

Tomberlin Receives Highest Certification



Larry Tomberlin, Southwest Division deputy chief of police, right, receives his Executive Level Law Enforcement Certification from Faron Segotta, deputy cabinet secretary Department of Public Safety and New Mexico State Police chief.

Larry Tomberlin, deputy chief of police, was awarded the Executive Level Law Enforcement Certification Dec. 9 by the State of New Mexico Department of Public Safety.

He began his law enforcement career in 1975 as a New Mexico State Police officer, after his honorable discharge from the United States Navy, where he served four years stationed in Norfolk, Va. He spent four years as a patrolman in Gallup before transferring to the Narcotics Bureau in 1979.

He joined the railroad Nov. 10, 1981, as a Gallup special agent. After about eight years, Tomberlin transferred to Belen. He promoted to senior special agent I Jan. 3, 1994, senior special agent II May 1, 1995,

and manager Jan. 16, 2002. In 2007, the manager title was changed.

The Executive Level Certification is the highest of seven certification levels for police officers in New Mexico. To obtain it, an officer must have received the previous six levels of certification, as well as provide documentation citing at least 700 cumulative training hours accredited by the DPS, and 200 hours of accredited management training. In addition, the officer must hold the rank of deputy chief or higher for at least one year.

Tomberlin submitted more than 1,400 hours of accredited training.

He and his wife, Ellen, reside in Peralta, N.M., and have three children and two grandchildren.

In Memory



Southwest Division employees mourn the loss of Michael Wilcox, 43, who was fatally injured Feb. 7 in Holbrook, Ariz.

A respected conductor with more than 10 years of service, Wilcox will be missed greatly. He also helped co-workers as a member of the Operation Stop Flagstaff/Winslow Committee.

He is survived by his wife and three children.

Additional briefing materials on this incident will be distributed.

The Southwest Division mourns the loss of David Benally, who was fatally injured Jan. 23 near Winslow.

Benally, 52, Maintenance of Way truck driver, spent more than 15 years with the railroad.

He is survived by his wife, June, three daughters and one grandson, as well as many extended family, friends and co-workers.

“David was well-respected and well-regarded within the Southwest Division,” said John Palacios, division engineer. “He will be sorely missed.”



The friends and family of Lenny Noice mourn his loss after he was fatally injured Jan. 16 near Fort Sumner.

Noice, Clovis locomotive engineer, served more than 35 years as a railroader. He joined the railroad in 1973 as a laborer and promoted to locomotive engineer in 1980.

He joined the railroad after serving four years in the United States Air Force, where he was as a jet mechanic with his twin brother, Kenny. He and Kenny enlisted in 1969, and served together in Thailand and Cambodia.

Noice, 59, lived in Albuquerque, and is survived by his wife of more than 35 years, Carla; son, Lenny Noice II; and twin brother, Kenny Noice.

“Lenny was a valuable member of our team,” said Rick Smith, terminal superintendent. “He will be deeply missed by the whole team.”



Southwest Division employees mourn the loss of Al Moreno, Winslow locomotive engineer. He died Feb. 6, at age 56. Moreno began his railroad career in January 1995 as a conductor.

“He was a really good hand to have around, always did his job, and always worked well with others,” said Bob Mitchell, Winslow trainmaster. “He will be missed sorely.”