



True Blue Report

Quarterly Newsletter of the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit

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Louisiana State Police
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UPCOMING SIU MEETINGS

May 2, 2007 9:30am
Baton Rouge LSP HQ

June 6, 2007 10:00am
Bossier PD Training Academy

July 11, 2007 9:30am
Baton Rouge LSP HQ



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Vessels, VINs & HINs...

In 2005 hurricanes Katrina and Rita left numerous abandoned and flooded vehicles, vessels and trailers. After the hurricanes, those vehicles, vessels and trailers were towed and stored at locations in New Orleans, Louisiana. The vehicles were catalogued into a database to keep track of the abandoned vehicles. In March of this year it was brought to the attention of Louisiana State Police that the database did not contain the Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN) or the VINs were incorrect. The vessel and trailer databases did not contain any HIN or VIN information.

A joint effort with Louisiana State Police (LSP), National



Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) and Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Division of Law Enforcement (LDWLF) completed the task of inspecting unidentified boats and trailers and collecting the Hull Identification Numbers (HIN) and Vehicle Identification Numbers

(VIN). By the end of the inspections it was found that 631 vessels were inspected and 345 HINs were collected. More HINs may be obtained after cross referencing the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries tag numbers obtained during the inspections with the LDWLF database.



Pictures provided by NICB...more pictures on pages 2 & 4.





Louisiana State Police
Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit



2006 Annual Report

The Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit's 2006 Annual Report is ready and available for viewing at the LSP/IFU website ...

www.lsp.org/ifu.html

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Alexandria - 3654 Government St., Alexandria LA 71302, (318) 484-2423

Texas Man Arrested...

After a two month investigation the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit arrested a Texas man for Insurance Fraud, Theft and Forgery. The Texan filed a fraudulent claim for additional living expenses through his insurance company, claiming he and his family were forced to evacuate from their home in Lake Charles, La in preparation for Hurricane Rita

in 2005. A LSP/IFU investigation revealed that the man lived in Texas since 2001, well before Hurricane Rita. It is also believed that he presented a false document with a forged signature to his insurance company, which itemized money he spent for rent and food as a result of his family's forced evacuation. Infor-

mation retrieved by State Police revealed that the address he said he evacuated to was that of his home in Houston, TX.



Baton Rouge - 7919 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge LA 70806, (225) 925-3818

Insurance Agent Arrested

A three year investigation came to an end on January 31st when Louisiana State Police/ Insurance Fraud Unit arrested an agent for a local insurance company. The investigation revealed a Hammond man sold insurance policies without adequate funds on twenty-six (26) separate policies totaling

\$21,678.47. He sold these policies from his offices located in East Baton Rouge Parish. After agent credit adjustments, the withstanding balance totals \$8,526.36. He also intentionally deceived the insurance company by misrepresenting the insured's zip code which resulted in

benefits for the agent totaling \$2,109.00.



Lafayette - 113 Borman Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508, (337) 262-2051

Drowned BMW

The Lafayette Field Office received information from Louisiana State Police Troop I about a possible staged crash on La 106 in Evangeline Parish. Troop I responded to a 911 call about a vehicle in a canal and,

upon arriving at the scene, the investigating Trooper noticed only the driver's shoes and lower pant legs were wet in spite of the fact that his vehicle was completely submerged. In addition, the driver stated he was able to remove all of his personal belongings from the vehicle prior to it sinking.

After further investigation by the Insurance Fraud Unit, Troopers learned the driver/ owner of the vehicle paid an accomplice \$200 to drive the vehicle in the canal. In a taped confession, the driver stated he was tired of making payments on the vehicle, a 2002 BMW worth almost \$24,000. Both the driver and his accomplice were arrested and booked into the Evangeline Parish Jail.



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Monroe - 3030 Aurora Ave., Suite 107, Monroe LA 71201, (318) 362-4588

Party Leads to Arrest

Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit received a complaint from a local insurance company about a suspicious auto theft. A police officer filed an auto theft report with the same police department he worked for alleging his 1997 GMC Yukon had been stolen. A Louisiana State

Police Insurance Fraud Unit investigation revealed that the police officer wrecked his vehicle after leaving a party and then made a fraudulent claim.



New Orleans - 2400 Veteran's Memorial Blvd., Suite 200, Kenner LA 70062, (504) 471-2716

Dog Days...

After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, a Metairie woman filed a claim with her insurance company under the additional living expenses portion of her home owner's policy. She presented a bill from a pet boarding establishment for \$5,466.00 for boarding her three dogs. Her

insurance does entitle her to reimbursement of such a bill under her policy, but only for a temporary arrangement not long term. A Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit investigation revealed that the bill was fraudulent. The address listed on the document was the residence of the women's sister, who stated

she does not operate a pet boarding business and has never received any monies regarding pet boarding as the document claims. The Metairie woman was arrested on February 8, 2007, and was boarded at the Jefferson Parish Jail.



Shreveport - 3010 Knight St., Suite 220, Shreveport LA 71105, (318) 862-9913

Busted....

In January 2007, Troopers arrested a Shreveport couple for insurance fraud after learning they submitted a fraudulent insurance claim in the waning days of 2006. An investigation determined the couple's auto insurance coverage lapsed on Friday, December 8th for non-payment. The following Monday morning, the wife, a Shreveport Regional Airport Police Officer, was involved in a minor traffic crash.

Within an hour of the crash, the wife renewed her insurance coverage by phone. Since the crash occurred before the insurance renewal, she altered her copy of the police report

to show the crash occurred two hours later. With the Claims Adjuster wise to the scam, the wife had her husband, a Shreveport Police Corporal, persuade the investigating patrol officer to change the original crash report to show the same times reported to the insurance company. Not fully understanding the nature of the request, the investigating officer complied with his fellow officer's plea.

Only after learning why he was asked to alter the times on the police report did the young, naïve, investigating officer realize he'd been duped by his

brother in blue. When confronted by investigators, the officer admitted to altering the original report at the insistence of his fellow officer and the officer's wife.

Because of his unwavering cooperation during the investigation, the Caddo District Attorney's office opted not to charge the young police officer. However, the Shreveport Police Corporal and his spouse, the Shreveport Regional Airport Police Officer, were both charged with insurance fraud and injuring public records.



Trooper
Spotlight:

TPR. Gerry Coleman

Trooper First Class Gerry Coleman is a member of the Baton Rouge field office. He has been with the Louisiana State Police since 2000 and was previously assigned to Troop G and Internal Affairs. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Southern University and, upon his graduation, TFC Coleman was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. Upon his honorable discharge in 1989, he returned to school and obtained a law degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. TFC Coleman is active in the Louisiana State Troopers Association and enjoys fishing.

Welcome to IFU:

Ron Huey

Investigator
Monroe



Continued from page 1...



We're on the Web!

www.lsp.org/ifu.html

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Social Security Admin/Cooperative Disability Investigations

4354 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd. D-125, Baton Rouge LA 70816,(225) 298-5566

The SSA/CDI Unit received 23 new allegations and opened 21 cases. The unit closed 12 cases. One defendant was found guilty of lying about his work activity on several forms resulting in a \$4,077 overpayment. He was ordered to pay \$30,000 as a civil monetary penalty and an assessment in lieu of damages of \$8,154 for a total of \$38,154.

SSA/CDI	
SSA Savings	\$721,180
Non SSA Savings	\$414,843
Total Savings	\$1,136,023
Fraud Losses	\$204,236

Troopers Awarded...



At an IFU / ATU unit meeting in March two outstanding IFU troopers were awarded for their efforts in 2006. TPR. Belinda Murphy from the Alexandria Field Office and TPR. Todd Marchand from the New Orleans Field Office both received plaques as appreciation for their outstanding work in 2006.

Despite having a baby and being on maternity leave, Belinda Murphy opened 14 cases, closed 13 cases and made 11 arrests including the one she made the day she returned from maternity leave. Todd Marchand opened 17 cases, closed 16 cases and made 12 arrests.

both Todd and Belinda!!



Congratulations to TPR. Todd Marchand, Lt. Allen Carpenter, TPR. Belinda Murphy

Statistically Speaking - Quarterly IFU Statistics

	Ist Qtr 2006	Ist Qtr 2007	YTD 2007
Cases Opened	44	53	53
Cases Closed	42	43	43
Arrests	26	37	37