



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL PROMOTES LOCAL TROOP COMMANDER TO LEAD SOUTH FLORIDA OPERATIONS

*~ FHP reorganizes to put more troopers on highways ~*

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** - Florida Highway Patrol Director, Col. John Czernis, promoted Maj. Miguel Guzman to Chief at a ceremony today at FHP's headquarters in Tallahassee. Chief Guzman will be the Southern Region Commander, overseeing the Florida Highway Patrol's south Florida troops (E, L and F), which covers Florida from Bradenton to Vero Beach and southward to the Keys. For the past seven years, Guzman has been the commander of Troop L in Lantana, Fla., which covers Broward, Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties.

The promotion is part of a recent Florida Highway Patrol reorganization, which emphasizes accountability, responsibility and the unity of command. The Patrol's new structure maximizes resources and gives troopers the ability to perform their duties more effectively and efficiently. The *Florida Highway Patrol 2009 Reorganization* is available online at [www.flhsmv.gov/fhp](http://www.flhsmv.gov/fhp).

"We are reassigning staff so that we have fewer administrators at headquarters and more troopers on the road. We have been able to accomplish this while also recognizing a cost savings," said Czernis. "Chief Guzman has a tremendous responsibility as the Southern Region Commander, and I have full confidence in his leadership abilities to lead the Patrol's operations in south Florida."

Guzman began his career with the Florida Highway Patrol in Belle Glade, Fla., after graduating from FHP's 75<sup>th</sup> Recruit Class in 1986. After promoting up through the ranks to major, he became the Commander of Troop-L in December 2001. Guzman will remain in Lantana.

Guzman is also a graduate of the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development Program.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is charged with the mission of *providing highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement*. The Department is leading the way to a *Safer Florida* by way of three major components: driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit [www.flhsmv.gov](http://www.flhsmv.gov).

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