



Official State Historical Center of the Texas  
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# TDPS 75th Anniversary Timeline



In 2010, the Texas Department of Public Safety celebrated its milestone 75th Anniversary. The board and staff of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame congratulate the Department and the Texas Public Safety Commission on their outstanding public service to the people of Texas. Since 1935, the men and women of Texas DPS, both sworn officers and staff, have adapted and maintained a standard of service respected worldwide. The following timeline was issued by the department in commemoration of its distinguished history.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

### 75 Years of Courtesy – Service – Protection

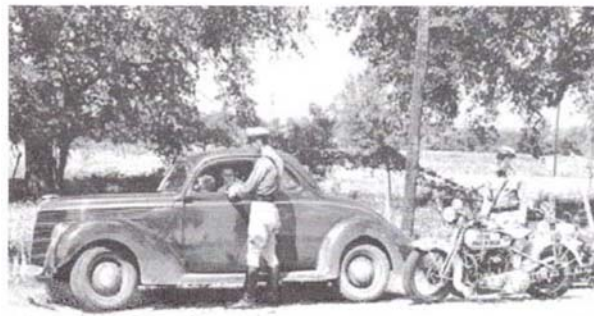
#### THE BEGINNING

- 1823 Men hired by Stephen F. Austin to “range” over the land to protect settlers from Indian attack
- 1835-1836 Texas Revolution
- 1835 The Rangers formed as a specific unit by the provisional government of the Republic of Texas
- 1845 Texas became the 28<sup>th</sup> state on December 29<sup>th</sup>
- 1845-1848 Mexican-American War
- 1860-1865 Civil War
- 1870 Constitution amended to give Black Americans the right to vote
- 1874 Formally dubbed the “Texas Rangers” by the legislature of the State of Texas
- 1896 US Supreme Court approved “separate but equal” doctrine
- 1900 Hurricane levels Galveston Island with death toll estimates between 6,000 and 12,000
- 1901 Spindletop (near Beaumont) became the first oil gusher

- 1905 FBI is established
- 1914 Ford began mass marketing of inexpensive cars
- 1917 The Highway Department formed
- 1917-1921 World War I
- 1919-1933 Prohibition
- 1920 US Constitution amended to give women the right to vote
- 1927 The Highway Department hired 19 License and Weight inspectors
- 1929 The inspectors became known as the Texas State Highway Patrol (HP)
- Stock Market Crash lead to the Great Depression
- 1935 **Department of Public Safety created** by combining the Texas Rangers and the State Highway Patrol -- four Headquarters Bureaus also created - Education, Communications and Identification & Records initially, then the Intelligence Bureau was added shortly

Standard office work hours were 44 hours a week including 4 hours on Saturday morning

- 1937 The Department is given responsibility for all driver licensing
- The Narcotics Bureau created
- The Auto Shop opened
- 1938 License and Weight (Now Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE)) separated from the regular traffic patrol function
- FLSA enacted setting minimum wage and overtime rules, which set the standard workweek to 40 hours



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## GROWING UP WITH TEXAS

1941-1945 World War II

- 1941 Compulsory traffic accident reporting added to the duties of DPS
- 1944 The Department first used the polygraph as a crime fighting tool
- 1947 Texas City explosion, levels town, kills 581 and hospitalizes over 1800 injured; focused the attention of the nation on disaster preparedness and disaster prevention
- 1948 The first teletype network linked Austin, Dallas, Houston, Waco and Arlington
- 1949 DPS bought its first airplane to aid in law enforcement

1950-1953 Korean War

- 1951 The Texas Legislature passed the Texas Communist Control Act to be enforced by the newly created Internal Security Section at DPS

The Motor Vehicle Inspection (VI) Act passed



- 1952 The Safety Responsibility Act enacted requiring Financial Responsibility (or Auto Insurance)
- 1953 The Department moved into new Headquarters on North Lamar
- 1954 US Supreme Court struck down "separate but equal" and ordered school desegregation



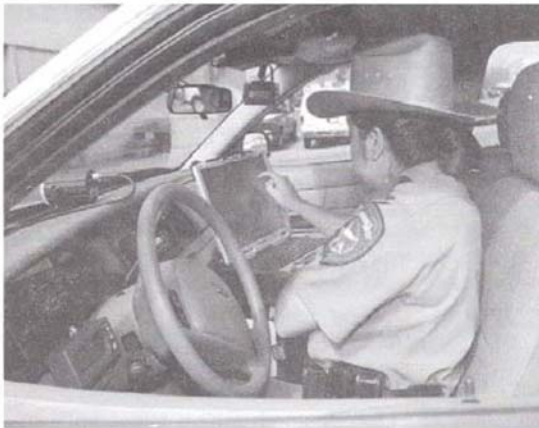
- 1954 Senator Joe McCarthy begins hearings on Communism
- Women gained right to serve on juries
- 1955 The Training Academy opened for use
- Use of Radar for traffic enforcement began
- 1957 Motorcycles completely phased out
- Major reorganization created six regional commands and Headquarters divisions
- The first Hispanic Highway Patrolman hired
- 1958 Modern uniform worn by all patrol services adopted
- 1964-1968 Landmark federal Civil Rights legislation passed outlawing discrimination in such areas as voting, public accommodations, housing, private employment
- 1963 Governor moved the State Civil Defense Office (now TDEM) to the DPS
- President Kennedy shot and killed and Governor Connally wounded in Dallas
- 1964-1975 Vietnam War
- 1966 Miranda v. Arizona case outlines rights of those arrested - changes police procedures across the country
- Shooting rampage on UT campus in Austin leaves 14 dead and 29 injured
- 1967 Data Processing Division created

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- 1967 A computer linking the FBI's NCIC database to DPS installed  
DPS began using Breathalyzers in DWI enforcement
- 1968 The first Black recruit admitted to the Academy  
The Traffic Law Enforcement (TLE) and Criminal Law Enforcement (CLE) divisions created
- 1969 Helicopters were assigned to each Region  
Man walks on the Moon  
First Hispanic Ranger appointed (post-1935)
- 1972 The Motor Vehicle Theft service added to CLE
- 1973 Watergate scandal leads to President Nixon's resignation  
The first Female recruits admitted to the Academy  
The Administration Division created



### DPS in the Modern World

- 1974 Computerized files began being transmitted to agencies throughout the state over the TLETS
- 1976 A Crime Analyst Section created in CLE  
Summer uniforms introduced
- 1977 The first fully assembled personal computer was sold to the public

- 1978 Internal Affairs created
- 1984 The first DNA profiling test was created
- 1986 Missing Persons/Children Clearinghouse began operation
- 1989 AFIS (automated fingerprint identification system) implementation began  
Legislature ordered decommissioning of most DL positions  
World Wide Web (WWW) was invented and made possible the generalized use by the public of the Internet (formally a mostly academic computer network begun in the 1960s)
- 1991 First Gulf War  
Sexual Offender Registration Program began  
The Capitol Police District moved from the General Services Commission  
Legislature ordered decommissioning of most Vehicle Inspection positions
- 1993 The Forensic DNA lab opened  
The first Female Ranger was appointed  
K-9 program began  
Waco compound with David Koresh and followers burns down
- 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) trade treaty signed between Canada, Mexico and the United States
- 1995 The Administration License Revocation (ALR) program began  
Concealed Handgun Licensing (CHL) legislation passed  
Oklahoma City Federal Building was bombed in April
- 1996 CODIS database came online
- 1997 Rangers bring a peaceful resolution to 7 day standoff with armed separatist in Ft Davis
- 1999 Civilian L & W (CVE) inspector/auditor positions created  
IMS (IT) completed Y2K project

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1999 DL Division was created from combining the DL Field Service in TLE and the Driver License & Control Service in Administration

1999 Columbine school shootings occur

2000 Unsolved Crime unit started in the Ranger Division

2001 Began processing DL transactions Online

9/11 - the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, DC were attacked by high-jacked planes

Afghanistan war against Al Qaeda begins

2002 Private Security Licensing was moved to DPS by the Legislature

Texas Amber Alert network was initiated

2003 Firearms range opened in Florence

Space Shuttle Columbia broke up over TX during reentry killing all seven on board

TLE was reorganized and renamed to THP - Also renamed Capitol to Region 7 and created a Region 8 in the Valley

Iraqi war begins



2004 Regulatory License Service created by combing Concealed Handgun Licensing and Private Security Licensing

2005 Hurricanes Katrina & Rita hammers the Louisiana & Texas coasts

2006 Physical Readiness Testing for current commissioned employees begins

2007 In-car computers were installed in DPS Black & Whites

Bureau of Information Analysis (BIA) is created in CLE to merge all Crime Analyst services under one command

2008 Over 450 children were taken into custody in a criminal and children's protective services investigation into underage sex at the YFZ Ranch

Ike destroys much of Texas coast between Galveston and LA border

Public Safety Commission authorizes studies including one by Deloitte, which recommends major changes in the Department's structure

2009 The Department implements a major restructuring establishing a regional unified command structure increasing emphasis on counterterrorism, intelligence, technology & business processes

2010 The Department of Public Safety celebrates their 75th anniversary with a Diamond Jubilee



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