

# FHP Troops



## **Troop Commanders - 1987**

Seated: Major Walter E. Sundberg, Jr., Troop D;  
Major Thomas A. Sigman, Troop G;  
Major Winthrop A. Vincent, Troop K;  
and Major Alvin Edlin, Jr., Troop B;  
Standing; Major Williams R. Driggers, Troop L;  
Major Paul B. Taylor, Troop F;  
Major Jimmy C. Wright, Troop A;  
Major Paul E. Gracey, Troop E;  
Major Lester W. Smith, Troop C;  
Major Robert L. Bull, Troop H.



## **Troop Commanders - 1999**

Seated: Major Jimmy Wright, Troop A;

Major Billy Lee, Troop B;

Major Ernie Leggett, Troop C;

Major Rick Gregory, Troop D;

and Major Rebecca Tharpe, Troop E.

Standing: Major Ron Getman, Troop F;

Major Grady Carrick, Troop G;

Colonel Charles Hall;

Major David Kelly, Troop H;

Major Silvester Dawson, Troop K;

And Major Rick Carpenter, Troop L.

# TROOP A

**COMMANDERS:** Captain Tobe A. Bass, Captain Ralph L. Robinson, Captain Johnnie W. Jourdan, Captain Kenneth D. Sconiers, Captain Joe. R. Henderson, Jr., Major Jimmy C. Wright, Major Randall M. Brown, Major Eddie L. Johnson, Jr., Major Warren Fast

At the time the Florida Highway Patrol was formed, the area comprising Troop A was part of the Northern Division, which consisted of 33 counties. On October 7, 1947, the Executive Board voted to separate the Northern Division and made a portion of it the Western Division which covered 15 northwest counties.

On December 23, 1952, that area was divided into troops. Troop A then and now still consists of the following 10 northwest Florida Counties with Troop Headquarters in Panama City: Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton and Washington.

Troop A employees have occupied three new stations in recent years; the Panama City Station in 1976, the Crestview Station in early 1980, dedicated to the late Lieutenant Joe Livingston, and the Pensacola Station in late 1980, dedicated to Inspector B. H. Spears.

Currently (May, 2016), Troop A is separated into two districts, Panama City and Pensacola. The Panama City District covers six counties on the eastern portion of the troop and the Pensacola District covers the four most western counties of the troop.

# TROOP B

**COMMANDERS:** Captain Olin Hill, Captain C. E. Taylor, Captain J. W. Hagans, Captain Kenneth D. Sconiers, Captain J. Eldridge Beach, Captain Bill J. Barnett, Captain G. E. Jordan, Captain B. H. Spears, Captain Thomas C. Hodges, Captain James E. Love, Captain Thomas Sigman, Major Alvin P. Edlin, Jr., Major Joseph H. Chancy, Major Billy R. Lee, Major Richard D. Carpenter, Major Gene S. Spaulding, Major Eileen Powell

In the early '40's, Troop B was known as the Northern Division of the Florida Highway Patrol and was comprised of 17 counties. In July, 1957, Troop B was reduced to 11 counties and Troop G was formed with six counties.

Currently (May, 2016), Troop B is divided into three districts and one sub-district. The Lake City District covers Columbia, Suwannee and Hamilton County. The Gainesville District covers Alachua County and the Cross City sub-district (Levy, Gilchrist, Dixie and Lafayette Counties). The Ocala District serves Marion County. Troop B is comprised of nine counties that are geographically located in North Florida. Alachua, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Marion and Suwannee Counties make up Troop B.

# TROOP C

**COMMANDERS:** Captain Mack Britt, Captain I. O. Hill, Captain Spurgeon L. Clements, Jr., Captain Bill R. McIntyre, Captain John M. Russi, Major Lester W. Smith, Major Morris E. Leggett, Major Thomas M. Knight, Major Ryan Burchenll, Major Paulette Jones-Morris, Major Michael Thomas, Major John L. Gourley

In 1939 Troop C was part of the Central Division of the Florida Highway Patrol. Headquarters was located in the State Road Department Building in Bartow. In 1951 headquarters was relocated at Lodwick Airport in Lakeland.

Captain H. C. "Red" Martin was commander of the Central Division. There were 42 Patrolmen and officers and 21 civilian employees to handle the duties of a 14-county area. Patrol stations at that time were in Deland, Melbourne, Orlando and Tampa.

The Central Division was reorganized into two new troops, one of which was Troop C which comprised Citrus, Hernando, Highlands, Hardee, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas Park and Sumter Counties. Highlands and Hardee Counties were later cut from Troop C and placed in newly formed Troop F.

Troop C was given the assignment of the bodyguard detail of President John F. Kennedy in Tampa just shortly before his assassination in Texas. The same group of men were also assigned to the detail for President L. B. Johnson when he came to Florida to begin construction of the Cross-Florida Barge Canal.

Currently (May, 2016), Troop C includes seven counties geographically located in Central Florida from Sumter County down the I-75 corridor to Pinellas County, including the Tampa Bay Area. The troop headquarters is located in Tampa and four district offices are located in Tampa, Brooksville, Lakeland and Pinellas Park.

# TROOP D

Troop D Commanders: Lt. Clyde Carlan, Captain H. A. Weaver, Captain Jack W. King, Major W. E. Sundberg, Jr., Major James M. Lee, Major Rick S. Gregory, Major Cyrus R. Brown, Major Cynthia Williams, Major Joseph M. Franza

Since Troop D was first formed in 1950 under the supervision of Captain Clyde Carlan, it has experienced phenomenal growth in what has become one of the fastest growing areas of the state. This area was formerly designated as the Fourth District of the Central Division.

Currently (May, 2016), Troop D encompasses Orange, Osceola, Lake, Seminole, Volusia, Brevard and Flagler Counties with headquarters in Orlando.

# Troop E

Commanders: Captain Tobe Bass, Captain J. W. Hagans, Captain H. Lee Simmons, Captain J. W. Jourdan, Captain E. D. Duggar, Captain W. A. Stevens, Captain J. E. Hicks, R. B. Garris, Captain J. W. Carmody, Major Paul E. Gracey, Major Grady Carrick, Major Rebecca P. Tharpe, Major David L. McCarter, Jr., Major James G. Brierton, Major Sammie Thomas, Major Christopher P. Dellapietra

Troop E began as headquarters of the Southern Division which encompassed the Southern third of the state. Originally, Southern Division Headquarters was located in a wood-frame building on the present site of the Broward County Courthouse in Ft. Lauderdale. In early 1947, Headquarters was relocated in Miami.

Troop E today (2016) consists of two counties, Dade and Monroe.

# Troop F

Troop F Commanders: Captain M. G. Britt, Captain J. W. Jourdan, Captain F. M. Thomas, Captain J. T. Prater, Captain Jake Raulerson, Captain A. E. Hambacher, Captain L. D. Brady, Captain Gregory G. Dodson, Major Paul B. Taylor, Major Ronald D. Getman, Major Rebecca P. Tharpe, Major David McCarter, Major Brent Coates, Major Carlos Vazquez, Major John F. Baumann

On January 1, 1955, eight counties consisting of Manatee, Sarasota, DeSota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Glades and Hendry were designated as Troop F with Troop Headquarters in Bradenton. Hardee and Highlands Counties were added to the troop in 1962

Currently (May, 2016), Troop F consists of Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

# Troop G

Troop G Commanders: Captain C. W. Hancock, Lt. K. D. Sconiers (Acting Cmndr.) Captain J. T. Prater, Captain Jimmy Hill (1968-), Captain Thomas C. Hodges, Captain Alvin P. Edlin, Jr., Major Thomas A. Sigman, Major Grady T. Carrick, Major Anthony Allen, Major Gene Spaulding, Major Steven T. Harris

The original formation of Troop G in 1957, included Nassau, Duval, Clay, Bradford, St. Johns, Putnam and Marion Counties. Thirty-four sworn personnel under the command of a lieutenant constituted the original staff. In 1961, Bradford County was placed under the command of Troop B in Lake City, leaving six counties to make up Troop G.

Troop G is divided into 3 districts - Jacksonville, Palatka and Ocala, each commanded by a Lieutenant. A new Troop Headquarters in Palatka was constructed in 1978 and was dedicated in October of 1979, to the first Troop Commander, Captain C. W. Hancock.

Currently (May, 2016), Troop G comprises Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns and Union Counties.

# Troop H

Troop H Commanders: Captain A. D. Cosson, Captain Joe P. Cook, Captain Charles W. Saunders, Captain James M. Roddenberry, Captain James S. McKinnon, Major Robert L. Bull, Major Christopher A. Knight, Major David Kelly, Major Mark R. Trammell, Major Timothy Ashley, Major Mark Welch

In March 1957, what had been known as Headquarters Section was officially designated Troop H. Headquarters is located in Tallahassee for an area known as the "Big Bend." Troop H is comprised of Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla Counties.



**Troop H Commanders**

# Troop I

Troop I (Weights Troop Commander): Captain V. Sheffield

Troop I (Commercial Vehicle Enforcement) Troop Commanders: Major Dan Starling, Major Richard Mechlin, Major Jeffrey S. Dixon

Troop I, the Weights Troop, had its beginning when a group of men were employed by the State Road Department as weight inspectors. In 1934 they were also assigned traffic duties.

In 1937 traffic enforcement was abolished, however, a group of these men continued to function as weight inspectors. In 1946 this operation was placed under the Florida Highway Patrol.

In the Legislative Session of 1980, the Legislature mandated that the Florida Highway Patrol be removed from truck weighing responsibilities.

January 1, 1981, Troop I was phased out.

July 1, 2011, the Office of Motor Carrier Compliance officially transitioned from the Florida Department of Transportation to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' Division of the Florida Highway Patrol. Motor Carrier Compliance officers perform safety inspections on commercial motor vehicles and perform traffic enforcement in an effort to reduce the number of commercial vehicle-related crashes.

The consolidation is a result of Senate Bill 2160, passed by lawmakers during the 2011 Legislative Session, and places the commercial vehicle licensing, registrations, fuel permits, and enforcement all under the purview of DHSMV.

Troop I was reformed: The Troop I Commander oversees commercial vehicle enforcement operations for Florida's northern region encompassing Troops A, B, C, G and H. Troop I Headquarters is in Tallahassee with district and sub-district offices located in Jacksonville, Lake City, Milton, Midway, Ocala, Panama City and Tampa.

# Troop J

Troop J Commanders: Major Terry Gartner, Major Robert J. Chandler, Major Derek D. Barrs

July 1, 2011, the Office of Motor Carrier Compliance officially transitioned from the Florida Department of Transportation to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' Division of the Florida Highway Patrol. Motor Carrier Compliance officers perform safety inspections on commercial motor vehicles and perform traffic enforcement in an effort to reduce the number of commercial vehicle-related crashes.

The consolidation is a result of Senate Bill 2160, passed by lawmakers during the 2011 Legislative Session, and places the commercial vehicle licensing, registrations, fuel permits, and enforcement all under the purview of DHSMV.

Troop J was formed: The Troop J commander oversees commercial vehicle enforcement operations for Florida's Southern Region encompassing Troops D, E, F, K and L. Troop J Headquarters is in Lake Worth, composing of five districts: Miami, West Palm Beach, Fort Myers, Deland and Orlando.

# Troop K

Troop K Commanders: Captain C. E. Taylor, Captain W. R. Kaufman, Captain Ralph L. Hays (1972-), Captain James S. McKinnon, Major Winthrop A. Vincent, Major Harvey C. Shoaff, Major James Howell, Major Silvester Dawson, Major James M. Lee, Major Joseph Saucedo, Major Jose L. Lopez

Troop K became the tenth troop of the Florida Highway Patrol in 1956. The Legislature provided for the troop when it created the Turnpike system. It stipulated that the Florida Highway Patrol would provide law enforcement.

The first troopers assigned to the Turnpike patrolled completed sections while it was still under construction to protect equipment and prevent unauthorized use until the system opened.

# Troop L

Troop L Commanders: Captain J. W. Hagans, Captain W. B. Oliver (1973-), Captain B. R. Burkett, Captain B. J. Barnett, Major Edgar R. Peterson, Major William R. Driggers, Major Richard D. Carpenter, Major Sylvester Dawson, Major Miguel A. Guzman, Major Luis Ramil, Major Robert J. Chandler

In 1960, Troop L was formed and headquartered in Palm Beach County.

The troop is divided into three districts. The Lantana district is headquarters for the eastern half of Palm Beach County. The Pahokee station is sub-district headquarters for the western half. The Ft. Pierce station serves as district headquarters for St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Martin and Indian River Counties.

Troop headquarters moved to Lantana and the building was dedicated in March 1978 to Trooper Herman L. Morris who gave his life in the line of duty on March 6, 1972. The Ft. Pierce headquarters was dedicated in January 1977. The Pahokee sub-district was named for former FHP Director, Reid Clifton.

Currently (May, 2016), Troop L consists of Broward, Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie Counties.

# Troop M

Troop M (1967-1981) Commanders: Captain C. C. Reynolds, Captain Jake Raulerson, Captain Joe Henderson, Captain A. P. Floyd

In 1967, Troop M was formed as the Motor Vehicle Inspection of General Headquarters. The first motor vehicle inspected was Colonel H. N. Kirkman's FHP 1 in Tallahassee on June 1, 1968.

Troop M regulated and supervised the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program, with over 5,000 inspectors and over 1,400 inspection stations inspecting over 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  million vehicles per year. All private school busses and drivers were regulated by Troop M, as well as Motor Vehicle Equipment Approval.