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## **FHP Names New Deputy Directors and Tallahassee Major**

**Tallahassee**-The Florida Highway Patrol is pleased to announce the recent promotions of three long-time FHP members. Lt. Colonel Silvester Dawson will serve as Deputy Director for Special Operations Command, which oversees the offices of Personnel, Budget, Recruitment & Selection, Program Planning, Fleet & Property, the Bureau of Investigations and the FHP Academy. Lt. Colonel Dawson began his 25 year career with the Florida Highway Patrol in March 1983, attending the 68<sup>th</sup> Recruit Class. His extensive resume includes being a trooper, and a Traffic Homicide Investigator. In 1989, he was promoted to Sergeant and supervised his hometown area of Wakulla and Franklin Counties. He was a Lieutenant in Miami and later an instructor at the FHP Academy. He served as a Captain of the Gainesville District from 1993 to 1998 before becoming the first African-American to be promoted to Troop Commander (Major). He was director of the FHP Training Academy from 2001 to 2006, prior to his assignment to Bureau Chief of the FHP Bureau of Investigations. He attended the 194<sup>th</sup> Session of the F.B.I. National Academy, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Warner Southern College.

Lt. Colonel Ernie Duarte will serve as Deputy Director of Law Enforcement Support Services. Lt. Colonel Duarte becomes the first Hispanic to hold the rank of Lt. Colonel. He will oversee the Office of Public Affairs, the Regional Communications Centers, the FHP Auxiliary and Reserves, Aircraft Operations, Traffic Homicide, and Contraband Interdiction. He began his career with the Florida Highway Patrol in January 1989, attending the 82<sup>nd</sup> Recruit Class. He served the Patrol as a trooper in Troop E – Miami and was promoted to sergeant and then lieutenant while serving as the troop's Public Information Officer. He was promoted to captain and then again to Major as FHP's Chief of Public Affairs. In October 2007, he was promoted to Director of Communications for the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. In this capacity, he directed the agency's internal and external communications. Lt. Colonel Duarte holds a Bachelor of Public Administration degree from Barry University.

Captain Timothy J. Ashley is being promoted to the rank of Major and is now the new Troop H (Tallahassee) Commander. Major Ashley has been a member of the Florida Highway Patrol since 1986 starting his career in Orlando after graduating from the 76<sup>th</sup> Recruit Class. He transferred to Ft. Lauderdale in 1989 and promoted to Sergeant in 1990, transferring to Miami. While assigned to Miami, Major Ashley promoted to Lieutenant and then Captain. He has been in his current assignment as District Commander (Captain) in Tallahassee since March 2003. Major Ashley is a 2008 graduate of the Senior Leadership Program.

The Department is extremely proud of these three long standing troopers who exemplify what the Florida Highway Patrol stands for: Courtesy, Service, and Protection.