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DPS not guilty in Lucas case, commission says

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AUSTIN — The State Public Safety Commission said Thursday it found no evidence of wrongdoing by any Department of Public Safety officers involved in the investigation of convicted killer Henry Lee Lucas.

The three-member commission, which oversees the department of Public Safety, issued a statement in response to an accusation this week by Attorney General Jim Mattox "that a great miscarriage of justice" took place in the case.

According to the commission's statement, to date, there has not been any evidence presented to this commission by the attorney general's office, nor has this commission found from our own investigations, any wrongdoing

Please see COMMISSION, Page 6A

Commission counters DPS attacks

□ From Page 1A

by any member of the Department of Public Safety and, in particular, the Texas Rangers."

Mattox, who's office plans to issue a report of its inquiry into the handling of the Lucas investigation, said the commission should review the report to decide if disciplinary action was warranted against the Texas Rangers.

The attorney general said inves-

tigation shows that Lucas could not have committed as many killings as he once claimed, and that activities by the Texas Rangers Task Force had stalled investigations by authorities in numerous crimes.

During meetings with representatives for Mattox in June and July last year, the commissioners said no evidence was presented to show criminal activity or civil rights violations by officers in the case.

Commission chairman Ruben Cardenas and members John Fainter and Clavin Guest said they will be furnished with a draft of Mattox's report before it is published.

Lucas, who faces the death penalty for a Williamson County murder, confessed to more than 200 killings across the country until last year when he recanted the confessions.