



# MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMISSION

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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## **Introduction**

The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (hereafter referred to as "the Commission") was statutorily created by Act 120 (hereafter referred to as "Act 120") of 1974 (53 P.S. 740-749) in response to a federal study urging improved standards and goals in police training. The Commission was charged with establishing and administering the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Program, and responsibility for administration of the program was given to the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP).

## **Commission Composition**

The Commission is comprised of 20 members, as required by Act 120. Six seats on the Commission are ex officio positions while the remaining members are appointed by the Governor for a term of three years. Notwithstanding the reimbursement of essential expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, Commission members serve without compensation. The Commission is required to meet at least four times annually and may hold special meetings as necessary. Special meetings are called by the Chairman or at the request of at least five Commission members. The Commission has committees comprised of Commission members that usually meet prior to each regular Commission meeting, to address specific areas of the Commission's business.

As required by Act 120, the Commission members shall consist of:

- The Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police (Chairman). \*
- The Attorney General of the Commonwealth. \*
- The Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development. \*
- The Police Commissioner of Philadelphia. \*
- One member of the PA Senate, appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate. \*
- One member of the PA House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. \*
- Four elected officials, appointed by the Governor, including one from a borough, a second class township, a first class township, and a city.
- Four incumbent chiefs of police, appointed by the Governor, including one chief from a borough department, a township department, and a city department.
- One Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent-In-Charge, appointed by the Governor.
- One educator qualified in the field of law enforcement, appointed by the Governor.
- One member representing the public at large, appointed by the Governor.
- Two non-commissioned police officers, appointed by the Governor.
- One director of a certified municipal police training school, appointed by the Governor.

\* Denotes Ex Officio Positions

## **MPOETC Staff**

The PSP is responsible for the administration of the program. The Commission, by statute, elects an Executive Director who is responsible for the day-to-day Commission responsibilities. The Executive Director and MPOETC staff are assigned to an office within the PSP and report to the Commissioner. The Commission produces an annual report concerning the administration of its programs and provides recommendations for executive or legislative action necessary for the improvement of law enforcement and the administration of justice. The Commission receives legal services from an Assistant Counsel assigned to the PSP from the Governor's Office of General Counsel. The Commission office is located at 8002 Bretz Drive, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and consists of 18 staff members, including enlisted and civilian PSP personnel. The Commission has an annual budget of approximately two million dollars to cover personnel, general operating expenses, curriculum development, and fixed asset expenses.

### **MPOETC Staff Responsibilities**

The MPOETC staff oversees the training and certification requirements of municipal police officers under Act 120. Officers require certification by the Commission prior to enforcing the Crimes Code, moving violations of the Vehicle Code, or carrying a firearm. MPOETC awards Certification when all criteria of the attendant regulations are met and upon successful completion of the municipal police officer certification exam, which is administered by MPOETC staff. To verify that all Act 120 certified police officers continue to meet MPOETC certification standards, MPOETC staff conducts a biennial recertification.

The current curriculum consists of 754 hours of classroom and practical training conducted by Commission-certified academies and instructors. Act 120 also provides for partial training waivers to qualified out-of-state, military, and prior-service federal law enforcement officers. MPOETC staff reviews and approves these partial training waivers.

The MPOETC staff conducts annual inspections of certified academies that deliver basic and in-service municipal police officer training programs. The staff also approves or declines requests from certified academies regarding new facilities. MPOETC staff also have responsibility for the investigation of academies failing to comply with regulatory standards.

Under Act 120, certified police officers are required to obtain 12 hours of in-service training in order to maintain their certification. MPOETC has recently rebranded this program as Continuing Law Enforcement Education (CLEE). The Commission decides which training is "required" (essential training; for example, changes to the law and application of case law or legislatively mandated training) and which training/hours are elective. CLEE provides police departments and individual officers several options to satisfy their 12-hour training requirement. MPOETC normally

develops 12 hours of in-service training, which can be taken in the classroom, on-line, or a blended approach (combination of on-line and classroom). MPOETC also reviews, approves, and tracks over 300 additional CLEE courses that have been recommended by the Chiefs of Police and certified training academies as elective training, which can be used as credit toward the 12-hour training requirement for recertification.

Act 235 of 1974, commonly referred to as the Lethal Weapons Training Act (LWTA), requires anyone carrying a lethal weapon (as defined in the Act) in conjunction with his or her employment, unless exempted, to receive training and meet certification requirements. The PSP oversees the LWTA program and the MPOETC staff administers the program on their behalf. MPOETC staff approves new applications, renews certifications, and suspends certifications for the Commonwealth's 15,000 lethal weapons agents.

The MPOETC staff performs annual inspections of the certified schools conducting basic and renewal LWTA classes, approves or declines applications for new schools, approves or declines applications for new instructors, and suspends or decertifies schools failing to comply with regulations.

Act 79 of 2005, the Retired Law Enforcement Officers Identification Act (RLEIA), established Pennsylvania's program responsive to the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) of 2004, as amended, regarding the authorization for qualified active and retired law enforcement officers to carry firearms if they meet specific criteria. Act 79 requires MPOETC staff to administer aspects of RLEIA including certifying firearms instructors, managing qualification cards, tracking annual qualifications, processing money orders, and logging Instructor and Sheriff Office reports.

## **Legislative Changes Effecting Commission Programs**

Act 23 of 2015 established requirements for the renewal of licenses and certifications held by individuals entering military service, and allows licensing and certification requirements to be waived if a review of military service, education, and training establishes the requirement was previously met.

Act 23 of 2015 established new requirements for certification under Act 235, which will be implemented as stated below. Certifications that lapse during qualifying military service will be renewed as though they had not expired as required in § 7502 (b). A review of the training required for certification under Act 235 established that equivalent training is not provided as a routine part of military education, training, or service. Based on this, no exemptions to the training or certification requirements is warranted or can be granted under the provisions of § 7502 (c).

Act 165 of 2012 previously established these requirements for municipal police officers and there are no changes as a result of Act 23. As required in both Act 165 and Act 23, certifications that lapse during qualifying military service are renewed as though they had not expired. The partial training waiver program was established for eligible military and federal Law Enforcement Officers (LEO) whose law enforcement experience was equivalent to portions of the training required for Act 120 certification. Individuals meeting these criteria are allowed to forego specific portions of the Act 120 Basic Police Officer curriculum.

## **Recommendations**

The President's Taskforce on 21st Century Policing has issued their final report and made several recommendations for improving policing throughout the country. These suggested recommendations, whether they are implantation of technologies, helping police officers to improve community relations, or understanding the concept of Procedural Justice, require some level of training to the Commonwealth's municipal police officers. Therefore, any implantation of the Taskforce's recommendations should include fiscal support to the agency most responsible for training these municipal police officers, the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission.

The MPOETC is responsible for maintaining the training and certification records for over 23,000 municipal police officers. The current software is at outdated and requires replacement. MPOETC, supported by funding from the PSP and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, is approaching completion of the 1st phase of MPOETC's new Training and Certification System (TACS). However, additional funding is still required to complete the project. TACS will provide Chiefs of Police, individual municipal police officers, municipalities, and certified training academies the records management capabilities necessary to track all training, certification requirements, and submit applications for certification and reimbursement requests in a virtually paperless environment.

In recognition of the importance of municipal police training, the General Assembly passed Act 89 of 2013. Act 89 allocated five million dollars of funding to MPOETC, each fiscal year, to reimburse municipalities for municipal police training. This reimbursement is limited to expenses which are consistent with Art. VIII, § 11 of the Pennsylvania Constitution and therefore only provides for the reimbursement of police training that directly relates to safety on bridges and highways. MPOETC recommends that this appropriation be re-structured to establish a restricted receipts account within the General Fund, similar to that of the County Probation Officers' Firearm Education and Training Fund. It is further recommended that the parameters of the restricted receipts account be expanded beyond strictly police training that relates to safety on bridges and highways. Additionally, as is customary with many grant reimbursement programs, MPOETC recommends that a nominal percentage of the total allocated funding is provided for administration and expenses associated with this reimbursement program. These actions will allow MPOETC to more fully reimburse municipalities for municipal police training and other training law enforcement education programs.

## Act 120 Officer Certification

The MPOETC staff administers certification of municipal police officers employed by certified municipal police departments. Applicants can challenge the certification exam if they have successfully completed the basic academy or if they are granted a waiver based on previous training and employment. As noted below, there are currently 22,442 certified municipal police officers employed in Pennsylvania. The following data reflects Act 120 certification actions from November 1, 2014 to November 1, 2015:

**Active Police Departments:**      1,092

**Total Certified Officers:**      22,442

**Revoked Certifications:**      2

**Certification Examinations:**      1,207

--Hired Candidates taking the Certification Examination:      433 (36%)

--Pre-Service Candidates taking the Certification Examination:      774 (64%)

**New Certifications:**      919

--Basic Applications:      241 (26%)

--Waiver of Training:      679 (74%)

## Act 120 Instructor Certification

The MPOETC staff administers certification of municipal police instructors authorized to provide basic and in-service instruction at certified police training schools. As noted below, there are currently 1,185 certified municipal police instructors working at 24 certified police training schools. The following data reflects instructor certification actions from November 1, 2014 to November 1, 2015:

**Total Certified Academies:**      **24**

**Total Certified Instructors:**      **1,185**

--General Instructors:      969

--CPR/AED:      104

--Firearms:      427

--Physical Training:      166

--Defensive Tactics:      193

--Driving/EVOC:      149

**New Certified Instructors:**      **171**

## Act 120 Basic Training

The following data reflects the numbers of individuals applying for and receiving basic police officer training at certified academies from November 1, 2014 to November 1, 2015:

**Total Applicants Processed: 2,173**

--Hired Applicants: 460 (21%)

--Pre-Service Applicants: 1,713 (79%)

**Total Students Enrolled: 1,422 (65% of applicants)**

--Hired Enrolled: 459 (99.8% of applicants enrolled)

--Pre-Service Enrolled: 963 (56% of applicants enrolled)

**Total Students Graduated: 1,152 (86% of enrolled, 56% of applicants)**

--Hired Graduates: 379 (84% of enrolled students graduated)

--Pre-Service Graduates: 773 (86% of enrolled students graduated)

**Partial Training Waivers: 62**

--Military LEO: 57

--Federal LEO: 5

## Act 180 In-Service Training

The following data reflects in-service and Continuing Law Enforcement Education (CLEE) courses developed and/or approved by the Commission from November 1, 2014 to November 1, 2015:

**MPOETC Courses Developed: 3**

**Instructors Trained: 431**

--16-201 Legal Updates: 3 hours (*Required*)

--16-202 Use of Force: 6 hours (*Optional*)

--16-203 Tactical Med: 3 hours (*Optional*)

**Approved CLEE Providers: 114**

**Elective CLEE Courses: 313**

## Act 235 Lethal Weapons

The following data reflects Lethal Weapons (LW) training activity from November 1, 2014 to November 1, 2015:

**Total Certified LW Agents: 15,294**

**Certifications Issued: 2,546**

--Initial Certifications: 1,335

--Renewals: 1,221

**Certifications Revoked: 29**

**Total Certified LW Academies: 37**

**Academy Inspections: 45 (*multiple visits*)**

**Total Certified LW Instructors: 1,095**

--Academic Instructors: 594

--Skills Instructors: 261

--Firearms Instructors: 681

**New Instructors Certified: 22**

## **Act 79 Retired Law Enforcement Officer Identification**

The Commission staff completed the following activities related to the Retired Law Enforcement Officer Identification Act (RLEIA) program from November 1, 2014 to November 1, 2015.

Individuals desiring certification as a RLEIA firearms instructor must currently submit an application to MPOETC staff for approval. To date, Commission staff have reviewed and approved 437 firearms instructors to conduct annual firearms qualifications for officers complying with RLEIA. These instructors are required to use official qualification cards purchased from the Commission.

**Card Orders Processed: 131**

**Cards Issued: 1,981**

Officers are given a qualification card upon completion of the qualification course of fire and must present the card to their County Sheriff's Office for a background check. Upon completing the background check, the Sheriff's Office annotates it on the qualification card and provides a log of all checks to the Commission staff. MPOETC staff processed 978 separate Sheriff's Office logs documenting background checks of retired law enforcement officers.

**Sheriff's Logs Received: 978**

Instructors document each retired officer who is provided a qualification card and forwards this information to MPOETC staff. The staff processed 1,128 instructor logs documenting a total of 3,339 qualifications.

**Instructor Logs Received: 1,128**

**Total Retired LEOs Qualified: 3,339**

## Commission Membership

Colonel Tyree C. Blocker, State Police Commissioner, Chairman  
*(Vice, Colonel Frank Noonan)*

Ronald L. Stern, Department of Community & Economic Development

Lawrence M. Cherba, Esq., Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General

Christopher M. Werner, Chief Inspector, City of Philadelphia  
*(Vice, Anthony F. Boyle)*

Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf (Montgomery County)

Representative Barry J. Jozwiak (Berks County)  
*(Vice, Representative Joseph T. Hackett)*

Robert "Bo" Fean, Borough Official (Pike County)

Jacob A. Bierling, Jr., Township Official of the First Class (Delaware County)

Sonia Stopperich, Township Official of the Second Class (Washington County)

Dr. Gabriel J. Campana, City Official (Lycoming County)

Chief Stephen L. Margeson, Carlisle Borough Police Department (Cumberland County)

Chief James W. Adams, Upper Allen Township Police Department (Cumberland County)

Chief Keith R. Sadler, Lancaster City Police Department (Lancaster County)

Chief Mark E. Hall, Clarion Borough Police Department (Clarion County)

Richard W. Long, Esq., Public at Large (Cumberland County)

Dr. Bart E. Burne, Educator (Luzerne County)

Christopher J. Delozier, Harrisburg Police Department, Bureau of Police,  
Non-Commissioned Police Officer

Todd E. Naylor, Allegheny County Police Department, Non-Commissioned Police Officer

Joanna Reynolds, Attorney to the Commission

*Vacant: Director, Certified School*

*Vacant: Special Agent in Charge, FBI*

## **Commission Committee Assignments**

### **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Jacob A. Bierling, Jr. (CHAIRMAN)  
James W. Adams  
Mark E. Hall  
Keith R. Sadler

### **CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

Bart E. Burne (CHAIRMAN)  
James W. Adams  
Gabriel J. Campana  
Lawrence M. Cherba  
Christopher J. Delozier  
Robert "Bo" Fean  
Todd E. Naylor

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Bart E. Burne (CHAIRMAN)  
Richard W. Long  
Stephen L. Margeson  
Ronald L. Stern

### **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Richard W. Long (CHAIRMAN)  
Christopher J. Delozier  
Barry J. Jozwiak  
Stephen L. Margeson  
Ronald L. Stern

### **RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE**

Lawrence M. Cherba (CHAIRMAN)  
Bart E. Burne  
Robert "Bo" Fean  
Mark E. Hall

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Mark E. Hall (CHAIRMAN)  
Jacob A. Bierling, Jr.  
Christopher J. Delozier  
Barry J. Jozwiak  
Ronald L. Stern

## **TRAINING COMMITTEE**

Stephen L. Margeson (CHAIRMAN)  
Gabriel J. Campana  
Christopher J. Delozier  
Todd E. Naylor  
Ronald L. Stern  
Sonia Stopperich

## **MPOETC Staff Positions**

- (1) Executive Director (Pennsylvania State Police Major)
- (1) Assistant Director (Pennsylvania State Police Lieutenant)
- (1) Professional Standards Investigator  
(Pennsylvania State Police Trooper)
- (3) Administrative Officers
- (3) Administrative Assistants
- (3) Clerk Typists
- (1) Police Training Curriculum Specialist
- (5) Police Education Training Specialists

## **Certified (Act 120) Police Training Academies**

### Allegheny County Police Training Academy

Allison Park, PA 15101  
Inspector Wayne E. Gaffron

### Community College of Beaver County

Beaver Falls, PA 15010  
Robert G. Grimm, Director

### Delaware County Community College

Media, PA 19063  
William Davis, Director

### Gerald M. Monahan Sr. Police Academy

Allentown, PA 18103-9604  
Assistant Chief Keith A. Morris, Director

### Greater Johnstown Career & Technology Center Police Academy

Johnstown, PA 15904  
William Richards, Director

### Harrisburg Area Community College

Harrisburg, PA 17110  
Beth Dombrowsky, Director

### Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP)

Indiana, PA 15705-1000  
David Zacur, Director

### IUP California University

California, PA 15419  
David Zacur, Director

### IUP Carnegie Mellon University

Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
David Zacur, Director

### Lackawanna College at Hazleton

Hazleton, PA 18201  
Maryann Grippo, Esq., Director

### Lackawanna College at Scranton

Scranton, PA 18509-2306  
Maryann Grippo, Esq., Director

### Mansfield University

Mansfield, PA 16933  
Christine Shegan, Director

Mercyhurst College  
North East, PA 16428  
Walter W. Hale, Director

Montgomery County Community College  
Conshohocken, PA 19428-1028  
Jude McKenna, Director

Philadelphia Police Department Recruit Training Division\*  
Philadelphia, PA 19136  
Captain William Maye, Director

Pittsburgh Police Training Academy\*  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
Lieutenant Jennifer Ford, Director

Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Academy\*  
Hershey, PA 17033  
Captain Maurice Tomlinson, Director

PSP Northeast Training Center\*  
Forty-Fort, PA 18704-4336  
Captain Maurice Tomlinson, Director

PSP Northwest Training Center\*  
Meadville, PA 16335  
Captain Maurice Tomlinson, Director

PSP Southeast Training Center\*  
Schwenksville, PA 19473  
Captain Maurice Tomlinson, Director

PSP Southwest Training Center\*  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
Captain Maurice Tomlinson, Director

Reading Police Academy  
Reading, PA 19601  
Madison Winchester, Interim Director

Temple University  
Ambler, PA 19002  
Robert Deegan, Interim Director

Westmoreland County Community College  
Youngwood, PA 15697  
Franklin Newill III, Director

\* These academies only accept hired students.