

Ohio Attorney General's  
**Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy**  
Advanced Training for Ohio Peace Officers



**OPOTA Newsletter**  
**January 2020**

***SAVE THESE DATES!***

Ohio Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony | **May 7, 2020** | OPOTA London

Ohio Attorney General's Law Enforcement Conference | **Sept. 14-15, 2020** | Columbus

**Q&A with OPOTA Executive Director Dwight 'Dee' Holcomb**

**What drew you to a career in policing?**

In middle school, we had career day and I went around to all of the booths to see the options. One of the people who was there was a police officer who was really engaging. He talked about how it was a public service, and, yeah, you catch the bad guys. He also said it was a job for people who enjoy being outdoors and getting involved. It sparked my interest.

Then, when I was in college, I did a ride-along with a police agency and said, "Yeah, this is what I want to do." And here I am.

**What attracted you to this job?**

With my background in law enforcement, it became a natural segue to go back into the public sector after 14 years with The Dispatch Printing Co. and affiliates in the private sector. Coming back into something like this is truly different from being a front-line police officer and police chief, but it's back into the heart of supporting education for the 33,000 law enforcement officers we have here in the state.

**What are your priorities for OPOTA?**

I don't have specific goals yet because I want to learn as much as I can and meet with staff and our many partners before setting priorities. But my big goal is to continue to maintain and make OPOTA, and all the training we give here, some of the best in the country.

**What do you think of the state of police training in Ohio?**

It's good, but it can always be expanded. We need to be proactive in identifying what the future issues in policing will be. Some things that happen today might seem like a little blip, but we need to be able to recognize, "You know what, that could become something in the future that we need to be concerned with."

It's important to get input from all the partners around the state, whether it's county sheriffs, State Highway Patrol, local municipal police officers. We need to get their input so that we know what kind of training they may need into the future also.

**What would you tell people considering going into law enforcement?**

That, despite all of the bad publicity that happens with officers around the country, this is still one of the most noble professions you could do. Certainly, being a law enforcement officer is about catching bad guys, but it's mostly about public service. It's about helping individuals who turn to law enforcement because you represent your community and you're there 24-7. They trust that they can pick up a phone and a police officer will respond to help them in their most critical times. Public service is truly what you're providing in law enforcement.

**What do you do when you're not working?**

My family loves boating, and we center all of our vacations in the summer. We spend multiple days every year up at Lake Erie and Cedar Point on the waterfront. And then we take our ski boat to the big lakes down in Kentucky for our annual family vacation. So our vacations are all based around water and boating, and that's pretty much my hobby.

**BIO:**

**Hometown:** Franklin County

**Family:** married to Peggy for 37 years; three adult children: Amanda, a nurse practitioner in a trauma fellowship at OhioHealth Grant Medical Center; Chad, a BCI special agent in southern Ohio; and Tyler, a mechanical engineer in Kansas City

**Education:** FBI National Academy (163rd session); Franklin University, graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in public administration; Police Executive Leadership College; Ohio State Highway Patrol Basic Police Academy (38th session); Columbus State, associate degree in Law

**Previous roles:** The Dispatch Printing Co., vice president of corporate security, 2006-19; Ohio Department of Public Safety Ohio Investigative Unit, executive director, 2005-06; Upper Arlington Division of Police — chief, 1995-2005; sergeant, 1987-95; detective, 1985-87; patrol officer, 1978-85

## **Drone Company Partners with OPOTA to Study Crash Scene Reconstruction**

OPOTA recently partnered with Global Robot and Drone Deployment (GRADD), a Nevada-based company, on a case study examining the benefits of using drones, lasers and 3D models to aid in crash scene reconstruction.

“Working together with Reza Karamooz of GRADD, we were able to capture all the required aerial images, DSLR images and point-to-point laser measurements from the scene in about 30 minutes,” said James “Doug” Daniels of OPOTA.

Learn more about the study and its conclusions on [the Ohio Attorney General's website](#).

## **Schedule a Rescue Task Force Training for Your Department**

Historically, law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel have viewed their roles as self-reliant. Recent acts of violence have forced first responders to realize that targeted attacks do not allow them to act independently. The emergency response community must act as one team to stop the threat and, at the same time, save as many lives as possible.

A Rescue Task Force is a team, or set of teams, that is deployed to provide care for the wounded during an ongoing ballistic or explosive threat. The teams treat, stabilize and remove the wounded under the protection of law enforcement. Rescue Task Force training will provide guidance on establishing a team and the tactics they use.

This is a paradigm shift for many fire and EMS personnel. However, the concept of a Rescue Task Force has been adopted by many agencies in Ohio and endorsed by:

- Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy
- State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services (EMFTS Board)

- Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association
- Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
- Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association
- Ohio Homeland Security
- Ohio State Highway Patrol
- Ohio Association of EMS
- Metropolitan Medical Response System
- Ohio Emergency Management Agency

This is a mobile class that will come to your department and train all first responders, not just law enforcement. Together we will assess the capabilities of the first responders and the best way to establish a Rescue Task Force for your jurisdiction.

This course will be scheduled regionally as requested. Hosting agencies will need to provide the space and audio/visual equipment. The course cost will be \$400 per agency. To schedule this training, contact Micah Stoll at [micah.stoll@ohioattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:micah.stoll@ohioattorneygeneral.gov).

## **School Resource Officer Basic Training**

**When:** Jan. 27–31, 2020, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Where:**

OPOTA London  
1650 State Route 56 SW  
London, OH 43140

**Cost:** \$575.00

**Coordinator:** Micah Stoll

**Course information:**

This 45-hour course meets the requirements set forth in House Bill 318. Topics include the Ohio school resource officer (SRO), educating children with special needs, tools to managing behaviors surrounding crisis and mental health in the classroom, drug awareness for the SRO, legal issues for the SRO, active threat preparation and single officer response to an active threat.

School resource officers assigned after Nov. 2, 2018, must complete the SRO Basic Training Program within 12 months of assignment to a school. The week-long class is facilitated through a variety of teaching techniques, including student-centered learning and an online pre-course assignment.

**Registration link:** [Click here to register](#)

## **Why Teens Kill – Generation Death**

**When:** Aug. 18, 2020

**Where:**

OPOTA Richfield  
4055 Highlander Parkway  
Richfield, OH 44286

**Instructor:** Phil Chalmers

**Course information:**

Phil Chalmers is considered to be America's leading authority on juvenile homicide and juvenile mass murder. Chalmers has interviewed over 200 teen killers and school shooters, along with numerous serial killers, mass murderers and sexual predators. The reason for these interviews is to delve into the minds of the offenders and to explore why they killed and if society could have stopped them.

Chalmers has studied the youth culture for over 25 years and is knowledgeable in youth culture, youth behavior and the effects of youth entertainment. Phil Chalmers has authored the books "Inside the Mind of a Teenage Killer," "True Lies" and "The Encyclopedia of Teen Killers."

School administrators, teachers, social workers, mental health professions and other disciplines are encouraged to attend.

Special discounts are available for agencies sending eight or more.

**Registration link:** [Click here to register](#)