



NEWSLETTER

Commission Membership

Tyree C. Blocker – Chairman

Commissioner
Pennsylvania State Police
Dauphin County

James W. Adams

Chief, Upper Allen Township P.D.
Cumberland County

Jacob A. Bierling, Jr.

First Class Township Official
Delaware County

Bart E. Burne, Ed.D.

Law Enforcement Educator
Luzerne County

Robert J. Carroll

Noncommissioned Police Officer
Delaware County

Christopher J. Delozier

Noncommissioned Police Officer
Dauphin County

Beth Dombrowsky

Director Certified School
Dauphin County

Stewart J. Greenleaf

Senate of Pennsylvania
Montgomery County

Barry J. Jozwiak

PA House of Representatives
Berks County

William J. Kelly

Office of Attorney General
Dauphin County

Richard W. Long, Esq.

Representative, Public at Large
Cumberland County

Keith R. Sadler

Chief, Lancaster City P.D.
Lancaster County

Ronald L. Stern

Dept. of Community & Economic Dev.
Dauphin County

Sonia Stopperich Sulc

Second Class Township Official
Washington County

Christopher M. Werner

Chief Inspector, Philadelphia P.D.
Philadelphia County

Vacancy

Borough Official

Vacancy

Borough Police Chief

Vacancy

Other Police Chief

Vacancy

City Official

Vacancy

FBI, Special Agent-In-Charge

Training And Certification System (TACS) Update

by Major Troy Lokhaiser, Executive Director

The bi-annual certification of officers was completed in June 2017. As I'm sure you're aware, this was the first certification process completed utilizing MPOETC's new computer system, TACS. While we understand that there were "minor issues" and "growing pains" with the new system, overall it was a success.

I would like to thank all Chiefs and their Department personnel who were tasked with gathering and entering the required certification information into TACS. Your patience and diligence working through the process was greatly appreciated.

As we move forward, I do want to point out some **important changes** brought about with the implementation of TACS.

The process of submitting required certification information to MPOETC every two years has changed. You are now required to complete, and update in TACS, required certification components prior to their expiration.

In looking at each component of the officer recertification individually, here is what is required:

FIREARMS: Officers are required by statute to qualify annually. This requirement is interpreted as an officer must qualify on the range at least one time per year between January 1st and December 31st of a given year. The qualifying date and information shall be entered into TACS no later than December 31st of the qualifying year. Failure to qualify in a given year, or incomplete entry of information into TACS, may result in an officer's status becoming expired.

The Commission voted and approved the following: "In instances where an officer has an expired firearms certification, the officer will be required to qualify for one expired year and also for the current year. The current year qualification can occur no less than 30 days after the initial firearms re-qualification. All other instances will be determined by the Committee on a case-by-case basis."

CPR/FIRST AID: Officers are required by statute to maintain current CPR/First Aid certification. Generally, CPR/First Aid certification is valid for a two-year period from the date of instruction. Departments will need to be cognizant of the date(s) their officer's CPR/First Aid expires. CPR/First Aid re-certification training will need to be completed and information entered into TACS prior to that expiration date.

MANDATORY IN-SERVICE TRAINING (MIST/CLEE): Officers are required by statute to complete 12 hours of MIST during each calendar year. MPOETC online (PAVTN) class information is automatically transferred into TACS. CLEE class information and completion date(s) shall be entered into TACS no later than December 31st of the qualifying year. Failure to complete the training and entry of information into TACS could result in the officer's status becoming expired.

The implementation of TACS also provided for an electronic notification feature that is utilized to inform the Chief, Department, and individual officer when one of the aforementioned certifications is nearing expiration. These email notifications are generated by TACS and sent to the email address populated in TACS for each Chief, Department, and officer where an email has been provided. The notifications begin at 60 days prior to the expiration, and continue at intervals of 30 and 15 days. These are a "reminder" that an officer is approaching a certification deadline, which if not completed and entered in TACS, may result in an expired status of the officer.

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TACS Update

When an officer is categorized as expired in TACS, they have not met the MPOETC certification requirements. This will result in the officer not being recognized by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC). Officers who become expired are required to complete all expired re-certification requirements prior to returning to a certified status.

It is important that your Department completes and submits a MPOETC "Request for Extension Form" for any officer who is unable to complete their certification due to military leave or an injury on duty status.

In addition, it is also important that Departments immediately update TACS with a separation date for any officer who has separated from your Department.

If you have questions or concerns regarding any information contained in this article, or regarding TACS in general, please contact Wendy Mason at 717-346-7748 or Amy Thompson at 717-346-7760.

Officer Certification Required

by Major Troy Lokhaiser, Executive Director

Just a short reminder to all Chiefs:

Officer's employed by your Department are required to have a certification or temporary certification number issued by MPOETC. As stated in Title 37 §203.13(b)(2), "Upon receipt of certification a police officer is authorized to enforce 18 PA.C.S. and moving violations of 75 Pa.C.S., and carry a firearm."

MPOETC has been made aware of a few instances recently of officers taking police action or patrolling in full uniform as a member of a Department, yet the officer has not been issued a certification number from MPOETC.

In the majority of these instances, the officer has been "hired" by the Department, but has either not taken and passed the certification exam, or has not yet received temporary certification. In some instances, Departments have been utilizing an officer in this status to complete "administrative work" and/or "training" until the certification number is issued.

While administrative work or internal training may be a viable option for a soon-to-be certified officer, Chiefs should exercise extreme caution to ensure an officer who is not yet certified takes no official police action. Chiefs should be ever cognizant of allowing or placing an un-certified officer in a situation where police action is required, or possibly may happen.

I strongly urge you to consider the liability and consequences should an un-certified officer take any action while working for your Department.

With the Training And Certification System (TACS) implementation, you now have the information readily available regarding an officer's certification or status. A quick search of TACS easily identifies whether an officer is in the system, and if they are certified or not.

As always, a simple phone call or email to MPOETC is all it takes to make certain that an officer is certified. The staff here at MPOETC are ready to assist or answer questions regarding the certification of any officer. Please don't hesitate to contact the Certification Unit at RA-MPOCERTIFICATION@pa.gov or 717-346-4086 for any help you may need.

The office of the Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission will be closed on the following dates for the purpose of transacting public business:

Columbus Day: October 9, 2017

Veterans Day: November 10, 2017

Thanksgiving Holiday: November 23 and 24, 2017

Regular office hours are from 8:15 A.M. to 4:15 P.M.
Monday through Friday



Credibility

by Jeanne Crawmer, MPOETC Police Training Education Specialist

Credibility – “The quality of being trusted and believed in. The quality or power of inspiring belief.” –Oxford Living Dictionaries. There is no other aspect that seeps into and affects our careers more than credibility. There is nothing that hurts us more than the lack of credibility.

Our credibility is paramount to our physical, emotional, and career survival in law enforcement, isn't it? In fact, doesn't it speak volumes about our character as a person? Who we are, what we are about, and what we will and won't do, is found in the credibility we have established with other police officers, with our communities, with the courts, and with the criminal element.

Police officers are a tight knit community and know each other well. No matter where we might work, our reputation precedes us. Our character, our credibility, is widely known in the law enforcement community and right or wrong, no matter where you go it will follow you. If you have established yourself as a hard worker, a truthful, upstanding, no nonsense officer, “a cop's cop”, then no matter where you go, you will be accepted and embraced. However, if your credibility is lacking, if you fail to back up another officer, if you consistently partake in questionable use of force practices, and if you make bad decisions on a regular basis, other officers will distance themselves from you. They will not want to be a part of your world. One day you will look around to see that you are standing by yourself.

The community will recognize your credibility when they see that you are there for them. Sometimes, it may seem like they see you as their “personal police officer”, but what does that really mean? I think it means that they trust you to take their problem seriously, that you will do the right thing, that they know you will help them or at least try to somehow make it a little bit better. They trust you and believe in you; but, when police credibility with the community is lacking what happens? Mistrust, questioning how we do our jobs, questioning why we make the decisions that we do, and misunderstanding, which leads to discontentment, frustration, and usually aggression against the police.

Credibility in the court system, and in particular, with the Magistrates with whom you work the most, certainly is of the utmost importance. Court testimony all boils down to credibility. The Magistrates know that you can be believed just because of the type of work that you do. They see the number of citations that you write and what they are for, if they are for frivolous matters or if they are meaningful issues. They read your criminal complaints, your probable cause affidavits, and know how much work you did or did not put into an investigation. The Magistrates listen to your testimony throughout your career and they know when you are truthful and when you are not. In this arena, when you work hard, when you're truthful, and have established a strong reputation for being believed, there is usually a positive outcome.

Is it necessary to have credibility with the criminal element? Criminals don't tend to have the same kind of cohesive relationships that we do in law enforcement, but they do seem to identify the officers that play by the rules. Fair play is a universal concept to everyone. Officers that treat people with dignity, that mean what they say, that live by their word and their handshake, may have a reputation for “old school” values; but, those values define the person that you are, the credibility that you have, even with criminals. Even bad guys respect, or at least acknowledge value in a person that is honest and trustworthy. What difference might your credibility make with criminals? It may be that you will be the one that they trust enough to share information with, they may decide that it's not in their best interest to fight with you, and they may decide to stop someone else from fighting with you because if they are caught, they are caught, and they know that you will do the right thing. How you have treated another, just might come back to bite you, or may save your life someday.

“The quality or power of inspiring belief.” **Credibility.**



Highlights of the June Commission Meeting

Colonel Tyree C. Blocker, Chairman, called the quarterly meeting of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (Commission) to order on June 15, 2017, at the Ramada Greensburg Hotel, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

The Commission approved the minutes from the March 16, 2017, meeting.

Major Troy S. Lokhaiser, Executive Director, presented his report. Major Lokhaiser attended the Western PA Chiefs' of Police Association meeting and Chief of Police meetings in Berks and York Counties. He met with the directors and toured both the Pittsburgh Police Training Academy and the Allegheny Police Training Academy. He met with Executive Director Tom Gross and President Dave Spotts of the PA Chiefs' of Police Association. Lieutenant George E. Peach, Assistant Director, attended Chief of Police meetings in Lancaster, Lebanon, and Lackawanna Counties. Lieutenant Peach attended a panel discussion at Kutztown University regarding careers in law enforcement; and, spoke to three sociology classes at Northern Lebanon High School, in Lebanon County, regarding the role of law enforcement in society and how the role has evolved over the recent years. Mr. Isaac W. Suydam, Director of Training, met with PCCD to discuss constable training. He presented at the mid-winter Sheriff's Conference regarding the Retired Law Enforcement Identification Act program. He visited various Act 120 academies and school directors, and attended the Chief of Police meeting in Berks County. He attended the PSP, Domestic Security presentation, and attended the International Association of Directors' of Law Enforcement Standards and Training conference in Tennessee. A Training Unit member attended Active Shooter training at Penn State. The certification exam was administered eight times to approximately 353 applicants.

Major Lokhaiser reported that the Special Committee reconvened regarding the review of two matters. They had a proposed settlement on one of the matters and the other matter is still being deliberated by the Committee. Commissioner Beth Dombrowsky gave the Special Committee report. Commissioner Dombrowsky reported that the Committee reviewed relevant documents on the one matter and proposed a settlement for a ten-day suspension. The Commission voted and approved the negotiated settlement of this matter.

Commissioner Bart Burne presented the Executive Committee Report. Each Committee Chair gave their report.

Commissioner James Adams presented the Training Committee Report. There were no action items to present to the Commission. An update provided to the Committee by MPOETC staff was that Harrisburg Area Community College will be completing the Academy Pilot Program, giving the new certification exam, and holding graduation on June 22. Validation of the new certification exam has been completed and the Commission supports a 72 percent required for passing under the new basic training curriculum. The Committee discussed not putting a cap on basic tuition, but instead allow the academies to submit a cost sheet to justify their proposed tuition. It will still require the Commission's review and approval. Commissioner Adams acknowledged and thanked staff for keeping the Commission members informed and things running smoothly, and for all the information provided with training regarding the new TACS system.

Commissioner Bart Burne presented the Certification Committee Report. The Committee reviewed 62 basic

applications, 312 waivers, and 48 new instructors. The Commission approved all applications and waivers. The second order of business was the Committee recommended three individuals for revocation and decertification. The Commission voted to revoke and decertify the three police officers. The third order of business was that they reviewed the policy for the TACS recertification process. The statement read, "In instances where an officer has an expired firearm certification, the officer will be required to qualify for one expired year and also for the current year. The current year's qualification can occur no less than 30 days after the initial firearms requalification. All other instances will be determined by the Commission on a case-by-case basis." A motion was made and approved to accept this policy. The Committee discussed annual firearms certification qualifications, CPR and First-Aid, Mandatory In-Service Training, and the certification review process.

Commissioner Christopher Delozier presented the Professional Standards Committee Report. There were no action items to report to the Commission. They were briefed and updated, by MPOETC staff, on inspections for schools.

Commissioner Jacob Bierling presented the Strategic Planning Committee Report. The Committee discussed some of the previous items, and they will be looking toward making some recommendations back to the Committee.

Commissioner Jacob Bierling presented the Budget Committee Report. Last quarters balance was \$3,665,453.92. From March 2017 to May 2017, requests for reimbursement totaled \$1,310,969.96. As of May 31, 2017, the balance of the Grant monies was \$2,366,241.60, which includes a refund of Grant monies of \$11,757.64 from a police department.

Ms. Linda Randby, Commission Counsel, updated the Commissioners on the current state of the regulations. She then turned that report over to Ms. Joanna Reynolds, former Counsel for the Commission and current Chief Counsel for the Pennsylvania State Police. At the last Commission meeting, Attorney Reynolds told the Commission that it was one of her objectives to get the regulations passed as soon as possible because they have been bogged down for so long, due to new rights, among other problems with the newest procedure. In the interim, she assigned a new Regulatory Counsel, who has taken over the regulatory process in terms of making sure that if anyone has any comments to anything, that he takes care of that and does the appropriate rewrite. A meeting was held with the Office of General Counsel and the issues they had with the regulations were primarily procedural. There are no substantive issues that needed the Commission's vote. There were several procedural issues that came up, but the Regulatory Counsel rewrote them according to what the Office of General Counsel wanted. The Office of General Counsel is pleased with them and they are going to be sent back to them on June 23; we are expecting a 30-day turnaround with the Governor's Policy Office and the Office of the Budget. It then goes to the Office of Attorney General and the Standing Committees over the legislature. We are trying to keep this on a tight deadline so that we can get them back as quickly as possible.

The next Commission meeting will be held on September 13 and 14, 2017, at The Woodlands Inn and Resort, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

The meeting was adjourned.

Information Regarding the September Commission Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission is on September 13 and 14, 2017 at The Woodlands Inn and Resort, 1073 Highway 315, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania 18702. Phone: 570-824-9831.

The Committee meetings begin on Wednesday, September 13th at 12:30 p.m.

The Executive Committee meeting will begin on Wednesday, September 13th at 3:30 p.m.

The School Directors meeting will begin on Thursday, September 14th at 8:00 a.m.

The full Commission meeting will begin on Thursday, September 14th at 10:00 a.m.

The Commission encourages attendance by police chiefs, law enforcement officers, police academy directors, instructors and other interested parties. If you have further questions concerning the meetings, please feel free to contact the Executive Director.

The Executive Committee will hear reports from all committees. In addition, the Executive Committee will also open their meeting to comments from the audience. If you would like to make a presentation to any committee, please contact the Executive Director in order to be placed on the agenda for the appropriate committee. This is your opportunity to have your concern or suggestion heard by the Commission.



Questions, comments and information for inclusion in the *Newsletter* are always welcome. This is your opportunity to submit your concerns or suggestions to the Commission. To do so, please contact the Executive Director, Major Troy S. Lokhaiser or the Editor, Mr. Craig L. Hevalow, by calling toll-free at 1-800-342-0858. The Commission can be contacted using the email addresses on page 6. You may also write to:

M.P.O.E.T.C. Newsletter
Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission
 8002 Bretz Drive
 Harrisburg, PA 17112-9748

The Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission was established in 1974 to set hiring and training standards for police departments in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through strict certification procedures and standardized basic and continuing professional in-service training for police officers. The Commission needs the support of the entire law enforcement community, state and local government officials, and the general public to be successful. Please circulate this Newsletter throughout your agency and to the government officials in your municipality. The quarterly Newsletter is also available on the MPOETC website at www.psp.pa.gov/MPOETC, under Newsletters.

New Agency Executives

Chief Kevin D. Anundson	Franklin City PD Venango County
Chief Douglas J. Clark	Lawrence Township PD Clearfield County
Chief Kevin J. Costello	Laceyville Borough PD Wyoming County
Chief Stephen A. Kagarise	Saxton Borough PD Bedford County
Chief Michael L. Kreisler	Zerbe Township PD Northumberland County
Chief William D. Leighty	New Holland Borough PD Lancaster County
Chief George A. Mouchette	Middletown Borough PD Dauphin County
Chief Thomas J. Nicoletti	Upper Saucon Township PD Lehigh County
Chief Michael A. Turner	West Pittston Borough PD Luzerne County

Congratulations!



Areas of Responsibility and Contact Information for Commission Staff

The following resource accounts are provided to allow your questions and concerns to reach the Executive Director, Staff Member, or Members of the Commission.

ADMINISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION

Act 120 Applications and Certification, Act 120 Instructor Application and Certification

Email: mpocertification@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

TRAINING

Basic Training Curriculum, Mandatory In-Service Training, Instructor Training, Retired Law Enforcement Identification Act

Email: mpotraining@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

GRANT REIMBURSEMENT

Continuing Law Enforcement Education Reimbursement (Mandatory In-Service Training), Basic Training Tuition and Salary

Email: RA-SPMPOFSS@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND INSPECTIONS

Regulatory Compliance, School Inspections

Email: mpostandards@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782