



# The CCPS All-Points Bulletin

**Mission: To reduce crime, enhance public safety and assist victims throughout North Carolina.**

June 2008

## ***Message from the Secretary***

The tragic death of State Highway Patrol Trooper David Shawn Blanton Jr., 24, who was shot and killed in Haywood County this past month reminds us all of the dangers that our law enforcement officers face daily.

Trooper Blanton is the 59th trooper to die in the line of duty since the formation of the Highway Patrol in 1929. He also holds the distinction of being the first member of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians to become a state trooper.



Trooper Blanton was known for his infectious laughter, always smiling and cheerful. He loved life, sports and being a trooper. He was a coach, part of the Rescue Squad, an avid fisherman and hunter and a role model. He excelled in virtually everything he did. He was deeply committed to the state Highway Patrol and public safety. Blanton's troop commander, Capt. M.T. James, called Blanton a "very outstanding young man and a very diligent, hardworking trooper."

Carved on the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC, are the words: "It is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived." So it should be said for Trooper Blanton. Please continue to remember his wife Michaela, his newborn son, and his entire family in your prayers.

*Bryan Beatty*



## ***NEW Patrol Commander and Deputy Commander***



Gov. Mike Easley appointed **Walter J. Wilson, Jr.** on June 24 as the next Colonel of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. In addition, Easley appointed **Jamie J. Hatcher** as Lt. Colonel.



Wilson replaces Colonel Fletcher Clay who is retiring June 30. Hatcher replaces Lt. Colonel Cecil Lockley who retired earlier this month. Both Wilson and Hatcher, who are currently serving as majors in the Patrol, will assume their new roles July 1st.

## ***AWARDS***



### ***H. Douglas Hoell, Jr., Honored***

Secretary Bryan Beatty presented Emergency Management Director **Doug Hoell** with a Meritorious Service Award in recognition of his performance in keeping with the highest standards and traditions of the NC Emergency Management Division and the Dept. of Crime Control and Public Safety.

### **Emergency Management's GTM Section Awarded**

The 2008 Association of Floodplain Managers presented NC's Geospatial and Technology Management section with the Tom Lee State Award for Excellence, honorable mention, at their conference in Reno, Nevada this past May.

The association recognized GTM for completing the statewide revision to the Flood Insurance Rate, producing Digital Flood Insurance Rate maps one to two years faster than the national average, and for the state's flood warning program,

The Tom Lee Award recognizes an outstanding floodplain management program or activity at the state level.

## *The Secretary's Gold Circle Award*



LTC **James Mosteller** of the NC National Guard was presented with the Secretary's Gold Circle Award on Thursday, June 26, in appreciation for his outstanding dedication and service to North Carolina's citizens through his enthusiastic and expert leadership while serving as the director of Operations and Military Support. Your development and institutionalization of core military response processes has enabled the NC National Guard, the NC Division of Emergency Management, and the State Emergency Response Team to be prepared to respond to any emergency.



Secretary Bryan Beatty presented the Gold Circle Award to **Darlene Johnson** on June 26 for her dedication and service to North Carolina's citizens through her enthusiastic leadership while serving as the NC Division of Emergency Management Deputy Operations chief and manager. Her skills, confidence, and decisiveness are respected by her professional colleagues at all levels, Beatty said.

**Pete Farmer** was also recognized on June 26 for his dedication and service to North Carolina's citizens through his expert leadership and technical ability while serving as the NC Division of Emergency Management Information and Technology chief. "Your ability to maintain a highly complex IT and communications system to support a robust disaster response is without peer and has ensured the preparedness of the Division, Department, and SERT at all times," the award read.



## ***Congratulations!***



*The following employees were promoted:*

Butner Public Safety: Captains: **Donna Grissom** and **Donald Slaughter**

Lieutenants: **Gregory Lewis** and **James Rose**.

Emergency Management: **Andrew Innis** to Community

Development Specialist II, **Eric Kaiser** to Accountant I.

State Highway Patrol: To Lieutenant: **Karen Ward**, Research and Planning.

To First Sergeant: **James Barrett**, **William Evans** and **Alfred Morris**.

To Sergeant: **Darrell Cavanaugh**, **M.P. Henley**, **Garrett Barger**, **M.L. Haunn**, **Michael McLamb**, **Chad Parks** and **Horace Smith**.

Others: **Steve Betts**, Troop C garage; **Connie Garten**, Troop C, telecommunicator; **Bruce Parris**, Troop G, Radio Engineering.



## ***Comings and Goings***



*Welcome to our new employees:*

Administration: **Patricia A. Harris**, Assistant Controller; **Holly C. Atkins**, Budget Analyst; **Lavonda Fowler**, administrative assistant for the Criminal Justice Information Network.

Emergency Management: **Frank Davis**, Homeland Security; **Paulette**

**Erwin**, Recovery Section, **Corey Johnson**, REP Program

National Guard: **Nancy Davis**, Operations; **Katy Jones**, Operations.

State Highway Patrol: **Timothy Frye**, **Leslie Manning**, Troop C Garage; **Connie Wilhoit**, Troop H telecommunications;

*Best wishes to our recent retirees:*

Administration: **Thurman Turner**, general accounting;

State Highway Patrol: Lt. Colonel **Cecil Lockley**; **Michael Benfield**, Troop G; **Lyndon Casey**, Troop G; **Willie Emmons**, Troop H; **Cynthia Floyd**, Troop B; **Ronald Powell**, Troop A; **George Rimmer**, Troop C Telecommunications; **Vicky Smith**, Troop H; **Buren Wright**, Troop B.

*In Memoriam:*

Trooper **David Blanton**, Troop G and **Steven Rawls**, Troop A, Radio Engineering

*The following employees celebrate significant service milestones in their state careers:*



*30 years*

State Highway Patrol: **Nancy Robinson.**

*25 years*

State Highway Patrol:

First Sergeant **Duane Banks, Dewey Hewitt, Mark Leach, Charles McMahan, Richard Stallings** and **Murray Whisenhunt, Jr.**

Sergeant **Alfred Morris.**

Master Troopers **Terry Allen, Michael Marshall, Roger Smith** and **Marc Walker.**

*20 years*

Alcohol Law Enforcement: **Joseph Buchanan** and **Richard Page.**

State Highway Patrol: Captain **Troy Butler.**

Lieutenants **Everett Clendenin, Christopher Phillips** and **Paul Phillips.**

First Sergeants **Eric Jackson, Robert Pearson, Anthony Richardson, Clarence Stephens** and **Roger Williams.**

Sergeants **Kevin Bray, Christopher Dixon, Jeffrey Freuler, Henry King, Jr., Roger Smock, Jr.,** and **Ronald Worley.**

Master Troopers **Melvin Campbell, Robert Cochran, Christopher Cook, Derrick Freeman, Jimmy High, Walton McMillan, Troy Mundy, Bradley Potts, Kevin Powell, Derek Robinson, Jeffery Rose, Robert Skipwith, Jr.** and **Terry Troutman.**



## ***Employee Spotlight***



Butner Public Safety's first female captain, **Donna Grissom**, was sworn into office June 18. A native of Granville County, Grissom is no stranger to hard work. From the time her foot could reach the tractor pedal until she turned 16, Grissom worked on her grandparent's tobacco farm.

Grissom graduated from South Granville High School in 1982. She spent the next 10 years at Northern Telecom working in communication systems at the Creedmoor plant.

Grissom married her husband, Jamie, in 1991, and she returned home to rear her two daughters, Stacey and Jordan, and her step-son, Reid.

Grissom's father-in-law, Granville County Sheriff Marion Grissom, often commented that women didn't belong in law enforcement. "His comments are what pushed me into law enforcement," Grissom said.

When she enrolled in Basic Law Enforcement Training, her husband said she wouldn't make it the first week. She made it the first week, and the 15 more to follow. In April, 1998, Grissom became a public safety officer for Butner Public Safety. She was promoted to lieutenant in 2004. This past June, at her swearing-in ceremony, Grissom's father-in-law was present. "He's very proud of me, now," Grissom said.

Grissom studied at Vance-Granville Community College and graduated in 2007 with a degree in Criminal Justice. She also obtained her Firefighter Level II certification.

"My most difficult time was working full time, going back to school full time and being a mom full time," Grissom said. However, her hard work was noticed. "It's an honor to be the first female promoted to captain at Butner Public Safety."

Grissom finds her new position to be very demanding. "There's more administrative work, and I'm assigning cases, overseeing cases and taking on cases. There's a lot of multi-tasking."

The 49 officers working for Butner Public Safety are certified as both police and firefighters. The Dept. of Crime Control and Public Safety oversees Butner Public Safety, which provides police and fire protection for Butner and its state facilities. The town was incorporated last summer.

In her free time, Grissom loves the beach, loves to swim and loves to participate in her children's activities, softball and volleyball. She also grew up on NASCAR racing, and on the day of her promotion, Dale Earnhardt, Jr. was at the National Guard range at Butner, and she was able to meet him and have her picture taken with him. "That was a very good day," Grissom said.



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The *All-Points Bulletin* is your newsletter! If you have information you would like included, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 919-733-5027 or send e-mail to: [pmcquillan@nccrimecontrol.org](mailto:pmcquillan@nccrimecontrol.org) before the 15th of each month.