



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
FEBRUARY 17, 2010

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FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL PROMOTES CAPTAIN TO LEAD LOCAL TROOP

~ Jones-Morris takes command of FHP's Troop C ~

TAMPA, Fla. – Florida Highway Patrol Director, Col. John Czernis, announced today that Capt. Paulette Jones-Morris will take the reins as the new troop commander of Troop C. As she assumes her new position within the Patrol, Jones-Morris will trade in her captain's bars for the gold oak leaf cluster worn by majors, and she will oversee the troop that covers the Tampa Bay area.

“During her 25-year career with the Patrol, Major Jones-Morris has demonstrated the skills and abilities necessary to be an effective leader. She is ready for the next step in her career, which requires a great amount of self-initiative and responsibility,” said Czernis. “I have full confidence in her abilities to lead the troop that enforces the laws related to highway safety and security in the Tampa Bay area. Major Jones-Morris is charged with leading her troop with an eye toward meeting our agency vision of a Safer Florida.”

Jones-Morris is currently assigned to Troop K in Orlando, where she has been district commander since 2001. As district commander, she oversees field operations for the Turnpike in eight central Florida counties. Jones-Morris began her career with the Florida Highway Patrol in Orlando after graduating from the 72nd recruit class in 1985. Since then, she has moved up through the ranks, spending most of her career in Orlando.

Jones-Morris holds an associate's degree in general education from Gulf Coast Community College, a bachelor's degree in legal studies from the University of Central Florida and a master's degree in criminal justice from Florida International University. She is a graduate of the Florida Criminal Justice Senior Leadership Program and of FHP's Executive Leadership training. She is the first African-American female to achieve the rank of major in the history of the Florida Highway Patrol.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov.

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