

ON THE JOB

CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATE

COVER STORY

Policing for today and the future

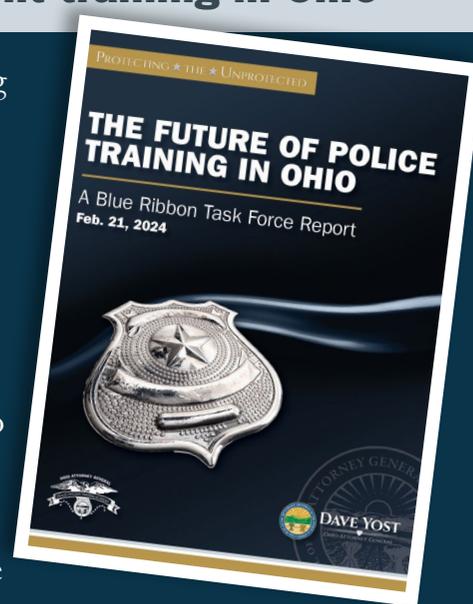
AG's task force lays out vision for law enforcement training in Ohio

A new era in law enforcement training is about to begin in Ohio, bringing with it a new standard for policing.

An 11-member task force commissioned last year by Attorney General Dave Yost spent months evaluating how Ohio peace officers are trained, both at the start and throughout their careers.

After reviewing the latest national research and considering suggestions from the law enforcement community and the public, the Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Future of Police Training in Ohio returned seven recommendations to AG Yost in February.

“Police training in Ohio has been patched together, with a course added here and there to address a timely need,” Yost said. “We took a step back so that we



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Every year on the first Thursday in May, Ohio's law enforcement community descends on the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy in London to honor colleagues who have died in the line of duty. It's a solemn ceremony, beautiful in its traditions and heart-rending in its sadness. The skirl of bagpipes playing "Amazing Grace" and the sight of the riderless horse invariably bring tears to many in attendance.



This year, nine peace officers who died in recent years will be honored. And a 10th officer, who died in 1957, will be added to the memorial wall as a historical inductee, his on-the-job death having only recently been brought to light.

Six of the nine recent fallen officers died of COVID-19, two died in car crashes, and one died during a training exercise at a police academy, resulting in a tsunami of grief that will ripple through future generations as children and grandchildren grieve for loved ones taken prematurely.

But the impact of these officers' deaths goes beyond the profound emotional toll they wrought, for the men we honor routinely contributed to their communities outside their official duty to protect and serve.

Consider Gerry Lynch, who spent the bulk of his career with the Painesville Police Department. For 10 years he organized an annual motorcycle poker run to raise money for a charity that provides winter clothes for kids.

And then there's Mark Heintz. A former captain with the Mercer County Sheriff's Office, he volunteered with the sheriff's Explorer program; with his town's fire department and emergency response volunteers; with a charitable group at his church; and with an organization created to commemorate sailors killed in WWII. For good measure, he volunteered as a school bus driver.

These officers, like others on the memorial wall, not only protected our communities but also worked to make them better. The loss of their contributions can never be calculated.

Our commitment to honoring these men and women is absolute. Fittingly, this year's ceremony coincides with a renovation of the Fallen Officers

Memorial Wall, which has been retrofitted with 32 panels of polished black granite bearing the names of 836 officers dating back to 1823.

The face-lift brings new luster not only to the wall but to the memory of every fallen officer represented there, and it ensures that their names will endure for generations.

Two Days in May

In addition to the Ohio Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony on May 2, my office is sponsoring another important gathering this month, the Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance, on May 13-14.

The annual gathering brings together advocates and others involved in helping innocent victims of crime, including law enforcement. It's worth noting that this year's plenary session focuses on the murder investigation of Robert Edwards, a Columbus man sentenced in August to life in prison for killing two women in the 1990s. Participants will include a woman who escaped from Edwards, a woman who sought justice for her slain mother, and law enforcement officials who were involved in the case.

The fallen officers ceremony and Two Days in May embody bedrock principles on which this office stands: an unwavering support for the work of law enforcement, and a duty to intercede on behalf of victimized Ohioans. In the end, it's about doing what's right.

Yours,

Dave Yost
Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General



WHEN
May 2, 2024

WHERE
OPOTA, 1650 State Route 56 SW,
London, OH 43140

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Fallen-Officers-Memorial



WHEN
May 13-14, 2024

WHERE
Hilton Columbus Downtown,
402 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43215

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/TDIM

Coming this fall: A reimagined law enforcement gathering

New name. New location. New features. The statewide law enforcement conference presented annually by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, an arm of the Attorney General's Office, is being retooled this year to better serve the needs of law enforcement.

The two-day gathering will be Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, with a pre-conference job fair planned for Sept. 29.

Significantly, the workshops for this year's conference will provide an opportunity for Ohio peace officers to add or acquire instructor certifications to their current certificate and participate in some of the latest instructor platforms being developed — say, for virtual reality (VR) instructors, tactical patrol officers, situational decision-making instructors and school commanders.

In line with this enhanced emphasis on training, the Law Enforcement Conference is now called the Law Enforcement Training Symposium.

The 2024 event will depart significantly from previous conferences in other ways, too:

- The training symposium will move from Columbus to Kalahari Resorts in Sandusky. Home of Ohio's largest indoor waterpark, the new location provides an opportunity for a fall family getaway.
- On the Sunday before the symposium officially opens, the law enforcement gathering will include a job and career fair at Kalahari — a new offering. Current officers and prospective recruits will have an opportunity to meet with agency and academy representatives from across the state. The job and career fair will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sept. 29.
- Also new this year will be a vendor showcase, featuring the latest products and services to assist law enforcement professionals.
- The Ohio Distinguished Law Enforcement Awards ceremony, a staple of previous law enforcement conferences, will be the focus of a banquet on Monday evening. In years past, the ceremony was typically held as part of a luncheon. The change is designed to give greater prominence to the award recipients and their accomplishments, and to provide a more convenient time for family members to share in the celebration. A few award categories have been slightly redefined this year, and a category has been added to recognize heroic lifesaving efforts. (The accompanying sidebar offers more details.)

In addition, the symposium will feature at least two keynote speakers. Check www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/LETS for updates.

The Ohio Attorney General's



Law Enforcement Training Symposium

Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2024 | Kalahari Resorts

Be sure to submit nominations for awards

Awards in eight categories will be presented during an evening banquet on Sept. 30 at the Law Enforcement Training Symposium. With so much committed police work going on statewide, the awards committee needs help to ensure that the most deserving officers are properly recognized.

Brief descriptions of the awards are presented below. For all categories, nominations can be submitted by government officials (township to federal); law enforcement executives and current or retired members of law enforcement agencies; and fraternal law enforcement organizations in Ohio. For the Training Award and Community Service Award, nominations also will be accepted from additional sources, as noted below.

- **The Victoria Allen Civilian Leadership Award** recognizes a civic superhero. Like the award's namesake, who advocated for thousands of people in her Youngstown community, nominees will epitomize the role of "servant leader," working to unite their neighbors and local law enforcement.
- **The Training Award** recognizes an individual whose instructional skills, knowledge and expertise have significantly benefited peace officers. Leaders of a law enforcement academy or other training organization, or a law firm that provides police legal training, can submit nominations, along with the approved nominators listed above.
- **The Community Service Award** recognizes a law enforcement officer who helps to build bonds between police and the community. In addition to the approved nominators, leaders of civic or community organizations can submit nominations through a chief law enforcement executive.
- **The Blue Line Award** (formerly the Mark Losey Service Award) honors an officer who is an innovator, someone who shows a knack for devising ways to improve day-to-day police work.

Innovations might be in any number of areas, including department policies or procedures, field operations, criminal investigations, crime prevention and community engagement.

- **The Group Achievement Award** recognizes an outstanding accomplishment through the coordination of many individual efforts, resulting in a lasting impact on law enforcement and/or the public.
- **The Lifetime Achievement Award** recognizes a retired law enforcement officer with a career-long history of extraordinary contributions.
- **The Exemplary Response Award**, new this year, recognizes an officer who distinguished himself or herself through a heroic lifesaving effort (or otherwise exceptional actions) in response to a call for assistance. In contrast to the Valor Award (see below), this award applies to police efforts not involving a criminal situation, use of force or community threat.
- **The Valor Award** honors a peace officer who, despite risk to personal safety, demonstrated extraordinary courage during a criminal event, community threat, or use-of-force situation that threatened the life of one or more people.

Nomination forms are available on the Attorney General's website: www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/LETS. Electronic nomination forms and supporting documents should be emailed to LEAwards@OhioAGO.gov.

They can also be mailed to:

Ohio Law Enforcement Awards Committee
Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission
P.O. Box 309
London, Ohio 43140

The deadline for nominations is May 17, 2024. Please contact Susan Boggs at Susan.Boggs@OhioAGO.gov or (740) 845-2353 if you have questions about the awards program or nomination forms.



ON THE JOB
CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATE

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We hold their memories dear

This year's **Ohio Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony** — to take place at 11 a.m. on May 2 at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy in London — will honor nine law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in recent years. Two died in car crashes, one died during a training run and six died of COVID-19, dating back to 2020. Additional information can be found at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Fallen-Officers-Memorial.



Patrolman Mark U. Heinel | St. Henry Police Department

Mark Heinel was a cop at heart, but also much more. He loved the people of his community, serving them well in many ways. And they loved him back.

"I used to say Mark could talk to a brick wall — he could talk to anybody," said his wife, Sandy. "He knew everybody in Mercer County, and I'm not kidding when I say everybody."

Heinel, a father of four, retired as a captain from the Mercer County Sheriff's Office in 2016 but was soon back in uniform as a patrolman for the St. Henry Police Department. He contracted COVID on the job in late October 2020 and died a month later, two days after Thanksgiving. He was 60.



Officer Gerald F. Lynch | Mentor Police Department

Before he was struck down by the COVID-19 virus at age 56, Gerry Lynch had retired. That was in 2016, after the father of three had worked nearly 24 years with the Painesville Police Department and, before that, more than five years with the Cleveland Heights PD.

He returned to service in March 2017, joining the Mentor Police Department as a part-time officer in the Municipal Court, a position he held until his death on Oct. 3, 2021.

His wife of 33 years, Teri-Jo, said family and law enforcement were the pillars of her husband's life. "Gerry was selfless," she said. "He was very much into giving of himself for others."

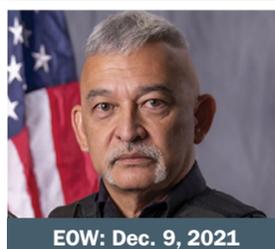


Deputy Billy J. Ihrig | Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Before he entered law enforcement, Billy Ihrig served in the Marines, mostly as a drill sergeant. Those 13 years forever shaped his values, sense of loyalty and commitment to duty.

Deputy Ihrig, a father of six, died Oct. 28, 2021, of complications of COVID. He is believed to have contracted the virus about a month earlier, while restraining a suspect he had arrested. He was 52.

Ihrig joined the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in March 2004, starting in corrections. He worked in the detective bureau before spending the last several years in patrol. He is survived by his partner, Nina Motter, and children.



Police Officer Anthony E. Cloyd | University of Dayton Department of Public Safety

Officer Cloyd served 16 years with the University of Dayton police, his first law enforcement job after entering the profession later in life. The father of three died of COVID complications on Dec. 9, 2021, at age 59 — the first UD officer to die in the line of duty.

Sgt. Brad Swank said Cloyd looked tough and, when needed, was tough: "But this hardened, tatted-up, bad-ass guy had an emotional side that he didn't show the world too often. We saw it at work."

Cloyd's wife of 22 years, Deborah, said her husband's acts of kindness made a difference, recalling as an example one winter when he gave a coat, gloves and scarf to a gas station cashier he'd seen walking to work in outerwear consisting of only a sweatshirt. "She was so grateful."



Cpl. Matthew D. Mitchell | South Vienna Police Department

South Vienna Mayor Toni Keller remembers Cpl. Mitchell as the perfect fit for their village. And she's certain that the 400 residents remember it that way, too: "Whatever you needed, he was there."

Mitchell served three years with the South Vienna Police Department and, before that, five years with the South Charleston PD. He died on Dec. 29, 2021, after contracting COVID earlier that month. He was 52.

Mitchell's fiancée, Brooke Tigyer, said he was devoted to her and their two young children. He also had an older son from a previous relationship. Said a colleague at South Charleston: "He wanted nothing more than to be a police officer and a dad."

Facelift adds enduring luster to Fallen Officers Memorial Wall

On the morning of May 11, 2000, a Cincinnati Police Honor Guard transported a torch ignited at the city's police memorial to the grounds of the Ohio Police Officer Training Academy in London, where then-Attorney General Betty Montgomery lit the eternal flame of the Ohio Fallen Officers Memorial.



a major renovation. Thirty-two panels of polished black granite, freshly engraved with the names of 836 peace officers, were recently mounted on the face of the memorial wall.

In her remarks during the dedication, Montgomery noted that the names of 632 Ohio law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty were inscribed on the circular memorial wall: "Today, we glorify these officers by opening to the public this beautiful memorial that will stand for generations in tribute to those who fight evil in the name of truth and justice."

In the 24 years since, time and weather combined to degrade some of the names etched into the limestone memorial. A facelift was in order. This year's Ohio Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony coincides with

"This work brings new luster not only to the memorial wall but to the memory of every fallen officer represented there," Attorney General Dave Yost said. "It is our duty to make sure their names never fade into history."

Dodds Memorials of Xenia was hired to do the renovation. The panels were engraved over two days by a computer-guided carbon dioxide laser. Because polished black granite is extremely durable and weather-resistant and requires minimal maintenance, the names of Ohio's fallen officers will retain their place of honor on the memorial wall for many generations to come.

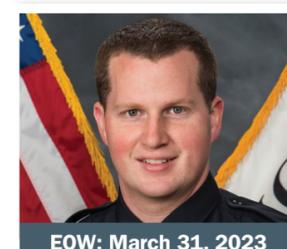


Deputy Terrance N. Bateman | Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Faith and family were guiding lights for Deputy Bateman, a father of seven whose character became a guiding light of its own for those lucky enough to know him.

He was a quiet, generous man with a servant's heart. On Jan. 15, 2022, the 25-year veteran of the Corrections Division in the Franklin County Sheriff's Office succumbed to COVID-19. He was 59.

Faith underpinned everything Bateman did. Colleagues remembered how their friend routinely replied when asked how he was doing: "Still in the Master's hands." Said his wife, Brenda: "Terrance loved the Lord first in his life. And right after Him came me and our family."



Patrol Officer Timothy J. Unwin | Springfield Township Police Department

Officer Unwin was funny and fun-loving, disarming and charming. He enjoyed his work, and he enjoyed his life. And other people loved being around him.

"We know he put his blood, sweat and tears into everything he did," said Chief Rick Bley of the Springfield Township Police Department. "He was a great police officer because he was an amazing person. Our community was lucky that he chose to serve here."

Unwin died in a car crash on March 31, 2023, while responding to a call for assistance from fellow officers. He was 31. He had worked for two years in Springfield Township. Before that, he was a police officer in the city of Hamilton and a corrections officer in Hamilton County.



Corrections Deputy Marcus L. Zeigler | Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Marcus Zeigler longed to join the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. When the day finally came, he and his family celebrated the start of a dream come true.

"There was no mistaking his pride in that uniform," Sheriff Charmaine McGuffey would say later.

Nine months after starting work as a corrections officer, Zeigler collapsed during a training run at Great Oaks Police Academy in Sharonville. The 36-year-old father of five was rushed to the hospital but died two days later.

"He really loved kids," said his wife, Cassandra. "Early on, we realized that kids were the first real passion we shared."



Deputy Joshua I. Hamilton | Preble County Sheriff's Office

A week before Christmas last year, Deputy Hamilton was pursuing a speeding car on a dark rural road in Preble County when he collided with an oncoming driver. Both were killed.

Preble County Sheriff Mike Simpson said Hamilton, a 34-year-old Navy veteran, "served his country and community with honor. Our office took a gut punch with his death."

Hamilton joined the sheriff's office in May 2022 and was promoted to road patrol about a year later. His mother, Pat Hamilton, said the sheriff's office has steadfastly supported her, her husband and the deputy's 10-year-old daughter, Mikaelah, who is now in the care of Hamilton's parents.



With Attorney General Dave Yost (center) are Blue Ribbon Task Force members, from left, Sheriff Orvis Campbell (Tuscarawas County), Deputy Director and Assistant Chief Eric Henderson (Dayton), OPOTA Executive Director Tom Quinlan, Pastor Eddie Parker III, Chief Danilynn Miller (Sylvania), and Chief Kurt Althouse (Vandalia). Not pictured are task force members Steve Click (Ohio Department of Public Safety), Lt. Col. Aaron Jones (Cincinnati), Deputy Chief Nicholas Konves (Columbus), Sheriff George Maier (Stark County) and Dr. Emily Ribnik.

Continued from Page 1

could move forward with a holistic approach. We want Ohio to serve as a national model by offering the best, most relevant training available year after year.”

The recommendations largely focus on building communication skills, strengthening decision-making under stress, rewarding career-long education, and revamping coursework to integrate multiple related topics and incorporate emerging technology as an aid to learning. In addition, the recommendations call for a modification of the physical-fitness requirements needed to graduate from a basic peace officer academy, and enhanced requirements for annual firearms qualifications.

In general, the training is meant to provide the tools, skills and options that officers need to safely defuse a range of incidents, and to increase their individual wellness, leading to more prosperous careers, said OPOTA Executive Director Tom Quinlan, who chaired the task force.

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission will meet to consider the recommendations and suggest any revisions deemed necessary. Before the recommendations can be fully implemented, some aspects might require changes to state law or to the Ohio Administrative Code, the compilation of rules adopted by state agencies. The hope is that the new training requirements will be in place beginning in 2025.

“Adopting the full recommendations of the task force will be key to transforming the future of police training in Ohio,” Quinlan said. “The recommendations are interdependent, and the best results will be realized when the combined strategies complement one another over time.”

On Page 7 is an expanded explanation of the task force recommendations. The full report is available at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/The-Future-of-Police-Training-in-Ohio.



A long way in 60 years

Given the challenges and complexities of law enforcement, it seems inconceivable that there was a time when modern-day peace officers were not required by the state to meet a certain level of training before they hit the streets.

But that was the case in Ohio until the mid-1960s — an era in which some of today’s older officers were born.

The state legislature mandated formal training for law enforcement in 1965 and soon after created the Ohio Peace Officer Training Council (later renamed a commission) to recommend rules of basic training. After Jan. 1, 1966, anyone appointed as a peace officer had to complete the training. Eight years later, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy began taking shape in London.

When he was named the council’s first director, Col. Anson B. Cook, a former Highway Patrol superintendent, told a newspaper that some agencies had training programs but that they varied widely in quality. And many agencies, he said, had no training at all.

Years ago, in an interview with a Medina historical publication, a former city police chief, Homer C. Davis Jr., recalled that when he joined the department in the early 1960s, “they issued you one uniform, a gun and a badge and sent you out to work with someone. There was no training academy. Your training came from the officer you worked with that week.”

1

Amend the Peace Officer Basic Training (POBT) curriculum to reflect contemporary police services

Officers entering the field are not as adept in communication skills as their predecessors were. Consequently, 48 hours of communication training is recommended for the POBT curriculum. Additionally, the task force recommends adjusting the physical fitness standards required to graduate from a basic peace officer academy. The change would allow a cadet to still graduate if he or she fails to meet the prescribed standard in one of the three categories of the PT portion of the final exam (situps, pushups, 1½-mile run). This exception would be permitted in one category only, and only if the cadet has achieved at least 75% of the progress expected in that category.

2

Establish certification levels to reflect an officer’s training and experience

Every peace officer in Ohio is granted the same certification upon completing the academy. Throughout their careers, however, officers accrue a varying array of skills, education and experience. To recognize these differing levels of knowledge and abilities, the task force recommends the creation of continually progressing levels of certification, similar in nature to graduated levels of driver’s licenses in Ohio (Probationary, Operators, Commercial Driver, Commercial Driver with Endorsements, etc.). Recognizing a need for more instructors, the task force also recommends reducing the required hours to earn a Basic Instructor certification — from 80 to about 56.

3

Create a Tactical Patrol Officer Program

The task force recommends establishing a uniquely tailored program to equip patrol officers with the same comprehensive tactical skills commonly used by specialty teams such as SWAT. Developed by the Ohio Tactical Officers Association in coordination with OPOTA, the program would integrate legal, leadership, and medical components with specialized tactics, thus giving officers a diverse set of skills to better handle violent criminal events. The program initially would be tailored to field training officers, officers-in-charge, and first-line supervisors — the staff members who influence new officers most directly.

4

Add new technologies while incorporating elements of reality-based situational decision-making scenarios into basic and advanced training

The task force recommends adopting a method of training that has been shown to improve officers’ situational decision-making. Researchers at the University of Chicago found that this training, called Sit-D, resulted in a decrease in use of force, discretionary arrests and officer injuries. Further, the task force recommends incorporating new technologies, such as virtual reality, into training protocols, and complementing coursework with more scenario training and incident debriefs.

5

Develop integrated lesson plans across training platforms

Current lesson plans typically focus on a single topic. The task force recommends changing lesson-plan formats to integrate peace officers’ common activities into a multidimensional approach that might combine, for example, crisis intervention, subject control, report writing and courtroom testimony. Every newly created lesson plan would include elements of supervisory activities, community perspectives, officer wellness, tactics, and policy considerations. For select courses, a knowledge-based review or exam would be administered at the end of the training.

6

Focus required CPT hours so they keep advancing police services

Very few conditions are placed on continuing professional training (CPT) courses that qualify for state reimbursement. Consequently, even training that perpetuates outdated concepts is essentially sanctioned by the state. The task force believes that CPT should encompass a more progressive, forward-looking model, which means abandoning training strategies that reinforce undesirable tactics.

7

Expand annual firearms qualifications

The state’s annual firearms qualification process tests an officer’s physical skill, requiring a score of at least 20 of 25 shots fired. What’s lacking is verification that an officer knows when the use of deadly force is legally permissible. To that end, the task force recommends that agencies be required to include an annual written exam that focuses on the five or six main factors related to the use of firearms in constitutional policing, with an emphasis on the sanctity of human life.



To access the full Blue Ribbon Task Force Report, scan the QR code or go to www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/The-Future-of-Police-Training-in-Ohio



NEWS UPDATES 2024

Mark Your Calendar

Save the Date

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SUMMIT 2024

The Attorney General's Human Trafficking Summit is now a summer event, **set for Aug. 7 at the Hyatt Regency Columbus**. In previous years, the summit was presented in January. Be sure to check the website regularly for more information about reservations, hotel accommodations and workshops: www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Human-Trafficking-Summit.

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DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL