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Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority Announces Statewide Award Winners during Annual Summit

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Law enforcement and insurance industry representatives from across the state are gathered here this week to strengthen their efforts to protect Texans from auto theft and burglary.

Texas police chiefs, officers and troopers are working on improving interagency communications at the Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA)'s annual summit, which runs through Thursday at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel – Marina Tower. The summit is being hosted locally by the Corpus Christi Auto Theft Task Force.

The more than 200 participants will receive training on innovative auto theft investigation techniques, law enforcement databases and reporting, and other helpful education to further auto burglary and theft prevention.

During today's Opening Ceremonies, the following statewide awards will be presented to honor individuals and a task force who made exceptional contributions to reducing auto theft and burglary in Texas in the past year:

2012 Task Force Award Winner

City of Victoria Law Enforcement Detection Apprehension, Victoria, Texas

Awarded to an ABTPA grant based on an evaluation of their goals and accomplishments

2012 Steven Davenport Award Winner

Detective Joel Harter, Tarrant Regional Auto Crimes Task Force, Fort Worth, Texas

Awarded to an ABTPA grant law enforcement officer who has demonstrated outstanding service and dedication in fulfilling ABTPA's Mission and Vision.

2012 Star Award Winner

Volunteer Prevention Specialist Doug Ray, Tarrant Regional Auto Crimes Task Force, Fort Worth, Texas

Awarded to an ABTPA grant civilian who has demonstrated outstanding service and dedication in fulfilling ABTPA's Mission and Vision.

2012 Grantee Public Awareness Award Winner

Ms. Patricia Allen, City of Dallas Commercial Auto Theft Interdiction Squad, Dallas, Texas

Awarded to a member of an ABTPA grant who significantly surpassed their stated public awareness goals during 2011 or created an innovative and successful initiative to raise awareness about vehicle crimes, prevention of those crimes, and the ABTPA.

The Corpus Christi task force is one of 28 law enforcement agencies and auto theft deterrent programs that receive grant funds from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicle's burglary and theft prevention authority. Since the authority began in 1991, it has awarded 598 grants totaling more than \$254 million to combat auto burglary and theft.

For more information on the authority and to find auto burglary and theft prevention tips, go to www.txwatchyourcar.com or www.TxDMV.gov. The authority can also be contacted at (512) 374-5101.

About the Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority

The Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA) supports a statewide network through grants, theft reduction initiatives and public awareness/education. Since its inception in 1991, ABTPA has funded and managed 570 grants – reducing motor vehicle theft by 70 percent. For more information on ABTPA and for prevention tips, go to www.txwatchyourcar.com or call (512) 374-5101.

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) is charged with overseeing the state's motor vehicle services that provide consumer protection, assist motor vehicle-related businesses and raise revenue for the state. For every \$1 it spends, the TxDMV returns \$10 to build and maintain highways, roads and bridges and provide needed services to Texans. Each year the agency registers almost 22 million vehicles; regulates vehicle dealers; credentials buses and big trucks for intrastate and interstate commerce; and awards grants to law enforcement agencies to reduce vehicle burglaries and thefts. Learn more at www.TxDMV.gov.

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