

THE BADGE

Georgia Department of Public Safety Bi-Monthly Newsletter
September - October 2014



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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER



I would like to take this time to tell the men and women of the Georgia State Patrol how honored and humbled I am to have the opportunity to serve you as your Commanding Officer. I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you. I have had the privilege of being a part of the Department of Public Safety for many years and I have seen many changes. I truly believe that we, as a Department, are moving in the right direction and I am very optimistic about our future.

I have had the opportunity to travel around and visit several Patrol Posts and I have truly enjoyed meeting and speaking with everyone. I am looking forward to getting out and working with you more in the future.

I would also like to thank each of you for the job you do every day to make Georgia safer. As we approach the holiday season, I hope that you will take the time to reflect on your blessings and spend time with your loved ones. I know how easy it is to get preoccupied, but remember that every day is a time to count our blessings and to remember all the things that we might take for granted.

As you celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas this year with your family and friends, enjoy the good food and fellowship, but don't forget that any day is a great time to be thankful for everything and everyone in your life.

I am thankful that I have been blessed to be part of this department and with the opportunity to work with some of the greatest people in the world. It is truly a blessing to be surrounded by good people that are proud of what they represent and who are dedicated to what they do.

Please be careful as you work and may you and your families have a wonderful Thanksgiving, Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Major Tommy Waldrop". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Major Tommy Waldrop
Commanding Officer
Georgia State Patrol



THE BADGE

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DPS WELCOMES NEW COMMAND STAFF



MAJOR TOMMY WALDROP - GEORGIA STATE PATROL

Major Tommy Waldrop is the Commanding Officer of the Georgia State Patrol. His promotion was effective August 1, 2014.

Major Waldrop attended the University of Georgia and began his law enforcement career with the University of Georgia Police Department. He also worked for the Clarke County Police Department.

Major Waldrop joined the department in May 1992 and graduated from the 66th GSP Trooper School in November 1992. He was assigned to GSP Athens and has served at GSP Toccoa and GSP Gainesville as a supervisor. He was promoted to Lieutenant and Assistant Troop Commander for Troop B in 2011. He was promoted to Troop B Commander in 2012.

Major Waldrop was born and raised in Winston and graduated from the Kings Way Christian School in Douglasville. He is the son of retired GSP SFC Tommy Waldrop Sr. and Elaine Waldrop. He and his wife Mary have been married for 21 years and they have two children, Taylor and Logan. They reside in Franklin County and attend Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Hollywood.



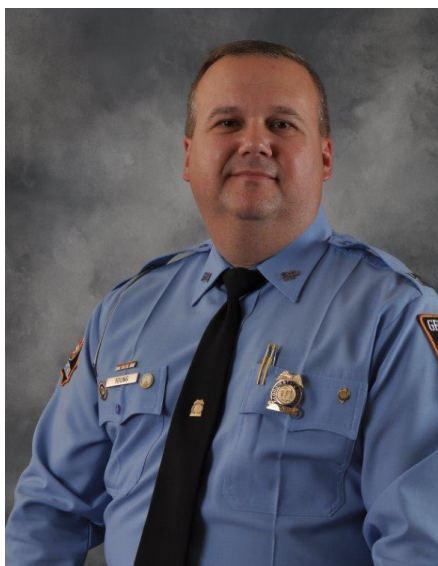
MAJOR JOHNNY JONES - MOTOR CARRIER COMPLIANCE DIVISION

Major Johnny Jones is the Commanding Officer of the Motor Carrier Compliance Division. His promotion was effective October 1, 2014.

During his career with the department he has served as Region Commander in Region 8 (Southwest Georgia), Regulatory Compliance Section Commander (Headquarters), and MCCD Executive Officer (Headquarters). He has also participated in numerous special law enforcement details including the 1996 Olympic Games and the 2004 G-8 Summit at Sea Island, Ga..

Major Jones received an Associates of Science degree in Business Administration from Abraham Baldwin College in Tifton, a Bachelors of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Troy State University, and a Masters of Science degree in Public Administration from Columbus State University.

He was born and raised in Omeiga and now resides in Tifton with his wife Wanda. They have four children (Shanon, Jennifer, Trisha, and Whitney) and five grandchildren (Lauren, Seth, Riley, Baylee, and Branson).



CAPT. LEWIS YOUNG - CAPITOL POLICE DIVISION

Capt. Lewis Young was appointed as the Director of the Capitol Police Division, effective September 1, 2014.

Capt. Young began his career with the Georgia State Patrol in 1991 as a Radio Operator at GSP Blue Ridge. In 1994, he was promoted to Trooper Cadet and graduated from the 68th Georgia State Patrol Trooper School in Forsyth. He was assigned to GSP Cordele, GSP Canton, and GSP Calhoun before his promotion to Corporal at GSP Kennesaw in 1999. After being promoted to Corporal, Capt. Young progressed through the ranks being promoted to Sergeant at GSP Forsyth; Sergeant First Class (Post Commander) at GSP Villa Rica; Lieutenant (Assistant Troop D Commander); Captain (Executive Officer) to the Commanding Officer (Major's Office) of the Georgia State Patrol; and then transferred as a Captain (Executive Officer) to the Deputy Commissioner (Lt. Colonel's Office).

Capt. Young was born and raised in Gordon County. In 2001, he moved to Monroe County. He is married to the former Dawn Hagan of Forsyth and has three children; Casey, Logan, and Kristi Anna. He is an active member of Maynard Baptist Church in Forsyth.

GSP GRADUATES 95TH SCHOOL



The Georgia State Patrol's 95th Trooper School graduated on August 15, 2014, at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth after 31 weeks of intense training. The keynote address was given by Governor Nathan Deal. Governor Deal acknowledged troopers for their tenacity, meticulousness, and heart. Additional remarks were given by Colonel Mark W. McDonough, Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety; Lieutenant Mark Holloway, Deputy Director of Training; and Corporal Mark Hodges, Assistant Trooper School Coordinator. The Oath of Office was administered by Justice Harold Melton of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Trooper Cadets spend 18 weeks at the academy, 12 weeks in field training, and return to the academy for one week of preparation for graduation. The Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) requires that all peace officers receive a minimum of 400 hours of Basic Mandate Training. At the completion of Trooper School, the newly graduated troopers received over 1,500 hours of training, including driving, defensive tactics, vehicle stops, Spanish, criminal law and procedure, firearms, crash investigation, and various other training.

During remarks to his fellow class members, Class President, Trooper Nicholas B. Johnson, emphasized that to be a Georgia State Trooper you must have discipline, hard work, and perseverance.

Four of the graduates received special honors for top performance in various fields of study. The honorees were:

- Highest Firearms Proficiency – Tpr. Stephen Smith
- Highest Driving Proficiency – Tpr. Scott Parker
- Highest Academic Average – Tpr. Jonathan Driskell
- Top Gun – Tpr. Brian Reagin



Additionally, the following graduates were recognized for their leadership: Tpr. Steven D. Cramer, Vice President; Tpr. Jonathan R. Driskell, Secretary/Treasurer; Tpr. Stephen M. Smith, Sergeant-At-Arms; Tpr. Israel B. Borup, Pennant Bearer; and Tpr. Jonathan M. Edwards, Chaplain.

2014 GOVERNOR'S CHALLENGE



Congratulations to GSP Troops D, A, and I for taking the Top Troop awards this year at the annual Governor's Challenge Awards Banquet. The ceremony recognized outstanding law enforcement achievement for 2013. Troop D (top photo) took first place in the GSP category with Troop A (middle left) finishing second followed by Troop I (middle right) in third. MCCD Region 1 (bottom photo) won the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Award.



TAILGa.TE FOR SAFETY: GSP vs THP



The Georgia State Patrol teamed up with the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) for a “TailGa.te for Safety” event at the Georgia Welcome Center on Interstate 75 south on Sept. 26. State Troopers promoted highway and public safety to traveling fans before the rivalry football Ga.me between the University of Georgia and the University of Tennessee. Both THP and GSP troopers conducted car seat checks, distributed highway safety literature, and offered safety tips for travelers.

Cpl. Andy Gideon (GSP Lafayette) assisted a mother with the proper installation of her child safety seat that was too loose.



HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER



The Georgia State Patrol partnered with its law enforcement counterparts from Alabama, Tennessee, and Florida for Hands Across the Border to target impaired drivers. A news conference and roadcheck were held every day during the week of August 25 to promote safe driving leading up to the Labor Day holiday travel period.

Each day following the news conference, troopers distributed safety education brochures and materials at the Georgia Welcome Center. An hour later, they duplicated the efforts at the welcome center in the neighboring state. This is the 23rd year the Georgia State Patrol has participated in Hands Across the Border. “Not only is this a time to educate motorists on

safe driving habits, but it is also a time where law enforcement agencies can come together to exchange valuable information and ideas reGa.rding safety education,” added Colonel McDonough.

OPERATION SAFE D.R.I.V.E. ON I-95

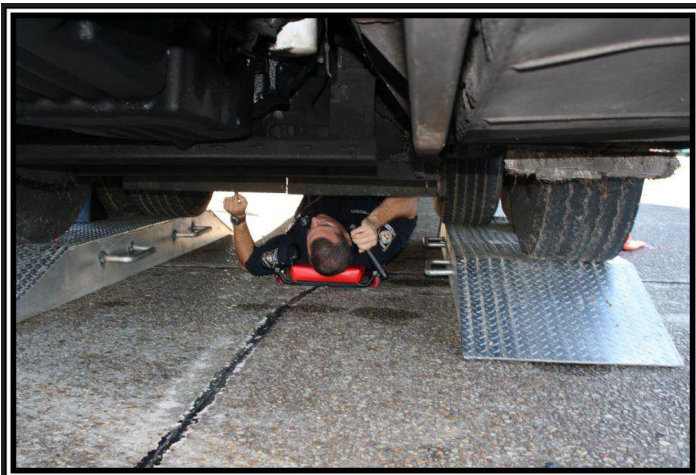
The Motor Carrier Compliance Division (MCCD) participated in a 72-hour multi-state high visibility enforcement campaign to target unsafe driving behaviors among commercial vehicle drivers through a partnership with Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina. The campaign took place from October 7 through October 9. This was the third of four enforcement periods this year.

Officers from the Motor Carrier Compliance Division conducted 321 commercial vehicle inspections and issued 257 citations last week during Operation Safe D.R.I.V.E on I-95. Among the commercial vehicle driver citations were two arrests for possession/use/under influence of alcohol; one arrest for possession/use/under influence of drugs; 168 for failing to stop at a railroad crossing by a commercial vehicle; and three for failing to stop at railroad grade crossing by a bus. The commercial vehicle inspections resulted in out-of-service orders for 39 vehicles and 23 drivers.

The acronym D.R.I.V.E. represents the focus by the agencies on targeting distracted, reckless, and impaired drivers through high visibility enforcement strategies. Motor Carrier officers will continue to keep an eye out for commercial vehicle drivers who are speeding, texting while driving, following too closely, and driving fatigued.



MOTORCOACH INSPECTIONS @SUNBELT



Motorcoaches that arrived at this year's Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition in Moultrie underwent a vehicle safety inspection by officers with the Motor Carrier Compliance Division. This marks the 15th year the inspection detail has been conducted at the Expo which was held at Spence Field in Moultrie October 14-16.

The annual inspections are one component of an overall safety effort to ensure that everyone enjoys a safe transportation experience on the highways of Georgia.

This year, Motor Carrier Compliance Officers conducted 59 motorcoach inspections during the Sunbelt Expo. The three-day inspection detail resulted

in three vehicles being placed out of service along with two drivers. Inclement weather on the first day contributed to a 34 percent decrease in the number of inspections from last year. Over the last 10 years, MCCD officers have inspected 692 motorcoaches during the Sunbelt Expo.

Each driver during the event was provided with a proactive safety information packet that included various educational documents relative to the safe transportation of passengers. Additionally, MCCD officers were available to answer questions from motorcoach drivers, chaperones, and other people attending the Expo.

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW

DPS NO LONGER HANDLES FIREARMS LICENSES

Once the responsibility of DPS, the Georgia Licensing for Firearm Dealers Law has been repealed (including requirements that firearms dealers obtain a state license and maintain records of firearm sales and purchases). Only the General Assembly (not cities, counties, zoning boards or state agencies) can regulate gun shows, possession, ownership, transport, carrying, transfer, sale, purchase, licensing or registration of firearms or other weapons or components, as well as firearms, components and weapons dealers.

DPS OFFERS TRAINING ON MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY

On October 1, the Motor Carrier Compliance Division (MCCD) of the Georgia Department of Public Safety is offering educational video training on commercial motor vehicle safety and motor carrier safety operations for Georgia intrastate motor carriers. This training meets the requirements for the Georgia Intrastate Motor Carrier (GIMC) Registration program. The training is offered free of charge.

According to Georgia law, motor carriers operating commercial motor vehicles solely in intrastate commerce are required to register their companies under the GIMC program. To apply or renew existing registrations, applicants must provide proof that an educational seminar on motor carrier safety was completed. "This video will satisfy the educational requirement of the GIMC Registration Program and provide insight on ways to safely operate commercial motor vehicles on the highways of Georgia," said Major Johnny Jones, MCCD commanding officer.

"The Department of Public Safety is firmly committed to implementing strategies and programs that increase highway safety thereby providing a safer transportation experience for our citizens and our motorists. Our goal in providing this safety-oriented training is to help educate and increase the knowledge of our intrastate motor carriers," Major Jones added.

To access the training, please visit: <http://www.Ga.mccd.net/training>. If you do not have access to the internet, call (404) 624-7247 to request a copy of the training DVD and certification form.

UCR AND GIMC REGISTRATION MOVE TO DPS

Effective July 1, 2014, the Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) (for Interstate motor carriers) and the Georgia Intrastate Motor Carrier (GIMC) Registration (UCR-Ga. for intrastate carriers) programs moved from the Georgia Department of Revenue (DOR) to the Georgia Department of Public Safety (DPS).

DPS created a new trucking portal website for customers to register and pay fees for both of these highway safety programs. The new website is operational and all registrations and renewals for both programs are handled through this DPS Portal.

Please visit our websites at www.Ga.mccd.net and www.dps.georgia.gov

THRU-TRAFFIC INSIDE I-285 IS A VIOLATION FOR CMVs

OCGa. § 40-6-51 prohibits commercial motor vehicles, including motorcoaches and buses, from traveling through the I-285 Perimeter of Atlanta unless there is a legitimate business need to do so. This law, first enacted in 1978, is designed to more effectively reduce traffic congestion and increase public safety on the interstate systems located inside the I-285 perimeter of Atlanta.

Commercial vehicle traffic, including motorcoaches and buses, ARE NOT allowed to travel on I-75, I-85, I-20, and Ga. 400 inside the perimeter of Atlanta, EXCEPT in the following circumstances:

1. When entering in a pick-up or delivery inside the perimeter;
2. When traveling to or from a motor vehicle terminal located inside the perimeter;
3. When traveling to a repair facility inside the perimeter;
4. When drivers traveling to or from their residence inside the perimeter.

Violations of OCGa. §40-6-51 are considered misdemeanor violations of law. Not including court costs, fines can range from \$150 - \$1,000 per violation.