

THE BADGE

Georgia Department of Public Safety Bi-Monthly Newsletter
July - August 2015



DPS Joins the World of Social Media



Editorial: DPS and the Social Media Experience

Shortly after being appointed Director of the Public Information Office in July 2014, I received numerous calls and emails inquiring, “When are we going to finally get on social media?” “When are we going to get into the 21st century?” I am proud to say that we have made it.

It was not an easy road. Like most people, I thought it would be as simple as getting someone with a little social media “know how” to set up an account and start posting. As I began to do my research, I realized that the work I thought we were just beginning had actually already begun before I arrived.

You see, the decision to utilize social media, was not made lightly or impulsively. There was a small group of advocates from the Public Information Office, Human Resources, and Recruiting who had already put together some research on social media policy and best practices. They planted the seed. I just happened to be here when Colonel McDonough made the decision to delve into the world of posts, likes, shares and tweets.

In the next few days, you will see a new social media policy, as well as changes to establish policies concerning internet usage and social media. Please ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS be cognizant of the intense power of social media. The Department faces a couple of primary challenges where social media is concerned: finding the appropriate tone when communicating on social media channels; educating the Department on why the official use of social media is important to the overall communications and outreach strategies; and protecting its officers and civilian employees from the physical environment, as well as virtual space, by making online safety paramount.

We understand that this is a prime opportunity to inform, engage, and empower the citizens that we serve, as well as a way to provide timely communication to a vast audience without the filter of traditional media. However, if it does not support our mission statement, you will not see it on social media.

Currently, we have a presence on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Google+, and Instagram. We have plans in the future to branch out into other social media platforms. Feel free to enjoy the content being posted and to Post, Share, Tweet, and Like the good news about the Department of Public Safety. Always remember what goes into cyberspace, stays in cyberspace.

Capt. Mark S. Perry

DPS Escorts America’s Journey for Justice

GSP Troopers, MCCD Officers, GBI and FBI Agents and local law enforcement throughout the state, joined forces to provide an escort and security for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People’s (NAACP) America’s Journey for Justice March. The march began in Selma, Alabama and entered Georgia on August 8, traveling on U.S. Hwy. 29 at the Alabama State line into West Point, GA. The march continued through the state on U.S. Hwy 29 and exited Augusta, GA into South Carolina. The march will end in Washington, DC.

A “Tip of the Hat” to Lt. Ritchie Howard - GSP Detail Coordinator; SFC Maurice Raines - Route A Coordinator; SFC Daniel Fagan - Route B Coordinator; SFC Richard Harper - Route C Coordinator, Capt. Nikki Renfroe - Troop C Commander; Capt. Allen Marlowe - Troop E Commander; Troop C Command, Post 1 -Griffin, Post 2 - LaGrange, Post 6 - Gainesville, Post 10 - Americus, Post 25 - Grovetown, Post 49 - Motor Unit, Post 50 - Capitol Police, Post 52 - Hartwell, GSP Aviation, Troop E, Region 2, Region 3, Region 4, Region 5, Region 6, as well as troopers and officers from Headquarters.



First DPS Officers Graduate from School of Police Staff and Command

Congratulations to Major Tommy Waldrop (Georgia State Patrol), Lt. Cyril Durrence (Motor Carrier Compliance), and Lt. Jack West (Capitol Police) on their graduation from the School of Police Staff and Command (SPSC) at Northwestern University. Each successfully completed the ten-week Staff and Command program held at Kennesaw State University. They are the first Trooper, Motor Carrier Officer, and Capitol Police Officer to graduate from the program in DPS history. SPSC provides upper-level college instruction in a total of 27 core blocks of instruction during each session which include leadership, human resources, employee relations, organizational behavior, applied statistics, planning and policy development, budgeting and resource allocation. Each student is academically challenged through written examinations, projects, presentations, quizzes, and a staff-study paper. Upon successful completion, students may be awarded a total of 17 units of graduate and undergraduate credits from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. The Center for Public Safety was established at Northwestern University in 1936 with the specific goal of expanding university-based education and training for the law enforcement community.



FBI-LEEDS Graduates 15 GSP Troopers and MCCD Officers



On August 14, 2015, 15 GSP troopers and MCCD officers graduated from the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar (LEEDS). The LEEDS program was first conceptualized to fill a void in the FBI executive training programs for municipal, state, and federal leaders of law enforcement agencies

having between 50 and 500 members. On January 18, 1981, the Management Science and Leadership Unit at Quantico, began a two-week training program at the FBI Academy at Quantico to meet this need. Congratulations to the following officers that graduated from GA FBI-LEEDS: Georgia State Patrol - Capt. Rexroat, Lt. Corbett, Lt. Fiveash, Lt. Godby, Lt. Moody, Lt. Newman, Lt. Waller, SFC Harris, SFC Lowe, SFC Massingill and SFC Moon; Motor Carrier Compliance - Capt. Hanton, Lt. Carroll, Lt. Satterfield and Lt. Wickstrom.

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Inside DPS: News Around the State



The GSP Road Dawgs softball team took on the South Carolina Highway Patrol in a charity game to raise funds for Special Olympics. The game took place on Thursday, July 23, at the Joe Riley Ballpark in Charleston, SC. The charity game was a part of the Charleston RiverDogs' "Law Enforcement Appreciation Night." The final score was GSP 3 and SCHP 19. Over \$6,000 was raised for Special Olympics South Carolina.



MCO1 Jared Penny (MCCD Region 5) was this year's winner in the the Motor Carrier Compliance Division's Annual State Inspector Competition held at Lake Lanier Islands in Buford. This was MCO1 Penny's first year of competition in the State Inspector Competition. He also became the first officer to win first place holding the rank of MCO1. On August, MCO1 Penny competed in the North American Inspectors Championship (NAIC) in St Louis. He placed 35th among inspectors from all fifty (50) US states and territories, Canada and Mexico.



Post 2, LaGrange, along with TFC2 Steve Black (Safety Education) partnered with the Troup County Sheriff's Office, Atlanta Fire and Rescue, and LaGrange Fire and Rescue for a free child safety seat check on Saturday, July 25, at the Benjamin Hill Apartments in LaGrange. Troopers checked over 100 car seats for proper installation and educated parents and caregivers on the correct way children should be positioned in safety seats. In addition, more than 80 expired child/booster seats, donated from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and the Atlanta Fire and Rescue, were exchanged for new ones. The event was a collective effort of the West Georgia STAR, the nonprofit arm of the LaGrange Housing Authority, to help those who need assistance in improving child safety. A Tip of the Trooper Hat to Sgt. Brad Walker, M/Tpr. Bennie Talley, M/Tpr. Jimmy Jones, S/Tpr. George Cotton, and S/Tpr. Chris Norman from Post 2.



The GSP Training Staff welcomed 45 new cadets to the opening of the 97th Trooper School. GSP Trooper School consists of 31 weeks of training. Cadets will spend the next 18 weeks at the academy, 12 weeks in field training, and return to the academy for one week of preparation for graduation. The department wishes these Cadets success in their journey and looks forward to their graduation on March 18, 2016, at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, GA.