



THE TROOPER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



One USDOT official called the Georgia State Patrol's response efforts to the Catoosa County crash a "textbook example" of coordination and cooperation by Georgia's emergency responders.

Colonel G. A. Ellis
re-appointed as
leader of the
Georgia State
Patrol

Georgia
Hosts NGA Policy
Academy

WHAT'S INSIDE! WINTER ISSUE 2002

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Catoosa Co. Multi-Car Wreck

DPS Hosts
National Crime
Interdiction
Conference

79th Trooper
School Graduates

COMMISSIONER'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

The year 2002 is the first full year in this nation's history that we have lived daily under the threat of terrorism. It is a year in which our country, and especially the Troopers on our highways, have had to maintain a high level of vigilance.

And yet, this has produced a year of mixed blessings for the Department of Public Safety and the Georgia State Patrol. With the benefit of only a small increase in funds, we have fulfilled the responsibility of standing up a new statewide intelligence center and network called the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC). The sole responsibility of GISAC is to collect, analyze, collate and disseminate intelligence information on terrorists and the plans and intentions of terrorist organizations.

What's more, that intelligence is developed to be shared with all federal, state and local, and military law enforcement groups. GISAC has progressed rapidly in the past year, in many ways thanks to you and all Georgia law enforcement personnel who have contributed information shared from the street to its database. Homeland Security in Georgia has much more to do, but it has come a long way in little more than a year since the Task Force was assembled.

With members from DPS, GEMA, DOT, DNR, Georgia National Guard, the Georgia Division of Public Health, the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, the Georgia Sheriff's Association and the Georgia Fire Chief's Association, the Georgia Homeland Security Task Force (GHSTF) has been working to identify, prioritize and plan for consequence management of the state's critical infrastructure. Georgia's Task Force was also involved with the National Department of Homeland Security and the National Governors Association.

We are fortunate this year that our military forces were able to disrupt or destroy the terrorist command structure, its communication structure, and its financial networks as well as its training grounds. They have bought us precious time to become better prepared to meet the terrorist threat here in this country and we have used that time well.

In 2002, we newly organized the GSP Special Operations Command, similar to commands in major law enforcement agencies across the country. GSP Special Ops now encompasses all the unconventional operations of the Georgia State Patrol, including Aviation, SCRT, SWAT, Criminal Interdiction and the Training Division, designed to act as a force-multiplier in times of slim budgets. This is a force of personnel who are tasked with the capability of going anywhere in the state at anytime to handle problems that would otherwise require Troopers to leave Posts with reduced staff for adequate patrol of their areas. This is a force of personnel who can be cross-trained in all the disciplines necessary to meet any contingency. When completely staffed, GSP Special Operations Command will be able to carry out its mission in most instances without requiring additional Troopers from the Post level.

Even with severe budget cuts in 2002, we have moved forward and are better prepared today than ever before in the Georgia State Patrol as well as Homeland Security. I am especially thankful to all of you for your contributions to this effort. There is no limit to what the Georgia State Patrol can further accomplish for the citizens of this state at such an important time.

To us much has been given -- of us much is expected. I know you are up to the challenge.

Commissioner Robert Hightower retired from the Georgia Department of Public Safety in January 2003.



COVER STORY: CATOOSA COUNTY CRASH

Early on the morning of March 14, 2002, the North and Southbound lanes of Interstate 75 in Catoosa County were suddenly blanketed in a heavy bank of fog that silently settled in without warning. Motorists driving the morning rush hour quickly found themselves driving dangerously too fast for conditions. It took only moments for the fatal formula of high interstate speeds and low visibility to set off a series of deadly chain reaction crashes.

Within minutes, the Georgia State Patrol was responding to the largest multi-vehicle crash in this state's history. Trooper Monte Chastain, 926, was a witness as the fog rolled in and the cars piled up. Chastain was working traffic enforcement around Ringgold when he heard the first crash through the fog and called for fire rescue, wreckers, emergency medical response, and more Troopers.

Trooper assistance was called in from surrounding Posts and the GSP's Specialized Collision Reconstruction Teams (SCRT). GSP Aviation flew in to obtain aerial photo-maps. First responders set up a command post to coordinate the rescue and recovery effort. The command team included the

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COLONEL'S COLUMN

First and foremost, I want to thank all the men and women of the Georgia State Patrol for your dedication, commitment, and hard work during 2002. This has been another great year. While reflecting back on the events of the year, I am reminded of the many challenges that we faced together and the resulting accomplishments and rewards.

In spite of the economic recession, funding was received this year for a modest increase in pay for our Communications Equipment Operators. Governor Barnes and the Legislature saw the importance of these positions and we appreciate their support.

With the graduation of the 78th and 79th Trooper Schools, we have added 128 Troopers to our battalion bringing our total strength to 879. Our numbers will increase to 903 when the 24 cadets of the 80th Trooper School graduate, leaving only 50 vacancies. The academy staff was increased to facilitate this training and the FTO incentive pay was increased to ten percent. With these new Troopers, we have most of our Posts at an acceptable staffing level, and we have begun increasing our presence in Metro Atlanta.

We had a good deal of success in adding to and improving our equipment. In order to assist the Troopers in performing their duties, the Monadnock baton was issued along with the required training. Over 500 XTREME lightweight ballistic vests were purchased to replace outdated body armor. A new Mobile Command Post vehicle was purchased for use by field personnel in handling disasters, and we are awaiting delivery of a new 407 Bell Helicopter that will greatly enhance our aviation operations. It appears that a new 800 megahertz radio system will become a reality as purchasing of equipment has begun. Implementation will be in phases across the state over the next three years. Troop C will be the first to receive the system and it should be complete around the first of next year.

Command College and the Professional Management Program of Columbus State University continue to be a vital part of our advanced training. We have increased our numbers of attendance and will continue to send qualified Troopers to receive this valuable training.

As we approach a new year, let us all rededicate ourselves to working together and serving the citizens of Georgia. The Commissioner and your GSP Command Staff are working hard to provide you with the best training and equipment available to do your job, and we welcome your suggestions. Be safe and may God bless each of you.



WINTER ISSUE 2002

The Trooper is the official newsletter of the Georgia Department of Public Safety as a service to the state employees, retirees and the public.

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COLONEL G. A. ELLIS RE-APPOINTED AS LEADER OF GSP

On January 9, 2003, Governor-Elect Sonny Perdue announced the re-appointment of Colonel George Ellis of the Georgia State Patrol. Colonel Ellis will continue his role commanding the state's premier law enforcement agency, a position he was first appointed to in 2000. Perdue made the announcement this afternoon at his transition headquarters in Atlanta.

A spokesman for the Governor-Elect also announced plans for Colonel Ellis to head the Georgia Department of Public Safety following the retirement of DPS Commissioner Robert Hightower. Hightower, who was appointed Commissioner by out-going Governor Roy Barnes in 1999, is scheduled to resign his post January 31st. Having accepted the resignation of Commissioner Hightower, the new Governor will make the DPS change official by signing an executive order following the January 13th inauguration.

"I am honored that Governor-Elect Perdue has asked me to continue my mission of leading one of the most professional law enforcement organizations in the nation," Ellis said. "The Georgia State Patrol will continue to serve the people of Georgia and work to save lives and reduce crime statewide."

Another former State Patrol Command Staff officer also made state headlines as the Governor-Elect announced the appointment of retired GSP Major Bill Hitchens as the new Director of Homeland Security for Georgia.

"The Governor-Elect has entrusted me with the responsibility of making Georgia a safer, more secure state," said Hitchens. "I am honored by his confidence in me and I plan to make him proud of his decision through the measures that I will coordinate in my role as Director of Homeland Security."



Governor-elect Perdue announces his re-appointment of GSP Colonel George Ellis and his appointment of retired GSP Major Bill Hitchens as Director of Homeland Security.



GEORGIA HOSTS NGA POLICY ACADEMY

Homeland Security officials from eight states and the Virgin Islands met in Savannah this Fall to share the lessons they've learned and the action plans they've developed since the September 11 terrorist attacks. The National Governors Association singled out Georgia as one of the select participants in their year-long Policy Academy because from its inception, Georgia's Homeland Security Task Force (HSTF) has been regarded as one of the most advanced operations in the nation.

Georgia's resume' of successful planning and response for major events helped prepare state officials here for the challenges of a homeland defense strategy. "It was Georgia's experience with the '94 Albany floods and the '99 Hurricane Floyd evacuations that taught us valuable lessons in disaster response," said Deputy HSTF Coordinator Mickey Lloyd. "And preparations for the '96 Summer Olympic Games and the bombing investigations that followed made us see the immediate need for a state intelligence center."

The creation of the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC) was the first and one the most important actions taken by Georgia's Homeland Security Task Force. "On average, GISAC has investigated one tip from the public for every day it's been in operation," Lloyd told reporters covering the NGA Savannah conference. "Thankfully, most information that comes in turns out to be false," he said.

Homeland Security Task Force member, Dr. Kathleen Toomey - Director of the Division of Public Health, spoke to the conference on Georgia's plans for protecting the state against biological terrorism. Dr. Toomey told the Savannah Morning News most homeland security work is conducted behind the scenes and the public may never notice the intricate planning once it's in place. "The best plan is one agile enough to respond to any unexpected event," Toomey told reporters. "You can't have a cookbook and look down the list of how to respond. Invariably, these events come down in ways you can't imagine."

Following the Savannah summit, the National Governors Association began analyzing action plans from each of the participating states and will release their recommendations for other state homeland security operations to adopt as needed.

CLICK IT OR TICKET BUCKLES UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Law enforcement officers from across Georgia announced plans for the November mobilization of *Operation Click It or Ticket* at a news conference in Union City November 13.

Colonel George Ellis, Georgia State Patrol Director, told the group that Georgia's primary seat belt law has been responsible for saving countless lives in traffic crashes across the state since the law was enacted in 1996. He said strict enforcement by officers, deputies, and troopers has been the moving force behind the state's seat belt usage rate climbing from 51 percent in 1995 to almost 80 percent this year.

The Click It or Ticket enforcement campaign was conducted November 18 – December 1. Immediately following the seat belt enforcement period, a crackdown on impaired drivers was announced with the deployment of another wave of Operation Zero Tolerance.



Colonel George A. Ellis emphasizes the importance of seat belts during a Click It or Ticket news conference.

MIKE NASH: A TROOPER'S TROOPER

At a special presentation on October 8th, the GSP's new SWAT classroom was named in honor of former SWAT Team Member, Mike Nash. The dedication was made by SWAT Team Commander, Captain David E. McElroy. Sgt. Mike Nash received the distinguished honor in front of a crowd of Troopers, friends, GSP Command Staff and Headquarters personnel at the State Patrol SWAT building in the Confederate Avenue Complex.



Capt. David E. McElroy presents Sgt. Mike Nash with several gifts for his dedicated services.

After recovering from a serious gunshot wound received in the line of duty while on SWAT detail, Nash has continued his law enforcement career as the Post 32 Sergeant in Athens, GA. Presenters cited his commitment and dedication to the core beliefs of the Georgia State Patrol: Trust, Fortitude, Compassion and Professionalism. Capt. McElroy described Nash's dedication best ... "He bleeds blue & gray."

Eight of the original GSP SWAT Team members, including Capt. McElroy, were in attendance to honor and support their comrade. "He's like a brother" and "We love him" were the sentiments expressed about Sgt. Nash by the original members at the dedication.

DOUG RICHARDSON: LIKE FATHER,

In September 2002, Second Generation Trooper Doug Richardson was appointed Director of the Special Investigations Division by DPS Commissioner Robert E. Hightower. Captain Richardson began his career with the Georgia State Patrol on September 1, 1977 as a Trooper Cadet assigned to Headquarters Security. Upon graduation from the 52nd Trooper School in December 1978, he was assigned to Post 1, Griffin.



In November 1988, Richardson was transferred to the Executive Security Post where he served on the security staff for Governors Joe Frank Harris and Zell Miller. During his stay he attained the rankings of Corporal and Sergeant.

In June 1997, Richardson transferred to the Investigative Services Division as the License Fraud Supervisor. The following year Richardson was appointed as the Assistant Director of the Division attaining the rank of Sergeant First Class and later Lieutenant.

Richardson has served under four directors in the Special Investigations Division. Said Richardson, "I am very proud of this division and its personnel. My goal is to see this division continue to produce the factual, unbiased investigations needed by the Command Staff to carry out the mission of the Georgia State Patrol."

Richardson's father, the late William (Billy) F. Richardson, retired from the Georgia State Patrol in 1982 at the rank of Major in the Driver Services Division.

AROUND GEORGIA ...

TROOP A

Troop A received first place in the Governor's Challenge award on May 17 for its cooperative efforts with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

On May 20, Captain Sorrells accepted the "Buckle Up America" award from Dr. Don Bower of the University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension Service for Troop A's efforts in seat belt enforcement during the "Buckle Up Georgia" campaign.

Troop A cooperated with Tennessee Troopers and Chattanooga Police in a recent visit by Vice President Dick Cheney. Vice President Cheney was escorted by Troop A to stops in Dalton and Chickamauga. This was the first motorcade of this type for Troop A in over ten years.

POST 5 – DALTON

On February 19, Master Trooper R.K. Turner responded to a pursuit by the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office of an armed murder suspect from Lamar County. After a perilous chase, the suspect crashed his vehicle and fled on foot through a heavily wooded area at night. M/Trooper Turner pursued the suspect for a considerable distance until the suspect confronted the Trooper and deputies, threatening that he was armed and intended to use his weapon. M/Trooper Turner attempted to talk the suspect into surrendering, but the suspect made an aggressive move, forcing Turner to use deadly force to defend himself, the deputies and private citizens near the area. Turner was recommended by Captain Keith Sorrells to receive the Trooper of the Year Award, citing his exemplary fortitude and professionalism during this incident. M/Trooper Turner received the Peace Officer Association of Georgia (POAG) Officer of the Year award in September.

POST 29 – CEDARTOWN

On June 21, Post 29 assisted in the search of a man who shot Cleburne County (Alabama) Deputy Gary Howell during a vehicle stop. The suspect was spotted on June 22 in a rural area in Haralson County. The accomplices were captured and stated that the shooter vowed not to be taken alive.

Along with a GSP helicopter and troopers from Post 4, Villa Rica, Post 29 conducted a large-scale search for more than 12 hours involving over 50 law enforcement officers from both Alabama and Georgia. The suspect was not located during this search but was later captured in Alabama without incident.

POST 41 – LAFAYETTE

On February 2, while working interstate overtime in Dade County, SFC Don Stultz attempted to stop a 1988 Oldsmobile van for failure to maintain lane and improper lane change. The driver refused to stop, beginning a 5-mile pursuit. The van later crashed and the occupants fled into a marsh. SFC Stultz and Tpr. Colin Walker apprehended the suspects, who to their surprise were three teens, ages 13, 14 and 15. The runaways had stolen a van from Indiana, wrecked it in Kentucky and later stole the Oldsmobile. They were also in possession of antidepressant drugs. The teens were turned over to Dade County juvenile authorities.

POST 43 – CALHOUN

On September 12, Post Secretary Judy Williams received a phone call from a woman at a local restaurant in Calhoun. The woman stated that she overheard three men in a nearby booth discussing plans to bomb a building in Florida. Secretary Williams immediately placed the caller in contact with a representative at GISAC. The resulting search of these men in Florida made national headlines, even though no evidence of explosives was found. Secretary Williams performed an excellent job putting the caller in contact with Georgia Homeland Security authorities who could act on her information.

TROOP B

POST 32 – ATHENS

On August 2, TFC Charles Chapeau stopped a 1999 Ford Mustang travelling at 82 m.p.h. in a 55 m.p.h. speed zone. As the driver exited the vehicle to provide license and proof of insurance, he grabbed something from the door panel, hid it behind his back, and then placed it between the seat and the console. Fearing that the

item was a weapon, TFC Chapeau instructed the driver to slowly exit the vehicle and instructed the passenger to place his hands in clear view. While walking the driver back to the patrol car, the driver admitted that the hidden item was a glass marijuana pipe and not a weapon.

After a thorough search of the driver, the passenger and the vehicle, TFC Chapeau discovered two sets of scales, plastic sandwich bags and cigarette papers, 40 mg of Oxycontin and a pill bottle filled with Methamphetamine, \$480.00 cash in the console and a notepad with names and numbers of persons who owed money.

TFC Chapeau requested assistance of Deputy Harbison from Madison County. The driver and passenger were arrested for possession and taken to the Madison County Jail. TFC Chapeau found a plastic sandwich bag filled with marijuana during a search of the impounded vehicle.

TROOP D

Troop D provided crowd and traffic control centered around several major community events during the year and have been honored by various civic organizations for their contributions to the community.

The following is a list of the events for which Troop D provided crowd and traffic control:

Spring and Fall NASCAR Race, Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, GA
Harley Davidson 100th Anniversary
NOPI Nationals
Post 26 Camp Meeting in Roberta, GA
Cotton Pickin' Fair in Gay, GA – Post 34, Manchester
Powers Crossroads Country Fair and Art Festival – Post 24, Newnan

The Upson County Rotary Club honored M/Trooper Edward Cunningham of Post 26, Thomaston as the 2002 Trooper of the Year. TFC Mike Maynard of Post 44, Forsyth received the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award from the Optimist Club of Forsyth.

FROM POST TO POST

TROOP F

Troop F personnel assisted the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department with what has been historically called "Cemetery Days." This event has transformed into what could best be described as a typical block party that draws a younger crowd and has nothing to do with the original concept. This year the event drew a crowd between 1,000 and 1,500 participants. Other than vehicle and pedestrian congestion, the event was trouble-free.

CPL Larry Ruffin and TFC Dale K. Watson from Post 20, Dublin apprehended the driver of a fleeing vehicle after two Twiggs County Sheriff patrol cars collided with one another during the pursuit near State Routes 96 and 358. Neither officer sustained injuries from the crash. The driver was charged with DUI and six counts of endangering a child.

TROOP G

Post 10 – AMERICUS

On August 11, Post 10 personnel were involved in a manhunt for two suspected drug dealers involved in a drug deal gone bad. At approximately 0200 hours, the drug deal resulted in a shootout at a local nightclub. One of the suspects was wounded and rushed to the hospital; the other suspect fled the scene by car and later wrecked the vehicle at the Stewart/Webster County Line on GA 520. The subsequent manhunt included officers from the Webster County Sheriff's Office, Stewart County Sheriff's Office, GSP Aviation and the Lee Criminal Interdiction K-9 Unit.

After receiving information from a witness, TFC Hamilton Halford of Aviation quickly responded to the scene with assistance on the ground from SFC Ross, Cpl. Etheredge, S/Tpr. McCord, TFC Kimbrel and Cadet Leggett. The search produced no immediate results until Webster Co. Sheriff Robbie Wells received information about the suspect hiding in a home on GA 41, approximately two miles South of Preston. All units responded and the suspect was taken into custody without incident.

Post 12 – THOMASVILLE

Congratulations to TFC J. K. Luke who was honored by the Thomasville Exchange Club as Peace Officer of the Year.

Post 14 – DONALSONVILLE

On Oct. 4, Sgt. J. C. Johnson was notified of an armed robbery just south of Donalsonville in which a clerk had been shot. Sgt. Johnson spotted the vehicle and a chase ensued. Sgt. Johnson attempted a PIT maneuver several times, but the driver blocked the GSP unit from getting into position. The chase continued into Alabama where the suspect wrecked the vehicle and fled on foot. With his weapon drawn, Sgt. Johnson chased and tackled the suspect from behind. As they scuffled on the ground, the suspect attempted to take Sgt. Johnson's weapon then attempted to flee again. Three unknown civilians blocked the suspect's escape with a truck and one of the civilians helped detain the suspect without further incident. Both Sgt. Johnson and the suspect were checked and released at a hospital in Dothan, Alabama. A criminal records check revealed the suspect was also wanted in connection with several other robberies in Florida.

Post 39 – CUTHBERT

On a lighter note, early this spring TFC Mike Hearon and TFC Hank Lynch set traps on their hunting land in hopes of capturing wild pigs. Their hard work paid off and they transported two small, angry, squealing pigs to their new home in an old barn located on a large plot of land behind Post 39.

Post personnel contributed \$5 each to purchase corn and food for the pigs and over the next several months, the small pigs grew into large well-fed hogs. On, October 12, Post 39 personnel said "so-long!" to the hogs, as Chefs Hearon, Lynch and Bush fired up the grill. The next day, all Post personnel and their families, retirees and local officials enjoyed a good South Georgia barbecue with all the trimmings.

Post 40 – ALBANY

On the weekend of December 14, 2001 and January 11, 2002, Troop G officers and Post

40 troopers assisted the Secret Service in providing security for Vice President Dick Cheney, during his quail hunting trips. The Vice President was a hunting guest at two locations near Albany.

TROOP I

Post 42 – RINCON

On Sunday, March 16, Savannah celebrated its 178th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. This year only one GSP squad was used to assist the Savannah Police Department with crowd and traffic control downtown while the parade was in operation. Members of Post 42 worked the roads and crashes in conjunction with Savannah and Chatham Co. Police. Over the three-day event, more than 400 citations including speeding, DUI's, seat belt and other violations were issued.



A Snapshot of the Future: Trooper James (Jimmy) A. Warren, Post 37 - Cumming, and his son Jacob.

AVIATION - UP, UP AND AWAY

On March 1, Commissioner Robert Hightower transferred the Marijuana Eradication Section of the Governor's Drug Task Force to the Aviation Division of the Georgia State Patrol (GSP). SFC Mike Boyd, Director of GSP Aviation, was appointed to undertake the task of Program Coordinator for the Task Force. SFC Boyd's first undertaking was to assign an assistant to assume the daily duties. Special Agent Principal Mike Mason was detached from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) and assigned the duties of Commander of the Task Force.

The responsibility of the Governor's Task Force is to eradicate marijuana. This task force is funded by the Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP), which is the only nationwide law enforcement program that exclusively targets marijuana.

The Governor's Task Force assists both State and local law enforcement agencies throughout Georgia by providing physical and electronic surveillance of marijuana fields. "Each and every agency is a very important part of the Governor's Task Force," said SFC Boyd. "Only by all agencies working together are we able to accomplish our mission." However the least recognized but very important members of the Governor's Task Force team are the aircraft mechanics who keep the craft airborne during the marijuana season. "If it was not for the aircraft mechanics, the Governor's Task Force could not operate on the schedule that it has to maintain," adds SFC Boyd.



As of October 15, the following was accomplished by the Task Force:

72,749	Marijuana Plants Seized	35	Weapons Seized
439	Marijuana Sites Eradicated	107	Arrests
4	Indoor Grows	\$175,700	Total Asset Seizures

SPECIAL COLLISION RECONSTRUCTION TEAM (SCRT): A DAY IN THE LIFE

TRI-STATE CREMATORY

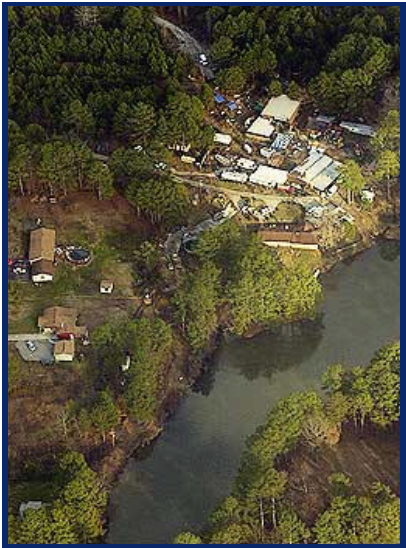
Due to SCRT's unparalleled expertise in large crime scenes, they were called upon for assistance by the Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI) to map the Tri-State Crematory on February 17. It was the first time an area this large was mapped for forensic purposes. Under the Command of Capt. Carlton Stallings, SCRT mapped 16 acres of wooded terrain, multiple buildings and vehicles, a large lake and the locations of 339 bodies. SCRT completed the task in less than two weeks. The map will be a vital part in the prosecution of this case.

CATOOSA COUNTY WRECK

On March 14, SCRT responded to the largest multi-vehicle wreck in Georgia's history. SCRT conducted an on-scene investigation with the assistance of area troopers and law enforcement from multiple agencies. The investigation lasted for 16-hours before I-75 could be re-opened. The 87-vehicle collision resulted in five (5) fatalities, 51 injuries, and involved 23 commercial vehicles.

OFFICER SHOOTINGS

SCRT has been involved in the mapping of three officer-involved shootings this year. SCRT is the only state agency with mapping capabilities. All three incidents resulted after a pursuit and involved multiple vehicles and large crime scenes.



An aerial mapping of the Tri-State Crematory grounds. Courtesy of the Atlanta-Journal Constitution

GSP Hosts National Criminal Interdiction Confer-

More than 750 local, state and federal law enforcement officers from 43 states and 5 Canadian provinces came to Atlanta in August to attend the 12th Annual Commercial Motor Vehicle Criminal Interdiction, Intelligence Networking and Training Conference hosted by the GSP at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel.



(L-R) Major O.T. Norton, Sgt. Clarence Prince, RCMP Cpl. Tim Baulkham, Cpl. Keith Collins, DOC Dan Bray, Cpl. Mike Young, Lt. Rick Ogden and TFC Jeff Dupont.

The mission of the annual conference is to encourage the exchange of intelligence and information about our nation's highways and secondary roads being used by traveling criminals and contraband smugglers. The topics discussed are directly related to Overland Criminal Interdiction activities with emphasis on intelligence sharing, multi-agency networking, new target selection techniques, current criminal case laws and media considerations. The goal of the annual conference is to help increase criminal interdiction successes and case conviction rates.

The Atlanta conference concluded with a formal awards banquet to recognize individual officers and agencies for their interdiction efforts throughout 2001. Colonel George A. Ellis received an award from the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) for his support of interdiction efforts. He also received an award from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) for his support of intelligence exchange. The Georgia State Patrol made Cpl. Tim Baulkham of the RCMP an Honorary Trooper. SFC Paul Carter was made an Honorary Canadian Mountie by the RCMP and presented an award for organizing the conference.

The success of the 12th Annual Conference was the result of more than two years of planning by a seven-member GSP committee and Georgia was well represented by Troopers from across the state. Colonel Ellis said, "We actually exceeded our expectations. It was the largest and most successful conference in the 12-year history of this important law enforcement intelligence sharing event."

TROOP J - MAKING SAFETY A TOP PRIORITY IN GEORGIA

The Pupil Transportation Safety Unit's (PTS) Safety Competition program is designed to recognize excellence among school bus drivers. The drivers demonstrate mastery of the skills required by their demanding jobs. This year over 42 drivers competed in the state competition for the right to compete at the international level in Chicago, Illinois. At the international level, over 93 drivers from 34 different states and two provinces in Canada competed for top honors. PTS is proud to announce that Georgia's representative, Carolyn Bracewell from the DeKalb Co. School System, placed first place among all the U.S. drivers and second place overall.

As of October 1st, the Safety Education Division (SED) has presented 1,229 safety programs to schools, civic groups, employee groups, and various other organizations. Safety Education Troopers have also spent 2,764 duty hours monitoring the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (ADAP). In April, Cpl. Jamie Sullivan of SED was selected by DPS/GSP as the "Safety Award" nominee in the State of Georgia's "Public Employee Recognition Program" state-wide competition. Cpl. Sullivan was selected as the "Safety Recognition Award" winner at the state level from among 80 state agencies. This was a tremendous honor that brought great recognition for Cpl. Sullivan, Safety Education and the Georgia State Patrol.

In June, Troop J Captain George Whittaker, Cpl. Jamie Sullivan, S/Tpr. Gary Parker and Retired Captain Charlie Parker attended the 35th Annual Uniformed Safety Education Officers (USEO) Workshop held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Each year the Troopers have a competition for the top 30-second television Public Service Announcement (PSA). At this year's event, GSP's Safety Education Unit received third place for its anti-DUI PSA made by S/Tpr. Gary Parker and Cpl. Jamie Sullivan. The PSA was produced by WALB TV-10 in Albany, GA and was aired in Southwest Georgia around the July 4th Holiday weekend.



GSP's 79th Trooper School



On October 25, 2002, sixty-two Troopers graduated from the 79th Trooper School. The ceremony was held at the Georgia Public Training Center in Forsyth, GA.

Powell Allen - Post 25, Thomson
David Beaver - Post 35, Jekyll Island
Wayne Bishop - Post 47, Forest Park
Donald Boyd - Post 47, Forest Park
Curtis Bradshaw - Post 32, Athens
Tim Brantley - Post 3, Cartersville
Joshua Brogdon - Post 3, Cartersville
Brandon Brown - Post 48, Atlanta
Cyrus Brown - Post 48, Atlanta
John Butterworth - Post 3, Cartersville
William Chambers - Post 3, Cartersville
Terry Coffman - Post 4, Villa Rica
Douglas Cope - Post 3, Cartersville
George Cotton - Post 24, Newnan
Marilyn Craft - Post 48, Atlanta
Jason Davis - Post 5, Dalton
Johnny Ensley - Post 5, Dalton
Kevin Ford - Post 48, Atlanta
John Franklin - Post 9, Kennesaw
Crystal Griffin - Post 3, Cartersville
Jason Hendrix - Post 32, Athens

Elmer Hersey - Post 23, Brunswick
Joseph Hobbs - Post 38, Rome
Jeffery Hobby - Post 13, Tifton
Scott Huey - Post 4, Villa Rica
Christopher Jewell - Post 4, Villa Rica
Stanley Kent - Post 48, Atlanta
Mike Knight - Post 24, Newnan
Thomas Kustra - Post 48, Atlanta
Amelio Lamkin - Post 47, Forest Park
Walt Landrum - Post 4, Villa Rica
Stephanie Lankford - Post 29, Cedartown
James Lashley - Post 35, Jekyll Island
Michael Leggett - Post 11, Hinesville
Tony Lumley - Post 47, Forest Park
Jerome Massey - Post 28, Canton
Anthony McDaniel - Post 3, Cartersville
Joel Mock - Post 11, Hinesville
Tait Niemi - Post 47, Forest Park
Christopher Norman - Post 9, Kennesaw
Clarence Patterson - Post 9, Kennesaw
Mark Peacock - Post 13, Tifton

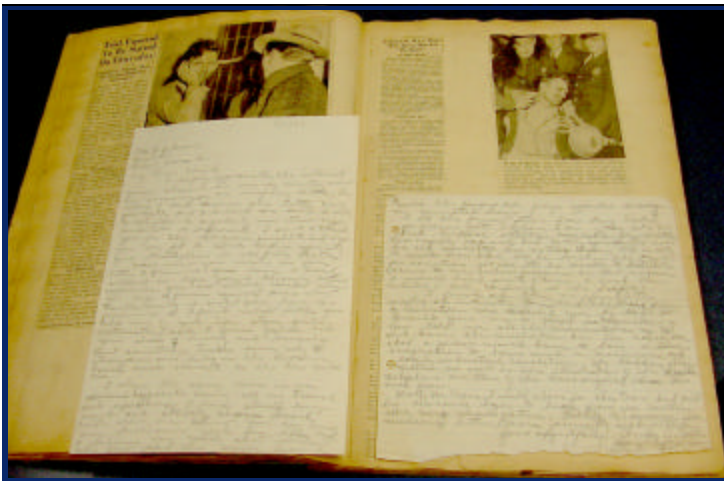
Calvert Pipkin - Post 38, Rome
Jonathan Priest - Post 21, Sylvania
Jeffery Pruitt - Post 4, Villa Rica
Rodney Rozier - Post 11, Hinesville
James Shirah - Post 7, Toccoa
Matthew Sowell - Post 21, Sylvania
Anthony Spinks - Post 24, Newnan
James Swint - Post 25, Thomson
Justin Thomas - Post 4, Villa Rica
James Thompson - Post 24, Newnan
Steve Thompson - Post 4, Villa Rica
Nathan Truitt - Post 9, Kennesaw
Leland Weaver - Post 21, Sylvania
Marvin Welch - Post 11, Hinesville
Jon Wilber - Post 48, Atlanta
Albert Williford - Post 4, Villa Rica
Rena Wooten - Post 47, Forest Park
Willie Wright - Post 48, Atlanta
Chad Wynn - Post 17, Washington
Thomas Young - Post 9, Kennesaw

GSP HISTORY: A MOMENT IN TIME

A scrapbook belonging to one of Georgia's first Troopers has been donated to the Georgia State Patrol Historical Society and contains an extensive collection of newspaper articles from the early days of the Patrol. Newnan resident Glenn Bexley, a bailiff in the Coweta State Court, donated the scrapbook this summer to the Historical Society after it was found in his attic. Bexley's brother-in-law, John Robert Cook, who graduated from the first Trooper School in 1937, compiled the scrapbook.



The book contains numerous articles related to the shooting death of Sergeant Fred Black in December 1940, after Black stopped a Missouri escapee near Ringgold. After shooting the trooper, fugitive Charles Clinton Coates fled the area and was the subject of a five-day manhunt through the mountains of north Georgia and Tennessee. He was apprehended on Christmas night about 50 miles from the scene of the shooting, suffering from frostbite that led to the amputation of his toes. Coates was convicted in 1941 and was put to death on March 12, 1943.



Cover Story - Catoosa County Crash

- Continued from page 2

county sheriff, coroner and 911 director, HAZMAT team leader, county manager, district attorney and DOT district engineer.

On the scene, the DPS Public Affairs Director held hourly briefings with regional and national media, while the GSP Public Information Office coordinated updated news releases from Atlanta Headquarters. The local State Patrol post and Headquarters PIO handled hundreds of concerned citizen calls.

When the fog lifted, more than a hundred vehicles were found caught up in the crash perimeter, complicating initial attempts to obtain an accurate count of witnesses, drivers and passengers, injuries and fatalities. First responders found 87 vehicles actually damaged in the crash. Twenty-three commercial vehicles were involved. Some 360 emergency workers responded to the scene, helping to triage the injured. Out of 51 victims who were hurt, 39 were taken to five area hospitals for treatment. Although, rescue workers initially expected large numbers of fatalities, the number of dead surprisingly remained at five.

SCRT conducted an on-scene investigation that lasted 16 hours. SCRT investigators divided the crash scene into four separate sites: two northbound and two southbound. GSP formed two teams to survey each side of the interstate. Each team was assigned a SCRT team leader, four Troopers, six firefighters and one EMS.

Some Federal officials had estimated it could take the teams two and a half days to complete the process of finding and rescuing drivers and passengers, transporting them to treatment, recovering and identifying victim bodies, interviewing and drawing blood from drivers, mapping the crash scene, clearing the interstate and checking the highway for road surface repair. Federal investigators were impressed with reports that I-75 was documented, mapped, cleared and re-opened in only 19 hours.

One USDOT official called the Catoosa County crash a "textbook example" of coordination and cooperation by Georgia's emergency responders. GSP response efforts brought overwhelming positive support from the North Georgia community.

... a "textbook example" of coordination and cooperation by Georgia's emergency responders.

"IT'S FOR THE CHILDREN": GSP CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS



Each year around the holidays, hundreds of Georgia residents and corporations work together behind the scenes to support the young patients at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, bringing happiness and joy to sick and injured children throughout the Southeast. This year, among the many contributors, employees of the Georgia State Patrol donated their time and energy to this worthwhile annual event.

With DPS/GSP Command Staff approval, Special Projects Director Donna Burns, drafted a 14-member committee chaired by Frances Butler. Their goal was to develop a unique Christmas tree design to enter in the Festival of Trees on behalf of the Georgia State Patrol. Then, to help raise even more money for Children's Healthcare, GSP employees made plans to buy back their own tree and place it in the lobby at Headquarters during the holiday season.

The GSP Festival of Trees Committee came up with plenty of decorative ideas to festoon their special tree, but finding ways to pay for the volunteer project presented a genuine challenge. (In the past, Festival of Trees judges have placed price tags from \$200 to \$10,000 on donated trees displayed in the exhibit hall.) First, GSP employees competed to raise donations, but the major fundraiser for the Festival of Trees happened at Headquarters on Halloween. Committee volunteers raised over \$1,400 by preparing a tasty cook-out lunch that drew dozens of employees from state agencies across the Confederate Avenue compound.

Post 10, Americus and the Special Investigations Division, representing Headquarters, won GSP Challenge Coins for the most money donated. A set of GSP Challenge Coins in an engraved display box was awarded and each employee received a GSP key chain. The 2002 Festival of Trees was held December 7 through 15 at the Georgia World Congress Center. The Committee purchased GSP's special Christmas tree just in time for holiday decorations at Headquarters.



Congratulations to the GSP Christmas Tree Committee for a job well done: Frances Butler, Laura Bohlander, Elga Cantrell, Elaine Engle, Edna Freeman, Lyn Gibbs, Shana Lynn, Judy Posey, Kathy Simmons, Diana Stephens, Sherry Stubbs, Lanie Thomas, Carole Venn, and Lanita Wakefield.

Georgia Department of Public Safety

Georgia State Patrol

Public Information Office

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