


OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TROOP L - DAVIE

September 02, 2002

TO: Sergeant Scott E. Hull
Sergeant Robert Hunkiar
Sergeant Andy Foote
Corporal Nelson Martis
Trooper Felipe Corrales
Trooper David Nelson
Trooper Elias Sanchez

FROM: Lieutenant John J. Bagnardi 

SUBJECT: Commendation

I would like to take this opportunity to commend you for your actions associated with the traffic homicide investigation on the Miccosukee Indian Reservation on August 31, 2002.

On Saturday, August 31, 2002 after Miccosukee Police divers discovered a body in a vehicle that crashed into the L-28 canal. Although the crash occurred on the Reservation the Florida Highway Patrol was requested to investigate the crash. The investigation became a double homicide when the vehicle was pulled out of the water and second body was found.

Following notification to the family in Ft. Meyers, we were informed that a 9 year old boy may have been in the vehicle. At 9:30 P.M., FHP, GFC, and the Miccosukee Police responded back to the scene; an alligator and snake infested canal. Without hesitation everyone responded with the appropriate equipment and began a tedious search. After five hours of intensive searching a body part was found, it was later identified as part of the child's arm. The search was then suspended until the next morning.

On Sunday, September 01, 2002, at 9:30 A.M., FHP, GFC and the Miccosukee Police divers resumed the search for the missing child. We knew that after the earlier recovery and the harsh swamp conditions, that whatever remains found would be gruesome.

At 1:30 P.M., Sergeant Foote spotted what appeared to be a child's body one mile west of the crash site. The divers responded and made the unpleasant recovery of the child's remains.

Throughout this investigation, under the watchful eye of countless media and with the admiration of the other two law enforcement agencies, each of you demonstrated the traditions and highest standards of the Florida Highway Patrol.

With this in mind, I commend each of you for your sensitivity, empathy and utmost professionalism as this gruesome investigation was undertaken. Your efforts are truly appreciated by your peers, your supervisors and the community.