

# THE BADGE

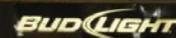
Georgia Department of Public Safety Bi-Monthly Newsletter  
September-October 2015



## Atlanta Falcons Pay Tribute to Cpl. Chadwick T. LeCroy



NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL



SCORE  
NATURAL  
GAS  
SAVINGS



# A Message from the DPS Commissioner

I don't know about you, but I love this time of year! The temperature is cooler, the air is a little crisper, hunting season is in full swing, and each Saturday is a renewed opportunity for our respective football teams to make us proud. Though I hate the time change, it begins the countdown to Thanksgiving which marks the true beginning of the holiday season. In our family lives, this time of the year is one of excitement and anticipation. In our profession, it's a time to take out all the stops and do what each of us can do in our capacity to make our roadways as safe as possible.



Traditionally, Thanksgiving is tagged with the title of "The Most Traveled Holiday." To me, it's always seemed like that's just the start of the race and it never lets up until after the New Year. For nine straight years, the fatality rate in this state has gone down. In large part, this has happened because of your commitment to stopping vehicles, inspecting trucks, working crashes, and locking up drunk drivers. There should be no greater satisfaction than the knowledge that, as a direct result of your efforts, lives were saved and people were able to spend the holidays at home with their families.

This year requires a renewed effort, a renewed sense of urgency to concentrate our efforts of enforcement on those behaviors which are causing injuries and fatalities on our roadways. Distracted driving, seatbelt use, following too closely, failure to yield, speeding, and impaired driving are all the same culprits that day in and day out, we can have a direct impact to change behavior. Our renewed effort can stem this year's trend of increased fatalities and, during the final two months of this year, have a positive and safer outcome in Georgia for a happier holiday season.

It's also a good time to reflect on one of our own that gave his all five years ago this December. Chad LeCroy was known by his peers as one who put it on the line every day to make a difference. It was a bad day for those that were up to no good if they crossed paths with Chad. His fervor and dedication to protecting the good from the bad is an example for each of us to emulate. His death also was counted in the number "Above 100" that gave their lives in the line of duty in 2010. I think Chad would be the first to encourage the ideology behind the "Below 100" mindset within the agency to promote officer safety and survival. **In memory of #744!**

Happy Thanksgiving,

Colonel Mark W. McDonough

P.S. Wear your belt. Wear your vest. Watch your speed. WIN - What's important now?

Remember: Complacency Kills.

## GSP and MCCD Help Grant A Young Boy's Wish

GSP Troopers, MCCD Officers, along with nine other state and local agencies in North Georgia helped Nick Brazzel get his surprise wish to be a police officer for the day through the Make-A-Wish Georgia Foundation. Nick participated in a pretend police pursuit in Catoosa County on Saturday, October 24. Nick was in a squad car when they alerted him to be on the lookout for a stolen truck on I-75. Nick, along with troopers, MCCD officers, and officers from other law enforcement agencies volunteering their time, pulled over the bad guy and Nick had the honor of arresting him and placing him in handcuffs. The suspect was played by a local minister.



Nick's five-year old brother Cooper has a rare form of Mitochondrial Disease and suffers seizures daily. Nick has taken a back seat to his little brother so that he can receive the required attention he needs from his parents, and this surprise was a thank you to Nick to show him how much he is appreciated.

Nick wants to pursue a career in law enforcement when he grows up. Each year DPS participates in the Make-A-Wish Foundation to grant a young child a special wish.

# DPS Wins Second Place in the IACP National Law Enforcement Challenge

On October 27, in Chicago, IL, the Georgia Department of Public Safety received the second place (501-1,500 officers) award for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) National Law Enforcement Challenge (NLEC). The annual NLEC is a friendly traffic safety competition among law enforcement agencies. The NLEC focuses on traffic safety issues of impaired driving, occupant protection, and speed awareness. Law enforcement agencies can also select a traffic safety issue that has been identified as a problem in their state or locality. Within the four categories, agencies are evaluated on their approaches based on seven factors: Problem Identification, Policies, Planning, Training, Public Information and Education, Enforcement and Outcomes. The department's submission covered the operations of the Georgia State Patrol and the Motor Carrier Compliance Division.



## Governor's Challenge 2015 Awardees

During the annual Georgia Governor's Challenge Awards Luncheon on September 30 in Macon, Georgia State Patrol (GSP) Troops and Motor Carrier Compliance Division (MCCD) Regions were recognized for their traffic safety efforts. The awards luncheon is sponsored by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and is a part of the IACP's NLEC program. Each year three GSP troops and three MCCD regions are recognized for their accomplishments in impaired driving, occupant protection, and speed awareness.



Georgia State Patrol  
**Troop G**  
First Place



Georgia State Patrol  
**Troop B**  
Second Place



Georgia State Patrol  
**Troop F**  
Third Place



Motor Carrier Compliance  
**Region 8**  
First Place



Motor Carrier Compliance  
**Region 1**  
Second Place



Motor Carrier Compliance  
**Region 9**  
Third Place

### THE BADGE

The Badge is published quarterly by the Public Information Office of the Georgia Department of Public Safety as an information service for Department members and retirees.

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# Inside DPS: News Around the State



**T**he GSP Aviation Division was featured in the October issue of Pro Pilot magazine. The article was an overview of the operations of the division including its airborne operations, insertion/extrication missions, IFR flight training. It also highlighted the division's focus on safety with the implementation of a Safety Management System (SMS) that has improved safety awareness and encouraged employee participation. Please visit [www.propilotmag.com](http://www.propilotmag.com) for the full article.



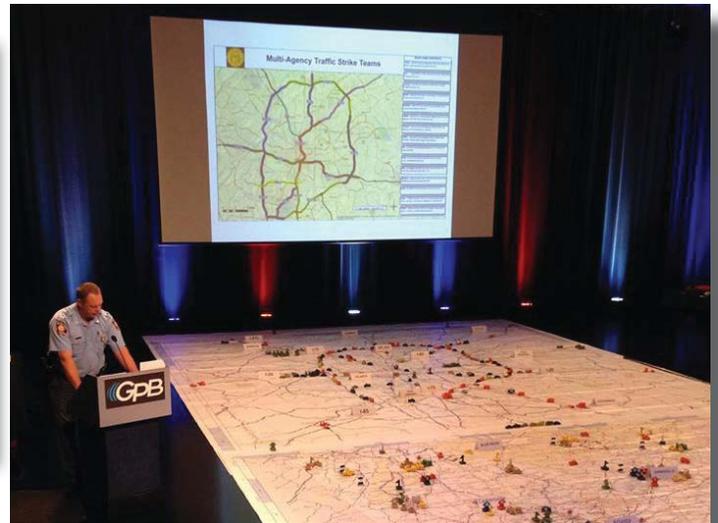
**O**n September 9, MCCD officers in Region 3 (Carroll County) conducted a radiological survey and securement check on a TRUPAC II shipment as part of a commercial vehicle Level VI Enhanced Radiological Inspection. The exercise was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).



**D**uring the week of October 19-23, Troop C Troopers participated in a school safety initiative. The goal was to visit 250 schools in the Metro Atlanta area, Read "Safety Dave and Daisy Ride The Bus" book to an elementary school class, take a "selfie" with the school principal, and conduct random School Zone enforcements. The following are the totals for the week:

- School Visits/Patrols – 378
- Selfies with a Principal – 8
- Book Reading – 8

During the school zone enforcements, troopers issued 76 speeding, four seatbelt, and 16 other traffic safety citations. They also issued 64 warnings.



**T**he WinterEx Rehearsal of Concepts (ROC) Drill took place on October 28 at Georgia Public Broadcasting. This exercise is hosted by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) in preparation for a possible winter event. During the rehearsal state agencies discuss their response to a winter weather storm through icons on a huge state map and detailed operations. Agencies involved in the exercise, included the Georgia State Patrol, Motor Carrier Compliance Division, along with local, county and private sector partners. Lt. Ryan Newman, GEMA Liaison, detailed the operations of the Multi-Agency Traffic Strike Team.