train and store equipment. And equipment was needed. SSF later acquired batting cages, pitchers mounds, bats, balls and more.

Enter TSTA, and its Executive Director Claude Hart, a baseball fan. Ellison and Hart talked. Result: TSTA provided a modern warehouse-type building, which included office space for Ellison and equipment storage space, plus a large amount of vacant space for pitching baseballs and parking kids' cars. "Our partnership with TSTA is a tremendous gift," says SSF's Ellison. "TSTA has helped in other ways, also."

Now going strong after nine years, SSF training has



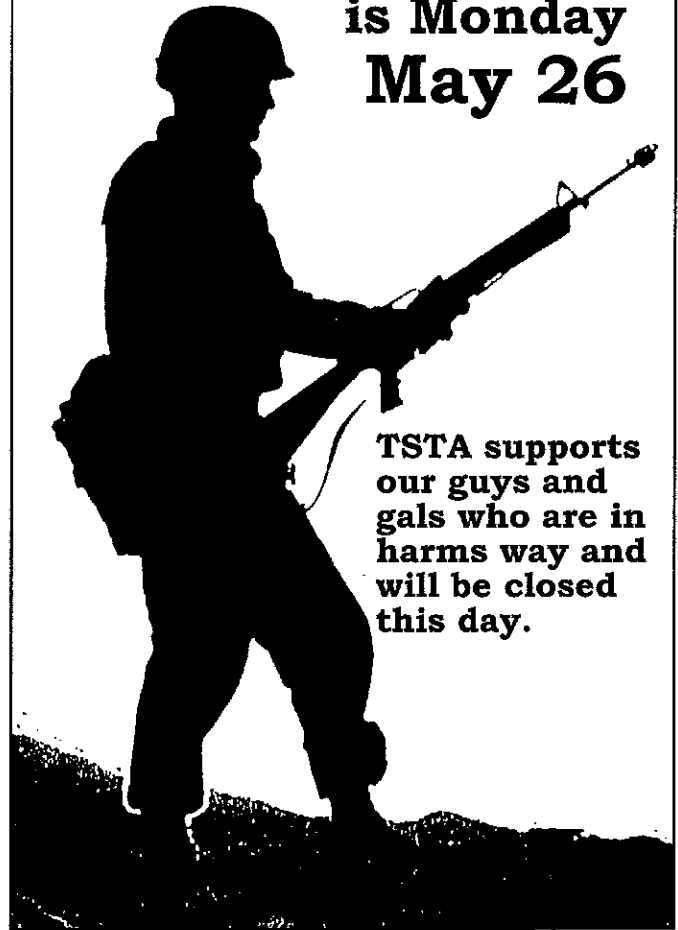
helped 164 high school baseballers get into college baseball and averages about 100 youngsters per year. Goals of the SSF training school for the youngsters include: a willingness to accept coaching, a desire to give their best effort, a willingness to take responsibility and make sacrifices for his team and a desire to improve and compete.

Southwest Sports Foundation is filling a youth athletic need, and is happy to have found a home at TSTA. With a strong helping hand from the Texas State Troopers Association, SSF is making a difference in the lives of lots of high school baseballers. And the kids are learning more than just baseball. They're learning to be our leaders of tomorrow.

Remember those serving in our Armed Forces, and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our country

MEMORIAL DAY

is Monday
May 26



TSTA supports our guys and gals who are in harms way and will be closed this day.

MEMBERSHIP ADVANTAGES

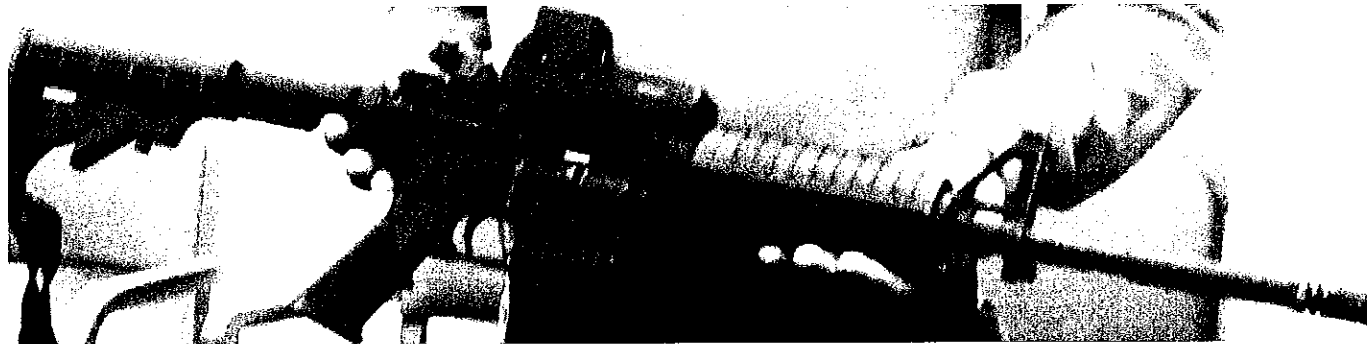
TSTA...

- Free Last Will & Testament
- Free AD&D Insurance
- Legal Assistance
- Recreational Facilities
- Legislative Representation
- Personal Counsel

36.9% of all U.S. children are now born out of wedlock.
Austin American Statesman, April 2(George Wills column)

Troopers now have a new rifle, after much good training at new DPS Firing Range

"Both recruits and veterans like it," says DPS Range Instructor Sgt. Bobby Ripps. "It's fun to shoot, fun to train with, and it helps make better shooters. It's user friendly, tactically sound."



The rifle's name: the AR15-M4, an enhanced version of the AR-15 used by our fighting troops in Iraq. Its light at 6 3/4 lbs., .223 caliber with a muzzle velocity of 2900 ft/second, and a short barrel length of 16 inches. It's designed to handle a 30-round clip. Manufactured by Bushmaster, its stock can adjust to any size shooter – short arms or long – because it has six adjustable positions. It's a tested military model that has been enhanced through the years, and now DPS benefits from these enhancements.

Sgt. Ripps is especially enthusiastic about the AR15-M4's sights. "It's called the EOTech Reflex sight, which gives a scoped picture with a little red dot when you are on the target. It has better sight alignment. It helps the shooter get on target very fast. For night firing a small flashlight with a 25-yard range can be attached."

Sgt. Ripps recently told TSTA editor Jack Lawler how this unique carbine-size rifle found its way into DPS officer hands. DPS leadership awareness of the need for a new rifle range goes back about eight years, he stated. There had been some functional difficulties with the preceding-issued rifle, based on complaints from troopers. The new rifle was adapted in 2006, and phased in with the troops over a 12-month period. From DPS/GSA stores in Austin, rifles were first issued to Highway Patrol troopers (HP), then to Criminal Law Enforcement officers (CLE – this includes Rangers), and then to Driver License troopers (DL). The issue was done one DPS region at a time (DPS has seven regions, statewide).

Special DPS instructors were brought in to teach both veteran officers and recruits all about the AR15-M4. Three days of training for the recruits includes nomenclature, maintenance, sight alignment, trigger control, loading, firing, and more. These are long days in the sun. Noting that recently graduated recruit classes C-2007 and D-2007, had a high percentage of military veterans who already

knew much about shooting, Sgt. Ripps told them, "We're going to show you new things about shooting."

Were younger recruits, with little experience with guns and shooting tougher to train? Sgt. Ripps' answer: "No, normally they're more teachable. They haven't learned any bad habits."

Other DPS firearms training by Sgt. Bobby Ripps and co-instructors include officers' handguns and the shotgun, weapons standard in every patrol car. The handgun is the Sig Sauer, a German-made weapon. It comes in the

.357 Sig caliber, with a magazine capacity of 12. Before recruits ever fire it they are taught the weapons' parts, its capabilities, how to draw it from the holster, how to hold it (grip), how to load, and also sighting and trigger control.

The new shooters then fire at different types of targets: the basic qualification (static) target, the simulated human targets, then moving targets. They fire at "running targets" (moving laterally) and targets that simulate "the bad guy" charging at them. Targets on this state-of-the-art DPS firing range are electronically-controlled.

Advanced handgun training includes teaching shooters how to win in a shootout under adverse circumstances: shooting when injured (loading and shooting one-handed), shooting when on the ground, shooting while moving fast, how and when to "take cover", and also, malfunction drills (stoppages). Sgt. Ripps and co-instructors put lots of emphasis on shooting psychology. They know that stressful and dangerous situations can develop almost instantly in a normal appearance traffic stop or other confrontation.

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DPS Sgt. Bobby Ripps (right) shows TSTA editor Jack Lawler the AR15-M4's great sighting system.

**WHEN THE NEED IS GREAT
TSTA IS THERE**

New rifle. DPS Firing Range...continued from page 8

Bobby Ripps has these words of psychology for recruits, troopers or other officers: "If you wait to make an action plan after the stress hits you, it's too late. The bad guy already has his plan. That's why your training has to be good, has to be right in the surface of your thinking, ready to kick in. That's how you win in a dangerous confrontation."

He speaks of "command presence" by officers faced with an uncooperative or belligerent offender. One of his drills places a recruit in front of a simulated human target with a "painted-on" handgun. The recruit is instructed to get into a combative stance facing the target and shout "Police!" "Stop!" But then, the threat keeps advancing -- and the recruit or officer must know when to go into action with his weapon. "Command presence"? Yes. An important teaching factor.

"And in this scenario, there must be no wasted movement by the officer," says Ripps.

Then there is shotgun training with the Remington 12-ga. Pump. More on this phase later. Facilities used include skeet-throwing machines.

TSTA editor Jack Lawler got a special "treat" on the day he visited the Florence DPS Firing Range and Sgt. Ripps. It was an Annual Training Conference of the Texas Tactical Police Officers Association, which brought in police SWAT teams from many Texas Cities. They were there engaging in an aerial attack exercise. It involved a DPS helicopter circling low over a target area which contained silhouette targets which were simulated bad guys. Aboard were three officers: the pilot, a spotter, and a gunner. The shooter, partially out of the cockpit with his feet braced on the skids, shot at the targets about 200 feet below as the pilot banked to give him a good field of fire.

After several rounds the chopper would land and pick up

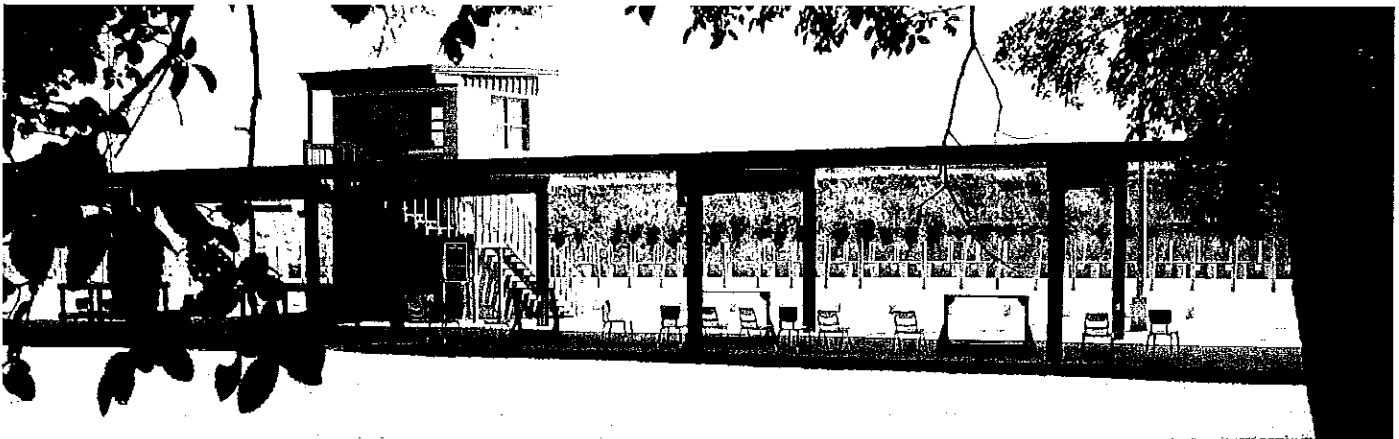


The flying was skilled and so was the shooting.

a SWAT fire team from another city. It was an impressive drill. The shooters were good.

The experienced Training Staff (one DPS lieutenant, three sergeants and two "range maintenance workers") the modern weaponry, the electronic targets and other sophisticated facilities make the DPS Firing Range a valuable Texas asset for public safety. "And all of it combined," says Sgt. Bobby Ripps, "can save officers' lives in times of dangerous confrontations."

And the new AR15-M4 rifle? "It's a winner," he says. "It fits our goal of giving the troops the very best equipment."



Court's In Session...continued from page 2

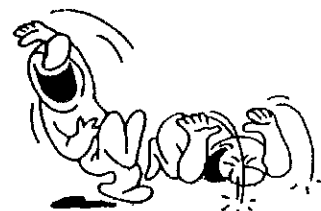
significantly improve public safety while reducing cost to the taxpayers. But for these things to be successful, it will require the dedication and very hard work of everyone in the criminal justice system. And that's sure the direction we're headed in.

So until next time, you'll be careful out there, you hear.

Sgt. Bobby Ripps ...firing range instructor, is a DPS veteran officer of 19 years, which includes service with Driver License, Capitol Security, Highway Patrol and the DPS SWAT team (seven years) which occurred during the HP years. Prior to coming aboard with DPS in 1989, he was with San Marcos PD for ten years. He was born and raised in San Benito, graduating from high school there, where he played football.

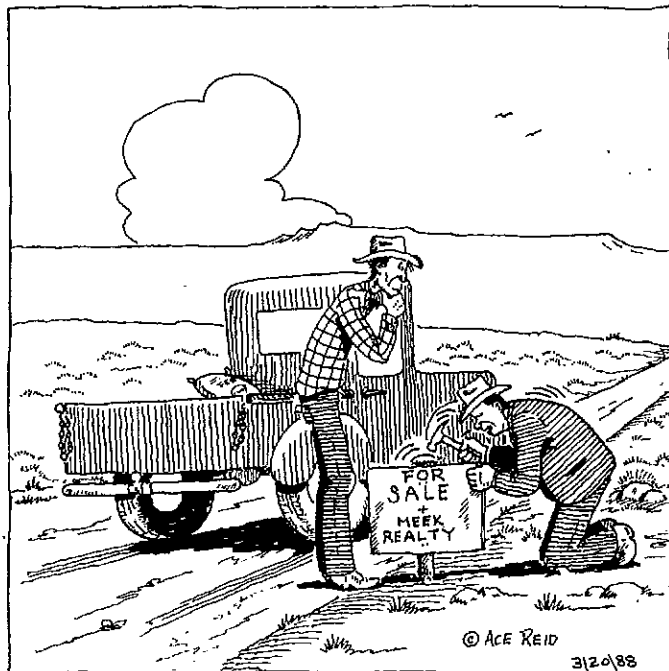
Growing up, he had one older brother on the DPS Highway Patrol, who strongly influenced him to "go" with DPS. Bobby and his wife Susan live in Georgetown and have two young adult daughters.

* Kuempel's Korner *



COWPOKES

By Ace Reid



"If you can hold out a while longer, I may be able to get almost what you paid for this place."

Happiness formula: find a new friend, learn a new skill, simplify your life.

Time can't bring anything or anyone back.

Get rid of clutter - you'll feel better.

"C-students rule the world."
- President Harry Truman

Pain heals. Insults linger.

We used to take life with a grain of salt. Now we take it with a dose of valium.

Don't grow old, just grow up.

Take care of yourself: don't wait for someone else to do it.

Election: things that are held to see if the polls were right.

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

A weed is a plant with nine lives.

If we rest, we rust.

Every year it takes less time to fly around the world, and more time to drive to work.

"What matters is not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog."
-The late football coach Bear Bryant

Save Money on Quality Double-H TROOPER BOOTS!

•soft, durable leather • cushion insole • high abrasion, oil-resistant sole and heel • long-wearing • meet DPS uniform requirements!

hand-crafted in USA!



8-inch
WELLINGTON
\$84.00



10-inch
COWBOY
\$96.00

Prices include shipping

This is a special members' benefit purchase through TSTA arrangements with Richland Shoe Company. To order, call TSTA at 1-800-289-8782

Statement of Purpose

Texas State Trooper is an official publication of the Texas State Troopers Association. Should you have news you would like published, mail it to:

Texas State Troopers Association
 5540 North Lamar
 Austin, TX 78751
 E-mail us at TSTAMAIL@aol.com
 Website: www.texasstatetroopers.org

The Texas State Troopers Association is open to all first-line commissioned members of the Department of Public Safety, both current and former.

TSTA intends no indictment of those of supervisory rank through their exclusion as members of this organization. We do understand, however, that no association can be all things to all people. Therefore, we have chosen to represent those who need our services more: first-line troopers. This policy negates the probability of conflict of interest that stems from multi-class representation.

TSTA will work hard for the betterment of life for every member of the department.

FOR MEMBERSHIP: Complete the application below. Mail it and a check for \$25 payable to the Texas State Troopers Association to the address at the top of the application. Include your jacket size: M, L, XL, XXL or XXXL. Your cap and jacket will be mailed to you.

WILLS: Members are reminded that one of your benefits from TSTA is the free preparation of a last will and testament. This service is performed by Lee Johnson. He may be contacted at:

Lee Johnson
 Attorney-at-Law
 575 N. 7th Street
 Beaumont, TX 77702
 Telephone: 409/833-8911

Moving?

For fastest service, attach old mailing label in this space. If label is not available, print your old address in the box. Be sure to include your ZIP CODE.

Print your new address here.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Mail to: TSTA

5540 N. Lamar
 Austin, TX 78751

2008

Date _____

Jacket Size _____

Application for Membership
TEXAS STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION
 5540 NORTH LAMAR
 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78751

Dues \$25
As of Jan. 1, 2004

for office use only

LRE _____

Payment _____

NAME (Last) (First) (M.) Date of Birth Rank Service

HOME ADDRESS (street, city, zip code) HOME PHONE NUMBER (include area code)

OFFICE ADDRESS (street, city, zip code) OFFICE PHONE NUMBER (include area code)

DATE EMPLOYED DATE OF COMMISSION DATE OF TERMINATION (if no longer with DPS)

Membership dues paid to TSTA are not deductible as gifts or charitable contributions but may be deductible under an IRC Section other than Section 170 (c).

I, _____, request membership into the Texas State Troopers Association, and if accepted agree to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association, the rules and decisions of its officers. I also agree to pay annual dues of twenty-five (25) dollars for all of a calendar year or any part thereof.

I understand that any unreasonable failure to assist a fellow member of the Texas State Troopers Association will result in this membership being cancelled by the board of directors at their option.

I also understand this membership will terminate immediately if I am promoted to any supervisory rank of sergeant or above.

Signature of applicant _____

Date _____

The Armed Citizen

Lowell Wilson heard a noise coming from the bedroom where his wife was resting and want to investigate. When he tried to open the door, a man closed it, so Wilson retrieved his gun. "My wife is blind, and she thought it was me [in the room]," he said. He opened the door...and stuck his head out. He said, "It's cool, man." But it was far from "cool." Wilson shot the intruder, who fled with an accomplice. Police planned to charge the injured suspect after his release from the hospital. Wilson said he's always feel safe in his home as long as he has something to use for protection. "I know I can take care of myself," he said.

(The Times News, Kingsport, TN, 03/11/06)

A pair of surprises occurred inside a Michigan residence in March. The first was on the part of the homeowner who awoke in the early morning hours to find a woman he didn't know counting his cash on the dining room table. The second was on the part of the intruder when the homeowner drew a handgun and detained her for police. The woman, wanted for writing bad checks, was arrested on suspicion of home invasion.

(Detroit Free Press, Detroit, MI, 03/23/06)

Reprint from *The American Rifleman*, 2006.

www.texasstatetroopers.org

Please visit our web site.

If you have an e-mail address,
please send it to
Don Dickson at:

webmaster@texasstatetroopers.org

For twenty-five years of marriage, he had left off the lid to the toothpaste, and that was a real problem to his wife. So he made a resolution with himself that he would quit doing that. For one full week he faithfully screwed the lid back on the toothpaste. Then one morning he was blindsided by his wife when she said, "Why did you quit brushing your teeth?"

TSTA MEMBERS!

Your TCLEOSE Hours Can Become College Credits, Enhance Your DPS Career

TSTA has been contacted by Mountain State University asking for our help in advising our members about their degrees in Criminal Justice through their distance learning program.

Obtaining your degree from a respected, nationally accredited institution is the key to advancing your criminal justice career. Earning a degree can boost your earning potential and increase your chances of getting a promotion. Employment for Criminal Justice professionals is expected to increase 36% or more through 2008. As more qualified candidates enter the field, the best opportunities will go to those with advanced degrees.

Finding time to study while maintaining your professional and personal obligations can, at times, be difficult. Mountain State University recognizes this challenge and has created their distance learning program specifically for busy criminal justice professionals like you. At MSU there is no wasted time with required in-class room meetings. Everything you need to complete your coursework is either delivered to your door or available anytime, anywhere through their online virtual classroom and live chat sessions.

There are several degrees to choose from. One undergraduate degree, a Bachelors of Science in Administration of Criminal Justice, allows students to transfer up to 54 TCLEOSE credits into the program so as to hasten progress towards a degree. Additionally, Mountain States also accepts certain TCLEOSE courses as substitutes for General Education requirements. For instance, a TCLEOSE instructor can substitute for speech. A certified accident investigator need not take college business math. Forty-eight hours of TCLEOSE Spanish can replace one course in humanities as can a 40-hour HazMat course replace a science course.

We have spoken with the Houston Police Officer's Union which has a significant relationship with Mountain State University and speaks highly of their program.

If you are interested, contact TSTA and we will mail you an information packet. For specific questions please contact Mountain State University as follows:

Mountain State Univ. /CJ-Direct, 1-866-312-9595
sbarnette-admissions@adj.com



5540 North Lamar
Austin, TX 78751

S12 P1 *****AUTO**SCH 3-DIGIT 787
DON DICKSON, ATTORNEY
1315 NUECES ST.
AUSTIN, TX 78701-1721



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