



Public Safety Commission Meeting

February 22, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

6100 Guadalupe, Building E
Austin, TX 78752

Summary

(This report represents a summary of events of the meeting,
and is not necessarily complete nor an exact transcript of testimony.)

The Public Safety Commission convened as posted to consider and take formal action, if necessary, on the following agenda items:

I. CALL TO ORDER

10:00 am – Chairman Steven Mach called the meeting to order. In attendance: Chairman Steve Mach, Commissioners Cindy Leon, Manny Flores, Randy Watson and Jason Pulliam. A quorum was present. Also present were, Director Steve McCraw, Deputy Director David Baker, Deputy Director Robert “Duke” Bodisch, Deputy Director Skyler Hearn, and General Counsel Phil Adkins.



II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Leon and seconded by Commissioner Watson to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2017 PSC Meeting. Motion carried.

III. PRESENTATIONS

This public item was conducted in the Main Auditorium of the Training Academy. See the end of this report for all of the presentation information and photos.

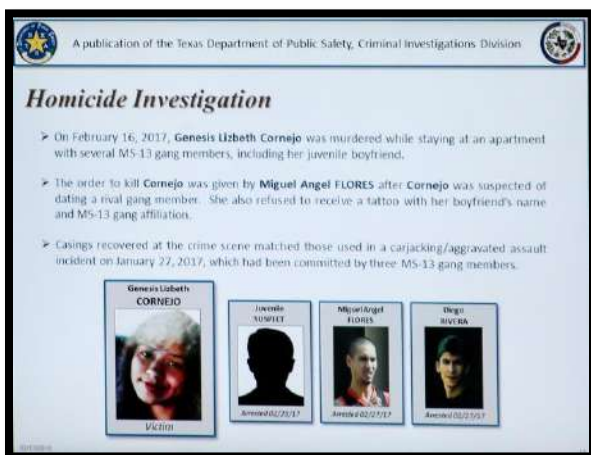
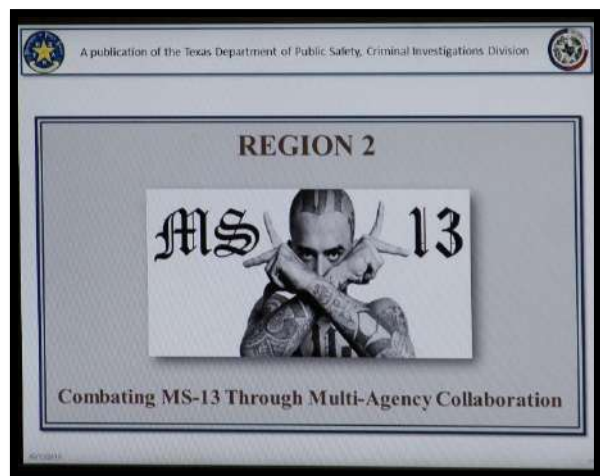
IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

(Members of the public wishing to address the Commission are subject to a time limit of 5 minutes and must complete a Public Comment Registration Card located at the entry. Should a member of the public bring an item to the Commission for which the subject was not posted on the agenda of the meeting, state law provides that the Commission may receive the information but cannot act upon it at the meeting. The Commission may direct staff to contact the requestor or request that the issue be placed on a future agenda for discussion.)

Chairman Steven Mach said that no one signed up to speak.

V. DIRECTORS REPORT

A. Case Update: Combatting MS-13 Through Multi-Agency Collaboration



Director McCraw brought up a CID Major Manuel Espinosa and Special Agent Edgar Gonzalez to give presentation a on the MS-13 Gang and Operation Raging Bull in the Houston area. They began by stating that the gang originated in California, and have spread to other parts of the country, especially in Texas and the north eastern part of the U.S. They have a reputation for brutality and execution style murders using machetes and hand guns. They carry out a lot of home invasions and extortion. We have identified more than 300 members in the Houston area, although that number might be low in that they are not tagging themselves with tattoos as often to identify them as members of the gang. MS-13 is recruiting younger individuals in junior high and high schools.

Agent Gonzalez spoke of a homicide that they were investigating involving an undocumented woman who was executed. She had been living with an MS-13 member who accused her of disrespect and of having an affair with the member of a rival gang. Agent Gonzalez said that that was all that the gang needed to order her death. Evidence gathered at the scene of the murder led them to a car-jacking incident and they were able to link the two crimes. Agent Gonzalez stated that they were able to identify other gang members at the scene who were witnesses to the murder. Alvarez and Flores were arrested, and we are trying to interview one more suspect as well. At this point they will be charged with aggravated kidnapping and aggravated assault.

In July of 2017, Douglas Alexander, aka "Terror" was another gang member who was wanted in connection with a 2016 Fort Bend County 2016 murder case. He was suspected to be in the Galveston County area and while investigating him he was connected as a suspect in a second murder.

Operation Raging Bull is an HIS operation and a joint operation involving DPS, Houston Police Department, Harris County Sheriff's Department and others that focused on MS-13. The operation arrested 9 MS-13 gang members. They are about to enter into phase 2 of the operation.

We have had 42 apprehensions, including 4 in San Antonio, 3 in Laredo, 3 in McAllen, and 1 in Beaumont.


Commissioner Cindy Leon asked if the beefed up border operations have had a noticeable effect on the numbers of new gang members. Major Espinosa stated that it was very difficult to tell and getting good counts is difficult since the gangs are fluid and move around a lot. We have seen quite a bit of gang tagging in new areas of Houston, where that type of activity hasn't been a problem before. Sharing data with international organizations helps us to track some of their movements and activity.

B. Hearing Update

1. 2017 Review
2. Border Security
3. Violent Crime Reduction Operations
4. DPS Officer Safety

A publication of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Criminal Investigations Division


Homicide Investigation (continued)



Miguel Angel FLORES

MIGUEL ALVAREZ-FLORES (AKA: DIABOLICO)

- Murder (\$150,000 Bond)
- Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon (No Bond)
- Sexual Assault of a Child (\$150,000 Bond)
- Aggravated Kidnapping (\$150,000 Bond)
- Next Court Appearance: February 28, 2018



Diego RIVERA

DIEGO RIVERA (AKA: SCARY)

- Murder (\$150,000 Bond)
- Aggravated Kidnapping (\$150,000 Bond)
- Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon (No Bond)
- Next Court Appearance February 13, 2018

A publication of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Criminal Investigations Division

Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitive Arrest


- On July 24, 2017, high-ranking MS-13 gang member Douglas Alexander **HERRERA-HERNANDEZ** was featured as a Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitive. He was wanted for two counts of Murder.
- On July 29, 2017, **HERRERA-HERNANDEZ** was arrested in Virginia after CID special agents assisted with identifying his location.
- **HERRERA-HERNANDEZ** was subsequently extradited back to Texas and was debriefed by CID special agents



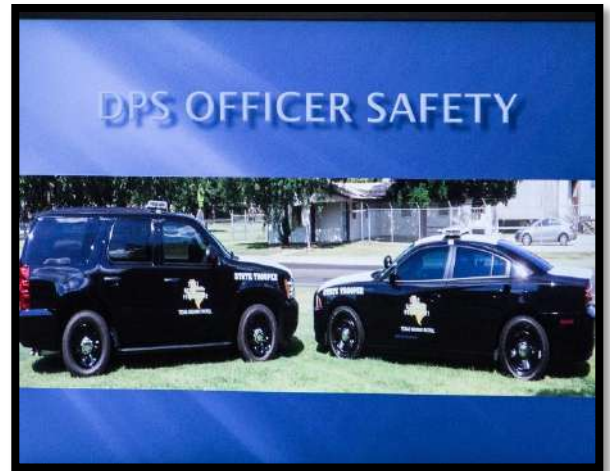
A publication of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Criminal Investigations Division

Operation Raging Bull

- On October 19, 2017, a collaboration of state, federal, and local law enforcement agencies resulted in 214 arrests across the United States.
- The surge operation targeted members and associates of MS-13 who had outstanding warrants and/or immigration-related administrative violations.
- Eight MS-13 gang members and one associate were arrested by CID in Houston. Two firearms were seized along with a quantity of marijuana.

OSCAR JAVIER MARRERO FLORES	Miguel MORAN	Dionny Cardenas ALONSO
		
GEOFFREY BONBIO	Miguel Ramon MELLENZ	Augustin MELLENZ
		
Miguel Alvaro HERNANDEZ	Raulito DE BRUN	Luis BARRIOS
		

Director McCraw discussed his testimony before the House Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee meeting in Tyler, Chaired by Representative Phil King and Vice-Chaired by Representative Poncho Nevarez. Director McCraw said he spent a great deal of time pointing out the dangers that troopers face anytime they are stopped on the side of the road to cite a driver for an infraction or assisting them in changing a tire. He stated that since January of 2015, there have been 34 incidents of black and whites being hit from the rear while on the side of the road with flashing lights going. Distracted driving is certainly a factor, but clearly the "Slow down and move over" law is not being effective. We have increased enforcement, partnering with local authorities. The crashed vehicles I have shown that clearly SUVs afford more protection to the occupants than the smaller, lower to the ground sedans. It is our goal to transition all of our patrol vehicles to SUVs as we can. Another benefit to the larger SUVs is their capacity to carry more equipment. We continue to better equip our officers, and these vehicles can carry more. Over 40% of our vehicles have over 100,000 miles on them. Ideally, we would like to replace a vehicle once it reaches 90,000 miles. One trooper is driving a Crown Vic with 197,000 miles on it.



November 18, 2015, San Patricio County

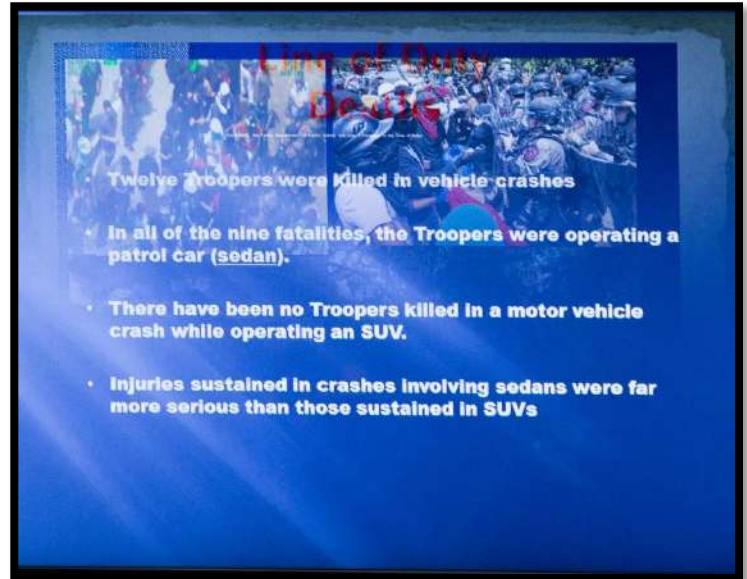


December 19, 2015, Montgomery County



September 5, 2016, Harris County





Chairman Mach asked how long it takes, once the new vehicles arrive, to make them road ready. Director McCraw differed to Deputy Director Skyler Hearn who stated that it varies greatly. The problem is that usually a lot of vehicles arrive at once, and so, many have to just sit and wait their turn to be outfitted. If the deliveries are staggered, it helps quite a bit. We will sometimes shut down all other fleet service operations for a period of time to just focus on new vehicle make-ready, which is much more efficient than just catching them as we can. Also, some of the modifications are outsourced to other shops, which is a little harder to control relative to time tables.

Another area discussed was Crowd Management Operations. There is no denying that our citizens have the right to protest PEACEFULLY, however we are seeing more and more that large, passionate groups often get carried away, and often draw equally passionate counter-protesters. This sometimes leads to confrontations that can quickly turn violent. We have seen people bringing items such as bats, bottles, and other items that are easily used as weapons.

C. Need-Based Dismissal Update

Director McCraw spoke briefly on this topic stating that thankfully, we were able to find a solution, with the help of the legislature, that would enable us to meet the 4% reduction in our budget without discharging any commissioned officers.

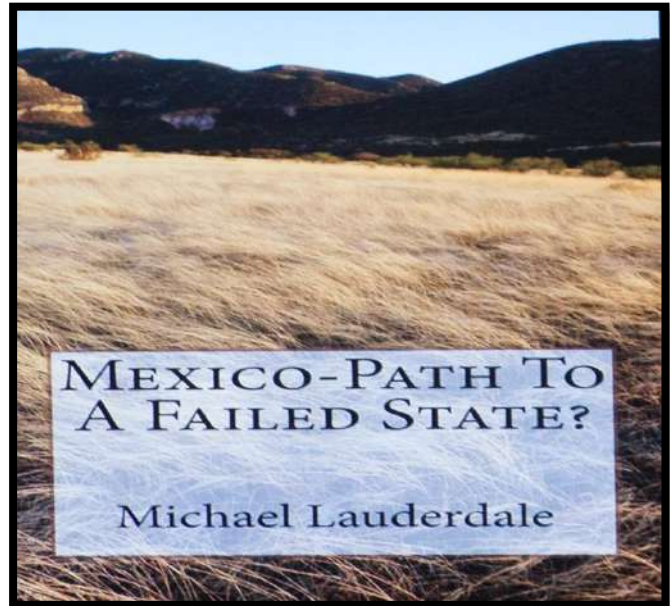
Chairman Mach asked about the retire/rehire program moving forward, and Director McCraw said that DPS would not continue the program with any new retire/rehires unless something changes drastically relative to our need for additional personnel or, on a rare, exceptional case where a specific individual has expertise or skills for a specific need.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Report and discussion regarding Border Briefing



Chairman Mach called Dr. Michael Lauderdale, Professor at University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Lauderdale presented a very interesting PowerPoint presentation, apologizing for reading much of his report from the slides below:



DPS Monitored Threats

- Unsafe Vehicles
- Contraband on highways and via foot
- Spillover violence from cities like Reynosa, Juarez
- Foot traffic along the border
- Safety of trade with Mexico
- Spread of cartels into Texas
- Large scale attempts to cross the border

3/22/2018 Michael Lauderdale 45

Demography of North America

Country	Population	Median Age	Population Growth
Costa Rica	5,000,000	30	21.7
El Salvador	6,000,000	26	34.9
Honduras	9,000,000	22	29.6
Guatemala	17,000,000	21	59.3
Belize	300,000	22	41.1
Mexico	130,000,000	27.5	46.2
US	326,000,000	37.6	15.1
Canada	37,000,000	40.7	9.4

Source: CIA Factbook
3/22/2018 Michael Lauderdale 46

Major Mexican Economic Engines

1. Tourism and Services More than 65 Percent of Employment is in this category
2. Temporary Workers in U.S. 10 to 30 Million
3. Assembly Manufacturing (Maquilas)
4. Export of Crude Oil Primarily from the Bay of Campeche
5. Drugs, Human Trafficking and Extortion

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Probable Profits From Major Engines

Five sectors provide the core of the Mexican economy with tourism being the largest source of jobs. Narcotics are difficult to estimate and may be much larger than this estimate.

Sector	Amount	Profit
1. Manufacture and Assembly	• \$130 billion	10% \$13 B
2. Tourism	• \$185 billion	8% \$12 B
3. Immigrants Remittances 20 Million Individuals	• \$30 billion	80% \$24 B
4. Petroleum	• \$100 billion	15% \$15 B
5. Narcotics	• \$100 billion	80% \$80 B

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Threats To Texas

Specific Targets

- Drugs and Human Trafficking
- Cartel Violence
- Economic Decline
- Immigration

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Criminal Activities

- Since Prohibition criminal activities have moved between Mexico and Texas. Probably the oldest cartel, the Gulf, had its beginnings moving alcohol from the State of Tamaulipas to Texas.
- Smuggling increased by the 1960's with marijuana and cocaine added and by 2000, crime groups had enlarged and established territories along each American border city with Mexico.
- Those activities challenge public safety in Mexico, border cities and along roads and railways in Texas. Contraband includes drugs, people, motor fuels and firearms.

3/22/2018 Michael Lauderdale 50

Bodies of Central American Immigrants Probably Headed for the Rio Grande Valley



Central American Migrants En Route to the States Killed in Tamaulipas

2/22/2018

Michael Lauderdale

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Airport in Tamaulipas



2/22/2018

Michael Lauderdale

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Mexico 2017

- Highest number of homicides in the country's history. Estimated at more than 29,000.
- Violence is recurring in border cities including Juarez, Nuevo Laredo and Reynosa.
- Murders of local officials such as mayors, police chiefs are very high with 21 mayors murdered since 2012 and more than 100 local officials in the last 3 years.
- Mexico now has high levels of violence in all 33 states.
- Eleven current or recent governors are charged with or sentenced for corruption crimes.

2/22/2018

Michael Lauderdale

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The Last Resort

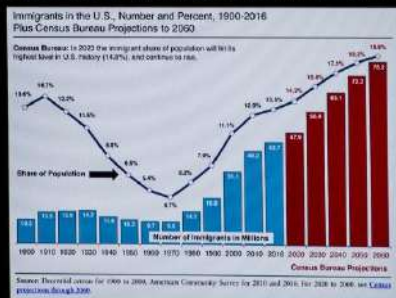
- When times become very difficult people will move to new locations. Much of the 20th Century saw Americans leave rural areas seeking better lives and opportunities in the city.
- The Great Depression and the Dust Bowl saw millions migrate from Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas to California.
- Since the 1990's Texas and especially Austin has experienced Americans moving to Texas for similar reasons to the migration from rural areas.
- A similar process is accelerating between countries. Poverty, crime, and a search for a better life is causing sharp increases to immigrate to the United States.

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Michael Lauderdale

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Historical Immigration Patterns



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Border Patrol Apprehensions From FY 13



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Markers of a Failed State

- Citizens Lose Respect for the State
 - Inability to maintain civic order
 - Failure to protect citizens
 - Little trust in state's institutions including police, courts and currency
- Inability To Maintain Geographical Integrity
- People And Capital Migrate Out

2/22/2018

Michael Lauderdale

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B. Intelligence Threat Briefing (Clearance Required – Executive Session Expected)

Discussed in Executive Session.

VII. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Report, discussion, and possible adoption of the following previously published rules:

1. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 2.3 and Section 2.9, concerning Capitol Access Pass
2. New TAC Section 23.63, concerning Hearings
3. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 35.26, concerning Reclassification, Assignment, and Termination
4. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 35.101 and Section 35.102, concerning Letter of Authority
5. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 35.147, concerning Certificates of Completion, Training Records, and Notifications
6. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 35.161, concerning Continuing Education Requirements

Assistant Director, Renearl Bowie, Regulatory Services said that 1-6 had been published in the Texas Register and he received no public comment.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the previously published new and amended rules 1-6. The motion carried.

B. Update report, discussion and possible action regarding recruitment



Sonya Garcia, Chief of Education, Training and Research Division – Reported that the current recruit class is in it's 7th week. They started the class with 96 recruits and 14 dropped out within the first week. We still have the remaining 82 recruits in training. Our B-18 class is scheduled to begin in June. We have had 5,000 applications submitted, and our team is working hard to sort through them and process them.

- C. Report, discussion, and possible action regarding the appointment, promotion, ratification, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a member of the Department or Commission management team

Director McCraw said that DPS was about to lose a significant part of their upper leadership team. He reported the following retirements all happening in August, 2018:

Deputy Director David Baker

Deputy Director Robert "Duke" Bodisch

Regional Director Jack Webster (Region 1)

Regional Director Duane Steen (Region 2)

Aircraft Division Chief William Nabors

Director McCraw said that these positions, along with the previously announce retirement of Regional Director Joe Ortiz leaves a big shift in upper management of the agency. He went on to say that he is fortunate to have a large pool of very qualified and talented personnel available to select from. He said that he is not yet ready to name any names at this time.

- D. Report, discussion, and possible action regarding ongoing criminal investigations pursuant to Government Code § 411.0041 (Executive Session anticipated)

This item was discussed in Executive Session.

VIII. REPORTS

- A. Commission member reports and discussion
- B. Finance Report
- C. Chief Auditors Office
- D. Division status reports on activities and action

No additional reports were offered.

IX. CONSENT ITEMS

All of the following items may be enacted with one motion. These items are typically self-explanatory or have been previously considered by the Commission. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a commissioner so requests.

- A. Advice and consent regarding director's determination that a certain probationary employee was found unsuitable for work during December 2017
- B. Discussion and possible action on appointments of Special Rangers and Special Texas Rangers pursuant to Government Code Chapter 411, Secs. 411.023 & 411.024: Special Rangers: Robert E. Bybee, Jr., Gerardo H. Carrillo, Matthew L.

Connery, Loy V. Daniel, Royce E. Korenek, Gordon A. Miller, Robert M. Skelton, James D. Reyer, Terry B. Vogler, William Rueter, Janice Williamson and Donis L. Wilson

A motion was made by Comm. Leon and seconded by Comm. Watson to approve Items A & B in the Consent Items.

The motion carried.

C. Donations:

1. Donation of the Pioneer Natural Resources facility as a staging area to provide support for first responders during Hurricane Harvey
2. Additional donation items, as needed

There was no discussion of this item

X. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Nothing mentioned.

XI. DATE FOR FUTURE MEETING

Any discharge hearings will be scheduled on April 25, 2018, and the regular Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2018.

The next Public Safety Commission Meeting is scheduled for April 26,, 2018.

XII. ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

(If required) to consult with legal counsel regarding pending or contemplated litigation or settlement offers or to receive legal advice on items posted on this agenda; deliberation regarding real estate matters; consideration of any other items authorized by law, including personnel matters, the director's action of discharging employees as identified in this agenda; ongoing criminal investigations

The Public Safety Commission adjourned to executive session at 12:28 PM.

XIII. ADJOURN

February 2018 Public Safety Commission Awards Presentations

DIRECTOR'S CITATION:

Aviation Operations Division

On August 26, Hurricane Harvey made landfall as a Category Four Hurricane and proved to be the most devastating and destructive storm ever to impact the Texas Coast.

The Aircraft Operations Division activated Search and Rescue (SAR) helicopters with elements from Texas Highway Patrol Marine, Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens, and Texas DPS fixed wing Command and Control (C2) to be the first SAR and Disaster Reconnaissance crews to arrive in Aransas, Calhoun, Harris, Jefferson, Brazoria, Liberty, and Montgomery Counties. The AOD crews quickly established the rescue environment and began hoisting isolated persons and persons in need of immediate medical attention off of rooftops, vehicles and were responsible for rescuing 244 persons and over 275 hours of flying. The rescues consisted of a multitude of devices to include Cinch Collar, Quick Stop, and Rescue Basket. These operations require a high degree of crew coordination, pilot skill, crew chief hoist operator, and rescue swimmer ability. The crewmembers executed these maneuvers in conjunction with other operators in the area that no doubt built the foundation for success for this mission.



During this process, these crews also located and identified thousands of stranded citizens that were in dire need of rescue. The information was mapped out using the Departments Aerial Mapping Systems, which converted unfamiliar street locations to universal latitude and longitude numbers. The number of victims quickly outpaced the pre-planned casualty collection points that were in place and crews had to make quick decisions on finding alternative landing zones. AOD and Aviation Operations Center (AOC) were instrumental in planning, establishing, and executing a large command and control network that quickly dispatched rescue calls, deconflicted aircraft, and allowed for safe flying conditions in an extreme environment that at one time had over 125 rescue helicopters from ten different sources including state, local, and federal assets. The

aircrews and operations center personnel were relentless in their pursuit of assisting the citizens of Texas and displayed great commitment to the mission and maintaining superior safety and standard operation procedures. The crews also assisted Texas Highway Patrol and other agencies by delivering personnel and equipment quickly during the early days of the response and numerous roads and avenues that were blocked by flooding waters and debris.

In recognition of their professional response and unselfish devotion during the Hurricane Harvey Disaster mission, the following employees are hereby awarded the Director's Citation: Major Stacy Holland, Captains Matthew Connery, Rodolfo Escobar, James Rohrman, Lieutenants Cody Klaehn, Jeff Evans, T.J. Wood, Sergeant Steven Tippett, Agent Pilots Brian Barina, Jeff Fisher, Danny Glass, Robert Messenger, Mike Perez, Jorge Rodriguez, Valente Rosas, Shawn Stephenson, Jordan Teel, Tactical Flight Officers Dustin Gardner, Brian Gahagan, and Wilfred Blanchard III.

DIRECTOR'S CITATION:

Tactical Marine Unit

On August 26, Hurricane Harvey made landfall as a Category Four Hurricane and proved to be the most devastating and destructive storm ever to impact the Texas Coast.

In the days leading up to Hurricane Harvey landfall, the TMU staff coordinated and moved all state assets to safe locations. Members of TMU conducted search and rescue operations in the Rockport area as well as conducting security patrols on the Intracoastal Waterway. Security Patrols were conducted on the ICW in the Rockport area until October 18, 2017.



Team members were sent to Harris County for search and rescue operations. As Harvey moved toward Jefferson and Orange Counties, team members were also deployed to that area to assist with search and rescue operations. As a result the TMU worked over 3,400 man hours and rescued 209 people and 10 animals. In one of the incidents a boat carrying seven civilians was swept into down power lines, electrocuting all seven on board. The TMU went to work to locate the victims and were able to locate and save the lives of three that were still alive, also recovering the bodies of two of the other boaters who had tragically died.

In another incident, a wheelchair bound woman had fallen off her wheelchair in her house while flood waters continued to rise for two days. The TMU rescued her and she was transported by

the DPS Aircraft Division to safety with the assistance of members of the TMU and a TMU rescue swimmer. Two DPS rescue swimmers were deployed with DPS Aircraft Division who conducted search and rescue operations from air assets.

In recognition of their professional response and unselfish devotion during the Hurricane Harvey Disaster mission, the following employees are hereby awarded the Director's Citation: Captain Rafael Gonzalez, Lieutenants T. J. Wood, Ivan Tijerina, Ed Mayfield, Jeff Grobe, Brandon Curlee, Joseph Schuler, Sergeants John Alexander, Ruben Alvarado, Jr., Clark Adams, Bobby Bazan, Costancio Cruz, Edward Herebia, Juan Lopez, Jr., James Purcell, Jaclyn Romero, LeRoy Romero, Benjamin Silva, Wesley Cooper, Juan DeLeon, Kenneth Haralson, Donny Kindred, John Messer, Trent Price, David Reynolds, Edward Valdez, Brian Williams, Eric Jimenez, Stephen Lojo, Leland Ashcraft, Cole Dunaway, Aaron Frazier, Joshua Kelly, Mark Matlock, Jack McCrea, Matthew Skorupka, Jeremiah Collins, Mario Gonzalez, Eric Herrera, Jason Bazan, Israel Martinez, Robert Pullin, Blake Sanchez, Abel Toscano III, Juan Villarreal, Jr., and Steven Tippett.

DIRECTOR'S AWARD:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



The Texas Parks and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division/Aircraft Branch is hereby presented with a Director's Award from the Texas Department of Public Safety for the selfless action taken to help the people of Texas during Hurricane Harvey. Thanks to the quick action, keen instincts and skilled rescue efforts by these individuals, many lives were saved during what would become the costliest disaster in our state's history.

Texas Task Force One – Urban Search and Rescue



Texas Task Force One – Urban Search and Rescue is hereby presented with a Director's Award from the Texas Department of Public Safety for the selfless action taken to help the people of Texas during Hurricane Harvey. Thanks to the quick action, keen instincts and skilled rescue efforts by these individuals, many lives were saved during what would become the costliest disaster in our state's history.

Lowe Boats (A Brunswick Corporation)



Lowe Boats is hereby presented with a Director's Award from the Texas Department of Public Safety for the selfless action taken to help the people of Texas during Hurricane Harvey. Thanks to the quick action, donated merchandise, and unending resources provided by Lowe Boats, many lives were saved during what would become the costliest disaster in our state's history.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE AWARDS:

In recognition of **30 years of service** and accomplishment with the Texas Department of Public Safety:



- Ruben Espinoza (CID, Region 2)

In recognition of their **40 years of service** and accomplishment with the Texas Department of Public Safety:



- Glenn Adamson (THP, Region 4)

WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS EXCELLENCE AWARD:

Presented by the DPS Foundation

Governor William P. Clements was known for a commitment to excellence in government. The William P. Clements Excellence award was created to honor employees who display exceptional performance of duties throughout the course of his or her career at DPS. The following are the 2017 recipients of the award:

Non-Commissioned Recipient – Management Analyst Ron Coleman



This non-commissioned recipient began his career with the Department in September 1991 as a Mail Clerk in the Driver License Division, and worked his way up through the Division in the Driver Improvement Bureau. In 2005, he promoted to Program Specialist IV, in 2011 to Management Analyst III, and in 2013 was reclassified to a Management Analyst IV and became a member of the Division's Policy Analyst Team. This recipient was selected to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's National CDL Working Group and development of FMCSA's Automated Compliance Review System. In 2009, he participated in a project

team to address the number of federal audit findings related to the CDL program. He supported the rollout of the Driver License System and participated in implementation of a queuing solution in 60 of the largest driver license offices throughout the state. He coordinated a \$1.6 million federal grant project for the installation of automated driver license testing system in 203 offices statewide. His ability to analyze data has made him the ideal employee to work with several high profile projects such as the Driver Record Monitoring, Automated Driver License System Testing and the installation of security cameras in driver license offices statewide.

In recognition of his exceptional performance of duties, **Management Analyst Ron Coleman** is awarded the 2018 William P. Clements Award.

Commissioned Recipient – Texas Ranger Troy E. Wilson



This commissioned recipient began his career with the Department in January 1993 as a Recruit. Throughout his career he has served as a Capitol Security Police Officer, Highway Patrol Trooper, Highway Patrol Sergeant, and for the last 14 years as a Texas Ranger. In 2008, this recipient graduated from a ten-week National Forensic Academy at the crime University of Tennessee. Since graduating, he has applied new forensic techniques to his scene investigations, and as an instructor has brought cutting edge crime scene forensics to the Texas Ranger Division. In 2010, he played a leading role in the investigations of sexual assaults by a serial rapist

known as the “Twilight Rapist”. In 2014, he led the Ranger’s Major Crime Scene Response Team with the reconstruction and digital mapping of a mass shooting scene at Ft. Hood U.S. Army Base. In 2015, he led a team of Rangers in the digital crime scene documentation and reconstruction following a mass shooting at “Twin Peaks” restaurant in Waco. In 2016, his expertise was called upon when a gunman killed five Dallas police officers and wounded 11 others. In 2017, his talents were presented with an unimaginable challenge when responding to a mass shooting at a rural church in Sutherland Springs, Texas. Since 2010, he has served as chairman of the Texas Ranger Crime Scene Investigation Working Group. He serves as an advisory member of the laboratory’s Crime Scene Advisory Board, serves as team lead for the Officer-Involved Shooting Review Committee, Ranger representative on a committee known as the State Police Unified Reporting System, and is currently a member of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees.

In recognition of his exceptional performance of duties throughout the course of his career, **Texas Ranger Troy E. Wilson** is awarded the 2018 William P. Clements Award.

LIFESAVING AWARD:



Trooper Austin Johnston, Trooper Jeronimo Lopez

On October 29, 2017, Troopers Johnston and Lopez responded to a nearby residence after hearing radio traffic involving an active shooter. Upon arrival, they entered the home and began clearing the residence. There were multiple victims; however Johnston and Lopez located and provided first aid to two severely injured females in a back bedroom, one with gunshot wounds to the chest and the other had a gunshot wound to the leg. Trooper Johnston utilizing his medical bag, applied gauze and chest seal to the female victim’s chest wounds, while Lopez applied direct pressure. After the chest seal was applied,

Trooper Johnston carefully rolled the victim on her side to check for exit wounds. Trooper Lopez then stabilized the second female's injuries by applying tourniquets which successfully stopped arterial bleeding. Both victims were stabilized at the scene by responding EMS and transported to Dell Seaton Emergency Center.

Hospital staff indicated the application of the chest seal was the first step in a series of life saving treatments allowing the victim to arrive at the hospital in a condition that assisted the medical team in sustaining her.

The tourniquets applied to the other victim had a direct effect in the patient surviving as it impacted an artery and the tourniquets stemmed the bleeding to a point that it downgraded her condition.

In recognition to their decisive and professional response to a life-threatening situation resulting in the saving of a life, Troopers Jeronimo Lopez and Austin Johnston are hereby awarded the Lifesaving Award.

MEDAL OF VALOR:

Corporal Hope Hohertz



On December 26, 2016, Corporal Hohertz overheard Big Spring Police Department dispatch a report of a subject with a gun at a local business. Due to her proximity to the location, Hohertz positioned her unit on a side street in the event Big Spring PD needed assistance. After the suspect left the business he began traveling towards her location with a Big Spring PD officer following and attempting to conduct a traffic stop. Corporal Hohertz advised dispatch of their location and assisted with the stop.

As the Big Spring PD Officer approached the vehicle from the driver side, Hohertz approached from the passenger side and observed the subject with his right hand on a rifle. After the subject removed his hand from the rifle to retrieve his wallet, Hohertz walked around to the front of the vehicle in an attempt to notify the officer of the weapon and to ensure the subject was aware another officer was on scene. The subject was asked to exit the vehicle several times without compliance and Hohertz observed him reach towards the center console. She began shouting verbal commands to the driver as she drew her pistol. The subject ignored her commands, grabbed the rifle and pointed it directly at Corporal Hohertz. She immediately fired her weapon striking the windshield and right front of the vehicle as she took cover. Hohertz continued to fire after continued additional commands were ignored and the subject again pointed his rifle towards her.

As more officers arrived the subject fled the scene in his vehicle. A pursuit ensued and the officers lost sight of the subject. Hohertz successfully located the vehicle and saw the subject get out with a rifle in hand and began firing. Hohertz grabbed her shotgun, exited to the rear of her unit and observed that 2 officers had arrived and were attempting to take cover behind their patrol units. It appeared one of them had been injured. Corporal Hohertz observed the subject looking down at

his rifle and trying to reload. She then stepped around her vehicle and began firing her shotgun and striking the subject several times. Hohertz gave commands to other officers advising the subject was down, however still moving. She continued to provide cover as the other officers approached and secured the subject.

In recognition of her professional reaction and unselfish devotion to duty and to a wounded fellow officer, while she herself was at great risk, Corporal Hope Hohertz is hereby awarded the Medal of Valor.

2017 TACTICAL POLICE COMPETITION:

**Trooper Dylan Slovacek (THP, Region 6) Trooper Travis Rhea (ETR, Florence)
Sergeant Donald Delukie (ETR, Florence)**

On December 2, 2017 the Texas DPS Marksmanship Team competed in the 2017 NRA Tactical Police competition. Matches are comprised of 4 to 7 separate courses of fire. Each course is designed to challenge the officer's skills in the use of their duty firearms and equipment. Challenges include assessing threat and non-threat targets, firing from unusual shooting positions, making tactical decisions of how to move through a course, using cover and working around visual barriers, being responsible for ammunition management, assessing hits, and balancing the paramount need for accuracy with speed.



Out of a total of 99 competitors, Trooper Dylan Slovacek won First Place Tactical Division—State Law Enforcement, and Trooper Travis Rhea and Sergeant Donald Delukie won First Place Patrol Division Team.