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★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★



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**OHIO PEACE OFFICER TRAINING COMMISSION MEETING**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2013**

**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 10:03 a.m.  
Chief Ronald Ferrell led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Ms. Donna Long called the Roll.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairperson Vernon P. Stanforth  
Chief Ronald Ferrell  
Sergeant Troy Mineard  
Ms. Linda O'Connor  
Chief Paul Denton  
Colonel John Born  
Mr. Stephen Schumaker  
SAC Stephen Anthony

**B. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND STAFF**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE**

Mr. Matthew Kanai

Attorney General's Office

## **GUESTS AND STAFF**

Mr. Thomas Quinlan	Columbus Police Academy
Mr. Mike Crispen	Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy
Mr. Ken Beavers	Columbus Fire
Ms. Kathleen Barch	COTC
Mr. Doug Harvey	OSU Grad Student
Mr. Robert Fiatal	OPOTC Executive Director
Ms. Donna Long	OPOTC Secretary
Ms. Jill Cury	OPOTC Staff
Ms. Mary Broyles	OPOTC Staff
Mr. Roger Le	OPOTC Staff
Mr. Aaron Coey	OPOTC LETO
Ms. Mary Davis	OPOTC Deputy Director
Mr. Eric Schaefer	OPOTC Staff
Ms. Sarah Thomas	OPOTC Staff
Mr. Scott Weimer	OPOTC Business Manager
Mr. Louis A. Agosta	OPOTA Deputy Director
Ms. Jessica Didion	OPOTA Deputy Director
Ms. Alice Robinson-Bond	OPOTC Deputy Director
Mr. John Foy	OPOTA LETO
Mr. James Daniels	OPOTA LETO

## **II. CHAIRPERSON REPORT**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chief Ronald Ferrell motioned that the minutes of the November 15, 2012, meeting be approved, SAC Stephen Anthony seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed favorably.

Chairperson Stanforth stated for the record the arrival of Ms. Linda O'Connor.

Chairperson Stanforth reminded the OPOTC Members, that in 2013 the individual folders for each commissioner would be reused for each meeting. Therefore, at the conclusion of each meeting the folders need to be left on the table.

The appointment for the OPOTC Member spot vacated by Sheriff Thomas Maurer has been sent to the Governor, but has not been confirmed. Once the appointment is made by the Governor's Office we will be notified and that seat will be filled.

## **III. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

Chief Paul Denton  
Committee Chairperson

Chief Paul Denton stated there was nothing to report. That concluded the Curriculum Committee Report.

**IV. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Sergeant Troy Mineard  
Committee Chairperson

Sgt. Troy Mineard stated there was nothing to report.

Chairperson Stanforth stated that he has had several inquiries regarding upcoming legislative changes. Sgt. Mineard replied that he asked about the Internet Cafes and other legislative changes, but that has been pushed back due to the changes in House and Senate. Mr. Schumaker stated that at this time everyone is focused on the upcoming budget.

Mr. Fiatal stated the only CCW changes forthcoming would be for a permit to carrying in the State House garage. There are some changes in the way an individual can transport a weapon and ammunition in their vehicles.

That concluded the Legislative Committee Report.

**V. HOUSE COMMITTEE**

Colonel John Born  
Committee Chairperson

Colonel John Born stated there was nothing to report. That concluded the House Committee Report.

**VI. CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COMMITTEE**

Committee Chairperson

Chairperson Stanforth and the OPOTC members agreed that the appointee would most likely Chair the Continuing Professional Training Committee.

That concluded the Continuing Professional Training Committee Report.

**STAFF REPORT**

**VII. COMMISSION AND ACADEMY UPDATES**

Executive Director Robert Fiatal

Mr. Fiatal introduced Jessica Didion as the new Deputy Director at the OPOTA Richfield campus. The enrollment at the OPOTA Richfield campus has greatly increased. They are also increasing with regional training efforts.

Mr. Fiatal reminded the OPOTC Members to submit their "Financial Disclosure Forms" in a timely manner. Last year, late fees had to be paid for some of the OPOTC Members. Chief Paul Denton asked how many times a year is filing required? Several OPOTC members stated they file up to three times a year. Mr. Fiatal recommended updating and saving their financial disclosure forms regularly.

Mr. Fiatal introduced Assistant Deputy Director, Alice Robinson-Bond and went on to say there are currently two criminal cases before the United State Supreme Court dealing with K-9s. One is dealing with the use of a K-9 that basically had no probable cause for a sniff at the

front door. This is a search and seizure 4th Amendment issue. The second incident is from Florida where they only have general purpose certification.

Ohio is one of the few states that have certification programs for K-9s. Ohio is more unique; it has general purpose certification, and also certifies other categories of special purpose units. These units include tracking, article search, narcotics, explosives, and in the future, the search for accelerant detection dogs. Mr. Ken Beavers has been instrumental in helping us to provide a lesson plan for the accelerant detection evaluator's course. We will be doing the first accelerant detection evaluator course in May 2013 and again in October. Last fall, all new evaluators, with the exception of accelerant evaluators were trained in Port Clinton.

One of the issues in the second Florida case was that the K-9 Unit actually had only general purpose certification, but they employed the use of a narcotic detection dog without special purpose certification in Florida. The State Supreme Court said that in the absence of that certification, not only would they have to show they had received training, but they would also need to show their reaction and response records. If they are certified with special units, it's sort of a per se acceptance of probable cause by Ohio courts based on the special certification. We have had a lot of our neighboring states asking if they can be certified by OPOTA, which we have always allowed as long as they are a certified law enforcement officer.

Mr. Fiatal opened the discussion, then Mr. Ken Beavers and Ms. Alice Robinson-Bond followed with detailed information. Ms. Robinson-Bond said that our current certification states that each K-9 unit shall be certified every two years. There are three national organizations: USPCA (United States Police K-9 Assoc.), NAPWDA (North American Police Work Dog Assoc.), and NPCA (National Police K-9 Assoc.); they all recommend yearly recertification. Some people are already filing yearly with us in order to keep their national certification.

Working with Ken Beavers, Columbus Arson/K-9 Unit, we would like to consider changing the rule from a two year certification to a one year certification to match the national standards. Since this is an administrative rule, we ask the OPOTC to discuss making the change.

Mr. Fiatal thinking of the OSP, offered Colonel Born the time to check with his agency and see what affect, if any, it would have on the organization. Colonel Born stated his agency is up to 29 dogs, plus 2 bomb dogs.

Mr. Beavers offered that it comes down to being in compliance with the three largest certifying organizations which are private. The SWGDOG (Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal Detector Guidelines) organization which is funded by the FBI, National Institute of Justice and DHS have developed best practices for K-9 certifications and suggests annual certification. From a trainer's standpoint, two years is a long time, a lot can happen in two years, with the handler and/or the dog.

Chief Denton asked if the special purpose units that are typically the units responsible for collecting evidence would be the only dogs requiring annual certification or if all K-9 units including patrol related certifications would be required to recertify annually. Mr. Beavers

stated that it is coming down to showing that the K-9 Unit is up-to-date on their training and recertification, so that all of them would be done annually.

Chief Ferrell asked if K-9s in Ohio gravitate towards one of the national certifications or are they generally certified by more than one. Mr. Beavers stated that as long as they have one certification in place, they are covered. Mr. Beavers stated that his department usually certifies nationally each year and with OPOTA every two years.

Chief Denton asked if there was a charge for the certification. Chief Ferrell stated it is a matter of overtime. Mr. Fiatal agreed that most in Ohio do it for free. These are done regionally.

Colonel Born stated that he was certain that his agency did an annual certification. He recommended that the commission staff send out letters to those currently certified advising them of the possible change, therefore, giving the larger agencies time to make sure of its impact. Mr. Fiatal stated that they could do an email blast to all certified K-9 Units.

Colonel Born said that the States of Washington and Colorado have legalized marijuana. His counterparts in those states are saying that the legalized marijuana is causing some issues with the sniffing dogs in the training of alerting. It could result in scrapping all the dogs or retraining them in effects of the legalization of marijuana. This is something that could become an issue in Ohio.

Mr. Fiatal gave recognition to Bridget Coontz who has been involved with the rewriting of the legal issues in the K-9 lesson plans.

Mr. Fiatal moved to the draft rewrite of the Police Rifle/Carbine Standard Qualification Course. We are looking at this with our partners with the same idea of trying to develop a requalification course that would measure marksmanship and operability, while reserving enough time, so that those same officers who carry the carbine are able to spend time in actual training circumstances to develop their skills for whatever is needed for that agency.

OPOTA and OSP range masters would like the OPOTC to consider this draft. John Foy and the OSP shared this with other agencies in the State and have received glowing recommendations. John Foy was introduced and Mr. Fiatal directed any questions to him regarding the training. Mr. Fiatal invited Mr. Foy to be present for the next meeting to answer any questions that may arise.

The final update was on the advanced training course "Active Shooter Training for the Educator." OPOTA, working with the Ohio Department of Education, had the first breakout of the training take place this morning at the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio in Columbus. The training courses for the a.m. and p.m. trainings were both full.

It was nice to see not only educators, but also, SRO (School Resource Officers) and Law Enforcement Officers present.

Due to the response, we are offering it to Superintendents for school district wide training. We were planning for this course back in April, working with our partnership with the FBI. With the events of the Sandy Hook Shootings, it is a great need to present the training to educators.

Mr. Schumaker stated that he attended the first hour of the training and the training was outstanding. The facility was full and everyone was focused on LETO James Burke. We have had requests from other states interested in the training as well. Ms. O'Connor thanked OPOTA for developing this training and working with the Ohio Department of Education to provide training to educators.

Mr. Fiatal wrapped up with an update on the Appeals Hearing for Chief Craig which is in the midst of discovery. Mr. Fiatal will update the OPOTC as information is received.

That concluded the staff report.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

Chairperson Vernon P. Stanforth

There was no old business to report. That concluded the old business.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Chairperson Vernon P. Stanforth

Ms. O'Connor stated the Dept. of Education will be extending an invitation to OPOTA to report on the training at their Superintendent's training on March 14-15, 2013.

Chief Denton, providing concerns voiced at an OACP meeting, stated that one of the issues of free regional training is that it is not always free. If it is only offered during one shift, an officer would be placed in overtime status, and it can be costly to the agency. Chief Denton and Chief Ferrell attended the meeting with the OACP and both encourage OPOTA working together with the OACP, communicating the training needs for all law enforcement.

That concluded the new business report.

**X. GUEST FORUM**

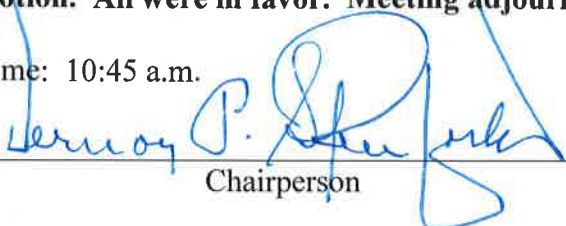
Chairperson Vernon P. Stanforth

Chairperson Stanforth opened the meeting to public comments and/or concerns. None were forthcoming that concluding the guest forum.

**XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**Sgt. Troy Mineard motioned to adjourn the meeting. Colonel John Born seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.**

Time: 10:45 a.m.

  
Chairperson

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