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★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★



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Final

OHIO PEACE OFFICER TRAINING COMMISSION MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012

HELD AT THE

OHIO PEACE OFFICER TRAINING ACADEMY

1650 STATE ROUTE 56 SW

LONDON, OHIO 43140

MINUTES

I. OPENING

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Vernon Stanforth called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
Chief Ronald Ferrell led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Ms. Donna Long called the Roll.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson Vernon P. Stanforth
Sheriff Thomas G. Maurer
Mr. Stephen Schumaker
S/LT Mike Crispin set in proxy for Colonel John Born
Chief Ronald Ferrell
Sergeant Troy Mineard
Ms. Linda O'Connor
SAC Stephen Anthony

B. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND STAFF

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Jeff Clark

Attorney General's Office

GUESTS AND STAFF

Mr. Eric Landversicht	LPS Consultant ODE/CTE
Mr. Tom Quinlan	Columbus Police Department
Chief David Wiseman	London Police Department
Mr. Geoffrey A. Barnard	Cleveland Height PD Academy
Mr. Robert Fiatal	OPOTC Executive Director
Ms. Donna Long	OPOTC Secretary
Ms. Amy O'Grady	OPOTC Deputy Director
Mr. John Green	OPOTC Deputy Director
Mr. Lou Agosta	OPOTA Deputy Director
Mr. Aaron Coey	OPOTC Law Enforcement Training Officer
Ms. Sarah Thomas	OPOTC Law Enforcement Training Officer
Ms. Mary Davis	OPOTC Deputy Director
Ms. Arienne Fauber	OPOTC Staff
Ms. Mary Broyles	OPOTC Staff
Mr. Roger Le	OPOTC Staff
Ms. Kim Hahn	OPOTC Staff
Ms. Lori Rinehart	OPOTC Staff
Ms. Lori Wachtel	OPOTC Staff
Ms. Erin Sainato	OPOTC Staff
Mr. Justin Hykes	OPOTC Staff
Ms. Brittany Thompson	OPOTC Staff
Mr. Scott Weimer	OPOTC Staff
Mr. Kerry Curtis	OPOTA LETO
Mr. Mike McGreevy	OPOTC Staff

II. CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Approval of Minutes

Sgt. Mineard motioned that the minutes of the January 19, 2012, meeting be approved. Ms. Linda O'Connor seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed favorably.

Chairperson Stanforth had nothing to report for the Chairperson report.

III. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Chief Paul Denton
Committee Chairperson

Sgt. Troy Mineard led the meeting in the absence of Chairperson Paul Denton.

Sgt. Mineard stated that the Curriculum Committee met prior to the OPOTC meeting with the Commission Staff. The handouts reflecting the proposed changes were available to members of the OPOTC. In the introduction of basic training, two important Unit/Topic changes were recommended; a mandatory attendance topic of Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS). Also, included are updated skill topics to include Stops & Approaches, SFST, HazMat, ICS and NIMS. The Curriculum Committee was in favor of those changes. At the request of the

Private Security Commanders, we recommend adding the following Unit/Topic changes to the Private Security Curriculum, ICS and NIMS as a mandatory topic and skills. OPOTC Curriculum Committee supports these changes and would like to put them before the OPOTC board. Sgt. Mineard thanked Deputy Director Davis and her staff for their work on this revision which covers over 243 curriculum hour changes.

MOTION:

Sgt. Mineard moved to adopt the recommended changes. The motion was seconded by Ms. O'Connor. The vote passed favorably. No discussion was requested.

That concluded the Curriculum Committee Report.

IV. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Troy Mineard
Committee Chairperson

Committee Chairperson Mineard stated that the OPOTC staff was currently tracking House and Senate bills. The Offense of Intimidation was amended to include intimidation involving juvenile delinquent cases. The bill was recently signed by the governor on March 2, 2012.

Ohio now as a Blue Alert Program which is similar to the Amber Alert, if there is a serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer and a suspect is identified that system will be used to get the information on the suspects out to the public. Possible effective date for this will be June 2012.

That concluded the Legislative Committee Report.

V. HOUSE COMMITTEE

Colonel John Born
Committee Chairperson

S/Lt. Crispen stated that there was nothing to report. That concluded the House Committee Report.

VI. CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COMMITTEE Sheriff Thomas G. Maurer
Committee Chairperson

On February 14, 2012 Chairperson Maurer, the OPOTC CPT Committee and the OPOTA Staff met to discuss the Trainer of Trainers Instructor program. A lot of recognition was done that day in regards to what our goals to the issues were. Chairperson Maurer recognized Deputy Director Amy O'Grady, Jill Gregory, Adienne Fauber, Mary Broyles and Brittany Thompson for their hard work that continues today. We hope that by the next OPOTC meeting on May 17, 2012, we will be able to have a concrete path in place to address the issues and to be able to ask the OPOTC for approval of those plans and to begin moving forward.

The OPOTC staff ran into obstacles, no records, deceased individuals, and it is something that truly needs to be identified, revised and moved along. Chairperson Maurer believes that within the two month period prior to the next OPOTC meeting they will be able to proceed with a plan in place for the Trainer of Trainers Instructors.

That concluded the Continuing Professional Training Committee Report.

STAFF REPORT

VII. COMMISSION AND ACADEMY UPDATES

Executive Director Robert Fiatal

Mr. Fiatal asked Deputy Director, Amy O'Grady to update on TOT's. Deputy Director O'Grady stated that at this point we went back into our records and touch about 600-700 entries. We had instructor who were approved as TOT's but at different times, we had instructors who were approved for different courses, and also TOT's who were approved through different agencies. We have a rough estimate of over 310 TOT's at this point, the majority of which are law enforcement, there are about 100 who are not law enforcement, 34 retired, some at this point still undetermined and some who are deceased. There is also one approved TOT who was decertified as an instructor. We are still taking an in-depth look at this issue and then can come back to the OPOTC on how to handle it.

Mr. Fiatal introduced Deputy Director John Green who oversees the regional training and eOPOTA courses. Deputy Director Green stated, we are continuing to develop additional training opportunities and provide these on regional training bases.

We have developed Campus Police Response Sexual Assault Training to serve campuses on how they respond and deal with sexual assaults. This training is geared towards the victims; how to respond to the victims and how to treat the victims throughout the process. As a result of that training, we have also revised our three day Sexual Assault Investigations course utilizing the same speakers. The course enrollment for both these courses is currently full.

We are also in the process of developing two additional courses. We are working with OSP on the Respond to Active Shooters and how to change the direction in regards of investigating those incidents or additional response to those incidents, how to be flexible in terms of changing our package as these incidents develop. We are also working with the Consumer Fraud Division of the Attorney General's Office to present training for Consumer Fraud Investigations for local law enforcement. That will be started on July 23, 2012 and will be a regional course.

Mr. Fiatal updated the OPOTC on the issues of cost and training that was discussed during the January 2012 OPOTC meeting regarding the Mandated Update Training for Semi-Automatic Pistol, Shotgun and Instructor Training. Mr. Fiatal stressed that OPOTC is working with agencies and providing the required training at their agencies which helps control costs. We have been working with the Firearms Working Group, headed by Chief Paul Denton. The effective date for the mandated pistol training is January 2013.

Mr. Fiatal addressed daily incoming inquiries regarding training and testing issues. Mr. Mark Drum, Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Inc. recently referenced the following questions regarding OPOTA Advanced Training Courses:

- Why does OPOTA require an agency to sign off on training? Is it to verify their active law enforcement status, would it be possible to also let a law

enforcement organization (BSSA, OACP, FOP, etc) to sign off on such training requests verifying the members law enforcement status?

Mr. Fiatal responded that this is required for a couple reasons, one it provides us means to collect on the billing and two it makes the department aware of where the officer is and what type of training they are taking. Business Manager, Scott Weimer stated that 12-15 agencies are turned over to collections monthly for unpaid invoices from training. Mr. Drum asked about self-pay for courses and Mr. Fiatal advised it would require that payment be in money order or certified check. Mr. Fiatal stated that this is not feasible. Mr. Drum was invited to attend the meeting and address the issue, but choose not to attend upon Mr. Fiatal agreeing to address the issue before the OPOTC. Mr. Fiatal agreed to bring the issues of free training and the need for an agency to sign off on it.

Mr. Fiatal feels that agencies head would have a large concern with doing this across the board. Mr. Fiatal asked if there were any questions from the OPOTC or the guest. Chief Ron Ferrell stated that there have been a lot of people who have come to OPOTA for a lot of courses on their own. Chief Ferrell was concerned that a person who has the blessing of his agency and registrars may be bumped out by someone who hasn't been cleared by the department. Chief Ferrell agreed with Mr. Fiatal and was opposed to doing away with the authorization signature. Mr. Fiatal stressed he didn't want a ruling from the OPOTC was just sharing some of the things that he deals with and he would take this matter up with the individual.

Mr. Fiatal shared with the OPOTC that he gets a number of calls from basic cadets that have failed the physical fitness evaluation. Each inquiry is investigated through our field agents as to what was the cause and circumstances. Each OPOTC member received copies of three letters regarding these issues. Mr. Fiatal responds to each letter and phone call. One cadet failed the first test by 4 seconds, however the retest he failed by over a minute. Each complaint is reviewed, investigated and a decision made on a case by case basis.

One mother was asking that a student who fails be allowed to test again and again until passing. Mr. Fiatal asked how you can run an academy with those guidelines. Mr. Tom Quinlan, Columbus Police Academy stated they would not want them in our academy if they required seven times to pass. S/Lt. Crispin, Ohio Highway Patrol Academy stated that it's a motivational issue and you aren't doing it for the physical fitness part of it, you are doing it for the character of that individual. What kind of character does the cadet show? He is in full agreement that if they can't pass it, they shouldn't be given multiply chances to pass it. Mr. Fiatal also introduced OPOTC Field Agent, Michael McGreevy, it is required that the field agent after opening audit tell the cadets what the standards are and they are provided a powerpoint presentation explaining the standards. The cadets are told to ask any questions at that point, especially on the P.T. standard. They make suggestions to the cadets on how to improve their scores and test results. Mr. Fiatal stated that it requires after hours work to meet the P.T. standards. The training needs to be worked on daily so that in the end they are able to pass the P.T. tests.

Mr. Fiatal does have another stack of letters that require the OPOTC attention. In fairness they will not be presented to the OPOTC at this time. They concern an appeal of a prior equivalency in testing assessment that has been made. The individual as requested that the OPOTC reconsider that discussion. As of Friday, March 9, 2012 that individual as asked for a

continuation until the May 17, 2012 OPOTC Meeting. If necessary, those letters will be presented at that time.

That concluded the staff report.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Chairperson Vernon P. Stanforth

There was no old business to report.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Vernon P. Stanforth

Chairperson Stanforth asked if there was any further new business to discuss.

Chief Ferrell referred to the handout on prior equivalency's that was included in the packets. Mr. Fiatal responded that the decision to discuss it was moved to the next OPOTA meeting.

Ms. O'Connor stated that she had three areas she would like to update the OPOTC on. The first being the standards as we are mirroring the OPOTC standards. She introduced Eric Landversicht, Consultant with Ohio Department of Education, our Law and Public Safety Expert.

Mr. Landversicht, there has been a lot of research into law enforcement education program throughout the county. He is doing is best to mirror what has been done at OPOTA. He is trying to gather a committee of first responders consisting of law enforcement, fire departments, and EMS Division. He wants to talk about the future of the profession from the law enforcement standpoint. If anyone is interested in spending a day with him to talk about our needs, where your profession is going, and the things that you would like to see in students that will be attending your academies, so we can integrate that into what we are doing at ODE to give you a better candidate as an officer. This will be taking place sometime during May.

Ms. O'Connor explained that Mr. Landversicht is working with the Board of Regions on the post-secondary piece, but our secondary students have a two year gap before they can get to the academy. This allows them to help the students in an array of occupations that may help them during that two year period.

Ms. O'Connor spoke about the Attorney General's School Safety Committee with the Ohio Department of Education where Mr. Landversicht and Ms. O'Connor sit on that committee. One of the things they will ask of OPOTA is for help identifying the best practices in school safety that OPOTA is aware of and see in the field. Also, to help us communicate the message to the schools about forming this partnership with the local law enforcement as well as submitting those safety plans. Down the road they would be interested in doing some training or speaking at some conferences about those as well to the schools. The third item is the SKILLS USA at the end of April. OPOTA has been very helpful with the judging and also setting up the crime scenes. For two years in a row Ohio has won the National Criminal Justice and Skills USA competition. They give credit to OPOTA for the direction, curriculum and help they receive from OPOTA.

Chairperson Stanforth commented that it is amazing at how many things go on behind the scenes. Chairperson Stanforth stressed the appreciation for all that the Ohio Department of Education does.

Mr. Fiatal shared that OPOTA has hooked up with the F.B.I. SAC Stephen Anthony, OPOTC has opened some doors to two experts in interrogation on counter terrorist. That training will be provided in the Northern part of the state and possibly Cincinnati, Ohio. This could be a successful training, it's only been eleven years and we shouldn't forget. Mr. Fiatal also shared that Section Chief, George Piro who interrogated Saddam Hussein will be our keynote luncheon speaker on the first day of the Attorney General's 2012 Law Enforcement Conference which will be held October 25th -26th at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. Mr. Fiatal thanked SAC Anthony for his help in arranging Mr. Piro.

Chairperson Stanforth asked that the OPOTC keep the people who were injured in the March 14th stabbing downtown in our prayers and thoughts. We need to stress training, so we can be ready to respond. Chairperson Stanforth thanked Thomas Quinlan for the quick respond of Columbus Police Department. Mr. Quinlan stressed training, with plain clothes officers and working with large amount of civilians; working with weapons are essential to our jobs.

That concluded the new business report.

X. **GUEST FORUM**

Chairperson Vernon P. Stanforth

Chairperson Stanforth opened the meeting to public comments and/or concerns.

XII. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Chairperson Stanforth motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sgt. Troy Mineard seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Time: 9:45 a.m.



Chairperson

These transcripts are not verbatim. Audio recordings are available upon request.