



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

COLONEL EDDIE HENDERSON
DIRECTOR



Law Enforcement Division
FY 2013 Annual Report

Headquarters



Colonel Eddie Henderson, Director



Lt. Colonel Jeff Weaver, Asst. Director



**L-R, Lt. Judd Smith, Major Stephen Adams
Major Walter Rabon, Cpt. Mike England**



**L-R Tammy Peters SPU Sec., Jen Hammonds
AOC II, Sharon Whitaker AOM
Linda Mayo HQ Sec., Shannon Witcher
AOC, Jamie Hawkins SPU Tech**

The Vision of the Law Enforcement Division is to ensure that Georgia's natural resources will be conserved for our present and future generations.

The Mission of the Law Enforcement Division is to conserve our natural resources and to protect the people we serve. We maintain public support through fair and vigorous law enforcement, quality education, and community involvement. We commit ourselves to our Vision and Mission by practicing our core beliefs, which are trust, fairness and professionalism.



Headquarters

DNR completed an internal reorganization of its operational Divisions with a vote by the Board of Natural Resources on June 25th, 2013. During this reorganization the Law Enforcement Section was removed as a sub-program from the Wildlife Resources Division and was elevated to Division Status. This change, effective July 1, 2013, also marked the beginning of a five year transition that will consolidate all Law Enforcement functions under the umbrella of the Law Enforcement Division, to include State Parks enforcement. These changes to the DNR structure were made to more accurately reflect the working structure of the department, streamline operations, clarify chain of command, standardize training, equipment and operational guidance for law enforcement services and reduce liability.

As part of this process, the need for an enhanced reporting system was identified. A committee was formed and a new Ranger Activity Report was created that captures in great detail the activity that LE Division Officers are involved in. This will be beneficial in the future to sustain funding, stay mission focused, and allow LED managers to direct resources and enforcement efforts.

As a continuation of the partnership with the Georgia State Patrol and DNR on the Computer Aided Dispatch program started several ago, all in-progress calls taken by GEMA are now being transferred directly to GSP Communications Centers around the state. This allows the centers to see what Rangers are on duty and dispatch calls for service directly which can greatly reduce response time. This transition eliminates the need for the GEMA call center to page Rangers and wait for a reply.



**Governor Deal, Prince and Glover Families,
Colonel Henderson and
Commissioner Williams at the signing of SB 136**

During the past year there was significant legislation passed that positively impacted the Law Enforcement Division and its operations. Most notable was the passage of Senate Bill 136 known as the Prince/Glover BUI and Boating Safety Education Bill. This legislation was crafted after two high profile boating incidents on Lake Sidney Lanier. Both of the incidents involved fatalities including children.

As a result of the BUI law change, DNR LE partnered with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) at several media events across the state to inform the public of the changes to the boating laws. DNR, the State Patrol and local SO's and PD's were all involved in the push to reduce alcohol related accidents and fatalities. DNR LE, along with 276 other agencies across the country participated in Operation Dry Water in June. ODW is a weekend of hi-profile BUI enforcement and public education.



**Colonel Henderson speaking at
GOHS Media Event**



RFC David Brady, Lt. Judd Smith, Sgt. Wayne Hubbard and Cpl. Micheal Crawley represented the LE Division at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial during Police Week in May. All four also rode in the Police Unity Tour. This was Lt. Smith's fourth, Cpl. Crawley's second and Sgt. Hubbard and RFC Brady's first time riding in the Tour, a 250 mile bicycle ride to raise awareness of officers killed in the

line of duty. GA DNR had two officers added to the Memorial in 2013. Ranger James Hiram Waller, KIA 1927 and Ranger Lonnie F. Boggus, KIA 1930.

Colonel Eddie Henderson attended the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar (LEEDS) in September 2013 at FBI Headquarters in Quantico, Virginia.



LEEDS is designed for chief executive officers of the nation's mid-sized law enforcement agencies. Started in 1981, the seminar has graduated more than 1,300 executives to date.

Lt. Judd Smith also attended the FBI National Academy, which began in 1935. The FBINA is a 10 week course to enhance the personal and professional development of law enforcement leaders which includes officers from all 50 states, US territories and over 150 other countries. The Law Enforcement Division currently has seven National Academy graduates employed with the agency.

The Law Enforcement Division received multiple grants from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency this year. These grants provided funds for the purchase of several pieces of key equipment items that enhanced operations in the field. Included in the grants were funds to purchase 15 Polaris 400 4X4 ATV's, Polaris Ranger side by side UTV a Kongsberg Sector Scan Sonar Unit, 12 Hummingbird Side Scan units as well as personal protective equipment for members of the DNR LE Counter Terrorism Task Force Members.



Statewide Awards

RFC David Webb was named the 2013 Law Enforcement Division's Ranger of the Year. Over the past year RFC Webb has went above and beyond and will represent Georgia at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting later in the Year.

Cpl. Mark Patterson was named the Darnell Award recipient and the National Wild Turkey Federation Officer of the Year.

Cpl. James Keener was named the Investigative Ranger of the Year.

Cpl. Greg Wade was the Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl Officer of the Year.

Cpl. Shawn Elmore was the Boating Safety Officer of the Year.

Region I- Calhoun (Northwest)



Front Row L-R: Capt. Johnny Johnson, Sgt. Brian Keener, RFC Zack Hardy, RFC Joe Hill, Cpl. Tommy Gentry, RFC Brooks Varnell w/ K-9 "Rock", RFC Bart Hendrix, RFC Chad Cox, Ranger Mark Puig, Cpl. James Keener, Cpl. Shawn Elmore

Second Row L-R: BOG Joyce Holland, Secretary Rachel Cox, Cpl. Casey Jones, Cpl. Lee Burns, Sgt. Mike Barr, RFC Ben Cunningham, Cpl. Byron Young, Sgt. Jeff Galloway, Sgt. Ricky Dempsey, Cpl. Eric Brown, RFC Roger McConkey, Cpl. Wil Smith, RFC Cody Jones, RFC Daniel Gray

Not Shown: Sgt. John Vanlandingham

This year brought several significant events in the Region I. On Wednesday January 30th at 11:19 am a tornado touched down in Bartow and Gordon counties. The storm first hit the city of Adairsville and continued a twenty two mile path into Gordon County. The twister was believed to be 900 yards wide and had winds of 160 mph. This classified the tornado as an EF3 just shy of 166 mph winds for an EF4. One person was killed and 17 others were sent to area hospitals. Overturned cars littered Interstate 75 with debris and forced officials to shut down a 10-mile stretch of the road. Rangers from Region I responded to the aftermath in both Bartow and Gordon counties where they removed injured victims from their damaged homes. Rangers also removed victims from their vehicles which had turned and flipped over in the winds. The first night after the storm the temperature dropped and it snowed making conditions even worst for the victims who had no power or heat. For the next three days Rangers were involved in assisting local and other state law enforcement agencies in many roles. They were instrumental in patrolling at night to prevent looting and also during the daytime to insure that the victims were not being victimized by construction or tree removal services. Rangers were also critical in controlling traffic along many county and state highways allowing the power companies to restore services to the effected citizens. Rangers worked side by side with GSP Troopers and would later be recognized by the Command Staff and the local Sheriff for their professionalism and service in this event.

Corporal Shawn Elmore was chosen as the State Boating Safety Officer of the Year. Cpl. Elmore was the lead CIRT investigator in the Bennett-Prince boating incident on Lake Lanier where he conducted the Department's investigation into the tragic case. Cpl. Elmore worked a total of 233 hours directly involved in the reconstruction and documentation of the Prince incident. His expertise, training and experience in the field

of boating safety related issues were instrumental in developing the reports for the case. He was also the Region I National Wild Turkey Federation Officer of the Year.

Ranger First Class Chad Cox was awarded the 2012-2013 State Hunter Education Instructor of the Year Award. He was also the Region I nominee for Ranger of the Year. His devotion and efforts to the conservation law enforcement profession and to the citizens of the state were appreciated and recognized by his fellow rangers.

Cpl. James Keener received the State Investigative Officer of the Year Award and was recognized by Safari Club International for his efforts. RFC Ben Cunningham was recognized as the Region I LE Waterfowl Officer of the Year.

Rangers throughout the State continued to attend innovative training in 2013. During the course of the year every ranger was required to attend 40-hours of training in emergency vehicle operation and interviews and interrogations. This training was part of the required yearly in-service training.

RFC Brooks Varnell continued to improve and develop the department's K9 program as the lead trainer. He attended several advanced K9 training seminars and courses and transitioned two canines to new handlers after their original handlers left the agency. RFC Varnell also provided in-service training to all of the states K9 teams twice this year.

Sergeants Brian Keener and Mike Barr successfully completed the Command College program at Columbus State University. Their research papers were in depth topics concerning DNR Law Enforcement Division issues. Hopefully these studies will benefit the agency in the future. Sergeant Ricky Dempsey also began the Professional Management Program at Columbus State University. The program was extended from five to ten weeks.

Corporal Chip Cox, who was assigned as a boating safety officer on Lake Allatoona, retired after 34 years of service. Chip had spent 24 years of his career on Allatoona and his experience and knowledge of the lake will be missed.

Corporal Wil Smith transferred from Region VII to Region I and is now assigned to Paulding County. Wil represented DNR LE at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies held in Arkansas. As a Critical Incident Reconstruction Team member he presented an investigative case involving the shooting death of a USFS officer killed in the line of duty. Wil's presentation was chosen as the best presentation of the conference.

RFC Daniel Gray has been a welcomed addition to the Law Enforcement Division after transitioning from the WRD Game Management section. He is assigned to Haralson County and has taken to his new duties very well.

After completing eleven weeks in the basic police academy and another twelve weeks in Ranger School, Ranger Mark Puig assumed his new duties assigned to Fulton County. Ranger Puig was elected class president and a lot of good “Game Wardening” is expected from him as he assumes his new duties.

Rangers from the Region I Law Enforcement Critical Incident Reconstruction Team (CIRT) investigated six hunting incidents during the 2012-2013 season. No fatalities were reported and half of the incidents were tree stand related falls. One incident involved a hunter mistaken for game and the other two were self-inflicted wounds. Rangers also investigated 4 drowning and responded to numerous search and rescue calls.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)



Front L-R: Brenda Tanner, Cpt. Thomas Barnard, Sgt. Lee Brown, RFC David Webb, RFC Chad Chambers, Taylor Dorsey

2nd Row L-R: RFC Mitchell Crump, Cpl. Craig Fulghum, Cpl. Bill Bunch, Sgt. Stan Elrod

3rd Row L-R: RFC Tim Vickery, Cpl. Adam Loudermilk, Ranger Kevin Goss, Sgt. Greg Colson

4th Row L-R: RFC Kevin Dyer, RFC Eric Isom, Cpl. Jason Roberson, Sgt. Steve Seitz

5th Row L-R: Ranger Shane Brown, RFC Barry Britt, RFC Anne Alexander, Cpl. Derek Dillard, RFC Brandon Pierce, Sgt. Mike Burgamy

Not Pictured: RFC Mark Stephens, Cpl. Jesse Cook, Cpl. Eric Sanders, Cpl. Eddie Tompkins, RFC Shane Sartor, Julia Braswell

This year was an exciting and exhausting year for the rangers in Region II. The 26 rangers in region II are responsible for enforcing boating laws on the 8 major reservoirs in the Northeast Georgia region, as well as enforcing hunting, fishing, and environmental laws in the 19 counties that comprise the Gainesville region. The Prince and Glover boating incidents on Lake Lanier in 2012 led to the passage of a new boating under the influence law and new boater education requirements. The Governor signed both bills into law in April at Lake Lanier.

Region II C.I.R.T team members Sgt. Steve Seitz and RFC Anne Alexander were busy throughout the year working 8 major hunting and boating incidents. The region also welcomed 2 new rangers. Ranger Kevin Goss transferred to Hall County, and Ranger Shane Brown finished the Ranger Academy in June and was assigned to Forsyth County

In 2009, Georgia DNR Law Enforcement partnered with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Park Service in an undercover investigation targeting illegal bear hunting that was occurring in Georgia and North Carolina. The operation focused on illegal guiding, hunting, baiting, and the commercialization of bear parts. The undercover officers documented over 900 state and federal violations which included 139 state violations in seven counties involving eight Georgia defendants. The Georgia defendants were from Rabun and White counties. In February 2013, the investigation came to an end when state and federal officers served 6 search warrants in GA and 11 in NC on the defendant's residences. The officers also served state arrest warrants on all the defendants. Federal felony charges were filed on Georgia and North Carolina defendants in June 2013. Several rangers from across the state assisted with the operation including RFC David Webb, Sgt. Steve Seitz, Sgt. Stan Elrod, Cpl. Derek Dillard, Cpl. Jesse Cook, Cpl. Jason Roberson, Cpl. Bob Holley, Cpl. Michael Crawley, Cpl. Bill Bunch, RFC Kevin Dyer, RFC Anne Alexander, RFC Chad Chambers, RFC Mitchell Crump, RFC Tim Vickery, RFC Eric Isom, Captain Thomas Barnard, Captain Mark Padgett, Sgt. Greg Colson, Major Stephen Adams, Major Walter Rabon, Lt. Sam O'Neal, and Sgt. Chad Welch

On September 29th, Sgt. Stan Elrod and Cpl. Craig Fulghum assisted the Outdoor Dream Foundation with a deer hunt for a young man with a terminal illness. Brandon Brawdy was the first child in Georgia to hunt under the provisions of the new Taylors Law. Under the law, Commissioner Mark Williams was able to waive the weapon restrictions which allowed Brandon to hunt during archery season with a firearm on specific dates. On September 29th, Brandon killed a 4 point buck with the assistance of Sgt. Elrod and Cpl. Fulghum. The hunt was filmed by Kevin Johnson from Athens and presented to Brandon and his family. Sadly, Brandon died in March 2013 due to his illness.

RFC Mark Stephens along with members of the CIRT Team continued the reconstruction and prosecution of the Prince and Glover boating incidents. On several occasions they met with the District Attorney's office in Hall County. RFC Stephens testified before a Hall County grand jury and received and indictment for 8 counts of Homicide by Vessel, along with BUI and reckless operation of a Vessel. RFC Stephens also assisted CIRT with the continuing investigation and prosecution of the Glover boating incident. He testified before a Hall County Grand Jury and received an indictment for homicide by vessel along with reckless operation of a vessel.

Cpl. Jason Roberson was selected as the State Ranger of the Year and RFC Eric Isom received the John W. Jacobs award for excellence in Law Enforcement in Hall County. RFC Isom also received a commendation from Commissioner Mark Williams for his lifesaving efforts in the Glover boating incident. During the year rangers on Lake Lanier did approximately 25 ride-a-longs with the local media as a result of boating fatalities and the newly passed boating laws.

On February 11th, RFC Barry Britt and Sgt. Lee Brown responded to a call about a boat doing circles in the Lake Lanier. The officers found the boat with no occupants and out of gas on the bank. After an investigation into the incident they initiated a search for a missing boater believed to have fallen out of the boat. Rangers searched the area for approximately a week using side scan sonar, cadaver dogs, and DNR aviation units with no results. Surface searches continued for approximately 3 weeks. On March 17th, the subject's body was finally recovered.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)



1st Row L-R: Secretary Katelyn Greene, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin, RFC Leroy Ficklin, RFC Niki Spencer, Sgt. Max Boswell, RFC Grant Matherly, Sgt. Brian Carter, AOC Elizabeth Bentley and RFC Phillip Nelson.

2nd Row L-R: Cpl. Brian Hobbins, Cpl. David Allen, Sgt. Matt Gartright, Capt. Mark Padgett, Cpl. Ryan Swain, Sgt. John Harwell, and RFC Ricky Boles.

3rd Row L-R: Cpl. Derrell, RFC Jeff Billips, Cpl. Ben Payne, RFC Bobby Timmerman, Cpl. Mark Patterson, RFC Tim Butler, Cpl. Julian Wilkins, and RFC Richard Tanner. Not pictured are RFC Brian Adams, Cpl. Micheal Crawley and K-9 Storm.

Region III Law Enforcement had another successful year with several personnel additions and significant conservation law enforcement cases.

Cpl. Mark Patterson received the Region III Ranger of the Year Award and also was recognized as the State James R. Darnell recipient for 2013. Cpl. Patterson represented the State of Georgia as the National Wild Turkey Federation Officer of the Year for his efforts with enforcement, education, and conservation of Georgia's wild turkeys. He attended the National Wild Turkey Federation Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Cpl. Brian Hobbins represented Region III as Investigative Ranger of the Year, Waterfowl Officer of the Year, and Boating Safety Officer of the Year.

Region III gained a transfer from Region IV this year. RFC Tim Butler transferred into Clarke/Oconee County. Miss Katelyn Greene joined the Region III Law Enforcement team in May of this year as our new part-time secretary. Katelyn had completed an internship with Region III prior to her appointment as secretary.



**RFC Tanner and Major
Adams with ROV**

RFC Richard Tanner received the Department's first ever Kongsberg Mesotech Sector Scan System and VideoRay Pro4 Remote Operational Vehicle (ROV). These units will be utilized to locate and retrieve submerged objects. RFC Tanner has the collateral duty of being a sonar operator and is the Department's Sonar Instructor. During this past year, RFC Tanner trained and certified seven Rangers across the State in the operation of the Klein Side Scan Sonar. Along with his many other duties, RFC Tanner was responsible for creating our new bi-weekly report. He

spent over a month and a half compiling this report which utilizes over two hundred thousand characters in the formulas.

Cpl. Micheal Crawley received a Resolution from the Board of Natural Resources for his heroic life-saving acts during a river rescue in Washington County. During a search and rescue effort, one of four males entered the rain swollen Ogeechee River in an attempt to cross over to Cpl. Crawley. The subject's life jacket slipped off and the subject began to panic. The subject disappeared under the water and Cpl. Crawley jumped in and saved the subject from drowning. In addition, Cpl. Crawley received a local American Red Cross Wilderness Lifesaving Award.

Region III Rangers have been very active in introducing our youth to the outdoors. Cpl. Derrell Worth hosted a Youth Squirrel Hunt on Oconee WMA and Georgia Power parks on Lake Oconee. Fourteen young hunters enjoyed a full day of sporting clays and squirrel hunting. Among the Rangers that participated were Sgt. Brian Carter, Cpl. Derrell Worth, Cpl. Mark Patterson, Cpl. David Allen, Cpl. Josh Copeland, RFC Tim Butler, RFC Ricky Boles, and RFC Niki Spencer.

RFC Brian Adams hosted the 17th Annual Glascock County Kid's Fishing Event. Over the week-long event 220 kids from the local school system got the opportunity to take part in this event. All the children were successful in catching fish with over 1500 fish being caught. Among the Rangers that participated were Sgt. Doyte Chaffin, Cpl. Ryan Swain, Cpl. Brian Hobbins, RFC Brian Adams, RFC Bobby Timmerman, RFC Leroy Ficklin, and Region III AOC Elizabeth Bentley.

This year was a very busy one for providing assistance to other law enforcement agencies. Region III saw a spike in the number of request to help locate lost/missing/suicidal persons. Several of these incidents were unusual in nature. While Region III was conducting their annual CAT Team training exercise, a call came in for assistance with a SAR in Wilkes County. One of the CAT Teams had to leave the training exercise and respond to the request for assistance.

Rangers in Region III assisted McDuffie County with the recovery efforts of a plane crash that resulted in five fatalities and two survivors, assisted the GBI with a road check during a murder investigation of a deer processor in Hancock County, assisted Morgan County in locating a suicide victim, assisted Oglethorpe County with a three day search for a missing elderly male, assisted Morgan County with a search and rescue of a missing kayaker, assisted McDuffie County in a search for a missing elderly male on a tractor that was found deceased after an accidental firearm discharge, and assisted Greene County search for a missing male who has yet to be located.

During the 2012-13 deer season, Cpl. Mark Patterson responded to a lost hunter call from Wilkes County. The hunter was lost on Clarks Hill WMA. The decision was made on-scene to get the GA State Patrol's helicopter with its infrared unit to assist with the search. Sgt. Matt Gartright joined Cpl. Patterson to assist with the search. The GSP helicopter located the individual who was unresponsive to the helicopter and directed Sgt. Gartright and Cpl. Patterson to the missing hunter. Upon approaching the hunter it was apparent that the hunter was deceased. The hunter was lying on his back with hands across chest. The hunter had apparent chest wounds and the hunters gear was approximately 75 yards from him. The GBI and DNR CIRT member RFC Jeff Billips was called to the scene to work a joint investigation. The victim had multiple stab wounds to his chest area and a bloody knife underneath him. The scene was worked as a murder investigation. There were over 200 hunters signed in to hunt the special rifle hunt on Clarks Hill WMA. Other Rangers that assisted were Sgt. Doyte Chaffin, Cpl. Julian Wilkins, and RFC Phillip Nelson.

Upon receiving several complaints of illegal fishing activity on Lake Oconee in the area of Redlands Boat Ramp, Cpl. David Allen and Cpl. Derrell Worth set up surveillance to stop the illegal activity. After several hours of surveillance on the night of February 2, the Rangers spotted a vessel running without lights and approaching the Redlands boat ramp. The Rangers let the individuals load up and later conducted a traffic stop of the suspected vehicle. During the stop the Rangers noticed a large quantity of fish in the vessel. After further investigation, the Rangers determined that the fish had been taken illegally by use of gill nets. The subjects were charged with fishing by illegal methods, possession of illegally taken fish, and operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness. The Rangers confiscated the gill nets and 150 pounds of game fish. The illegal fish were being sold to a restaurant in Milledgeville.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)



Front Row: Sgt. Brent Railey, Sgt. Tim Kendrick, Cpl. John Harkins, Captain Bob Lynn, AOC Audrey Taylor, RFC Keith Page, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen, K-9 Ruger

Middle Row: Cpl. Josh Copelan, Chaplain Joe Buford, Cpl. Keith Waddell, Ranger Russell Epps, Cpl. Roberts Stillwell, Cpl. Tony Wynne, Ranger David Fisher, Cpl. Wanda Roberts, Sgt. Tony Fox, Chaplain Rick Lanford

Back Row: RFC Kevin Godbee, Cpl. Mitch Oliver, Ranger Jeremy Reese, RFC Travis Sweat, Cpl. Susan Morris, Cpl. Lynn Stanford, Sgt. Bo Kelly, RFC Ronnie Beard

Not Pictured: Sgt. Jim Bradfield, RFC Josh Swain, K-9 Drake, Chaplain Marc Crandlemire, Deputy Ranger Joe Sebo

In the past year Region IV underwent several personnel changes through retirements, promotions, transfers, and new hires. Sgt. Ezra Wyche and Cpl. John Harkins retired. RFC Travis Sweat, RFC Josh Swain, and RFC Josh Copelan were promoted to the rank of Corporal. Cpl. Wanda Roberts was promoted to Administrative Sergeant. RFC Freddie Hays, Ranger Jeremy Reese, and RFC Ronnie Beard transferred into Region IV filling positions in Jasper, Jones, and Bleckley/Pulaski Counties. Also two cadets join the Region IV team in January of this year. Ranger Matthew Johnson and Ranger Derek Cobb graduated the ranger basic mandate class in June and filled positions in Wilkinson and Baldwin Counties. RFC Keith Page filled the vacant K-9 position when he and Drake graduated the K-9 training course early in 2013.

On December 21, 2012, around 11:30 pm Major Stephen Adams, Sgt. Brent Railey and RFC Travis Sweat were notified of a Child Abduction Recovery Team (CART) callout in Spalding County in reference to a missing nine year old girl. The girl had been missing since noon on that day. Sgt. Railey activated his Critical Action Team (CAT) members Cpl. Susan Morris, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen with K-9 Ruger and RFC Keith Page and had them meet him at the scene. Around 1:30 AM on the 22nd, rangers as well as the Georgia State Patrol NIGHTHAWKS and civilian volunteers began an organized grid search of the area

around the missing girl's house. Less than thirty minutes after the search began the girl's body was found a short distance from her home. Ultimately, a neighbor of the victim was arrested and charged by Spalding County Sheriff's Investigators with murder, kidnapping and concealing a death. He remains in custody at the Spalding County Jail.

Another noteworthy incident involved Cpl. Keith Waddell and Sgt. Brent Railey. They had stopped to check a hunter in Monroe County on the way home from a DNR LE region meeting in December 2012. The hunter ran from them and after a foot chase of several hundred yards, Cpl. Waddell caught up with him. The man had to be forcibly arrested at gunpoint. The hunter was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, felony obstruction of an officer, hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, and possession of marijuana less than an ounce. Cpl. Waddell seized his firearm, several knives and the marijuana.

On February 24, Cpl. Keith Waddell and Sgt. Brent Railey rescued two stranded kayakers in Flat Shoals Creek in Harris County near the Hwy 103 Bridge. Due to recent heavy rains the creek was at flood stage and very dangerous due to the rock shoals and whitewater rapids in the area. The air temperature was very cold which presented another factor rangers had to overcome. A third stranded kayaker was rescued with the assistance of DNR Aviation pilot Captain Steven Turner. A drop basket was lowered from the helicopter to remove the kayaker from his location. Cpl. Mitch Oliver as well as Harris and Muscogee County rescue units assisted with the rescues.

Sgt. Bo Kelly's section investigated the illegal killing of an alligator by a resident from Jones County. The alligator was killed out of season in Bibb County, and seized by Cpl. Josh Copelan and Cpl. Lynn Stanford. In another investigation, information was received about a hen turkey that was killed over a corn feeder during firearms deer season. Sgt. Bo Kelly and Cpl. Lynn Stanford obtained a search warrant for a trail camera which had been set up on the feeder. Evidence recovered from the camera led to charges against one suspect for hunting over bait, hunting out of season, and possession of illegally taken wildlife.

Sgt. Kelly and Cpl. Stanford instructed at our basic ranger school, teaching wildlife laws, boating laws and field sobriety. Cpl. Josh Copelan was selected for the Region IV Boating Safety Officer of the Year. Region IV Conservation Rangers assisted with the annual Wilkinson County Quail Hunt for Kids event. Nineteen young hunters participated in this event, shooting clay pigeons and hunting quail. Cpl. Stanford received the Waterfowl Officer of the Year award for Region IV. Sgt. Bo Kelly and Cpl. Josh Copelan rescued a 79 year old man who had gotten lost on his property and was in the woods for over 8 hours without water. Once found, the man had to be carried out by DNR LE Rangers because he was weak due to being dehydrated.

Sgt. Tim Kendrick's section investigated one boating related fatality that happened on Lake Jackson. His section also was responsible for investigating a drowning on the Flint River in Upson County. A subject dove off the Hwy 36 Bridge. After 6 days of round the clock work, the body was located. Due to the abundant amount of rain this summer, Sgt. Kendrick's section was involved in two rescue operations on the Ocmulgee River to retrieve stranded boaters. The last rescue operation required the use of DNR's Aviation

Unit due to the dangerous conditions of the river. In a recent request from Baldwin County, RFC Page utilized K-9 Drake to locate a weapon used in an aggravated assault. RFC Page also located 13 marijuana plants growing at a residence in Lamar County. RFC Page was interviewing a person that was involved in a boating incident that happened on a previous date when he located the plants growing outside the residence. Sgt. Kendrick's section participated in two all-night fishing events on Charlie Elliott WMA. The events were a pilot program to see how much participation the public would have if night fishing were allowed on some WMAs.

This past year Sgt. Tony Fox's section was responsible for conducting LE operations during Georgia's second annual Central Zone bear season. Private lands in Twiggs, Houston, and Bibb Counties were open this one day for the taking of bears; a total of 14 were harvested, twenty fewer than the previous year. During the one-day hunt Rangers from Region IV apprehended three individuals for the offense of taking bear over bait and cited one hunter for killing a cub less than 75 pounds. Three bears were confiscated. Rangers also issued a number of citations for offenses ranging from hunting without a license to hunting without fluorescent orange.

On the evening of November 1st, Ranger David Fisher, RFC Josh Swain, and Sgt. Tony Fox responded to a fatal hunting incident in Crawford County. The incident, subsequently investigated by the Critical Incident Reconstruction Team, involved a shooter failing to properly identify his target prior to discharging his firearm. Upon conclusion of the investigation the shooter was charged with felony misuse of a firearm while hunting. He later pled guilty to the charge.

On April 1st, Rangers from Sgt. Fox's section responded to a drowning call on the Ocmulgee River near Macon. Due to environmental conditions (i.e., cool temperatures, rainfall, and rising river levels) recovery efforts were hampered and the detail stretched out over the next eight days – the victim's body was finally recovered on April 9th. In all, sixteen officers were involved utilizing side scan sonar, dive crews, body drags, aviation support, and cadaver dogs.

Sgt. Bradfield's section worked two incidents during turkey season that are worthy of noting. In the first incident, Ranger Russell Epps and Sgt. Bradfield investigated an incident in Troup County of an out of season turkey kill which resulted in an arrest and confiscation of a four bearded turkey gobbler. This investigation resulted from the suspect putting a picture of the illegally taken turkey on his Facebook page and posting comments about the kill. The court sentenced the defendant to pay to have the turkey mounted which is now on display in the DNR LE office located at the Georgia State Patrol Post in LaGrange.

The second illegal turkey incident involved Cpl. Mitch Oliver and Sgt. Bradfield working a lengthy investigation in Harris County involving a subject shooting a turkey from the road and on property without permission during turkey season. This investigation resulted in a confession by a known violator and confiscation of the turkey as well.

Sgt. Bradfield was able to obtain a donation from the Troup County Sheriff's Office DOJ funds account for the purchase of a new patrol boat for use on West Point Lake. The new Edgewater 210 IS patrol boat was received in May 2013 and is in service on West Point Lake. Additional donated funds were used for the purchase of various equipment items including Hummingbird side scan sonar for Cpl. Bolen's patrol boat.

The Bassmasters Elite Series Bass Tournament was held on West Point Lake in May 2013. This tournament was televised by ESPN 2 and attracted over 15,000 visitors despite the rainy weather during the event. DNR LE had a presence throughout this event which included officers manning the fishing simulator for visitors to use and officers patrolling the lake during the event. The giant "Go Fish" inflatable bobber was also on display at the LE event tent which attracted many spectators and served as a highly visible landmark.

Cpl. Jeremy Bolen and K-9 Ruger assisted Cpl. Keith Waddell in September 2012 with locating a firearm hidden in the woods by a convicted felon who had been deer hunting. Locating the hidden firearm significantly increased Cpl. Waddell's ability to complete his investigation and prosecute the offender.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)



Front Row L-R: Cpl. Steve Robinson, Sgt. David Ruddell, Sgt. Al Greer, Cpl. Mike Binion, Cpl. Scott Carroll, Cpl. Bob Holley and K-9 Creek, Sgt. Butch Potter and RFC Jim Atchley

2nd Row L-R: Sgt. Ellis Wynn, Secretary Shannon Boyd, Cpl. Greg Wade, Ranger Chad Hulsey, RFC Randy James, Ranger Chris Carlisle, RFC Tony Cox, Cpl. Robbie Griner, Captain Jeff Swift, RFC Jon Penuel, RFC Clint Martin, Ranger Jace Heard, Ranger Jesse Harrison, Cpl. Randy Davis, Sgt. Rick Sellars and BOG Cindy Hynote

Not shown: Ranger Steve Thomas, Ranger Quinn Fogle and Ranger Eric White

Region V underwent several personnel changes in FY 2013 including promotions, transfers, retirements and the hiring of new employees. Sgt. Al Greer was promoted to the field supervisor's position in the Lake Blackshear work unit following the retirement of 30 year veteran Sgt. Danny Bishop. Cpl. Ronnie Beard transferred from the Macon County position in Region V to Region IV, and Jesse Harrison transferred from the Parks Division into the Macon County Ranger position. Ranger Kevin Goss transferred from Early County in Region V to Lake Lanier in Region II.

Region V also had three newly hired Rangers begin their career. Ranger Quinn Fogle was assigned to Quitman/Randolph County position, Ranger Eric White was assigned the Dougherty County position and Ranger Steve Thomas was assigned the Early County position.

Last summer Region V responded to two fatal boating incidents on the Chattahoochee River. The first was a single vessel incident where the victim was thrown from the vessel and ran over by the boat and motor. The victim was recovered that night by use of the side scan sonar. The second incident occurred when the operator of the vessel ran into a tree on the bank of the river. One victim was thrown from the vessel onto the bank and the other two were thrown into the river. The two thrown in the river died as a result of the incident. Region V CIRT Investigators, Sgt. David Ruddell and Cpl. Steve Robinson

responded to both of these incidents and completed lengthy reconstruction investigations into both.

During the year, Region V experienced an upswing in the number of illegal alligator hunting complaints and cases. Cpl. Greg Wade and Ranger Chad Hulsey, after receiving information that was corroborated on the internet, apprehended four suspects using hooks and bait to catch and kill alligators in two separate incidents in Turner and Colquitt Counties. In May, Cpl. Steve Robinson received information about suspicious activity on an oxbow pond in Stewart County. After a brief investigation, Cpl. Robinson discovered one alligator being skinned and three more in the possession of two suspects. The two were charged with hunting out of season and possession of illegally taken wildlife. Much of the increased interest and illegal alligator hunting activity seems to be the result of the popularity of the television show *Swamp People*.



Cpl. Greg Wade with
illegally taken alligator skin

In November of 2012 Sgt. Al Greer received information regarding the illegal taking of a record book deer. The information indicated the deer had been killed on Halloween night by a convicted felon. Sgt. Greer obtained a picture off the internet and began investigating the incident. After several attempts to contact the suspect, it was discovered the suspect was moving the deer from place to place attempting to keep it from being confiscated. The suspect has avoided talking with Sgt. Greer and would not provide the location of the deer. Sgt. Greer obtained enough evidence to obtain a search warrant and

he, along with deputies from the local sheriff's office, searched the residence without finding the deer. Sgt. Greer was able to get another photo of the deer in a taxidermist shop. The photo was distributed to Regions IV, V and VI to see if any of the LED staff recognized the taxidermist shop in which it was located. Cpl. Robert Stillwell, from Region IV, recognized the facility and went to the shop and seized the deer as evidence. The suspect was charged with numerous violations including hunting deer at night and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The deer head is in the custody of DNR until trial.



Sgt. Al Greer with an illegally
taken record book deer

During FY 2013 Region V Sgt. Al Greer and Cpl. Greg Wade learned of an individual who was entering onto private property throughout the Dougherty County area and digging for Native American artifacts. This individual, along with a group of co-conspirators, was entering these properties without landowner permission or knowledge and creating craters where they were retrieving artifacts worth thousands of dollars. They were also using video equipment documenting their finds and uploading the video to YouTube. Thanks to the investigative skills of Sgt. Greer and Cpl. Wade, 70+ videos

were retrieved from the web to be used as evidence. Following a lengthy investigation, Region V staff served a search warrant on the suspect's residence to gather additional evidence. The primary suspect was arrested and charged with nearly 80 violations, including several felony theft by taking charges. The other participants were also charged with a lesser number of violations.

In January 2013, RFC Jim Atchley located illegal gill nets on Lake Walter F. George in the Pataula Creek area. At sundown RFC Atchley set up surveillance on the area and waited for over 12 hours. Early the next morning RFC Atchley apprehended the suspect and confiscated over 400 feet of gill nets and 75 fish.

In June the 30th Ranger School visited George Bagby State Park, located in Region V for a week of boat operations training. During the week of training the Cadets received a block of High Value Asset/Port Security Training. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers assisted with the training by providing the General Irwin, a 160 ft. tug boat, to serve as the on-water high value asset. The Cadets learned techniques of patrolling marine security zones and high value asset protection along with normal boat operations and patrol techniques.



30th Ranger School Cadets on the General Irwin with patrol vessels and instructors in the background

During FY 2013 several of the Region V personnel were recognized for outstanding job performance. RFC Tony Cox received the Southwest Georgia Sportsmen's Club Ranger of the year Award and the Albany Exchange Club's Officer of the Year Award. Cpl. Greg Wade received the Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl Award and was Region V's selection as Ranger of the Year. Cpl. Scott Carroll was recognized for outstanding law enforcement service by Cobb EMC. RFC Jon Penuel was the Region V Boating Officer of the Year and RFC Jim Atchley was selected as the Instructor of the Year by the 30th Conservation Ranger School Cadets.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)



Front L-R: Cpl. Chase Altman, Sgt. Jon Barnard, RFC Jamey O'Brien, Cpl. Josh Chambers, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey, RFC Joe Hilton

2nd Row L-R: Ranger Patrick Gibbs, Sgt. Damon Winters, RFC Debbie Brannen, RFC Keith McDonald, RFC Mark Pool, Sgt. David Reckley, Sgt. Patrick Dupree

3rd Row L-R: Cpl. Morty Wood, Cpl. Jason Shipes, Ranger Sam Williams, Cpl. Shaymus McNeely, Sgt. James McLaughlin, Sgt. Don Dasher, Cpl. John Stokes, Cpl. Dan Stiles

4th Row L-R: Capt. Scott Klingel, Ranger Daniel North, Cpl. Eddie Akins, Cpl. Kevin Joyce, RFC Clint Jarriel, RFC Allen Mills, RFC Tim Hutto

Inset: BOG Sharon Sims, Secretary I Melinda Monroe

Not Shown: Cpl. Mike Wilcox, RFC Rodney Horne

The Region VI Law Enforcement office located in Metter services 32 of Georgia's southeastern counties. There are currently 33 POST certified positions in the region, which covers 24% of the state's land mass.

Several deserving officers made it to retirement and hung up their badges this past year. Corporal Gary Simmons, Corporal David Sims, Sergeant Keith Byers and Sgt. Wade Fulford all retired with at least 30 years of credible service each.

As a result of the recent retirements, several officers were promoted into the vacant positions. Jon Barnard was promoted to Sergeant this year and James McLaughlin was promoted to Administrative Sergeant. Chase Altman, Josh Chambers and Kevin Joyce were all promoted to Corporal. Cpl. Kevin Joyce transferred into the Region and is assigned to Montgomery and Treutlen Counties. He also became a K-9 handler and both he and K-9 Briar graduated from the intensive K-9 training. Cpl. Chambers transferred to the region and is assigned to Ware County. RFC Allen Mills transferred to the region and is assigned to his home county of Dodge. RFC Jamey O'Brien transferred from Candler/Emanuel Counties to Effingham County.

Ranger Sam Williams transferred from the Parks Division and is assigned to Charlton County. The Region also gained two new officers, Rangers Patrick Gibbs and Daniel North. Gibbs will be assigned to Jeff Davis County and North is assigned to Echols County. All three Rangers attended the Basic Ranger Academy and graduated in June.

This year, Sergeant Patrick Dupree graduated from Command College at Columbus State University. Sergeant Damon Winters and Corporal Shaymus McNeely graduated from the Professional Management Program, also held at CSU.

Great effort should always be recognized and Region VI has several officers that warrant special mention. Sergeant Don Dasher, RFC Clint Jarriel and RFC Joe Hilton were all recognized at the Governor's Public Safety Awards. Each officer was presented a medal for an Act of Heroism which saved or prolonged the life of another person.

The Ranger of the Year for Region VI was Corporal Tommy Daughtrey and our Boating Safety Officer of the Year was Corporal Chase Altman. The Investigative Ranger of the Year for the region was Corporal Jason Shipes and the Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl Award winner for Region VI was Ranger First Class Keith McDonald. Also the National Wild Turkey Federation Officer of the Year for the region was Ranger First Class Tim Hutto.

Cpl. Chase Altman and RFC Keith McDonald successfully completed POST Instructor Training in Forsyth and began instructing during the Ranger Academy. Cpl. Altman also completed Firearm Instructor training and will be assisting in that position as well. Cpl. Morty Wood took on the role of CIRT liaison and Cpl. Mike Wilcox became the Region's second CIRT investigator.

Sergeant Dupree recognized that additional manpower would be needed in his work unit to adequately protect black bear populations during the South Georgia bear season. Twelve additional officers were brought in during the three weekends of open season. These officers located and checked over 200 bear hunters in an area measuring more than 3,000 square miles. The reported bear harvest dropped 30% from the previous year, in part due to the ever-watchful game wardens.

On February 15th, Sgt. Damon Winters' work unit assisted Lowndes County S.O. and GSP with a South Region Traffic Enforcement Network roadblock. This detail was part of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety efforts. RFC Penuel and RFC Carlisle brought the Region V Intox Trailer for evidence testing at the scene. The officer's mission was to work each location for two hours and detect any violations that came through. At the end of the detail the violations detected were: 9 seatbelt, 18 child restraint, 15 operating w/o license, 10 operating while suspended, 7 DUI's, 6 underage drinking, 3 operating w/o insurance, 2 possession of marijuana, 2 possession of cocaine, 6 wanted fugitives, 56 other violations such as defective equipment and 2 stolen guns recovered.

The topics for the Region's annual in-service training were Emergency Vehicle Operations and Interviews & Interrogations, all taught at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth. Also, an online driver's training course entitled "Due Regard" was completed. Within the region, firearms qualification, ALS/legal updates, policy updates, and BUI /Field Sobriety refresher training was given.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)



Front Row L-R: Sergeant Mark Carson, Janette Senior, Captain Doug Lewis, Kay Readdick.

2nd Row L-R: Ranger Kate Hargrove, Sergeant Wayne Hubbard, RFC David Brady, Corporal Chris Ridley, Sergeant Chris Hodge, Corporal Bobby White, Sergeant Cindy Miller

3rd Row L-R: Marine Tech Gary Denis, Corporal Chris Moore, Corporal Phillip Scott, Corporal Craig Smith, Corporal Bill Bryson, RNG Kiel Toney

Back Row: RFC Jack Thain, RNG Jay Bright, RNG Jason Miller, RNG Jordan Crawford, RFC Randy Aspinwall, RFC John Evans, RNG Colt Shaske.

Not Pictured: Corporal Jay Morgan and RFC Buster Cooper.

Region VII had several noteworthy cases during the past year. Sgt. Wayne Hubbard investigated a group from Wayne County that was stealing logs from Miller Lake on Townsend WMA in McIntosh County. The group was finally captured and all of the logging equipment and logs were confiscated and warrants were taken out on the individuals.

Ranger Kiel Toney, RFC Buster Cooper, and Sgt. Cindy Miller were conducting a JEA patrol in February when they boarded a boat to check for fish and found 112 Black Sea Bass. During this time Black Sea Bass Season was closed. The fish were confiscated and of the 112 fish, 88 of would have also been undersized. The case was turned over to a Special Agent with the National Marine Fisheries Service for Federal prosecution.

Region VII Rangers also helped out with numerous special events. The Rangers were involved with Shop with a Cop, Wounded Warriors Fishing Tournament, Wounded Warriors Hunt, Wayne County Hog Jam, Wayne County Catfish Tournament, C. Mo's Kids Day at Crooked River State Park, Jakes Day, and Fishing for a Cure (which raised \$35,000).

During the 2012-2013 hunting season Rangers from Region VII worked numerous night hunting complaints. Utilizing the State's air assets for support and good old fashion Game Warden tactics, Rangers in Region VII caught 27 groups of night hunting. These 27 groups involved 60 people being charged with hunting deer at night.

Region VII saw several tropical storms this past year as well. With the exception of Tropical Storm Debby, little damage was done. Debby did cause flooding on the St. Mary's River in Camden County.

Rangers from Chatham County assisted Chatham County Metro and the National Transportation Safety Board with a plane crash in the marsh. DNR Rangers assisted with evidence collection and the retrieval of the crash victims.

Several Region VII officers received awards during the past year. RFC David Brady received the Life Saving Award from the DNR Board and the Governor's Award for Heroism. These honors were from an incident involving a lost swimmer off of St. Simons Island.

RFC David Brady was also the Region VII nominee for Boating officer of the Year and Ranger of the Year. He also received the Glynn County Exchange Club Officer of the Year.

Cpl. Bill Bryson received the NOAA Federal officer of the year for the State of Georgia. Region VII also had several personnel changes. Cpl. Billy Reed, Sgt. James Shelton, Cpl. Jimmy Finn, and Debby Johnson all retired during the year and RFC Craig Smith was promoted to Corporal. Also, Cpl. Will Smith and RFC Jeremy Reese transfer to other regions.

Region VII completed (JEA) Joint Enforcement Agreement 11 with (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement. The priority areas of enforcement included Snapper/Grouper, Turtle Excluder Device (TED) compliance, Marine Mammal Protection Act (Dolphins), Highly Migratory (HMS) and Pelagic Fisheries. A commitment was also made to enforce the Atlantic Right Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) from November through March and to provide enforcement for Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS).

Hours provided during this agreement period, July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012 include the following:

Large Vessel: 200 vessel hours (3 officers per vessel)

Mid-Range Vessel: 220 vessel hours (2 officers per vessel)

GRNMS: 125 vessel hours (3 officers per vessel)

Dockside Inspection: 260 man hours

ALWTRP: 90 vessel hours (combined large and mid-range vessels)

Public Outreach: 37 man hours

Investigative Unit

The Investigative Unit (IU) is comprised of two full-time investigators. The IU is responsible for undercover investigations, Special Permit Unit (SPU) inspections and violations, the administration of the Critical Incident Reconstruction Team (CIRT) and the Marine Theft Unit (MTU). The IU depends heavily on assistance from uniformed Rangers. Statewide, 15 Rangers perform a collateral duty called “Regional Investigator”. Regional Investigators assist the IU with various duties. This unit is supervised by Lieutenant Sam O’Neal with Sergeant Chad Welch coordinating field investigations and operations within the Marine Theft Unit.

Undercover Investigations

Over the last year, 6 Region Investigators attended the Basic Covert Operations Training Course presented by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Georgia now has 15 Rangers who have attended this type training. The IU averages 40 undercover investigations per year. These investigations include intelligence gathering, buy/busts and complex, long-term investigations.

February 2013 brought the close of “Operation Something Bruin”, a four year undercover investigation that focused on the poaching and commercialization of black bears. Undercover officers from two state and three federal agencies participated in this multi-state investigation. The investigators identified 80 suspects and documented over 900 violations. In Georgia, 8 defendants were arrested and charged with 136 state charges. Lt. O’Neal was recognized by a resolution from the DNR Board of Natural Resources for his efforts during this operation.

Marine Theft Unit (MTU)

The MTU is focused on providing assistance to law enforcement officers in the field. The MTU also serves as the point of contact for customers and courts in dealing with the abandoned vessel process. Last year, the MTU completed 35 abandoned vessel requests and 37 requests from the field. Field requests are mainly comprised of computer database searches, location of hidden hull identification numbers, and offline searches for stolen vessels.

Training Unit



L-R Nancy Patten Sec., Capt. Wade Law, Mandy James AOC I.

The 2013 In-Service Training consisted of two segments. The first was the newly created 8-hour SUV/Truck Emergency Vehicle & Operations Course and Defensive Driving Techniques. This specialized training was designed to better equip officers with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely operate their state vehicle in emergency and non-emergency mode through hands-on practical exercises. Training was led by RFC Jim Atchley and received excellent evaluations by participants.

The second part of the In-Service consisted of a 24 hour block of Interviews and Interrogations. This course was taught by Cpl. Brian Hobbins and Cpl. Al Greer. The focus of this training was to prepare officers to elicit and document the truth from victims, witnesses, and suspects in compliance with the applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and rules. Training included such topics as the Baiting Technique and Behavioral Symptom Analysis (verbal and nonverbal characteristics).

Orientation for the 30th Ranger School was held on March 31, 2013 with 20 POST certified cadets in attendance. For the first time, new officers who were not POST certified were required to pass the 11 week POST Basic Mandate offered by GPSTC prior to attending. This allowed for the implementation of our 12 week advanced ranger training which focuses specifically on the tools and knowledge needed to perform various ranger duties. The goal is to introduce officers who are field ready when they reach their designated regions. This not only increases productivity, but reduces stress for the cadet and liability for the agency.

Six officers received ATV Instructor certification in the fall of 2012. In February 2013, those officers conducted the first Advanced ATV Training of DNR rangers. The course was then taught as part of the 30th Conservation Ranger School. The purpose of this course is to develop in the student a strong and secure foundation in the operation of an ATV for patrol purposes and to build confidence in their individual and unit operational capabilities. The goal is to reduce accidents, injuries, property and equipment damage, increase mission effectiveness, and create a professional standard of operation for law enforcement personnel.

March 2013, DNR hosted the NASBLA – Level I National Boating Accident Investigation and Analysis Course. In addition to the 31 DNR Law Enforcement officers, attendees included law enforcement representatives from Mississippi, Maine, Missouri, Tennessee, Ohio, Virginia, Washington, South Carolina, New York, Michigan, Ontario, and Guam.

DNR was also fortunate to take advantage of a Back Country Tactics training offered by FLETEC instructors. This course is designed to assist officers in interpreting tracks and signs at a crime scene, as well as aiding in search and rescue operations, locating missing persons, poaching, and fugitive apprehension. These are skills that can be utilized as a team or individually.

Aviation Unit



L-R, Cpt. Steven Turner, Cpt. Ed Watkins, Major Doc Watson, Mechanics Larry Rogers and John Peberdy

The Aviation Unit transferred from the Georgia Aviation Authority back to the DNR, Law Enforcement Division on July 1, 2012. The Unit consists of three pilots, two mechanics and three helicopters. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Georgia Forestry Commission operationally attached one helicopter and one pilot to the DNR Aviation Unit.

The Aviation Unit flew 992.6 hours during FY2013 in support of state agencies. 252 of these hours were in direct support of the DNR Law Enforcement Division. The year began flying 26.7 hours of wildfire suppression over northwest Georgia, dropping over 16,800 gallons of water. Captain Steven Turner and Crew Chief Larry Rogers conducted a long line rescue at Cochran Falls in Dawson County. Media coverage of this rescue led to a request for long line training with EMA personnel from Dawson, White and Rabun Counties.

During the fall and winter hunting season the Aviation Unit flew support for night deer flights, and county surveys looking for baited fields, duck ponds and a variety of other violations. Captain Ed Watkins flew coastal surveys and boat patrols, and assisted in detecting illegal trawling violations with Rangers from Region VII. Captain Steven Turner flew a night rescue lifting boaters off of Flat Shoals Creek with Crew Chief John Peberdy. This rescue identified the need for night vision goggle (NVG) compatible lighting, and led to a cockpit lighting/avionics upgrade for two of the Unit's aircraft.

The Aviation Unit flew 60 hour during 11 prescribed burns on State WMA's during the months of February through April. Captain Wade Law coordinated initial long line rescue training for the Training Academy recruits and orientation flights for the DNR, K9 handlers and their German Shepherds.

The entire Aviation Unit deployed to Savannah for a week in May to support the Coastal Resource Division's oyster bed restoration project. The Unit externally lifted 56,250 lbs. of oyster shells and delivered them to identified locations along the marsh near Mud Island.

The year culminated with the Aviation Unit teaming up with LE Rangers to fly night patrols over many of the state's lakes and waterways in search of boating violations. This concept was very successful and initiated the reinstatement of the Aerial Observer Program.

Critical Incident Reconstruction Team (CIRT)



Front L-R, Cpl. Phillip Scott, RFC Bart Hendrix, Sgt. David Ruddell, RFC Niki Spencer, Cpl. Steve Robinson, Cpl. Mitch Oliver

Back L-R, Sgt. Steve Seitz, Sgt. James McLaughlin, Cpl. Shawn Elmore, RFC Anne Alexander, Cpl. Wil Smith, RFC Russell Epps, RFC Jeff Billips

Georgia has 14 CIRT members assigned throughout the state. CIRT investigates all fatal and serious injury boating and hunting incidents. Each member receives specialized training on investigating and presenting these cases. Last year, CIRT investigated 9 boating and 15 hunting incidents.

K-9 Unit

The DNR LE K-9 Unit continues to provide excellent support to field operations and participated in bear season concentrated patrols in Region IV and VI. RFC Keith Page and completed K-9 Handler Training at GPSTC. This training is instructed by Chief Handler RFC Brooks Varnell and includes topics such as wildlife detection, tracking, apprehension, officer protection, obedience and agility. RFC Page and his partner Drake have been on patrol since early spring.



RFC Brooks Varnell, Cpl. Kevin Joyce and Major Stephen Adams at K-9 Training



RFC Keith Page and K9 Drake

Honor Guard



L-R: Cpl. Josh Chambers, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen, RFC David Brady, RFC Clint Jarriel, RFC Brooks Varnell, Cpl. Micheal Crawley, Cpl. Derek Dillard, Cpl. Robbie Griner, Cpl. Ben Payne, Cpl. Bob Holley, Cpl. Scott Carroll
Not pictured: RFC Cody Jones, Cpl. Travis Sweat, Cpl. Chase Altman.

Honor Guard Details:

Sept. 22-23, 2013: Conducted a casket guard detail at visitation and funeral detail at the funeral for retired Col. V.J. Garrison in Calhoun Georgia.

Oct. 5, 2012: Conducted a funeral detail for Georgia State Patrol Radio Operator Amy Harris in Cumming Georgia.

October 29, 2012: Conducted a funeral detail for retired Ranger Johnny Hunt in Clayton Georgia.

January 3, 2013: Conducted a funeral detail for retired Corporal Charles Copeland in Greensboro Georgia.

June 21, 2013: Presented Colors for the Graduation Ceremony at the GPSTC for the 30th Conservation Ranger Class Graduation.

Chaplains



L-R, Rev. John Haney, Rev. Duncan "Duke" Forster, Dr. Laudis "Rick" Lanford, Rev. Gregory Loskoski
Rev. Charles Houston, Jr., Rev. Darryl Dale, Rev. Mark Crandlemire, Rev. Danny Cochran

The DNR Law Enforcement Division Chaplain Corp remained at 10 members this year. One Chaplain resigned and one Chaplain joined the group. The 10 Chaplains currently serve four of the state's seven Regions. Efforts are underway to recruit Chaplains to serve the other three Regions. The Chaplain Corp received an eight hour block of instruction at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. The training consisted of an overview of the Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Division and a demonstration of the battery of devices utilized in drowning recovery efforts.

Promotions:

Cpl. Mark Patterson, Thomson
 Cpl. Kevin Joyce, Metter
 Cpl. Josh Coplan, Macon
 Cpl. Josh Chambers, Metter
 Cpl. Chase Altman, Metter
 Cpl. Craig Smith, Brunswick
 Cpl. Travis Sweat, Macon
 Cpl. Josh Swain, Macon
 Sgt. Ricky Dempsey, Calhoun
 Sgt. Jon Barnard, Metter
 Sgt. Wanda Roberts, Macon
 Sgt. Al Greer, Albany
 Sgt. James McLaughlin, Metter

Retirements:

Sgt. Keith Byers, Metter
 Cpl. Bill Goodson, Macon
 Cpl. Gary Simmons, Metter
 Sgt. Ezra Wyche, Macon
 Cpl. Billy Reed, Brunswick
 Cpl. John Harkins, Macon
 Sgt. Danny Bishop, Albany
 Cpl. David Sims, Metter
 Sgt. Wade Fulford, Metter
 Cpl. Chip Cox, Calhoun
 Sgt. James Shelton, Brunswick

Activity Summary	FY2013
Hunter Ed Programs	623
I&E Programs	1121
Boating Safety Programs	458
Hunter Development	320
Total Programs	2522
Water SAR Cases	331
Water SAR Hours	2018.75
Vessels Assisted	207
Water Persons Asst.	652
Land SAR Cases	153
Land SAR Hours	984
Land Persons Asst.	180.5
Hunting Incidents	53
Boating Incidents	129
Agency Assist Hours	5464
Hunting License Checks	23,088
Fishing License Checks	31,078
Comm. License Checks	615
Total License Checks	54,781
Boat Checks	31,835
Boating Contacts	4168
Hunting Contacts	6826
Fishing Contacts	2573
Trapping Contacts	13
Environmental Contacts	495
Other Contacts	1344
Total Contacts	15419