Message to Mexican drug cartel: Don’t mess with Texas
Vessels named for troopers killed on duty

A proactive approach to crime along the Texas border is hopefully about to pose a real problem for Mexican drug cartels and human smugglers.

The Texas DPS used grant money for its new Tactical Marine Unit, comprised of 19 troopers who completed extensive training before beginning their maritime law enforcement activities. The vessels are 34-foot Yellow Fin Special Purpose Shallow Water Interceptors powered by three separate 300 horsepower Mercury Verado outboard motors. Equipped with armor plating and six FN Mark 240 Bravo automatic weapons capable of firing 900 rounds of ammunition per minute per weapon, the vessels are also equipped with standard marine electronic equipment, along with advanced tactical electronics. Each boat costs $580,000.

The department’s first vessel, the J.D. Davis Patrol Vessel, was christened and launched Dec. 8 and is named for Texas Highway Patrol trooper Jerry Don Davis, 

Continued on page 7
FROM THE PRESIDENT’S PEN

Keith Barbier

Members are reminded that your college-age children may be eligible to receive a scholarship from AAST to be used at an accredited post-secondary institution.

1st Scholarship- $500
Students must be high school graduates with a minimum 2.5 grade point average (4.0 scale) and must submit a 500-word essay entitled How My Education Will Advance My Career Plans.

2nd Scholarship- $1,000
Students who maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA during the first scholarship period qualify for the second award.

3rd Scholarship- $1,000
Students who maintain a minimum 3.8 GPA during the second scholarship period qualify for the third award.

V.J. Johnson Memorial Scholarship- $1,500
This scholarship honoring longtime AAST board member and Florida trooper, Sgt. V.J. Johnson, is available to students whose member parent is an active or retired Florida trooper. Students applying for this scholarship must have previously received the first two AAST scholarships and must meet the qualifications for the third scholarship award, as previously stated, and the scholarship must be used at a Florida school.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a student intending to use his or her education to pursue a career in law enforcement. Applicants must submit a 500-word essay entitled How My Education Will Advance My Plans for a Career in Law Enforcement.

Deadline for receiving applications: July 31
Students applying for any AAST scholarship must complete and submit an official scholarship application along with the school transcript, letter of acceptance or proof of registration, and other required materials.

Applications are accepted January 1 through July 31 each year. All information must be mailed and received at AAST headquarters by 5:00 p.m. EDT on July 31. Incomplete material will be returned to the student. Material submitted by facsimile or the Internet will not be accepted.

For details or to obtain a scholarship application, visit AAST online at www.statetroopers.org. Or call AAST Membership Services, 800-765-5456, ext. 204.
A spirit of giving

AAST appreciates the state troopers who volunteer their time to help bring joy to those who might not otherwise have a happy holiday season. Your kindness and compassion go far beyond the smile you put on the faces of those who are less fortunate. You make a difference in people's lives.
Weather-stricken troopers need your help

According to reports, 38 people were killed by tornadoes that scarred communities in the nation’s midsection from Alabama to Indiana March 2-3. Several troopers received damage, but fortunately only two have been reported to AAST as suffering tremendous loss.

It will take an undetermined amount of time for these communities to clean up the ruins left in the wake of the unthinkable storms, and years before normalcy returns.

ISP Sgt. Jerry Goodin and The Weather Channel's Jim Cantore stand in a ravaged area as they discuss tornado damage in Henryville, Ind., one of the areas hardest hit by the massive storms.

Tpr. Scott Caudill of Kentucky State Police Post 8 in Morehead helps sort relief supplies donated for eastern Kentucky communities ravaged by storms and tornadoes on March 2. KSP's 16 posts throughout the state acted as collection points for donations destined for the affected areas.

Dear AAST Members & Supporters,

The devastating tornadoes that swept through southern Indiana March 2 have unfortunately adversely affected two of our troopers. One trooper lost everything he owned and suffered a shoulder injury. Thankfully, he is on the mend and the rest of his family is fine, but rebuilding his home and replacing other lost items will be a long, difficult, and costly process. The other trooper had significant damage to his house, but he and his family are physically fine. His recovery efforts will also be costly and lengthy.

Because AAST is about troopers helping troopers, we want to give brother troopers — and friends of troopers — the opportunity to help. Any amount you can contribute will be greatly appreciated by these two families.

The Indiana State Police Alliance is collecting money to help these troopers, and AAST is joining with them to spread the word of this important need. Checks should be made payable to ISPA Foundation and on the memo line mark “Tornado Relief AAST.” The ISPA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization; donations are tax deductible. Mail donations to:

Indiana State Police Alliance
AAST Donations
1415 Shelby St.
Indianapolis, IN 46203

With sincere appreciation on behalf of these two families,
Sgt. Noel Houze
Indiana State Police
AAST Indiana State Director

Follow AAST on Facebook!
Get important news feeds and interesting links on our Facebook page, and stay connected with troopers around the country.
Become a fan today!
www.facebook.com/statetroopers
Indiana trooper receives long overdue honor

M/Tpr. David McKalip of the Indiana State Police was recently recognized for his military service despite the fact he was honorably discharged in 1978.

On Nov. 23, 2011, at a ceremony held at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center near North Vernon, Ind., McKalip was presented with the Army Good Conduct Medal by Col. Todd Townsend, garrison commander for Camp Atterbury-Muscatatuck. McKalip entered the United States Army in October 1975 and took his basic training at Ft. Knox, Ky.

He later attended Military Police School at Ft. McClellan, Ala., after which he was assigned to the 502 Military Police Company/2nd Armored Division at Ft. Hood, Texas, until 1977. He was assigned to the 6th Military Police Company/72nd Ordnance Division in Muenster, Germany, his last two years and was honorably discharged from the Army on September 29, 1978.

McKalip, who earned an associate’s degree in criminal justice from Vincennes University, began his career with the ISP as a member of the 39th ISP Recruit Academy graduating in July 1980. During his career with the state police he has served as a field training officer and as a member of the Tactical Intervention Platoon. McKalip is married and has three children.

Troopers help with Super Bowl

About 100 uniformed and plain clothed Indiana troopers worked this year’s Super Bowl providing security, escorts, and crowd control. Each year the primary responsibility of ISP troopers at the Super Bowl includes security and policing duties at the Indiana Convention Center, home of Super Bowl-related activities, in downtown Indianapolis from January 27 through Super Bowl Sunday, which was February 5.

Troopers provided constant security over the Vince Lombardi trophy and the collection of Super Bowl rings on display to the public. During the afterhours the rings and the trophy were kept in the ISP command center in the convention center. Troopers provided security and escorts to current and former NFL players and other celebrities during autograph sessions and personal appearances.

Troopers also assisted the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department with security and crowd control.

Those working the big event spent long hours on their feet for 10 days, but most troopers agree that it is an exceptional assignment and they look forward to working next year’s Super Bowl.
Common language replaces 10-code system

Effective Feb. 1, the Maryland State Police became the most recent state agency to abolish the use of the 10-code system. Troopers now utilize the Common Language Protocol, also known as plain language.

Historically, 10-codes were used to describe common phrases used by law enforcement and were intended to shorten voice communication on the radio, but many police departments have developed different codes to communicate scenarios. The Common Language Protocol is expected to improve communication and reduce confusion, especially during multi-jurisdictional incidents or anytime different agencies are required to communicate on the radio.

For example, under the new system, instead of using code 10-46 when talking with a dispatcher or another trooper, the trooper will simply say, “disabled vehicle.” An additional requirement will be the use of the standard phonetic alphabet when conducting radio communication, such as Alpha, Bravo, Charlie.

The adoption of the standard phonetic alphabet is consistent with Gov. Martin O’Malley’s public safety initiative to implement the Maryland Statewide Communications Interoperability Program.

“Communications interoperability is a necessary investment into the lives of those who work on a daily basis to keep Marylanders safe,” said MSP Superintendent Col. Marcus L. Brown. “The transition to using the Common Language Protocol and the phonetic alphabet will allow for the most efficient and highest level of immediate communication between state agencies and local jurisdictions.”

By implementing the Common Language Protocol, the MSP is following a national trend which became more prevalent after 9/11 when agencies had difficulty communicating because they used different codes or signals. The new guideline also meets the recommendations of the National Incident Management System Integration Center.

While most state police and highway patrol departments still use 10-codes (and sometimes 11- and 12-codes), several agencies preceded the MSP in making the switch to plain language, including the New York State Police, Pennsylvania State Police, Virginia State Police, and Washington State Patrol.

Bears freeze fur off

Maryland State Police Trooper Candidate Class 138 made a big splash at the MSP Polar Bear Plunge January 27 at Sandy Point State Park. The class raised almost $23,000 for Special Olympics Maryland, with the event raising a total of $2.5 million.

Alabama names top trooper

The Alabama Department of Public Safety ended 2011 with a new challenge: Top Trooper of the Year competition.

Top Trooper of the Year is a competition that made its debut in December 2011. The two-day challenge covered all aspects of a trooper’s position, including physical fitness, driving and shooting skills, writing skills, and general law enforcement knowledge. It was held at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center in Selma.

Col. Hugh B. McCall presented certificates on Jan. 5 to the winners, including Tpr. John Cleveland, first place; Cpl. Thomas Averette, second place; and Tpr. Chuck Daniel, third place. Fifteen troopers from across the state participated in the challenge, which the department plans to make an annual event.
Patrol breathes new life into motorcycle unit

In 1930 the Texas Legislature created the State Motor Patrol. The first class of recruits was issued 90 new Indian and Harley motorcycles, and applicants were encouraged to have repair experience. Thus, many of the first motors officers had previously worked as mechanics.

The use of both motorcycle brands at the same time was very unusual in police agencies, but it continued for the Texas DPS for several years. From 1935 until the early 1950s, Texas highway patrolmen rode Harley-Davidson motors, with automobiles being phased in after WWII. In the late 1970s the department again tried to use motors for traffic enforcement on the highways, but after losing two patrolmen over a short period of time, the Kawasaki Police 1000 bikes were also retired from service.

For the first time since 1981, the DPS rolled out the Motor Unit in September 2011, consisting of two Harley-Davidson motorcycles and three motor troopers. The unit will be used at the Capitol for traffic patrol and for special events, such as escorts and parades.

On the prowl for humor

That's right, we want to hear your funny story! Whether you are retired or currently working the road, we know you have dozens -- maybe hundreds -- of humorous tales to share. Send us one, or two, today!

Send your humorous on-the-job story (300 words max), along with your photo, for consideration in the Trooper Connection newsletter:

AASTPR@aol.com
Or
AAST
Humor on the Highways
1949 Raymond Diehl Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32308
Governor, KSP honor injured trooper with well-deserved award

The Kentucky State Police honored Tpr. Stewart “Glen” Franklin in December with the Guthrie Crowe Award, an honor bestowed upon officers who have sustained a severe wound or injury while serving in the line of duty.

The honor stems from a 1972 incident in Franklin County when Franklin was involved in an undercover arrest of a bootlegger. During the arrest, Franklin was shot at close range with a .22 caliber revolver, causing permanent paralysis to his lower extremities. Franklin remains paralyzed to this day, utilizing a wheelchair for mobility. A native of Shelbyville, Ky., Franklin was assigned to KSP Post 12 in Frankfort at the time of the incident.

Gov. Steve Beshear joined KSP Commissioner Rodney Brewer and other KSP officers in honoring Franklin. “With great service comes great sacrifice,” Beshear said. “Safeguarding Kentuckians and Kentucky communities is a critical service, and today I am proud to honor Tpr. Franklin for his tremendous bravery and efforts in protecting the citizens of this state.”

During the ceremony, Brewer reminded attendees of the living sacrifices many troopers face each day. “We are quick to recognize our fallen troopers and place their photos and names in hallowed locations throughout our buildings,” Brewer said. “This is a great opportunity to recognize those who have lived with injury and excruciating pain as a result of their service.”

Trooper spirit, brotherhood burgeon

Tpr. Alex Rubado, 39, graduated from the Kentucky State Police Academy in October 2010, just nine months before he was diagnosed with stage 4 glioblastoma, a malignant brain tumor.

While doctors cared for Rubado during his two-week stay at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston for his August 2, 2011, surgery, Kentucky and Texas troopers helped take care of his family. Kentucky troopers sent care packages and continually called and prayed for Rubado, and when Texas troopers with AAST heard he was in town, they made arrangements to have DPS representatives rotate being at the hospital with the family.

“Not only did AAST send financial brotherhood assistance to help during Tpr. Rubado’s procedure, but they also made a connection that nobody expected,” said Col. Tim Hazlette, KSP, retired. “Upon finding out that Tpr. Rubado was in Houston, my brother AAST board members in Texas did as troopers do: they responded to assist the family.

“We troopers nationwide have been handed down a great heritage, and it's up to us and those yet to come to protect it, honor it, and preserve it.”

Upon Rubado’s discharge on August 16, a THP captain escorted the family to the airport. Rubado then underwent chemotherapy treatments and maintains a positive outlook and a thankful attitude for the outpouring of support from his fellow troopers.

AAST was proud to provide Brotherhood Assistance funding for Rubado during this difficult time.
**Frozen enforcement**

*Alaska state troopers track a fugitive at 40 below*

by Megan A. Peters, Information Officer, Alaska State Troopers

Just as the sun was starting to light up the community of Kotzebue, Alaska, around noon on January 4, four troopers were preparing their snowmachines for a trip out into the deadly cold backcountry.

An arrest warrant required the apprehension of James Darin Monroe, 40, who allegedly sexually assaulted a 3-year-old child on Christmas day then fled from the community.

Monroe’s whereabouts were unknown until a search and rescue party located him at a cabin 22 miles up the Noatak River. Monroe had a .357 magnum revolver with him, and he refused to return to the village with the searchers. It was up to troopers to track him down and bring him in.

With the mercury buried at 30 below zero, the snowmachines were taking longer than usual to get up and running. The badged quartet opted to take three personal clothes for the cold ride back to Kotzebue. Plus extra gear they brought with them.

“This was something big,” Inv. Kevin Blanchette said.

At about 1:00 in the afternoon, 2½ hours after beginning preparation and gathering up cold weather gear – to include handmade fur mittens – Blanchette and Alaska state troopers Christopher Bitz and Ron Monigold, as well as wildlife trooper Eric Lorring crossed the sound to the Noatak River, each with a 40-pound pack full of extra clothing and emergency provisions.

The ambient temperature was 40 below, and traveling at least 40 mph on snowmachines put the wind chill at approximately 86 below zero. A few times, the men had to stop and thaw the ice off their goggles by holding them close to the snowmachines’ engines.

Two troopers got into cover positions as the others approached a cabin where they might find Monroe. They found the cabin empty. However, the deep snow left troopers a telling sign – a sole, very visible trail of a person wearing stolen snowshoes and hauling a sled led away from the cabin.

Not much farther upriver the trail led to a cabin with smoke coming out of the chimney. When troopers arrived, Monroe came out of the cabin. He paused for a moment, and then he paused and after looking at the four armed troopers, he was taken into custody without hassle. “He knew we were coming, and he was ready to come in. He was cold,” Blanchette said.

After securing the fugitive, troopers had to make sure he was dressed in appropriate clothes for the cold ride back to Kotzebue. They layered Monroe up in his own gear plus extra gear they brought with them.

“We brought some of our personal cold weather gear from home so we knew he’d be warm enough,” said Blanchette. “We gave him a better hat and gloves – gave him goggles and wrapped his face up.”

Blanchette added that they took extra precautions due to the handcuffs and the extreme cold. At 40 below exposed skin will freeze in minutes, and the metal handcuffs could exasperate the problem.

The troopers put the cuffs over his jacket so he wouldn’t get frostbite from them and also wrapped another layer of clothing around his hands to try to keep the cuffs from getting cold. Even with the extra insulation, the metal cuffs frosted up a little by the time they made it back to Kotzebue.

At press time, Monroe was being held in Nome on the warrant the Kotzebue Police Department obtained. Troopers were conducting an investigation into what Monroe was doing while on the run.

Sgt. Duane Stone, supervisor of the Kotzebue Alaska State Trooper post, said the recovery of Monroe sent a strong message to criminals in the area: “You don’t get to run away from the troopers when it is cold out by going out on snowshoes in the backcountry. We will go after you. It is what we do.”

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**Trooper’s body recovered**

The Missouri State Highway Patrol announced Jan. 12 that the body of Tpr. Fred Guthrie Jr. has been recovered.

At approximately 2 p.m. Guthrie’s body was located in a brush pile south of where his K-9 Reed was recovered. The pair went missing Aug. 1, 2011, when they were apparently swept away in swift flood waters while working Missouri River flood duty in the area of Big Lake.

Although Guthrie was presumed dead, the department is glad to have recovered his remains so both they and the Guthrie family could help bring closure to this traumatic experience.
Members of the California Highway Patrol Mobile Field Force provides crowd control at an Occupy protest at Port of Long Beach in December. The action was part of a coordinated attempt by Occupy protesters up and down the West Coast to shut down ports.

Sr. Tpr. Doug Cutts of the Iowa State Patrol demonstrates beer goggles to a student at Berg Middle School in Newton, Iowa, during an alcohol awareness class.

Trooper sets sail


Silent prayer

During graduation exercises, 51 new Mississippi state troopers engage in a moment of silent prayer before they officially began their sworn duty to protect and serve. Trooper school, which had over 700 applicants, ran July 10-December 16, 2011.

Intimidation factor?

Texas Highway Patrol Recruit J. Williams, center, withstands close scrutiny from Lt. Pat Hernandez, left, Sgt. Royal McMullin, back, and Capt. Jason Hester, on Day 1 of recruit school in August. Fifty-seven men and women became THP troopers Jan. 19 following graduation ceremonies in Austin.
Troopers in training

Graduation ceremonies were held November 10 at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth for the 35 members of the 88th Georgia State Patrol Trooper School.

Georgia gains troopers

A Vermont State Police Academy instructor watches closely as recruits participate in ground fighting exercises. The 93rd VSP Pre-basic Academy began Jan. 16, with the 15 recruits indoctrinated during three weeks of pre-basic training, followed by 16 weeks of basic training.

Capt. Maynard Gray, center, of the Pennsylvania State Police is proudly joined by his trooper sons, Matthew, left, of the PSP 131st Cadet Class, and Michael of the PSP 132nd Cadet Class.

All in the family

The Maine State Police’s newest recruit is a 10-week-old black Labrador named Gooch. Held here by Tpr. Jessica Shorey, Gooch is named after MSP Officer Emery Gooch, who was killed on his motorcycle in 1924.

Gooch the pooch

A STrooper Connection Spring 2012
Florida Highway Patrol Promotes 3D Prevention Month

The Florida Highway Patrol participated in a news conference Dec. 2, 2011, to raise awareness for Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month. FHP pledged that every one of its sworn members would work at least one shift during the month of December to focus on catching impaired drivers. Gov. Rick Scott, safety partners, and other law enforcement agencies joined members of the FHP at the news conference to show support for the important message.

“Last year, alcohol and drugs were contributing factors in more than 30 percent of Florida’s traffic fatalities,” FHP Director Col. David Brierton said. “This is an unacceptable statistic and one that we are dedicated to improve.”

While Florida has realized a reduction in traffic fatalities over the past five years, the patrol aims to continue to save lives by removing drunk and drugged drivers from its roadways.

Preliminary enforcement results for the last two weeks of 2011 consisted of 35,717 citations, including 505 DUI arrests and 12,860 speeding citations. Motorist assists numbered 11,236.

Recruits learn importance of lending helping hand

It might seem odd for recruits to help with arts and craft projects as part of their training, but that’s just what up-and-coming Florida troopers did.

During their 28 weeks of training, the 42 members of the Florida Highway Patrol’s 121st Recruit Class visited Pyramid Inc. in Tallahassee, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping adults with mental disabilities. Students receive instruction in the fine and performing arts, as well as vocational and life-management skills.

The recruits were grateful for the opportunity to visit Pyramid as part of their law enforcement training in handling situations involving people with mental disabilities. Trooper recruits participated with the students in arts and craft projects and were able to view the group’s performing arts productions. They also learned about the facility’s training and therapy.

In turn, the recruits put on a performance of their own, conducting marching drills and calling cadence for the Pyramid students. They even pumped out a few pushups to give students an idea of what academy training is like.

The FHP Training Academy values the relationship it has established with Pyramid staff and students and welcomes the opportunity to teach recruits the importance of serving and leading by example in their communities.

The 121st Recruit Class graduated Feb. 9.
Vest saves trooper’s life

A West Virginia trooper became “Save Number 1,770” after he was saved by his bulletproof vest.

In March 2011, F/Sgt. Bob Mefford of the West Virginia State Police was in a standoff in Lincoln County, during which time Jesse Roger Stacy allegedly fired shots at officers and then barricaded himself in his home.

When it was all over, a K-9 named Zoey had been shot and killed along with the gunman. Mefford also took a bullet, which fortunately was stopped by his vest. The company which produces these lifesaving devices, Safariland, gives a no-cost replacement to the officer when the vest is utilized.

“His training came through, and the equipment that he was issued worked as it was supposed to,” Col. C. R. “Jay” Smithers said.

Mefford was presented his replacement vest in November by Safariland.

“No doubt whatsoever, that the vest and our K-9 that we lost was what kept me alive that day,” Mefford said, “and my buddies.”

State patrol honors men for help at fuel spill

The Colorado State Patrol recently honored four civilians whose quick actions prevented an environmental catastrophe this past September.

Travis Andrews, Jeremy Lattin, Andy Morris, and Rany Zufell, employees of Crossfire, LLC, an oil and gas field services company, received Colorado State Patrol commendation certificates for their quick thinking and decisive actions following a fatal truck crash in southwestern Colorado on September 16.

A truck transporting 4,000 gallons of gasoline which crashed on U.S. Highway 550, south of Durango was severely damaged, with the cargo tank spilling thousands of gallons of gas that could have contaminated the nearby Animas River. The driver of the vehicle was killed in the crash.

The four civilians witnessed the crash and immediately recognized the environmental threat the spill created. They quickly off-loaded a skid steer from their truck and grabbed shovels and began constructing a retaining wall around a nearby storm drain. They also constructed a containment pond to catch gasoline that had already entered the storm drain, preventing further contamination.

Thanks to their fast actions, these men prevented an environment catastrophe by containing approximately 1,500 gallons of the gasoline before other help arrived.
Troopers use cell phone app to learn of health problem

Quick-thinking troopers used a software application on a cell phone to understand what a motorist was trying to tell them.

Sgt. Pat Shortt and Sr. Tpr. Mike Holloran of the Oregon State police used a cell phone app to communicate with a foreign speaking man whom they determined was experiencing a medical problem near The Dalles. The app translates more than 50 languages in text or spoken word.

On Feb. 12, several driving complaints of a possible impaired driver were received regarding a vehicle on Interstate 84. Shortt and Holloran stopped the driver, a 57-year-old man of Chinese descent who spoke little English.

The language barrier prevented the troopers from communicating clearly with the man they noted showed signs of possible impairment. Utilizing a Google language translator app, Holloran communicated in Chinese to learn that the man was diabetic.

Local emergency medical personnel responded and confirmed the man’s blood sugar level was abnormally high and that he was undergoing a diabetic reaction. Following the medical assessment and initial treatment at the scene, he was transported to Mid-Columbia Medical Center for treatment.

by Erin Dietrich, Tillamook Headlight-Herald

More than 6,000 miles away from the Oregon coast, in war-torn Afghanistan, U.S. Navy Petty Officer Second Class Aaron Butcher is doing what he can to help orphaned children stay warm.

Butcher is a Navy reservist and works for the Oregon State Police out of the Tillamook office. He is on his assignment with the NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan, at Camp Eggers, Kabul, where he oversees projects for the Afghan National Police.

Butcher volunteered on a mission during the holidays with four other coalition members to give more than 1,400 blankets and other items to needy orphans at the Aschiana Center, an orphanage and school in Kabul, where the average winter temperature is about 28 degrees.

“They burn shoes in the winter time – they burn just about everything just to keep warm,” Butcher said. “It’s a very poor place. They have to do what they can to survive.”

The average household income in this rugged, war-torn city is about $250 a year. Most residents struggle for basic needs such as clean water, electricity, and medical care.

“They were thrilled to get the blankets,” Butcher said. “You could see the excitement on their faces. We gave them a snack, a piece of candy, and they lit up as they got the treats.”

When Butcher decided to help with the effort, he put a post on Facebook telling friends and family back home about the project.

“There were a number of people, friends and family, who decided to send some money,” he said.

About 450 fleece blankets were collected and shipped to Kabul, where they were put into the hands of children on Nov. 30. Butcher is expected to return home in May.

Reprinted with permission, the Headlight Herald.
Arizona DPS welcomes grand return of Kawasaki

by Ofcr. Carrick Cook, Arizona DPS

Diligence and determination recently paved the way for a new motorcycle in the Arizona Department of Public Safety’s Motor District.

In August 2011, Kawasaki made its triumphant return to the agency. The historic image of an Arizona Highway Patrol motorcycle is the Kawasaki KZ 1000, a bike that is still being ridden today by motor officers all over the country.

In 2005, Kawasaki ceased its production of the KZ 1000, requiring agencies, including the Arizona DPS, to look for a replacement. In the search for a new type of motorcycle for its officers, it was imperative that the DPS find a model with an anti-locking braking system. This was essential because most major highways in Arizona had been resurfaced with rubberized asphalt. This new surface makes it difficult for motor officers to hear the ominous sound of the front-wheel locking up during extreme braking.

The BMW RT-1150 was eventually chosen by the DPS as the replacement for the Kawasaki because of its advanced braking system and performance. Since that time, two other motorcycles with ABS have made appearances in the DPS Motor District – the BMW RT-1200 and the Honda ST-1300. In 2008 Kawasaki re-entered the police motorcycle market with the introduction of a new police bike – the Concourse 1400 police motorcycle.

“We continue to re-evaluate our motorcycle fleet and, as of now, the Concourse appears to be the best option for our agency,” said Capt. Burley Copeland, who is continuing to outfit his motor officers with the best equipment possible.

In comparison with the other bikes in use by the DPS, the Kawasaki is about $7,000 cheaper for each bike, and maintenance costs are substantially less. With the purchase price being so reasonable, the DPS was able to buy five Kawasakis for the price of four Honda ST-1300s.

Troopers’ children need your help

The New York State Troopers PBA Signal 30 Benefit Fund is currently raising funds for two special children of New York troopers.

Caleb Cunniff, age 5, son of Tpr. David Cunniff, was diagnosed at age 2 with Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type II. This neuromuscular disease causes degeneration of motor neurons resulting in progressive muscular atrophy and weakness. Thanks to a power wheelchair, the Cunniffs are able to move Caleb from one place to another. The Cunniffs’ expenses for Caleb’s treatment are substantial, including the need for a handicap accessible van, which will cost approximately $30,000.

Valentina Prestigiacomo, almost 2, daughter of Tprs. Diane Parrotta and Mark Prestigiacomo, was discovered in October to have a tumor wrapped around her spinal cord, a rare type of cancer called Ewing’s Sarcoma. Neurosurgeons performed surgery to relieve pressure on her spinal cord, but only a small portion could be removed. Valentina faces chemotherapy, radiation, and possibly more surgeries.

The New York State Police Signal 30 Benefit Fund, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, was created by the PBA of the New York State Troopers, Inc., to support New York troopers and their families in extraordinary circumstances and in times of need.

Visit us online!

www.statetroopers.org

See interesting trooper news and photos from around the country, and also track news within AAST.
Paying tribute for the ultimate sacrifice

AAST pays tribute to the trooper who was recently killed in the line of duty.
We honor those who have given their lives in service to their departments and their community.
AAST was proud to make a donation from its Brotherhood Assistance fund to Radulescu's surviving family.

Washington

Tpr. Tony Radulescu, 44, a member of the Washington State Patrol, was shot and killed Feb. 23 around 1 a.m. during a traffic stop near Port Orchard.

He had radioed in his location and the pickup truck’s license plate and description to dispatchers. When they were unable to contact Radulescu for several minutes, a sheriff’s deputy was sent to the scene and discovered Radulescu lying wounded. He was transported to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to his wounds a short time later.

The vehicle Radulescu had stopped was found abandoned on a country road approximately three hours later. A SWAT team deployed to the registered owner’s home and as they approached, the suspect, Joshua Blake, 28, committed suicide.

The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office was in charge of investigating the case, and at press time, six arrests had been made for rendering assistance to Blake.

A 16-year veteran of the WSP, Radulescu served his entire career in the patrol’s Bremerton district. He was popular both within the patrol and in the community, known for his many visits and presentations at local schools. A U.S. Army veteran, Radulescu is survived by a son.

Radulescu became the 27th Washington trooper to die in the line of duty.

Brother officers show support at funeral

Trooper shot same day

When a law enforcement officer is killed, brother troopers come from numerous states and agencies to represent.

Members of the Delaware State Police and Virginia State Police were among the thousands of state, local, and campus law enforcement in attendance of the Dec. 12 funeral for slain Virginia Tech police officer Deriek W. Crouse.

VSP troopers responded en masse when word came of the officer being fatally shot during a traffic stop on the Virginia Tech campus Dec. 8. The gunman, a 22-year-old male, took his own life approximately two hours later when approached by police.

Later that same day on the other side of the state, 14-year veteran Virginia trooper M.H. Hamer was shot and injured. Hamer attempted to apprehend the suspect, and while the man was seated in the patrol car, he grabbed for Hamer’s service weapon. As the trooper wrestled with the subject, the man was able to fire the trooper’s weapon. Hamer retrieved an off-duty, back-up weapon, and shot and killed the male subject.

Hamer survived being shot in the leg and at press time was home recovering.

Virginia, left, and Delaware troopers were among the thousands of officers from across the country who attended the funeral service for a Virginia Tech police officer killed on duty.
New directors take lead of departments

**Minnesota State Patrol**

Col. Kevin Daly was named the 17th chief of the Minnesota State Patrol in May 2011.

Daly, who joined the patrol in 1986, was promoted to lieutenant in 1998 and served as captain and commander of the Rochester District from 2001-2005. He was named lieutenant colonel and assistant chief in 2005. Daly has served as a commander of the Special Response Team and he has provided significant training in various areas including firearms, chemical munitions, defensive tactics, and drug recognition evaluation.

Daly holds a bachelor’s degree in law, criminology, and deviance from the University of Minnesota, and a master’s degree in leadership from the University of St. Thomas.

The MSP is comprised of 886 employees, of which 591 are uniform personnel.

**North Carolina Department of Public Safety**

Reuben Young began serving in January as secretary of the new, restructured North Carolina Department of Public Safety.

Young’s legal experience includes serving as a prosecutor in Texas and, as an assistant attorney general in North Carolina. In his current post, Young serves as a member of the Governor’s Crime Commission and on the board of directors of the Criminal Justice Information Network.

The new agency, effective Jan. 1, 2012, will fold the responsibilities of the former Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, which Secretary Young also directed, and the Departments of Correction and Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The merger, a result of Gov. Bev Perdue’s consolidation plan, will encompass the North Carolina State Highway Patrol alongside the Departments of Correction and Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

**South Carolina Highway Patrol**

Michael Oliver, 52, was named commander of the South Carolina Highway Patrol in December. He had served as lieutenant colonel since 2009.

Oliver, who joined the patrol in 1982, has managed the administrative, operational, and support functions of the patrol associated with enforcement and public safety. He has also overseen traffic/specialized enforcement, and safety outreach for 11 troops. Oliver came to patrol headquarters in 2008, overseeing the Telecommunications Unit. He has a strong background in field operations, administration, technology, and project management.

Oliver selected Chris Williamson to serve as lieutenant colonel of the division, which has 804 troopers and 188 civilian personnel.

**Critically injured trooper returns to duty, honored by Tigers**

While visiting the Capitol in Lansing Jan. 19, the Detroit Tigers recognized and honored Michigan State Police trooper Drew Spencer who returned to work in December after suffering life-threatening injuries in a September crash.

Players saluted Spencer for his service and commended him for being off the DL (Disabled List, in baseball terms).

Spencer, 27, was conducting a traffic stop on the night of Sept. 4 along Interstate 96 in Ingham County when a vehicle lost control and struck Spencer’s patrol car and then struck Spencer who was standing near the front of the patrol car.

Spencer sustained life-threatening injuries and was transported by helicopter to the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor. Spencer was released from the hospital on Sept. 22. He underwent several weeks of intensive physical and occupational therapy before returning to work Dec. 15 on full-duty status.

Spencer was honored in the House Appropriations room in the state Capitol. His wife and two young children were in attendance.
Two ladies were recently honored as having a Spirit of the Trooper.

The AAST Spirit of the Trooper Award was initiated two years ago to recognize individuals for their support of the goals and purposes of AAST and its mission to improve the lives of state troopers. Sheryl Musick and Jo Baldridge, both wives of state troopers, recently received the framed awards for their outstanding efforts.

Musick, wife of Capt. Kenneth Musick of the Texas DPS who serves as AAST’s national secretary, was instrumental in hosting the AAST national board of directors in her home state of Texas in June 2011. In addition to providing hospitality, she spent countless hours putting together an album of photos, notes, and memorabilia for longtime AAST Tennessee State Director Bob Yoakum, who was undergoing cancer treatments and was unable to attend last year’s meeting.

Baldridge, wife of Tpr. Andy Baldridge of the New Mexico State Police, has graciously opened her home for the past three years to host competing state troopers in the National Police Shooting Championships. Andy and Jo’s renowned barbecue and New Mexican dinners have become extremely popular among the 30-plus troopers who attend each year while in Albuquerque for the world-class matches. AAST has sponsored the dinner for the past 19 years and greatly appreciates the hospitality and generosity of the Baldridges as they host on AAST’s behalf.

AAST salutes these ladies who have taken noteworthy measures to help improve the lives of America’s state troopers. AAST looks forward to future opportunities to honor those who display a true Spirit of the Trooper.

Join Us Today!
Annual Membership Dues $75.

Benefits and Services available to AAST Members:
- $5,000 term life insurance*
- Accidental Death & Dismemberment insurance*
- Line-of-duty death benefit*
- Scholarships for members’ qualified dependents
- Receipt of AAST’s national newsletter, Trooper Connection
- Brotherhood assistance to distressed or injured troopers as funds are available
- Special optional vision insurance benefit for retired members
- Website for news, membership updates, and other features

AAST is a not-for-profit organization and is not a union. It is a fraternal-type organization providing camaraderie and needed supplemental benefits to help improve troopers’ lives. Troopers eligible for AAST membership include full-time active troopers, retired troopers who apply for membership within 12 months of their retirement date, and former troopers with 10 or more years of service who apply for membership within 12 months of termination of employment with the agency.

Call 1-800-765-5456 (ext. 204) for more information.

Or mail the application along with your credit card information or check for $75 payable to AAST and a copy of your state ID card to AAST, 1949 Raymond Diehl Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32308.

All benefits are reviewed periodically by the National Board of Directors and are subject to change without notice.

* Six-month waiting period for new members.
### American Association of State Troopers, Inc.
#### Membership Application

**APPLICANT**

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<th>Name (Last)</th>
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<th>(Middle)</th>
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**SPOUSE**

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### AFFIRMATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Membership status (Please choose one of the following):

- [ ] Active—Date of Employment __________ - __________
- [ ] Retired—Service Dates __________ - __________ to __________ — __________ Total Years __________

To be considered for membership, application must be received by AAST within 12 months of your official retirement date.

- [ ] Honorable Service
  
  Previously completed at least 10 continuous years — Service Dates __________ - __________ to __________ — __________ Total Years __________

To be considered for membership, application must be received by AAST within 12 months of leaving employment.

I certify that I am an active or retired state trooper or state police officer in the United States of America, or have completed a minimum 10 years of continuous service as such, and meet the qualifications for membership in the American Association of State Troopers.

[Signature]

Dues paid to AAST are not tax deductible.

### SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

Please attach a copy of your state identification card or certificate of service and payment in the amount of $75 (payable to the American Association of State Troopers) and mail to: AAST, 1949 Raymond Diehl Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308.

- [ ] Check enclosed  
- [ ] Charge my credit card:
  - [ ] Visa  
  - [ ] MasterCard  
  - [ ] Discover  
  - [ ] American Express  
  
  Amount Paid $75  

Card #: ![Card number]  
Expires: ![Expiration date]  
Cardholder's Signature: ![Signature]
Relics from the Road

Indiana troopers undergo an inspection roll call in the 1950s in the parking lot of the Dunes Park Post, Dist. 1, which has since been demolished. A memorial sign was erected near the post to honor the troopers who worked the area.