

SIGNAL 14

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA PBA

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

By Bill Smith



I hope this newsletter finds everybody healthy and the New Year is treating you well so far. We all know the economy is not recovering as fast as we would like, but at least we are still employed. On December 23, we had contract proposals for the new contract 2010-2013. Here are the proposals:

1. Wages, Article 25, Section 1 – The Florida PBA/FHP Chapter proposes the State adopt the following wage proposal for the bargaining unit:
 - A. Effective July 1, 2010, all bargaining unit employees will receive a one-time \$1,500 loyalty bonus if they have one or more years of service with the department in a bargaining unit position.
 - B. Effective October 1, 2010, all bargaining unit employees will receive a five (5%) percent competitive pay adjustment to their September 30, 2010 base rate of pay.
2. Continue the emergency deployment benefit.
3. Insurance Benefits, Article 27 – (a) the Florida PBA/FHP chapter and the State agree to maintain health insurance benefits, deductibles and employee health insurance premiums at their current levels, and (b) the parties agree to study implementation of individual health retirement accounts for bargaining unit employees.
4. Court Appearances, Article 23, Section 4 – The Florida PBA/FHP Chapter and the State agree that the

minimum hours for court time shall be four (4) hours.

5. Disciplinary Action, Article 10, new section – The Florida PBA/FHP Chapter and the State agree that suspensions of outside employment rights shall be considered discipline under subsection A and subject to the contractual grievance procedure.
6. Seniority, Article 15, section 2 – The Florida PBA/FHP Chapter and the State agree to add "zone preference" under the Seniority Application section of the article.
7. Personal Property - Replacement, Article 19, Section D – The Florida PBA/FHP Chapter and the State agree to add "personally owned rifles" under this section with a reimbursement value of \$1,500.

Now I know this will be hard for you all to believe but, the state wants to stay status quo, but intends to negotiate the above proposals. DMS did say they would include the emergency deployment benefit with the provisions in the Wages offer. Now, here is the State's proposal for wages 2010-2011—\$1,500 lump-sum bonus after June 11, 2011, but before July 1, 2011. WOW! Don't everybody run out and buy that new whatever. Hopefully the legislators will not try and reduce our pay like they tried last year, but I am sure it will come up again. Your FHP chapter and the Florida PBA will work very hard for this not to happen.

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Opinions expressed by guest writers are not necessarily the views and opinions of this chapter or editorial staff.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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In some parts of the state, we are having a high number of discipline (punishment) cases. The department believes in going for the maximum or what they think they can get away with. All I can say is, be professional, do your job, follow the policies of the Florida Highway Patrol, be a member of the PBA and fight every discipline (punishment) which management tries to give you. You must fight back. If you feel you have been wronged by the department either in its investigation or the discipline (punishment)—FIGHT, FIGHT—**And never, ever go to an interview without some kind of representation. You have the right to representation. If you ever have any questions about your rights, call your troop director or you can look at 112.531 F.S. through 112.535 F.S.**

Finally, your FHP chapter and the Florida PBA are always working hard for you. I know the flow of information has not been as good as it could be. I promise this will change, and this *Signal 14* is just the start. But, if you ever have any questions or comments about what you have heard or want to verify something, you can call your troop director and, if you can't contact them, call me, anytime. If I do not answer, I promise I will call you back. Just leave a message.

Take care and please be safe out there. 🍀

ARE YOU CURRENT?

Have you gotten married or divorced?

Have you changed phone or cell numbers?

Have you moved to a new address?

Please contact the PBA Office **1-800-733-3722** to update your information.

The PBA is not notified of changes made within your department.

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dennis Hobbs



Hello members, Happy New Year to all of you! This is a new year that will bring on many challenges. The budget crisis we are facing here in the state has made everything very difficult for us all. In saying that, the Executive Board and I intend to continue to work hard for all of our members to ensure that you get the representation that's deserved.

We will continue to aggressively seek funding sources for increasing our pay. The Legislative Session this year will be like the last one, if not tougher. However, our agenda has not changed. We will continue to seek more benefits for all of us. We all understand that there's strength in numbers. Therefore, it is time for us

to stand united together as we forge ahead in this New Year. This economy is very slow to turn around. We are constantly asked to find ways to reduce spending.

The fact still remains that there is a lot of work left to be done for us, Florida's Finest. Through this tough time, we still intend to seek out what's rightfully deserved. Representing our membership is and always will be priority to us. Thanks to all of our faithful members.

AS ALWAYS STAY SAFE AND BE CAREFUL OUT THERE. 🇺🇸

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Kevin Brown, FHP Chapter Vice President



IMPROVING ONE OF THE BEST JOBS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

One of the things that I have realized and come to appreciate, as I start my 21st year with the Florida Highway Patrol, is that I have one of the better jobs in law enforcement. If you just checked the direct deposit from your last paycheck and think that I must have bumped my head on something, please continue reading. I am well aware of how little most of us get paid. As one of your representatives with the PBA, I will assure you that, at every opportunity, our lack of competitive salary is mentioned to our own FHP staff, the PBA staff, your legislators, the media and anyone else who will listen. So if you can look past the salary (I know it's hard), and compare issues such as equipment, working conditions, job stability and retirement, we actually fare pretty well when compared to other agencies. I do realize that bells, whistles and fancy equipment do not feed your family. But when you compare our vehicle fleet, the department's innovative approach to emergency lighting and it's commitment to patrol vehicle safety, our agency must be considered progressive. Our MDT's and the systems that are included with them are state of the art; many agencies still write tickets and draw crash diagrams by hand. Our jobs are stable when you

consider that even with massive budget shortfalls, we have been fortunate enough to only lose vacant positions. A lot of agencies have been forced to lay off sworn members. We do not have to pay into our retirement system, while many others are docked every check. Once retired, while many retirements are fixed and do not increase over time (sort of like our current pay scale), we receive a three percent pay increase annually. Our working conditions are better than most. When you start and end your shift from home, are not required to attend daily briefings or lineups, and only see your immediate supervisor occasionally, you have the freedom many LEO's dream of. I raise these issues, not to pump up morale or increase the number of applications our recruiters receive, but to state that I feel our job as your PBA representatives is to make one of the best jobs in law enforcement even better.

In order to accomplish this goal, there are issues that require a massive overhaul and other things that simply need slight adjustments. In the past few months, we have had productive meetings with our command staff and

Continued on next page

even the new executive director in hopes of bringing about changes in the areas of our pay and benefits, our off duty policy, and the procedures for investigating and disciplining troopers. We all know that our pay is sub par and as I mentioned earlier, so does everyone else involved in the process of increasing it. In these difficult economic times, it will take a new approach to the same old problem to secure any type of payraise, but I will promise that if we do not get a penny, it will not be due to a lack of effort on our end. We will explore every possibility and urge the command staff to do the same. On the off-duty front, we met with staff concerning changes to the entire scheduling and administrative side of the ODPE policy. The department wanted to change the way jobs were scheduled and who they were scheduled by. After several hours of discussion, both sides agreed that there were several issues that needed to be addressed before any significant changes could be implemented. I was asked to draw up a proposal from our perspective which was forwarded to staff and, at this time we are still waiting for word from the department as to when we will meet again to discuss this very important issue. We are very well aware that many troopers work ODPE, not to pay for their summer homes in the Bahamas but, to pay their mortgages, power bills and to put food on the table,

“...it will take a new approach to the same old problem to secure any type of payraise...”

so your interests will be protected. One of the other issues that comes up when we get all of our troop directors together is what appears to be uneven or unfair discipline. This is an area that will be addressed because the policy in Miami is the policy in Panama City, but we have seen cases where policy may be interpreted differently resulting in variations from troop to troop. While I don't believe this is the proper forum to discuss specific issues of discipline, I am of the opinion that our process of appealing discipline from the department needs to be reevaluated. It is my hope that, at some point in the near future, we will be able to meet with staff to discuss an appeals process that, from the troopers vantage point, appears to be “rubber stamped.”

Lastly I would like to thank **Steven Barnett** and the entire FHP Advisory Council for quickly coming to the aid of a trooper in need. For those that do not know **Cpl. Allen Mowbray** was recently diagnosed with a very aggressive stage four cancer which obviously caused a financial burden for him and his family. When contacted, Mr. Barnett and the Advisory Council quickly provided assistance and we greatly appreciate their help. To Cpl.”Mo” Mowbray: our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help. 🍀



RECRUITMENT

By Linda Popanz, FHP Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

The Florida Highway Patrol continues to endeavor to fill its ranks with the most qualified and professional applicants possible. Recently, state budgetary shortfalls

negatively affected the number of authorized Trooper positions. Consequently, the Patrol was tasked with identifying a number of vacant trooper positions for elimination. The FHP Background and Recruitment Section has stepped up its recruitment and background investigation activities with the goal of filling all vacant Trooper positions with qualified applicants.

Due to the falling economy, we have had a

tremendous influx of applications from not only local applicants, but also out of state. The applicants who are out of state are required to visit our great State three separate times for the hiring process. The patrol is requiring and enforcing the height and weight guidelines for the applicants, along with the tattoo policy.

We all must put forth an effort to recruit, hire and train those who will enter our ranks and serve at our side as State Troopers. The ability for the Patrol to replace Troopers who have retired, resigned, or otherwise left the agency is mission critical and of vital importance to our citizens. I have had many qualified applicants who have been recruited by Troopers and the positive image that they have given the applicant. 🍀

TROOP A "TROOPERS OF THE MONTH"

By Donnie Chapman, Troop A Director



Things are going well in Troop A. It would be nice to have more Troopers assigned to some areas where budget cuts have created position shortages. And, we would all like to be paid more money! Maybe there is still hope it will get better one day. Until then, most of us are busy working SOAR and DUI checkpoints to supplement our income. Six weeks of Spring Break are nearing so there will be special details to help local agencies. Spring is also the time for motorcycle events, so it is time to plan on getting ready to work.

Trooper Donna "Jane" Watts and Corporal Johnny Freeman were selected as Troop A, Troopers of the Month for August, 2009. Jane and Johnny spotted a vehicle that matched the description from a BOLO issued by the Escambia County Sheriff's Office. The vehicle was stopped and the investigation lead to the arrest of subjects for fraudulent use of credit cards as well as a warrant being served for VOP/ burglary.

Trooper Eddie Elmore was selected as the Troop A, Trooper of the Month for September, 2009. Eddie

stopped a vehicle for speeding and found a female passenger in the back seat was suffering a heart attack. During the traffic stop, the passenger stopped breathing. Eddie called EMS and began CPR.

After two circuits of CPR, the passenger began to breathe on her own, and showed signs of improvement. EMS arrived and transported her to the hospital.

Trooper Cory Harrison was selected as Troop A, outstanding Trooper of the Month for October 2009. Cory made a traffic stop for a window tint violation that lead to a considerable drug arrest.

Congratulations to these Troopers. Remember, any positive press you generate makes the agency and all of us look good. It does not matter if it is the apprehension of bad guys, or saving lives, the public sees us as Troopers, not individuals. Remember, you and your actions do make a difference. 🇺🇸



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NOT AN E-PBA MEMBER YET? Become one! Be the first to know about breaking news... direct to your inbox. Don't wait, sign up today for E-PBA. Go to our website at www.flpba.org to sign up.

Knowledge about PBA issues is the strength of our Association. PBA will be e-mailing members timely news about what's up at the Florida PBA, helpful information regarding legislative issues, quick tips, and best practices for members.

Your e-mail address will not be given to any other group or organization and you will receive no advertising from outside sources. E-PBA is available to PBA members only.

PBA HEART FUND CONTRIBUTION GUIDELINES

Dear Potential Contributor:

In an effort to help the families of law enforcement, corrections, and correctional probation officers who are killed or disabled in the line of duty, Florida Police Benevolent Association (PBA) has established a charitable arm which is called the *PBA Heart Fund*. Because the *PBA Heart Fund* is a 501(c)(3) organization, contributions are tax deductible. Monies donated to the Heart Fund are used to provide death benefits to the families of officers killed in-the-line-of-duty and disability benefits to officers who are permanently disabled because of an in-line-of-duty disability.

Aside from individuals who may want to donate with the tax deduction in mind*, political campaigns may dispose of surplus funds (after the campaign is over) by donating some or all of the surplus to the *PBA Heart Fund* [s. 106.141 (4) (a) 2., Florida Statutes]. And, of course, other entities (e.g. not-for-profit corporations) may also donate to this cause. The address is:



Florida PBA Heart Fund, 300 East Brevard Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301

More information about the Heart Fund may be obtained by calling Florida PBA at 1-800-733-3722.

*Receipt for donations will be provided upon request.

2010 - THE FUTURE IS HERE!

By Franke Burke, Troop C Director



I hope that everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season and is looking forward to 2010. Wow! 2010? For some of us, 2010 was supposed to be when we had flying cars, robots as maids and butlers, colonies in outer space and other Buck Rogers, Star Trek scenarios.

Oh well, 2010 is still new and even though the economy is proving to be more difficult than most politicians want to admit, as long as we, troopers of the Florida Highway Patrol, have our health and the ability to perform our sworn duties, we always find a way to strive forward.

I want to thank everyone in Troop C for the going through some difficult times in 2009; we still got our message out and are looking forward to 2010. The transfer of **Major Burchnell** to Tallahassee leaves the Troop C Commander position open. Although we as PBA members or troopers don't have any input to who should be the Major, it is our hope that Tallahassee will look at the facts that Troop C has some issues that need to be dealt with. Working with the PBA and FAST on these issues will be beneficial to both the agency as well as the men and women of the Florida Highway Patrol, not to mention the citizens and visitors of Florida.

In the past, PBA as taken the position of bringing a complaint to Tallahassee through a telephone call or impromptu meeting as a heads up to a problem, but in most cases this always seems to fall on deaf ears. We want to give the new Major the benefit of the doubt, but will be more wary and alert for violations in the contracts and/or policies.

This is not a threat, but a plea to management to be fair and open to listening to the rank and file. We don't want to tell management how to run every function of

the Florida Highway Patrol, but being fair and balanced is the key to workplace relationships.

The 2010 Florida Legislation is starting up in February, and the FHP Chapter of PBA has already geared up to make our case AGAIN to them. **Bill Smith**, President, FHP Chapter of PBA and **Dennis Hobbs**, Vice President, will be letting everyone know what we will be asking for and trying to accomplish this year. We still need your input and support.

Again, I urge those of you who are not a member of your FHP Chapter of PBA to join. Joining can make a difference for you and your fellow troopers.

On a personal note, 2010 is my last year. I am retiring sometime after August, 2010. I would like for the members of Troop C to suggest one of your own to step in as Troop C Director. The Executive staff of the FHP Chapter will need to approve my replacement and, since this is an election year, they will have to be voted in after November 2010. So, if you care about your fellow troopers and would like to be the sounding and sometimes whipping board for Troop C, just let me know. I want to thank every one of you for your support, telephone calls and encouragement both as a trooper, friend and Troop C Director.

I am not going to be a "lame duck" for the duration of my term, but have to face reality and start winding down, looking forward to retirement and beginning a life outside of the Florida Highway Patrol.

God bless and keep every one of you safe as well as your family. 🍀



Troop C helping make the holidays brighter for children at All Children's Hospital.





EDWARD FRANCIS HOTALING

EDWARD FRANCIS HOTALING, 58, of Brooklyn, NY, passed away on Sunday, October 18, 2009, in Miami, Florida after a long and heroic struggle with various illnesses.

Left behind to miss him is his best friend, Karen, who loved him for 40 years, 36 years of them as his wife; his sister-in-law, Kathy, who was a devoted wife to his brother, John, who predeceased him and is probably giving him heck right now; their son, Michael, wife, Lisa, and two adorable grand-nieces, Madelyn and Gabrielle. On his wife's side, he will be sorely missed by her brothers, Kendall (Grace), Jonathan (Sandra) and Christopher (Karen) along with numerous nieces and nephews and two distraught rescue dogs.

Ed was a 1970 graduate of Archbishop Curley High School, where he lettered in football and wrestling.

In 1972, Ed then started his 33-year career with the Florida Highway Patrol where he was the youngest Trooper at the time at the age of 21. After three years as a patrol officer, he was transferred to the Commercial Vehicle Inspection Division where he did safety inspections of commercial vehicles and checked for weight violations.

After two years, he was transferred to Applicant Investigations where he did background checks on both civilian and law enforcement candidates.

He was then promoted to Traffic Homicide Investigator, a position that he truly enjoyed and worked for the next 20 years. Ed was responsible for reconstructing traffic as well as criminal homicides. He was utilized as a training officer for new investigators and taught a course on "Vehicle Homicide Investigations" at the Southeast Florida Institute of Criminal Justice. Ed also assisted in reconstruction work for the Medical Examiner's Office and the Dade County State Attorney's Office.

Ed loved race cars and because of his training was chosen as a driving instructor when FHP began using the Ford Mustang as a patrol car. He was a member of the original Strategic Response Team and was proud to be the coordinator and instructor for the FHP Auxiliary. He was then transferred to the position of Troop Training Coordinator.

He also served as President of the FHP Chapter of the PBA and worked tirelessly with the Florida Legislature to improve the working conditions for his fellow Troopers.

He may be fondly remembered by the residents of Arvida and Devonwood for his security work in those communities. If this wasn't enough to keep him busy, he grew limes and lychees in his spare time in the Redland, and loved to relax by fishing.

After retiring in 2005, he continued as a staff representative for the PBA for its members in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Monroe, Lee, Charlotte and Collier Counties, until his health began to fail.

If determination and force of will would have been enough, Ed would never have left us, but his mighty heart just could not beat any longer.

A special thank you to his wonderful doctors, Dr. Alberto Esquenazi with the Miami Kidney Group; his dermatologist, Dr. Ana Gonzalez, and his Moh's surgeon, Dr. Blas Reyes. Without your care and concern, Ed probably would have left us much earlier.

Ed was the most loyal, generous and strong-willed person you will ever meet, but those of you who Ed called a friend, knew they were his friends for life.

For all these friends, a service to celebrate Ed's life was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 24th at Caballero Rivero Woodlawn, 11655 SW 117 Avenue, Miami, FL, (305) 238-3672.

In memory of Ed, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Kidney Fund or the Humane Society of Greater Miami. To visit this Guest Book Online, go to www.MiamiHerald.com/obituaries. 🇺🇸



TROOPERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Jason Duran, Troop D Director

The training in Troop D has exploded! It has been transformed into real life situations that the everyday trooper is exposed to. It is the best training Troop D has ever seen with special thanks to **Lieutenant Joe Lopez** and **Lieutenant Anthony DiPace**. The training exercises developed by these two lieutenants helped to prevent careless mistakes made by rookie and veteran troopers. The exercises exhibited real life situations that included traffic stops, and shoot-outs. The following lessons were learned while conducting mock traffic stops—the importance of having total control of a situation and body language of the violator. The most important lessons learned came with the exercise involving simulation rounds. Here troopers learned how to handle a shoot-out situation as well as what to expect when you are hit by a round.

Congratulations to **Chief Brown** who was recently promoted to Central Region Commander, overseeing Troops C, D, and K.

We now have a new commander for Troop D, **Major Cynthia Williams**. She comes to the Troop with Troopers' best interests in mind. Please give her a warm welcome.

I would like to take the opportunity to recognize several FHP Troopers who are making a difference in Troop D Orlando:

Trooper Jason Brooks observed that there were many young adults in his patrol zone not wearing their seatbelts. His dedication and concern for the young drivers sparked a need to visit a local Spruce Creek High School. Trooper Brooks' visit entailed giving a brief class on the importance of drivers wearing a seatbelt while operating a motor vehicle. The words spoken by Trooper Brooks that day would forever change the life of one student who attended his class. Several days after visiting

the classroom, Trooper Brooks received a message from a young lady, who was thankful for him taking the time out of his schedule to discuss the importance of seatbelts. She informed him that the same day of his visit, she was involved in a roll over car crash and that because of his class on the importance of seatbelts, he saved her life.

"It is because of your dedication and commitment that the citizens... of Florida are safe..."

Trooper Jason Dungan's

observation and quick thinking helped to prevent another armed robbery from taking place. One afternoon while headed home from his shift, he noticed a suspicious vehicle parked behind a local restaurant in Port Orange. Trooper Dungan ran the vehicle's tag and it came back with a hit that it was

involved in an armed robbery incident. After searching the vehicle, Trooper Dungan found a mask, gun, and gloves. The suspects involved in the armed robbery were taken into custody and booked in the county jail.

Trooper Montague Haight heard the screams of a young woman on the northwest corner of Semoran Blvd. and Hoffner Ave. He soon learned that she had been robbed at gunpoint. The suspect was identified by the victim and several witnesses. Trooper Haight chased the suspect behind a local business on the northeast corner of the intersection and into a parking lot where several civilians assisted the trooper. The suspect's firearm was recovered in a ditch. The suspect was placed under arrest for armed robbery and was booked into the Orange County Jail.

I would like to personally take the opportunity to thank each and every trooper in the State of Florida. It is because of your dedication and commitment that the citizens of the State of Florida are safe on the roadways. Keep up the good work and remember—we are Florida's finest! 🍀

Get Your PBA Wearables at: www.BuyPBA.com

Members have been inquiring about how to purchase PBA merchandise such as golf shirts, t-shirts, caps, etc. Well, now you can at www.BuyPBA.com, the official site for all your PBA wearables and merchandise. The website is constantly adding new items, so return often!

You can also order by using the Toll Free Number at 1-888-FL COPS 5 (888-352-6775)

Thanks for your support for PBA! 🍀

THE SUPER BOWL COMES TO MIAMI

By Timothy Brown, Troop E Director



As of the writing of this article, Miami is getting ready for two big NFL games the Super Bowl and Pro Bowl. One of the issues that seems to come up every time a big game is played in this State is non-emergency police escorts. The policy manual addresses escorts in different chapters; the first is in policy 19.01.05 (I) (J) for motorcycles to escort on- and off-duty, the second is in policy 5.10.05 for escorting over dimension vehicles or toxic/hazardous carriers, and then the third is in the off-duty policy and in the PBA contract—Policy 5.08.06 under conditions for approval of secondary employment request

In the contract under Article 16 section 2 (A), it is understood that permission to work off-duty shall not be withheld as long as such outside employment does not conflict with the employee's state employment or with the DHSMV procedures limiting such outside employment.

- A. Constitutes a conflict of interest as provided by law.
- B. Interferes with member/employee primary duties as a law enforcement officer/state employment.
- C. Involves delivery of labor or other service in direct or indirect support of agency engaged debit collection or repossession of prospect, wrecker company bail bondsman, and private investigation service.

The policy also states in 5.08.06 (D) (I) when off-duty police employment is approved, the member shall, except as noted below, wear the Florida Highway Patrol uniform and may use his/her assigned personal equipment and **Patrol Car**.

State statute gives law enforcement the authority to do non-emergency police escorts under SS. 316.073 (4) 3.

With all this said, the union has met with management in Troop E and have come up with guidelines while performing escorts during the Super Bowl:

1. Doing an operational plan on who/what group is being escorted.
2. What type of vehicle is being escorted (bus, vans, etc.)?
3. What route of travel to the stadium?
4. What is the estimated time of arrival to the stadium?

By meeting with management, a lot of issues can be worked out ahead of time. Remember, there are still supervisors out there who will make a blanket statement of "No" when it comes to police escorts. When this happens, contact your PBA representative or me so the issue can be taken up by upper management and, if no resolution can be reached, then the issue will be handled by the Inspector General's office to be investigated. 🟦

NOTICE: LEGAL ADVISORY

NOTICE: LEGAL ADVISORY

Have you been ordered to write a statement about an incident that may be investigated?

DON'T FORGET YOUR GARRITY RIGHTS!

CALL PBA AT 1-800-733-3722

Do not talk to anyone until you have consulted with a PBA ATTORNEY

— GARRITY RIGHTS —

The following statement should be written as the first sentence on any statement, report, or memorandum an officer is ordered to write when the officer knows or has a reasonable belief that discipline may result:

It is my understanding that this report is made for administrative, internal police department purposes only. This report is made by me after being ordered to do so by lawful supervisory officers. It is my understanding that by refusing to obey an order to write this, that I can be disciplined for insubordination and that the punishment for insubordination can be up to, and including, termination of employment. This report is made only pursuant to such orders and the potential punishment/ discipline that can result for failure to obey that order.

MEET DELL'S LATITUDE E6400 XFR

By Lt. Brannon Snead, Former Troop H Director



In the near future, the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) will be experiencing a huge change and throughout Florida FHP places a large demand on its equipment. One of those new equipment demands will be placed upon Dell's new rugged laptop, the Latitude E6400 XFR. It is a new addition to Troop H's equipment arsenal towards creating a Safer Florida. The XFR features the exclusive Ballistic Armor Protection System featuring PR-481, which Dell says is a "high-strength substance" used for applications such as cryogenics, aircraft components, military equipment and medical devices. The Ballistic Armor Protection System also provides twice the impact strength of Magnesium alloy.

Additional features of Dell's Ballistic Armor include:

- 25 percent higher drop specification than any computer in its class – up to four feet with system powered down and closed and up to 36-inch drop test with the unit operating and LCD open;

- High compression strength for outstanding impact protection;
- Structural stability at extreme temperatures; and,
- Scratch resistance providing corrosion protection.

The Dell Latitude E6400 XFR also features what's dubbed PrimoSeal Technology to enhance protection from dust and liquid using compression gaskets that distribute a higher level of ingress protection, or shielding from dust and moisture. The fully rugged laptop is engineered and independently tested to more than 13 military standards for operation in challenging environments. It shares common images and components with the Dell Latitude E6400 laptops for easy integration into existing environments. At 2.2 inches thick and starting at 8.5 pounds, the XFR is claimed by Dell to be 15 percent thinner and up to 5 percent lighter than the previous generation XFR.

Many hours have been spent to bring this vital tool to us. Please take a few minutes to thank those responsible. It means a lot to be recognized and together we will make a difference. 🇺🇸

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Most officers assume that, when they move and forward a change of address to their personnel office, the Florida PBA is forwarded this information also. This is not the case, however. If you are reading this publication and wonder why you did not receive your copy, or if you know a member that has moved, please ask them to contact our membership secretary, Liz Mixson, at 1-800-733-3722, ext. 412 and give her an updated current address.

Name: _____ Social Security Number:* _____ - _____ - _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Cell Number: _____ E-mail: _____

(*Your social security number helps us identify you in case of similar names.)

Return to:
Florida PBA
300 East Brevard St.
Tallahassee, FL 32301
or call 1-800-733-3722, x412

TROOPERS REACHING OUT

By Tommie Robinson, Troop L Director

Well, another quarter year has come and gone—reflecting back on changes that have occurred, things that have been accomplished. Troop L, under the Leadership of **Major L. Ramil**, is keeping Troop L as one of the top Troops in the state.

Troop L conducted several enforcement activities: DUI checkpoints, Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement, Aggressive Driving, D.L. and Equipment Checks. The DUI Checkpoints—conducted throughout the Troop consisted of sponsoring

our own checkpoints, and attending other Local Police and Sheriffs' Departments' checkpoints. Commercial Motor Vehicle and Aggressive Driving Enforcements—A Multi Agency participation—utilizing Mercury Marauders and Dodge Chargers. D.L. & Equipment Checks—

Utilizing Auxiliary Troopers. The Enforcement Activities were a huge success that netted many habitual violators, motorcycle confiscations, and many hazardous violators which probably is a direct result of the crash reductions involving injuries. Kudos to you all.

Troopers within the Troop reached out into the communities, whether it was mentoring, volunteering at church, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or coaching at a little league program. It was exciting to know that we care and love to give back. During the Thanksgiving Holidays we went out collected canned goods, food donations, and clothing so people and families could have a festival occasion.

The Districts' Christmas parties were a great success. I hear that we might have some up and coming chefs. The food was great. Rumor has it that the Davie District Chefs got two standing ovations. Job well done!

On December 6, 2009, we participated in the Toys for Tots Motorcycle Run. This annual event has been going on for years. It consists of blocking off I-95 from Atlantic Blvd. south to I-595 west, ending at Makham Park.

Thousands of motorcycles participate in this event, bringing toys for needy kids at Christmas. This event is important to a member of our Troop, because 1/3 of the toys collected goes to a particular charity (Kiwanis Club) in which they are involved. There is a Christmas party held for needy families at the time, in which every child from age 3 to 14 years

of age receives a brand new bicycle, two wrapped presents, their families receive food baskets and clothing. Each additional member receives a food basket from Santa, who is escorted in by members of the districts and the auxiliary. This year over 270 bicycles was given away, and over 115 families were helped. Once again, job well done!

These past few months we have seen some of our Troopers, friends, pals, and buddies retire. I say, it was nice, and good luck on your new journeys and endeavors. We have also seen new Troopers, friends, and pals arrive. I say "Welcome Aboard," and hold on for the ride. 🍀

"Thousands of motorcycles participate in [the Toys for Tots Motorcycle Run] event, bringing toys for needy kids at Christmas."

Know Your Rights!

If you are under investigation, remember, as a law enforcement officer, you have rights. They include:

THE RIGHT . . . to have a PBA representative present during an interview

THE RIGHT . . . to know who's in charge of the investigation

THE RIGHT . . . to know what the charges are and the name of the person bringing the charges

THE RIGHT . . . to have the interview at a reasonable time and for a reasonable length of time

THE RIGHT . . . to have any interview tape-recorded from start to finish

THE RIGHT . . . not to be threatened, bribed or to have to listen to offensive language

THE RIGHT . . . not to be forced to resign



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PBA “SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT” TAG SELLING FAST!

You can get your very own Florida PBA “Support Law Enforcement” Tag at your county tag office. You may purchase the plate with random numbers and letters or create a personalized tag for your vehicle(s). Over 64,500 have been purchased so far!

The proceeds of this tag will be deposited into a charitable fund—Florida PBA Heart Fund—for the Association’s members (see page 5). The great thing about the contributions made to the Heart Fund, they are tax-deductible! 🇺🇸

