

Commissioners:

Larry J. Straitiff, Chairman
Marshall R. Davis
William R. Erickson, Jr.
Jim Fox
Hon. Rita D. Hathaway
Hon. Janet F. Lewis
R. Scott Schlechter
Gregory A. Young
Hon. Michael L. Green (Acting)



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November 16, 2004

A meeting of the County Probation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education and Training Commission convened at 9:00 AM on November 16, 2004 at the Courtyard Marriott in State College, PA. The following Commission members and other persons were present:

Larry J. Straitiff, Chairman	A. Gary Scicchitano, Advisor (PBPP)
Commissioner Marshall R. Davis	W. Conway Bushey, Advisor (PBPP)
Commissioner William R. Erickson, Jr	Linda J. Laub, Legal Advisor (PBPP)
Commissioner Jim Fox	Erik Christensen (Guest)
Commissioner R. Scott Schlechter	Rusty Duncan (Guest)
Commissioner Gregory A. Young	Michael Guido (Guest)
Honorable Janet F. Lewis	Marci Pesta (Guest) NCTC
Chester A. Kope, Executive Director	Cindi Weldon (Guest) NCTC
Lee Van Brederode (Admin. Officer)	Diane Schaeffer (Commission Secretary)

I. REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Straitiff opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Straitiff requested a motion to accept the minutes of the September 14, 2004 Commission meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Schlechter to accept the September 14, 2004 meeting minutes. Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Commission approved the motion.

II. NORTHEAST COUNTERDRUG TRAINING CENTER (NCTC) PRESENTATION

Chairman Straitiff opened the table for Mr. Kope to introduce Ms. Marci Pesta and Ms. Cindi Weldon from the NCTC. Ms. Pesta made a presentation covering an overview of the history and mission of the NCTC and made a proposal for the NCTC to conduct selected advanced firearms training courses for the Commission. The Commissioners held a brief discussion with Ms. Pesta.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Straitiff convened an Executive Session at 9:40 AM to discuss potential vendors and negotiations for contracting with the NCTC. The Executive Session ended at 10:40 a.m. and the Commission continued their regular meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Erickson to have Ms. Linda Laub research the issue of instructor liability as it relates to possibly contracting with NCTC and to provide In-Service Training Courses in 2005. The motion seconded by Commissioner Young. A vote was taken and the Commission approved the motion.

IV. COMMISSION MEETING DATES 2005

The Commissioners established the following meeting dates for calendar year 2005:

January 25, 2005
March 15, 2005
May 17, 2005
July 19, 2005
September 13, 2005
November 15, 2005

All meetings are scheduled to be held in State College, Pennsylvania and begin at 9:00 AM

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Davis to accept the proposed meeting dates for calendar year 2005. The motion seconded by Commissioner Young. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum Sub-Committee

Commissioner Schlechter reported that the Curriculum Sub-Committee reviewed and revised the range portion of In-Service Training course titled, "Officer Survival Mindset, Cover and Concealment and Immediate Action Drills. No changes were made to the classroom portion of the course. Minor changes were recommended for the range phase. The Committee recommended eliminating the qualification course of fire and reducing the number of drills in order to have more time to focus on the essential immediate action drills. Additionally, officers attending the course would only receive in-service training credit if they successfully passed the written examination, which concludes the classroom phase of the training.

MOTION: A motion made by Commissioner Young to accept the Curriculum Sub-Committee's recommended revisions to the In-Service Training course titled, "Officer Survival Mindset, Cover and Concealment and Immediate Action Drills. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission.

Commissioner Schlechter reported that a second Simunition Training is scheduled to take place at the NCTC facility at Fort Indiantown Gap, in January 2005.

Commissioner Schlechter also introduced Sergeant Michael Guido of the Carlisle Police Department who is a member of the Curriculum Sub-Committee.

Policy Sub-Committee

Commissioner Straitiff reported that the Policy Sub-Committee had completed Revision #5 to the Commission's proposed regulations. He also addressed the issue of developing a policy, which would give counties training credit for other firearms training that their officers took and allow them utilize courses such as the one developed by Dauphin County Juvenile Probation.

Commissioner Fox discussed the approval, which would be needed for this type of training to take place and stressed the need for policies and procedures if the Commission permits county officers to participate in firearms training outside of the Commission limits.

Commissioner Davis wanted to know how the Commission would control who instructed the trainings and what certifications would be needed for in-house training.

The Commissioners held a brief discussion addressing the issues of establishing a train-the-trainer program to qualify instructors to conduct In-Service Firearms Training at the county level.

Range Acquisition and Development Sub-Committee

Chairman Straitiff discussed abolishing the sub-committee since the Commission had decided against pursuing actions to acquire or develop firing ranges.

MOTION: Commissioner Fox made a motion to abolish the Range Acquisition and Development Sub-Committee. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission.

Strategic Planning Sub Committee

Commissioner Young had nothing report.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Kope advised the Commission of the re-appointment of Commissioner Gregory Young with an expiration date of 9/30/07.

He reported that six probation officers, statewide, did not complete the In-Service Training course titled, "Officer Survival Mindset, Cover and Concealment and Immediate Action Drills.

The Commissioners discussed a letter that the Executive Director received from Chief Suknaic, Director, Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Office requesting an extension because the failure of his officers to attend the scheduled training was caused by ILEE's errors in scheduling and communications.

The Commissioners also discussed a letter that the Executive Director received from Chief Sally Barry, Lebanon County Adult Probation requesting extension of time for one of her officers.

MOTION: Commissioner Schlechter made a motion to grant extension for all of the County Probation Officers who did not complete required In-Service Training course titled, "Officer Survival Mindset, Cover and Concealment and Immediate Action Drills. However, they must take the first available course that would be offered in calendar year 2005. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission. Chairman Straitiff abstained.

Mr. Kope reported that he received five applications from officers seeking to become Commission Certified Firearms Instructors and one application from an officer requesting to become a Master Instructor.

Mr. Kope presented the Commissioners with an application that he received from Officer Jonathan Flynn from the Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Department to become a Master Instructor. He recommended that the Commission approve Officers Flynn's request to become a Mater Instructor. After a brief discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: Commissioner Young made a motion to approve Officer Jonathan Flynn's request to become a Master Instructor. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope presented the Commissioners with an application that he received from Officer Seth Reeser from the Dauphin County Adult Probation Department to become a Commission Certified Firearms Instructor. He recommended that the Commission approve Officers Reeser's request to become a Commission Certified Firearms Instructor. After a brief discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: Commissioner Schlechter made a motion to approve Officer Seth Reeser's request to become a Commission Certified Firearms Instructor. Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope presented the Commissioners with an application that he received from Officer Peter Gawlinski from the Crawford County Adult Probation Department to become a Commission Certified Firearms Instructor. He recommended that the Commission approve Officers Gawlinski's request to become a Commission Certified Firearms Instructor. After a brief discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: Commissioner Schlechter made a motion to approve Officer Peter Gawlinski's request to become a Commission Certified Firearms Instructor. Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope presented the Commissioners with an application that he received from Officer Mark Weindorf from the Crawford County Adult Probation Department to become a Commission Certified Firearms Instructor. He recommended that the Commission approve Officers

Weindorf's request to become a Commission Certified Firearms Instructor. After a brief discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: Commissioner Schlechter made a motion to approve Officer Mark Weindorf's request to become a Commission Certified Firearms Instructor. Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope presented the Commissioners with an application that he received from Officer Lee De Marco from the Fayette County Adult Probation Department to become a Commission Certified Firearms Instructor. He recommended that the Commission approve Officers De Marco's request to become a Commission Certified Firearms Instructor. After a brief discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: Commissioner Schlechter made a motion to approve Officer Lee De Marco's request to become a Commission Certified Firearms Instructor. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope presented the Commissioners with an application that he received from Officer Andrea Sandt from the Lehigh County Adult Probation Department to become a Commission Certified Firearms Instructor. He recommended that the Commission approve Officer Sandt's request to become a Commission Certified Firearms Instructor. After a brief discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: Commissioner Schlechter made a motion to approve Officer Andrea Sandt's request to become a Commission Certified Firearms Instructor. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope presented the Commissioners with a request for a medical extension that he received from the Chief Adult Probation Officer in Somerset County on behalf of Officer Channing Bowers. After a brief discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Erickson to approve the requested medical extension for Officer Channing Bowers. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope presented the Commissioners with a request for a medical extension that he received from the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Wyoming County on behalf of Officer Laura Hasenzahl. After a brief discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: A motion made by Commissioner Young to approve the requested medical extension for Officer Laura Hasenzahl. Commissioner Schlechter seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope presented the Commissioners with a request for a medical extension that he received from the Chief Adult Probation Officer in Cambria County on behalf of Officer Ronald Johns. After a brief discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: A motion made by Commissioner Schlechter to approve the requested medical extension for Officer Ronald Johns. Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope presented the Commissioners with a request for a medical extension that he received from the Chief Adult Probation Officer in Lehigh County on behalf of Officer Barbara Laubach. After a brief discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: A motion made by Commissioner Erickson to approve the requested medical extension for Officer Barbara Laubach. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope presented the Commissioners with a request for a military extension that he received from the Chief Adult Probation Officer in Lehigh County on behalf of Officer Shane Schmechenbecker. After a brief discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: A motion made by Commissioner Erickson to approve the requested medical extension for Officer Shane Schmechenbecker. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope presented a request for extension for Officer Shane Schmechenbecker, Lehigh County, due to military deployment.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commission Erickson to accept the requested extension. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Mr. Kope presented the Commissioners with the student evaluations that he received from the students that attended the Pilot Simunition Training and the 33rd Basic Firearms Training Academy. There was no discussion.

Mr. Kope reported the Commission's financial statement, dated October 31, 2004, showed a balance of \$1,233,531.00. The Commissioners had no comments.

vii. VII. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Van Brederode reported that eight additional Glock 17T Simunition pistols had been ordered. Delivery should be in time for the January 2005 Simunition training. He advised the Commission that he was pursuing refund, to include a restocking fee, of a credit for training pistols previously returned to a vendor. He and Mr. Kope are working through Pam Pasi, Director of the PBPP Fiscal Management Division, to try to receive full credit for the return.

Mr. Van Brederode reported that twelve applicants have registered for the upcoming Simunition training.

He also reported he was in contact with Shane Ludwig, training manager for Simunition, to explore how to recertify our current Simunition trainers as well as train additional trainers.

He said that the Commission's computerized training management system, under development by TATA, is currently still in the coding phase with a deployment scheduled in January 2005.

He reported that the response to a survey-training questionnaire that was sent to all chiefs in the state was good and that he would compile the details and give them a report at the next meeting.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Fox advised that there would be a PHATS training available soon. He further advised that his new position as a Dean at the Harrisburg Area Community College will not preclude his continued membership on the Commission and that he will serve until his current term expires.

Chairman Straitiff briefly discussed the issue of the appointment of new Commissioners including replacement of Commissioners Erickson and Schlechter who's 6 month term extension will expire in January 2005.

IX. LEGAL ISSUES

Ms. Laub reported that the House Bill 2844 will be (dead) as of November 30, 2004. If this occurs the Pennsylvania State Police will be oversee the re-certifications of qualifications.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT & QUESTIONS

There was no public comment.

XII. Commissioner Straitiff adjourned the regular meeting.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Straitiff called for an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 1:30 PM. Mr. Kope, Mr. Van Brederode, and Mrs. Schaeffer were asked to leave the meeting. The Executive Session ended at 2:30 PM.