

Protecting Ohio's Families

Ohio Attorney General's Office

2015

OHIO PEACE OFFICER TRAINING COMMISSION AND ACADEMY

FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT



MIKE DEWINE
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL





Dear Law Enforcement Colleagues and Fellow Ohioans,

As Ohio's Attorney General, helping law enforcement officers across the state prepare for the many challenging responsibilities and dangerous situations they face on the job is a priority. My office primarily accomplishes this through the work of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and Academy.

From setting minimum class attendance to training facility requirements, or setting qualifications for instructors to the certification of K-9 units, the commission works to ensure that Ohio's law enforcement personnel are informed and well-trained.

Beginning in late 2014, my office formed an advisory group to thoroughly review the quality, availability, and practical application of peace officer training. Ohio was one of the first states to take on this effort in light of use-of-force incidents throughout the country.

The group issued its report toward the end of fiscal year 2015. It recommended increasing standards for candidates to be admitted to a peace officer training academy, additional hours of basic training, and increasing the hours of annual training for peace officers, among other recommendations.

We continue to work on reviewing, revising, and implementing training protocols for Ohio's current peace officers and for those who aspire to join law enforcement.

These are just a few of the accomplishments the academy and commission realized in fiscal year 2015. I invite you to read on to learn about other ways we worked to provide Ohio's law enforcement community with the best possible training and resources. Please feel free to share your comments or suggestions with Mary Davis, executive director of the commission and academy, at **740-845-2700** or **Mary.Davis@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov**.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General

Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission Overview

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) advises the Ohio Attorney General and provides direction to the executive director on training, eligibility, and service standards for law enforcement and other public safety professionals in the state. The commission's ultimate goal is to ensure the highest level of safety for the citizens of Ohio.

OPOTC has worked to improve the professional capabilities of Ohio's law enforcement and public safety professionals since 1965. With the assistance of 65 dedicated employees and the executive director, the commission's nine members play a pivotal role in helping the Ohio Attorney General shape training and compliance standards for more than 33,900 peace officers and their 954 respective agencies.

The commission is also responsible for academic policies and professional standards for tens of thousands of corrections officers, bailiffs, jailers, private security officers, adult parole officers, probation officers, humane agents, public defender investigators, and law enforcement K-9 units.

Commission members are appointed by the governor and approved by the Ohio Senate. The Ohio Attorney General provides administrative oversight for the commission.

To fulfill its statutory responsibility and improve law enforcement training in Ohio, the commission's role is to recommend:

- Rules for approving peace officer, private security, humane agent, jailer, corrections, public defender investigator, bailiff, K-9, and firearms training and certification.
- The curricula, minimum attendance, equipment, and facility requirements necessary for approval of training programs.
- Minimum qualifications required for instructors at approved training sites.
- Categories or classifications of advanced in-service training programs for peace officers.
- Minimum requirements for the certification of K-9 units used by law enforcement agencies.

The commission also is authorized to:

- Recommend studies, surveys, and reports designed to evaluate its effectiveness.
- Visit and inspect Ohio peace officer training schools.
- Establish fees for commission services.
- Make recommendations to the Attorney General or General Assembly on the commission's statutory responsibilities.
- Set the minimum required hours of annual continuing professional training (CPT) for peace officers and troopers.

Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission Members

Executive Director Mary E. Davis
Attorney General's Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and Academy
London, Ohio

Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, OPOTC chair
Fayette County Sheriff's Office
Washington Court House, Ohio

Special Agent in Charge Stephen Anthony
FBI
Cleveland, Ohio

Chief Clayton Harris
Cuyahoga Community College Police Department
Cleveland, Ohio

Sheriff Michael Heldman
Hancock County Sheriff's Office
Findlay, Ohio

Chief Kimberley Jacobs
Columbus Division of Police
Columbus, Ohio

Sgt. Troy Mineard
Akron Police Department
Akron, Ohio

Col. Paul Pride
Superintendent, Ohio State Highway Patrol
Columbus, Ohio

Deputy Attorney General Stephen Schumaker
Ohio Attorney General's Office
Columbus, Ohio

Basic Training Programs		
<u>Topic</u>	<u>Ohio Administrative Code</u>	<u>Hours Required *</u>
Peace Officer Basic Training	109:2-01	616
Peace Officer Refresher Training	109:2-01	16
Private Security Basic Training	109:2-03	
A. Academic Portion Only		149
B. Revolver		20
C. Semi-Auto		20
D. Shotgun		5
Bailiff/Deputy Bailiff Basic Training	109:2-05	40
State Public Defender Criminal Investigator Basic Training	109:2-06	40
K-9 Unit and Evaluator Basic Training	109:2-07	
A. K-9 Evaluator, Core		25
B. K-9 Evaluator, Special Purpose		38
C. K-9 Evaluator, Patrol-Related		34
Corrections Officer Basic Training	109:2-09	158
Jailer Basic Training	109:2-11	
A. Jailer, 12-Day Facility		48
B. Contact Training, 12-Day Facility		16
C. Jailer, 12-Hour Facility		16
Firearms Requalification	109:2-13	N/A
Humane Agent Basic Training	109:2-15	24
*Hours subject to change with program revisions		

Commission Highlights

Updating basic training curricula

OPOTC and its staff continued to evaluate, revise, and implement numerous topics within basic training programs in fiscal year 2015. The revisions are being guided by a Job Task Analysis that drew feedback from more than 2,300 officers and 1,000 front-line supervisors from more than 800 Ohio law enforcement agencies.

Effective July 1, 2014, and January 1, 2015, two sets of curricula were released, encompassing changes within the peace officer basic training program, refresher, private security, and corrections training programs. Lesson plans covering more than 80 topics and over 500 training hours were released to the field. Additionally, during the fiscal year, a working group was established to focus on current and potential training regarding use-of-force incidents. The group issued its observations and recommendations and OPOTC will address these going forward.

As review of the curricula continues, the commission remains committed to providing current, pertinent, and industry best-practice material to basic academy students while incorporating instructional techniques that reflect the most effective adult-learning theories.

New additions to basic training

Video scenarios that have been professionally filmed and edited continue to be added to several basic training courses, including one on traffic tickets for peace officers and one on crisis intervention and suicide prevention for corrections officers. As basic programs are revised, the benefits of videos will be considered for each topic. The implementation of the videos, which are specifically designed to match the performance objectives, will provide students with a real-life perspective.

Providing resources electronically

The commission provides many of its resources electronically to allow agencies greater access to services and information.

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) offers online registration for its regional and on-campus courses, allowing officers to search and register for courses through the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) at **www.OHLEG.org**. Designated agency approvers receive an email alerting them to training requests. Once approved, the officer and approver receive an email confirmation. Approvers also can register officers for courses and view their officers' OPOTA training history to enhance agency training records. Agencies can activate their online registration account by sending an email to **OPOTARegistration@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov**.

The OPOTA Course Catalog at **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OPOTACourses** lists classes available around the state and at the London and Richfield OPOTA campuses. Users can search by subject for full details about available classes.

Peace officers throughout Ohio can access the academy's online courses 24/7 through eOPOTA, which is available on OHLEG. Some courses of general interest – such as a series of classes on human trafficking and a course on the opiate overdose-reversal medication Narcan – also are offered to the public via the Ohio Attorney General's website, **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov**. The peace officer basic training, refresher training, private security academic curricula, and instructional resources have also been placed on OHLEG to provide easy access for commanders and instructors.

The commission also offers an electronic Law Enforcement Directory, which provides contact information for Ohio police chiefs and sheriffs and links to the Ohio State Highway Patrol, state agencies, and correctional facilities. The directory can be found at **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Law-Enforcement/Law-Enforcement-Directory**. Law enforcement officers throughout the state can update their contact information at **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OPOTAUpdate** to ensure they receive electronic communications from the academy and commission.

Law enforcement officers and administrators also can email OPOTA with general, certification, or training questions (**askOPOTA@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov**); to register for or seek information on courses (**OPOTARegistration@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov**); and to transmit agency changes of officer status or new appointments (**SF400@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov**).

Continuing Professional Training for Peace Officers and Troopers

Funds from Ohio's casino fees permitted OPOTC to mandate CPT for 2015. In September 2014, OPOTC unanimously voted to set four hours of CPT as the required minimum number of hours for 2015. For public appointing authorities to be eligible for reimbursement of training costs in the amount of \$20 per hour: 1) one hour of CPT needed to include critical subject training related to domestic violence; 2) the remaining three hours, which could relate to any general law enforcement topic, had to be completed; and 3) the public appointing authority was in compliance with the annual roster reporting requirements required by law.

As in previous years, CPT was any training the agency administrator deemed is directly related to the duties and responsibilities of a peace officer or trooper. The training must have met the requirements of the Ohio Administrative Code, served a recognized law enforcement purpose, and had significant intellectual or practical content, with the primary objective being to improve a participant's professional competence as a peace officer or trooper.

Administrative Action Overview

State certification exams	3,027
Academies opened	701
Academies closed	622
K-9 certification/unit examinations approved	347
K-9 certification/unit examinations completed	326
Certificates issued	8,043
Instructor certificates issued	1,684
Peace officers decertified	29
K-9 unit certifications	1,193
Prior equivalency training determinations	65
Update training determinations	4,663

Ohio Peace Officer Profile

Ohio agencies commissioned 33,993 peace officers in fiscal year 2015. Below is a breakdown by agency type and appointment status:

Full-Time Peace Officers:	23,958
Part-Time Peace Officers:	3,512
Special Appointments:	2,834
Auxiliary Peace Officers:	1,923
Reserve Peace Officers:	1,722
Seasonal Peace Officers:	44
Total Ohio Peace Officers:	33,993

Ohio's Concealed Carry Weapons Update

OPOTC maintains a database of statistics related to Ohio's concealed handguns law and issues an annual report highlighting the stats, which are reported quarterly by sheriffs in Ohio.

During fiscal year 2015, the sheriffs reported issuing 61,058 regular licenses, 61 temporary licenses, 45,369 license renewals, 1,351 license suspensions, 545 license revocations, 960 concealed carry license applicant denials, and 39 license process suspensions.

Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy Overview

OPOTA is recognized as a national leader in advanced training for law enforcement. Groundwork was laid for its establishment in 1970 when then-Gov. James Rhodes signed House Bill 1160, authorizing OPOTC to launch its own training academy. The academy opened in 1976.

OPOTA uses the latest research and instructional methods to develop outstanding training programs that meet the needs of law enforcement professionals and the communities they serve. Courses are offered at the academy's main campus and Tactical Training Center, both in London, at a satellite campus in Richfield, through Mobile Academy and regional trainings throughout the state, and online through eOPOTA.

Courses cover a wide array of topics pertinent to today's law enforcement community — from latent fingerprint development, shooting reconstruction, and instructional skills, to computer forensics, crisis intervention, and first-line supervision.

The academy is committed to:

- Providing outstanding instruction to the Ohio law enforcement community.
- Promoting rapid student development through the use of superior training methods.
- Continually upgrading course content by incorporating the latest research and recommended professional practices.
- Stimulating inquiry and providing fresh perspectives within the law enforcement profession.

Academy Highlights

Mobile Academy - Mobile Subject Control

This one-day course provides students the most up-to-date concepts in the use of force. Students learn skills necessary to engage or disengage from a standing or ground encounter. Weapon retention, handcuffing, and edged weapon defense are incorporated. This course can be hosted over multiple days to benefit individual agency needs.

Close Call Reporting Database

In January 2015, the Attorney General's Office established the Close Call Reporting Database. Close call reporting is a process of identifying, analyzing, documenting, and sharing close calls to avoid a catastrophic incident. This database gives departments throughout the state access to anonymously submitted reports, agency-created solutions, and training opportunities relevant to the close call. This information is available on the Attorney General's website in the form of quarterly reports. Close call reporting can assist agencies by preventing injuries, maintaining a climate of safety, giving officers an open forum to discuss concerns they have, raising awareness of issues that affect officer safety, and sharing those experiences so others can reduce close calls in their departments.

Online eOPOTA Courses

OPOTA also has continued to expand its free eOPOTA online courses, provided via a secure Internet link through OHLEG. Over 85 courses were available at the close of fiscal year 2015. Ohio law enforcement officers completed more than 80,000 course sessions.

Procedural Justice and Police Legitimacy

Procedural justice is the process used by police officers to treat citizens fairly and with proper respect. Legitimacy refers to a citizen feeling that a police officer should be deferred to, complied with, and trusted. The goal of procedural justice and police legitimacy is to strengthen a department's relationship with the community and, ultimately, improve officer safety and efficiency. It's as basic as the old adage: It is not what you say, but how you say it. It's not just about what you do, but how you do it.

The course was developed through OPOTA's partnership with the Education and Training Division of the Chicago Police Department, with substantial support from Yale University law professors.

Commission and Academy Financial Report

In fiscal year 2015, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and Academy budget was more than \$12 million.

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Fund Use and Purpose</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Attorney General Claims	Supports operating expenses for the academy	\$4,620,107
Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy	Supports training and operating expenses	\$1,408,936
Law Enforcement Assistance	Reimburses law enforcement agencies for required Continued Professional Training (CPT) hours	\$2,153,215
General Reimbursement	Pays costs associated with Attorney General's Law Enforcement Conference.	\$144,847
Private Security	Supports operating expenses for the private security program	\$59,485
Traffic Safety	Facilitates traffic safety courses through federal grant funds	\$126,205
Peace Officer Training Casino	Supports law enforcement training efforts	\$3,909,630
Peace Officer Training Commission	Supplements peace officer training efforts	\$77,531
Total		\$12,499,956

Commission and Academy Statistics

State Certification Exam	
Corrections Students Tested	533
Corrections Students Retested	18
Corrections Students Tested - Special Accommodations	1
Corrections Students Retested - Special Accommodations	2
Jailer Students Tested	18
Jailer Students Retested	2
Peace Officer Basic Students Tested	1,665
Peace Officer Basic Students Retested	185
Peace Officer Basic Students Tested - Special Accommodations	20
Peace Officer Basic Students Retested - Special Accommodations	8
Peace Officer Refresher Students Tested	207
Peace Officer Refresher Students Retested	11
Peace Officer Refresher Students Tested - Special Accommodations	0
Peace Officer Refresher Students Retested - Special Accommodations	0
Private Security Students Tested	288
Private Security Students Retested	58
Private Security Students Tested - Special Accommodations	8
Private Security Students Retested - Special Accommodations	3
Total Tests Administered	3,027

Peace officer basic open enrollment letters issued	1,054
---	--------------

Instructors	
Peace officer basic amendments	528
Corrections amendments	54
Jailer amendments	0
Bailiff amendments	0
Private security amendments	25
Total amendments	607

Peace officer basic renewals	371
Corrections renewals	31
Jailer renewals	0
Bailiff renewals	0
Private security renewals	46
Total renewals	448

Peace officer basic unit certifications	266
Corrections unit certifications	59
Jailer unit certifications	1
Bailiff unit certifications	2
Private security unit certifications	30
Total unit certifications	358

Peace officer basic special certifications	45
Corrections special certifications	35
Jailer special certifications	0

Bailiff special certifications	0
Private security special certifications	7
Total special certifications	87

Updates and prior equivalency evaluations	
Peace officer basic update determinations	4,663
Bailiff update determinations	3
Total update determinations	4,666
Peace officer basic prior equivalency determinations	42
Corrections basic prior equivalency determinations	12
Bailiff basic prior equivalency determinations	8
Total prior equivalency determinations	62

Decertifications /Revocations	
Commanders	0
Instructors	2
Peace Officers	29
Total decertifications/revocations	31

Suspensions	
Commanders	0
Instructors	0
Peace Officers	1
Total suspensions	1

K-9 certification	
Unit examinations approved	347
Unit examinations completed	326
Unit special purpose certifications	673
Unit patrol-related certifications	520
Evaluator special purpose certifications	29
Evaluator patrol-related certifications	25

Firearms requalification	
Instructor requalifications	301
Instructor amendments	183
Instructor renewals	556

OPOTA advanced training	
Courses	1,144
Students	21,071
Training days	1,670
Student training days	37,358

Schools	
Adult Parole Authority Basic Training Schools Opened	13
Adult Parole Authority Basic Training Schools Closed	11
Adult Parole Authority Basic Training Schools Canceled	2
Bailiff Basic Training Schools Opened	1
Bailiff Basic Training Schools Closed	2
Bailiff Basic Training Schools Canceled	0
Corrections Basic Training Schools Opened	36
Corrections Basic Training Schools Closed	40
Corrections Basic Training Schools Canceled	0
Jailer Basic Training Schools Opened	2
Jailer Basic Training Schools Closed	3
Jailer Basic Training Schools Canceled	0
Peace Officer Basic Training Schools Opened	99
Peace Officer Basic Training Schools Closed	99
Peace Officer Basic Training Schools Canceled	0
Peace Officer Refresher Course Training Schools Opened	12
Peace Officer Refresher Course Training Schools Closed	12
Peace Officer Refresher Course Training Schools Canceled	0
Private Security Academic Plus Firearms Schools Opened	4
Private Security Academic Plus Firearms Schools Closed	3
Private Security Academic-Only Schools Opened	27
Private Security Academic-Only Schools Closed	24
Private Security Academic-Only Schools Canceled	1
Private Security Firearms Basic Schools Opened	232
Private Security Firearms Basic Schools Closed	176
Private Security Firearms Basic Schools Canceled	12
Private Security Firearms Requalification Schools Opened	252
Private Security Firearms Requalification Schools Closed	233
Private Security Firearms Requalification Schools Canceled	12
Probation Schools Opened	22
Probation Schools Closed	24
Probation Schools Canceled	0

2015 Ohio Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony

Perhaps the best way to understand the magnitude of these commission and academy activities is to pay a visit to the Ohio Fallen Officers' Memorial Wall, located at OPOTA's London Campus.

Here, the names of 766 fallen Ohio peace officers killed in the line of duty since 1823 are forever etched in the Memorial's walls. They serve as a constant reminder of just how important the training function is to the brave men and women behind the badge.

The annual Ohio Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony is held the first Thursday in May to honor officers who gave their lives in the line of duty the year before.

The honoree in May 2015 was:

- Officer Justin R. Winebrenner, of the Akron Police Department; End of Watch, Nov. 16, 2014

The historical inductions for 2015 were:

- Albert Schmitt, of the Cheviot Police Department; End of Watch, May 28, 1921
- Forest S. Hager, of the Union County Sheriff's Office; End of Watch, Sept. 23, 1927
- Michael A. Paris Sr., of the Ohio State Highway Patrol; End of Watch, Aug. 1, 2012

2014 Ohio Distinguished Law Enforcement Awards

These individuals and groups received Distinguished Law Enforcement Awards at the Ohio Attorney General's 2014 Law Enforcement Conference to recognize their outstanding achievements and dedication:

Distinguished Law Enforcement Civilian Leadership Award

James Woodward - Administrative Chaplain, Hancock County Sheriff's Office

James "The Barber" Woodward's contribution to the Findlay and Hancock County community goes well beyond the successful barber shop he co-owned and operated for almost 40 years and his active role in the Findlay Lions Club for 29 years. His passion for helping his community began in the 1970s, when he led a group of citizens to bring back Findlay's proclaimed title of "Flag City USA." While serving as the Hancock County Justice Center's barber in 2000, Mr. Woodward's passion steered him to make a difference in inmates' lives. What began as simply sharing positive messages with inmates while cutting their hair, led to voluntary monthly motivational programs and weekly Bible studies where he continues to make inmates feel like a valuable part of the community and encourages them to make positive changes in their lives.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Lifetime Achievement Award

Chief Martin J. Kendzora — St. Clairsville Police Department

Chief Martin J. Kendzora was not only known for being a fair and honest leader during his 38 years as chief of the St. Clairsville Police Department, but also as a person who truly loves his community. He retired in 2013 after serving the department for more than 49 years.

**Distinguished Law Enforcement Community Service Award
Patrol Officer Elizabeth M. Roach — Blue Ash Police Department**

Officer Elizabeth Roach took the initiative to strengthen the relationship between police officers and the Latino community in Hamilton County. In addition to learning to speak and translate Spanish proficiently, she is a member of the Latino Coalition of Southwest Ohio and has made great strides in providing information on immigration and victims' rights to the Latino community. Officer Roach has also taken a special interest in promoting understanding about mental health and people with developmental disabilities.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Training Award

Officer Timothy Halbakken — Columbus Division of Police

Days after Officer Timothy Halbakken and a Columbus Division of Police colleague launched a Self-Aid and Partner-Aid course for fellow officers, a decision was made to add tourniquet carriers to department uniforms. Officer Halbakken joined the Columbus Police in 1994 and within two years was teaching a subject control course for its training bureau. He has created trainings for the vice, narcotics, SWAT, and gang units, as well as for outside agencies — from the municipal to federal levels. A “trainer of trainers,” he prepares instructors to teach various specialties.

Chief Deputy Charles E. Mansfield — Meigs County Sheriff's Office

Chief Deputy Charles Mansfield worked first as a Champaign County deputy sheriff and then as a state park officer before landing his dream job as an Ohio state wildlife officer. His skills in teaching subject control and physical conditioning had been tapped in his previous positions, and the Division of Wildlife made him a training officer upon graduation from its basic academy. He continued in that capacity for 20 years, retiring from the division in 2003 as training coordinator. Chief Deputy Mansfield has taught ranger and peace officer basics at Hocking College for 30 years as well as at several other law enforcement academies.

Mark Losey Distinguished Law Enforcement Service Award

Chief Robin R. Lees — Youngstown Police Department

Chief Robin Lees joined the Youngstown Police Department in 1978 and rose through the ranks from patrolman to lieutenant before retiring in 2011. He rejoined the YPD in January 2014 as chief, a position that gives him responsibility for directing the department and managing its 152 sworn officers and 40 civilian employees. Among his assignments: commanding the Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force, operated through the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC); the YPD Vice Squad; and the Mahoning Valley Crisis Response Team.

Sergeant Donald Allen Shields — Bellefontaine Police Department

Sergeant Donald Shields' creation of a Citizens Police Academy has so far graduated more than 25 community members. He joined the Bellefontaine Police Department in 1989 after seven years in the U.S. Army, and served as a patrol officer and detective before being promoted to sergeant and shift supervisor. He was a member of Logan County's first multidisciplinary Child Abuse Response Team and his investigative efforts led to the successful prosecution of many child predators. He has received his department's Special Commendation Award and two Medals of Merit.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Group Achievement Award

Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission Task Force 14-7 Hamilton County, Ohio

FBI

Agent Lance Rollins
Agent Ryan Whalen
Agent Matthew DeBlauw

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation

Agent Roger Davis
Agent Seth Hagaman
Agent Ken Smith
Analyst Jennifer Dillion

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Detective Michael Stock
Detective Kevin Illing
Detective Joseph Lee

Cincinnati Police Department

Detective Brian Trotta
Detective Anthony Peters
Detective Jay Barnes

Woodlawn Police Department

Detective Scott Fetter
Detective Donald Fourth

Task Force 14-7 of the OOCIC was formed in September 2013 to address violent crime in northern Hamilton County. In its first year, it closed 10 homicide cases, including three cold cases. Task force members served 197 search warrants and were responsible for 119 indictments. And, while not a drug task force, the group seized 31 pounds of marijuana, 10 grams of cocaine, and 406 grams of heroin in the course of its work. Members also assisted many agencies with intelligence, surveillance, investigative expertise, jail access, and technology.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Meritorious Service Award

Adams County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Michael Mills
Sergeant Richard Phillips

On March 3, 2014, in the middle of an ice and snow storm, the Adams County Sheriff's Office received a call about a house fire and an individual still inside. Deputy Michael Mills immediately headed to the scene and was the first to arrive, noticing as he approached that the home was engulfed in flames. He found safe passage into the home through the garage and located an 80-year-old paralyzed man in a medical bed, and his wife, who was unable to get him out of the house. Deputy Mills quickly realized that the only way to get the man outside without injuring him was to carry him out on the mattress down a narrow medical ramp and through a small doorway. It was

then, still within five minutes after receiving the call, that Sergeant Richard Phillips arrived and helped Deputy Mills carry the mattress safely away from the home to a nearby bridge.

Uhrichsville Police Department

Patrol Officer Mark Meftah
Sergeant Sean Smith

On April 11, 2014, the two responded to numerous 911 calls reporting a man had fallen over a bridge and into a flooded, swiftly moving creek. When the officers arrived on scene, they learned the victim had floated more than 100 yards upstream. Officer Meftah swam quickly through the cold, fast current to reach the victim who was facedown, had no pulse, and was not breathing. He turned the man over and headed toward shore. Sergeant Smith joined them in the water and assisted in bringing the man the rest of the way back. Officer Meftah and other responders alternated in performing CPR until the man was transported to the hospital.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award

Officer Chad Stafford – Hamilton Police Department

As the first officer to respond after a 911 caller reported “a big, tall guy carrying a big gun with a banana clip ... shooting at everything,” Officer Chad Stafford was on the scene in 90 seconds on the morning of Feb. 15, 2014. A 16-year law enforcement veteran, Officer Stafford ordered the 18-year-old suspect to drop his weapon – a civilian model AK-47 – while taking cover behind a parked car. The teen fired several shots at the officer, including one that traveled through the car and grazed the officer’s head. With blood streaming down his face and obviously outgunned, Officer Stafford moved from behind the car and fired two rounds from his duty pistol, striking and killing the suspect.

Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award

Cuyahoga Falls Police Department

Sergeant Todd Shafer
Patrolman Trevor Ford
Patrolman Joel Moledor
Patrolman John Neforos
Patrolman Sean Sheets

Distinguished Law Enforcement Meritorious Service Award

Cuyahoga Falls Police Department

Sergeant Martin Rogers
Patrolwoman Cheryl Desko
Patrolwoman Dawn McIlvain

“You’ll be in our prayers always,” Cuyahoga Falls family members wrote in thanking eight officers who responded to their home the night of Feb. 16, 2014.

The ex-boyfriend of a family member fired two rifle rounds through the back door of the residence and entered the home. His former girlfriend, who had been in the kitchen, ran upstairs to warn the rest of the family. Her father headed downstairs and confronted the intruder, telling him to leave the home, and then returned to his family in the attic to wait for police.

Knowing that shots had been fired but not the suspect's whereabouts, officers searched and secured the perimeter before entering the home. Sergeant Shafer, and officers Sheets, Neforos, Moledor, and Ford entered, while Sergeant Rogers, and patrolwomen Desko and McIlvain, maintained the perimeter.

Officers were entering the basement when Officer Sheets spied the suspect behind the furnace and warned the others that the man had an AK-47 pointed in their direction and a pistol in his other hand. They ordered him to drop his weapons and, without reply, he turned the pistol on himself and pulled the trigger. He was transported to Akron City Hospital, where he died.

Commission and Academy Staff Awards

Administration Recognition Award

The Administration Award goes to an employee who, through dedicated service, has served as a role model to others within the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, the commission, and to the public. This employee reflects the commission and academy's core values of integrity, professionalism, cooperation, and commitment. The recipient of the 2014 Administration Recognition Award was Administrative Professional 2 Sheryl Shaw.

Peer Award

The Peer Award is granted upon a vote of the employees of the Ohio Peace Officer Commission and Academy. The qualifications for this award are professionalism; skilled in job responsibilities; strong supporter of other staff members, teams, and the organization's mission; and is an excellent customer service provider. The 2014 Peer Award recipient was Law Enforcement Training Officer Daniel Pastor.



Ohio Attorney General's Office
**Ohio Peace Officer Training
Commission and Academy**

FISCAL YEAR 2015

Annual Report

Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and Academy

Mary Davis, Executive Director

1650 State Route 56 SW

P.O. Box 309

London, OH 43140

740-845-2700

800-346-7682

OPOTA Tactical Training Center

1960 State Route 42 SW

London, OH 43140

740-845-6300

OPOTA Richfield Campus

4055 Highlander Parkway, Suite B

Richfield, OH 44286

330-659-2311

888-436-7282

AskOPOTA@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OPOTA



MIKE DEWINE

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov