



NEWSLETTER

Commission Membership

Robert Evanchick – Chair

Acting Commissioner
Pennsylvania State Police
Dauphin County

Jarrad P. Berkhiser

Chief, Lancaster City P.D.
Lancaster County

Jacob A. Bierling, Jr.

First Class Township Official
Delaware County

Richard M. Bosco

Chief, Lincoln Borough P.D.
Westmoreland 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

Douglas E. Grimes

Chief, Peters Township P.D.
Washington 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

Joseph M. Pizano

Borough Official
Luzerne County

Guy A. Salerno

Chief, Blakely Borough P.D.
Lancaster County

Ronald L. Stern

Dept. of Community & Economic Dev.
Dauphin County

Christopher M. Werner

Chief Inspector, Philadelphia P.D.
Philadelphia County

Vacancy

City Official

Vacancy

FBI, Special Agent-In-Charge

Vacancy

Second Class Township Official

Recertification and TACS

by Major Troy S. Lokhaiser, MPOETC Executive Director

The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPO-ETC) recertification process now utilizes the Training and Certification System (TACS) to capture ongoing yearly training requirements for police officers in Pennsylvania. Your officer's certification status is based on the successful completion of 12 hours of Mandatory In-Service Training (MIST) and annual firearm qualification for the year 2018, as well as continued up-to-date certification in CPR and First Aid.

This information must be entered into TACS by December 31, 2018, to maintain the officer's valid certification status.

To assist you in updating your officer's certification information, step-by-step instructions are available in TACS by clicking on the "Help" button, then "Police Department Videos", then "Mass Update CPR/First Aid/ Firearms." After entering the required certification information for all officers in your Department, your entries will be validated by TACS. New certification cards with an expiration date of **December 31, 2020**, will be printed for each recertified officer and mailed to your Department. The date on the new certification card only remains current if officers meet the annual mandatory training requirements.

In compliance with Act 120 and its associated regulations, officers who have not completed annual firearm qualifications, MIST requirements, or maintained valid CPR/First Aid will expire on December 31, 2018 and will not be recertified. Makeup MIST courses can be completed online via PAVTN.

As approved by the Commission, an officer who does not complete annual firearm qualification during the year will be required to qualify for the expired year. The officers 2019 firearm qualification can occur no less than 30 days after the initial firearms re-qualification.

When an officer no longer is employed by your department, it is imperative that you separate them in TACS. In addition, if your officer was unable to complete the recertification requirements due to military leave or an injury on duty, please update the officer's employment status in TACS. The available options are Active Full Time, Active Part Time, Separated, Suspended, or Temporary Leave.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the MPOETC Certification Unit at RA-MPOCERTIFICATION@pa.gov.

Where To From Here?

by Bill Kaiser, MPOETC Training Unit

Parkland Florida, Southerland Texas, Mandala Bay Hotel, Orlando Pulse Nightclub, San Bernardino, Aurora Movie Theater, Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, Nickel Mines, and literally dozens more locations.

We all know the cultural scripts created by these horrific events. We all know the names, the stories, and the incidents.

We have learned how to equip ourselves. We have learned how to respond. We have learned how to stop an incident once we arrive.

What we don't know is how to prevent these situations from happening.

Proposed solutions include; banning firearms, enhanced background checks, firearms protection orders, mental health screening and intervention, amendments to mental health commitments, and the list continues.

One proposed strategy includes the use of multi-disciplinary threat assessment and management teams to identify, track, and manage possible emergent threats.

On August 10, 2018, U.S. Representative Brian Babin (R-TX) introduced H.R.6664. This bill is known as the "Threat Assessment, Prevention, and Safety Act of 2018" and has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Portions of this bill reads as follows:

It is the sense of Congress that -

- incidents of targeted violence are impacting our Nation frequently and indiscriminately;
- a collaborative, multidisciplinary, and multi-jurisdictional threat assessment and management process on a Federal, State, local, and Tribal level complements the development of better tactical methods for strategically preventing targeted violence in communities, including schools;

- The United States has the capacity to rapidly develop threat assessment and management guidelines, practices, and standards;

- The United States should encourage the standardization of such guidelines, practices and standards for streamlined and cohesive use across the United States; and

- It is in the national security interest of the United States to develop such guidelines, practices, and standards.

The bill proposes the creation of a federal task force within the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate this initiative. The task force would include representatives from several federal law enforcement agencies such as:

- The National Threat Assessment Center of the United States Secret Service;
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Behavioral Analysis Unit;
- The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force;
- The United States Marshals Service;
- The Naval Criminal Investigative Service; and
- United States Capitol Police.

Other entities and personnel that would be included in the task force are:

- Representatives of non-governmental organizations who have expertise in threat assessment and management.
- Psychiatrists or psychologists who have expertise in threat assessment and management.
- Representatives from the Departments of Education, and Health and Human Services.

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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 8, 2018

Veterans Day: November 12, 2018

Thanksgiving Holiday: November 22-23, 2018

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

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It appears that one purpose of the bill appears is to assist State, local and Tribal government agencies, and private entities to carry out the duties of the Task Force. The bill states:

UNIT SUPPORT PROGRAM- Recommendations relating to a Threat Assessment and Management Unit Support Program, which shall

(A) assist Federal, State, local, Tribal government agencies and private entities in the implementation of community based, multi-disciplinary, and multi-jurisdictional threat assessment and management units;

(B) consult on real-world complex threat assessment and management cases or programs;

The bill contains a training provision as follows:

TRAINING PROGRAM- Recommendations related to a Threat Assessment and Management Training Program, which may train officers and employees of Federal, State, local and Tribal government agencies and private entities in standardized community based, multidisciplinary, and multi-jurisdictional threat assessment and management....

Although this bill was just recently introduced, it represents a new direction in thinking about how to identify, assess, and manage emergent threats.

Law enforcement officers are in a unique position to assist in recognizing and assessing emerging threats.

If passed in a form containing the above provisions, this bill could assist in creating threat assessment and management teams on a state, and possibly, local level. Being multidisciplinary in nature, such teams have a law enforcement presence.

A copy of H.R. 6664 "Threat Assessment, Prevention, and Safety Act of 2018" can be found online.

On the state level, a proposed piece of legislation, House Bill 2493, would amend the Public School Code of 1949 by adding an article addressing threat assessment teams in public schools. On June 22, 2018, Governor Wolf signed Act 44 of 2018 into Pennsylvania law, amending the Public School Code of 1949.

Section 1301-B (a) reads in part:

Adoption of policies.—Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, each governing authority shall adapt policies for the establishment of threat assessment teams, including the assessment of and intervention with students whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of the school staff or students...

Section 1301-B (b) reads:

Committee.—The chief school administrator may establish a committee charged with oversight of the threat assessment teams operating within the public school entity, which may be an existing committee. The committee shall include individuals with expertise in human resources, education, school administration, mental health, and law enforcement.

Section 1301-B (c) reads in part:

Threat assessment team.—Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, each chief school administrator shall establish, for each school, a threat assessment team that shall include persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration and law enforcement.

In light of these two developments, it is clear that a new direction in addressing emerging threats is being considered which can involve the services of local law enforcement. These initiatives could create oppor-

MPOETC Staff Updates

On June 2, 2018 Lieutenant Andrew Wilk was promoted and assigned as the new Assistant Director of MPOETC. Prior to his assignment to MPOETC, Lt. Wilk was the Commander at the PA State Police North-east and Southeast Training Centers. Welcome aboard, Lt.

MPOETC said farewell and good luck to Amy Thompson, Certification Unit, as she accepted a promotion position with the PA Department of Transportation this past August.

School Police, School Resource Officers, and School Security Guards

by Isaac Suydam, Director MPOETC Training Unit

While violence in schools is not a new phenomenon, many high-profile incidents in recent years have resulted in schools increasing their security posture and in some cases adding either security personnel or school police officers. Also, as a result of this increased emphasis on school security, on June 22, 2018, Governor Wolf signed Act 44 of 2018 into Pennsylvania law, amending the Public School Code of 1949. Act 44 made several significant changes related to school security, including establishing the School Safety and Security Committee within the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency and rescinding (replacing) Section 778 of the Public School Code.

Section 778 of the Public School Code previously established the authorities and guidelines under which schools in Pennsylvania could employ individuals and have them appointed by the courts to act as School Police Officers. Act 44 rescinded Section 778 and amended Section 3, Article XIII-C to include the authority and guidance for School Police Officers. The qualifications to be appointed as a School Police officer under the new Section 1302-C are essentially unchanged from Section 778: however, the section does include new information including the definitions as listed below.

“School Police Officer” A law officer employed by a school district whose responsibilities, including work hours, are established by the school district. These officers are appointed by the courts and are not certified by the Municipal Police Officer’s Education and Training Commission (MPOETC). To be appointed, School Police officers must meet minimum training standards as specified in Section 1304-C. Officers who are appointed by the court as a School Police officer will have to meet the Act 120 annual training requirements including firearms qualification, 12 hours of in-service training, and maintaining a current CPR/AED/First Aid certification. Documentation of this training should not be sent to MPOETC, but must be provided to the employing school entity to include in their annual report to the Office of Safe Schools as specified in Section 1303-C. More information about school police officers is available at <https://www.psp.pa.gov/MPOETC/Pages/School-Police.aspx>.

“School Resource Officer” A law enforcement officer commissioned and employed by a law enforcement agency whose duty station is located in a school entity and whose stationing is established by an agreement between the law enforcement agency and the school entity. These officers are Act 120 certified municipal police officers and must comply with established in-service training requirements to retain certification. More information about certification as an Act 120 municipal police officer is available at <https://www.psp.pa.gov/MPOETC/certification/Pages/Municipal-Police-Officer-Certification.aspx>

“School Security Guard” An individual employed by a school entity or a third-party contractor who is assigned to a school for routine safety and security duties and is not engaged in programs with students at the school. An individual who is hired as a school security guard and who is expected to carry a lethal weapon as part of that employment meets the definition of a privately employed agent under the Lethal Weapons Training Act and must obtain certification under Act 235 regardless of other certifications or firearms qualifications. For example, a certified police officer who, not as part of their employment as a police officer, also works as a security guard at school functions and is required to carry a lethal weapon, must also obtain Act 235 certification. Additionally, retired law enforcement officers who qualify on firearms under Act 79, the Retired Law Enforcement Identification Act are not exempt from the requirements of the Lethal Weapons Training Act and must obtain Act 235 certification to carry a firearm for employment purposes. More information about the Lethal Weapons Training Act (235) is available at <https://www.psp.pa.gov/lethalweapons>.

Highlights of the June Commission Meeting

Acting Commissioner Robert Evanchick, Chair, called the quarterly meeting of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (Commission) to order on June 14, 2018, at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Lt. Colonel Evanchick introduced himself and provided an overview of his career as a Pennsylvania State Trooper and municipal police officer. He then welcomed two newly appointed members to the Commission, Chief Jarrad Berkihiser of Lancaster City Police Department, and Mr. Joseph Pizano, Exeter Borough Counsel Official. He also announced the reappointments of Corporal Christopher Delozier of the Harrisburg City Police Department, and Richard Long, Esquire, Executive Director of the the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association.

The Commission approved the minutes from the March 15, 2018, meeting.

Major Troy S. Lokhaiser, Executive Director, introduced his new Assistant Director, Lieutenant Andrew F. Wilk. Lieutenant Wilk, prior to being assigned to MPOETC, was the Commander of the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Northeast Training Center and spent time as the Commander of the PSP Southeast Training Center, and is an Act 120 certified instructor, instructing PSP Troopers, as well as municipal police officers. In April, Major Lokhaiser attended the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training's Northeast Regional Meeting in Syracuse, New York. Major Lokhaiser and Mr. Isaac Suydam, Director of Training, met with State Representative Dan Miller from Allegheny County regarding school police officer training. In May, Major Lokhaiser and MPOETC staff met with Perry County District Attorney Andrew Bender to facilitate the Perry County District Attorney's Office in setting up a District Attorney's taskforce in that county. Mr. Suydam attend the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training Conference in Boston, Massachusetts. He observed a part-time Basic Training evening class at IUP, Robert Morris University Satellite Campus. He also met with staff from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and met with PennDOT personnel to discuss Federal grant funds for traffic safety enforcement. He expects to attend further meetings with PennDOT as they define their goals related to consolidating administration of grant funding for law enforcement training. The Training Unit continues to hold 2019 Mandatory In-Service Training (MIST) course development meetings. They observed a Field Training course at Harrisburg Area Community College, and a MIST course instruction in York County, Lancaster County, and at Montgomery County Community College. There were academy visits made to Lackawanna College, Harrisburg Area Community College, and Montgomery County Community College. During this quarter, the municipal police officer's certification exam was administered seven times to 307 applicants, which also includes the assessment testing process, given at various academies across the state.

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

Commissioner Beth Dombrowsky, Chair, presented the Training Committee Report. Training Director Isaac Suydam presented certification exam results from the last six months, comparing results from the old exam and the new exam. He also presented results from the new assessment test for military police and Federal officers. There was a brief discussion about starting to utilize these assessments for out-of-state applicants as well. Mr. Suydam also presented 12 months of data regarding certification exams, specifically those who have taken the exam and transitioned on to employment and certification. The Continuing Education Department at Penn State New Kensington presented a proposal regarding the possibility of opening an Act 120 Academy at the New Kens-

ington Campus. The Committee needs additional information to make a decision on the proposal.

Commissioner Bart Burne, Chair, presented the Certification Committee Report. The Committee discussed procedures for the psychological MMPI test and clarification of reports from attending psychologists. There were nine revocations of Act 120 municipal police officer certifications that were presented. A motion was made and approved by the Commission to revoke all nine Act 120 municipal police officer certifications. The Committee reviewed 107 basic applications, 145 waivers, 56 new instructor applications, 26 amendments to existing certifications, and two new school directors. The Commission made a motion and approved all applications, waivers, amendments, and school directors.

Commissioner Bart Burne, Committee member, presented the Rules and Regulations Committee Report due to the absence of Commissioner William Kelly, Chair. Major Lokhaiser presented each Commission member with a draft of the Rules and Regulations.

Commissioner Richard Long, Chair, presented the Professional Standards Committee Report. The Committee heard a report from Training Director Isaac Suydam on the upcoming schedule for school inspections, which includes ten inspections to be conducted between July 9 and 31, 2018.

Commissioner Douglas Grimes, Committee member, presented the Strategic Planning Committee Report due to the absence of Commissioner Jacob Bierling, Chair. Discussion was held on the effective use of grant funding for Mandatory In-Service or basic police academy training. It was determined that Training Director Isaac Suydam will conduct some additional research and bring more refined details to the next Commission meeting in September for further discussion.

Commissioner Guy Salerno, Committee member, presented the Budget Committee Report due to the absence of Commissioner Jacob Bierling, Chair. Between March and May of 2018, there were seven Grant Reimbursement requests processed for 2017 Fiscal Year funds totaling \$621,005.39. The remaining balance in the 2017 funds is \$2,626,763.54. A refund of \$4,671 was received from Montgomery County Community College and deposited in the 2017 Fiscal Year funds.

In new business, Commissioner Richard Long shared an update on the work of the Special Committee. The Special Committee is involved regarding the Montgomery County Community College unapproved tuition increase and its aftermath. Major Lokhaiser has been exchanging information with personnel at the college and updating the Special Committee with the progress regarding reimbursement of all unapproved tuition costs back to the students and applicable police departments. At this time, all refund checks have been mailed from the college back to the appropriate parties. The total amount of reimbursed funds is \$84,865, which was the agreed upon amount. The Special Committee has conveyed, through Major Lokhaiser, that the incident will remain open until additional information is provided from Montgomery County Community College regarding the number of checks which clear and the amount actually refunded. They will continue to work with the college through the conclusion of this incident and process, and will recommend closure to the Commission only when the Special Committee deems that the Montgomery County Community College has fulfilled their reimbursement obligations.

The next Commission meeting will be held on September 12 and 13, 2018, at the Genetti Hotel, 200 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, 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 12 and 13, 2018 at the Genetti Hotel, 200 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701. Phone: 570-326-6600.

The Committee meetings begin on Wednesday, September 12th at 12:30 P.M.

The Executive Committee meeting will begin on Wednesday, September 12th at 3:30 P.M.

The School Directors meeting will begin on Thursday, September 13th at 8:00 A.M.

The Full Commission meeting will begin on Thursday, September 13th 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.



Pictured left to right, new Commission members: Jarrad Berkhiser and Joseph Pizano.
Photo by: Lt. Andrew Wilk, MPOETC

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 7. 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 Troy M. Bankert	York City PD York County
Chief Nathan W. Claycomb	Greenfield Township PD Blair County
Chief Ronald V. DePellegrin	Beallsville Borough PD Washington County
Chief Shawn M. Dishong	Cresson Township PD Cambria County
Chief Paul A. Hughes	Ford City PD Armstrong County
Chief Matthew J. Phelan	Tinicum Township PD Bucks County
Chief James J. Sabath	Newtown Borough PD Bucks County
Chief Bruce A. Toooh	Washingtown Township PD Fayette County
Chief Henry D. Woods	Tamaqua Borough PD Schuylkill County
Chief Kenneth E. Zipovsky	Rush Township PD Schuylkill 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