

MINUTES OF BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Georgia Public Safety Training Center
October 12, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Chief Lou Dekmar
Commissioner James Donald
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Mr. Pat Head
Chief Dwayne Orrick
Sheriff Jamil Saba
Sheriff Cullen Talton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Governor Sonny Perdue
Mr. Hal Averitt
Mr. Bud Black
Mr. Dub Harper
Chief J. D. Rice

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Chris Brasher, Georgia Department of Law
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Major Don Chastain, Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Scott Johnson, Georgia State Patrol
Sergeant Mark McDonough, Georgia State Patrol
Major K.E. Sorrells, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Terry Landers, Department of Public Safety
Ms. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety
Ms. Lanie Thomas, Department of Public Safety
Major Billy Boulware, DPS Motor Carrier Compliance Division
Chief Mark McLeod, DPS Motor Carrier Compliance Division
Deputy Director Kent Wilson, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Ray Higgins, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Adam Baswell, Department of Corrections

Vice-Chairman Donald called the meeting to order, requesting the Board members to introduce their guests. Mr. Wayne Abernathy recognized Chief Hubert Smith attending today's meeting. Vice-Chairman Donald welcomed everyone to the Board meeting, stating it is good to visit other areas in the state.

Vice-Chairman Donald requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the September meeting. Chief Lou Dekmar motioned approval, which was seconded by Chief Dwayne Orrick, and unanimously approved by the Board members.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, began his report on trooper schools. Last year, Governor Perdue approved two trooper schools, which would assist in increasing manpower. With the trooper school that started in August, there were 300 applicants. After the written examination, the oral interview, the polygraph, the psychological testing, 36 candidates began trooper school, which has now reduced to 26 candidates attending school. Colonel Hitchens continued with his report on the upcoming trooper school in January, 2006; 184 people have taken the written examination and 142 have passed. Several people who did not show up for the physical fitness test for the August school, so came to the physical fitness test for this upcoming trooper school. Out of the 191 people who took the physical fitness test, only 70 passed. The next process will be to take the 70 applicants through background check, through polygraph, the interview, the psychological and medical testing. Colonel Hitchens noted how through the testing process, more people are lost than are gained. Colonel Hitchens responded to questions of the problem of entry salary; of the salary for those after five years, ten years, fifteen years, that the only salary raise given is a cost-of-living raise. State Patrol is recruiting by going to high school, colleges, and recruiting shows. Colonel Hitchens stated trooper school is difficult the first couple of weeks; that way will determine whether or not the candidate has the will.

Another item reported on was the issue of Open Records. When Colonel Hitchens came on board, there were problems, therefore, it was placed under Legal Services. Colonel Hitchens introduced Ms. Lanie Thomas, who is in charge of the Open Records Unit. Ms. Thomas is a very bright young lady, very intense, and has received accolades for her success. Since the change in April, the Open Records unit has dealt with 502 open records issues. Most of the requests are from news media, requesting large quantities of information; therefore, the amount of revenue taken in for these responses totals \$33,083.31. When including the open records requests handled by the Field Unit, there have been a total of 11,208 open records requests, with a total of \$86,046.56 in revenue. Both Ms. Thomas and Ms. Melissa Rodgers have done an excellent job in making this operation more efficient.

Colonel Hitchens thanked Mr. Chris Brasher for his role in P.I.T. training; Mr. Brasher being the perfect person to explain what the criteria is for pursuits. Mr. Brasher added that the classes have gone well; even with some resistance, it has been well received at the end of the class. Mr. Brasher noted how Lieutenant Johnson and Lieutenant Thigpen were integral in putting the training classes together. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III also added that he attended one the classes and saw that Training addressed every issue that the Board members had discussed. Mr. Bowen noted that Mr. Brasher presents a powerpoint presentation and plainly explains everything to the troopers.

Deputy Director Kent Wilson, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, stood in for Director Vernon Keenan. Director Keenan had asked Deputy Director Wilson to briefly recap the Board members on the assistance and support the state provided to Louisiana and Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina. Shortly after the hurricane, Governor Perdue directed all state law enforcement agencies to make an effort to provide assistance to state counterparts in Louisiana and Mississippi. In that regard, on September 1st, the GBI deployed an Inspector to make contact with the command staff in Mississippi. Communications were virtually non-existent; getting in touch with them on any continuing basis was difficult. An Inspector was deployed over there just to make contact with them to see what they actually needed, to assist and set the logistics in place. With that in mind, on September 2nd, a team of twenty GBI personnel was deployed to assist Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, Mississippi Bureau of Investigations, and their Highway Patrol in general law enforcement duties in Harrison County, Mississippi. After that entire team was there for one week, half of them rotated home and the other half remained for a second week to carry out the same mission. Subsequent to that, they had a tremendous issue with the recovery and identification of deceased remains. A team, consisting of seven Department of Corrections probation officers, eleven Department of Natural Resources rangers, and sixteen GBI agents, was deployed on September 3rd to aid in the process of identifying deceased remains. Simultaneous to that, a staff, from the Medical Examiners section and three of the medical examiner investigators, was deployed to work with the coroner in Harrison County, Mississippi to set up an organized process for not only identifying but collecting these remains and logging them appropriately. On September 10th, a second team, comprised of those same numbers of folks on the first team, was rotated in to carry out that mission. The teams returned by September 18th, but on September 26th, Mississippi contacted Georgia again to assist in locating 764 reported missing persons. Therefore, another 15-person team was sent for a two-week assignment. That team returned last Friday to report they could actually assist in resolving 90% of the cases; 233 out of the missing 764 were ultimately identified. Most of the cases were located through one means or another, in different shelters, just by getting out and pounding the pavement. On September 4th, the State of Georgia sent a 101-person law enforcement delegation to Louisiana to provide similar assistance. That was composed of forty State Patrol troopers, forty Department of Natural Resources rangers, ten Corrections probation officers, and ten GBI agents. As was done with Mississippi, this team was deployed for two weeks to Louisiana, performing a variety of missions, from general law enforcement to force protection. One of which was actually helping Louisiana State Police keep their own equipment from being stolen.

The State of Georgia can be very proud of the efforts that the agencies put forth to help. Thanks and praises have come from Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. A letter has been received from a women's shelter in Baton Rouge where Georgia officers were housed; the letter commends Georgia for the professional manner that the officers conducted themselves and for the assistance provided. Vice-Chairman Donald added that the real heroes were GBI and Director Vernon Keenan in coordinating this effort. Deputy Director Wilson said it worked out well for Director Keenan to go to Mississippi and work there. Because of the experience during the Albany flood and the Tri-State Crematory,

Director Keenan brought order to chaos. Deputy Director Wilson responded to several questions, one of which if the lab in Louisiana, used as outsourcing from GBI Crime Lab, was damaged during the hurricane. Deputy Director Wilson responded that he would look into it and have a status prepared for the Georgia district attorneys.

Deputy Director Wilson then introduced Assistant Deputy Director Terry Gibbons of Georgia Crime Information Center, to do a short presentation on the Protective Order Registry. Deputy Director Gibbons stated Director Keenan requested she do a short presentation on background and history of the registry. With a powerpoint presentation, Ms. Gibbons explained a protective order is an injunction issued for the purpose of preventing a violent or threatening act, harassment against, contact or communication with, or physical proximity to another person. There is a national protective order file at the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), which became operational in May of 1997. Currently, there are 48 of 56 states and territories that contribute records to this file. Georgia has about 50,000 records at NCIC; Georgia ranking 21st in the amount of records contributed. This NCIC file provides information to law enforcement, along with providing information to FBI's national check system for background on firearms purchases. The Georgia Protective Order Registry was established in July, 2002 based on the "Family Violence and Stalking Protective Order Registry Act" based on the Act passed in 2001. Georgia's registry contains data to track orders that are issued in state, along with orders on those individuals coming into Georgia. Basically, the goal of the registry is to enhance the safety of the victim by providing information to law enforcement prosecutors and courts. Access to these protective orders is a 24/7 process; access to not only the data on the orders but also the scanned images of those documents. In describing a general overview, once the judge issues the order, it is given to the Clerk and it is entered into a case management system that is maintained by the Georgia Superior Court Clerk Cooperative Authority. As an order is entered each day, the Cooperative Authority sends that file to GCIC to populate the state registry. Every order that is sent to GCIC, staff then turns around and sends it to National Crime Information Center. About 11% of these that are sent are rejected because of missing or invalid data. If invalid, GCIC staff will look at the data record and image to see if there may be a typo that can be fixed and re-sent. Deputy Director Gibbons went on to explain the examples of types of orders that are entered in the registry. There are a variety of temporary and permanent protective orders. Basically, there is certain information required on the order. The Order Information, Respondent Information, Petitioner Information, and Protected Party Information give basic research information on the offender. Deputy Director Gibbons went on to the next powerpoint slide, which shows what the protective order registry looks like. When going to the web site, users are given a user ID and password. Users can search the registry by either county or civil action number or specific respondent information. The next slide gave an example, showing orders that are listed for Glynn County. Once this screen is pulled up, click on the specific order and view more detailed information. The Sheriff's ORI, which GCIC populates once received, is entered prior to being sent to the FBI, because that Sheriff's ORI is what is required for confirmation and validation. The next slide showed a screen of pertinent information, with optional information on the vehicle and driver's license number. In addition to the data record itself, an image of the order can be pulled up to see if there are any additional notations or comments. There is also the ability to go back and look at history; history of when issued and expired; modified.

Reports can be requested from the Registry, accessed through different categories, whether by Date of Order, Status of Order, or Order Type, or County. Law enforcement has access to Protective Orders by either to the NCIC file; access to Georgia Registry; access by query on an individual's name; also, access by vehicle search. The next slide shows an example of what would come back from NCIC, which gives information on the individual and conditions of order. The next slide reflected availability of the protective order records. Protective Orders remain on NCIC and state registry until they are cleared or canceled or expiration. There are quite a number of records, even though they are cleared, cancelled, or expired, that are still available for history purposes. Deputy Director Gibbons stated that currently, under Georgia Protective Order web site, there are over 73,000 orders, of which 7,000 are active. Before the Registry was implemented in 2002, agencies contributed protective orders directly to NCIC, and, Georgia only had less than a thousand records on file. In less than three years, Georgia has gone from less than a thousand to over 73,000 orders. Steps to the web site <http://por.gbi.state.ga.us> require an authorization form to be completed and returned to GCIC for an assigned USER ID/Password.

Deputy Director Wilson responded to a question if there are plans for an academy class, stating there is a small class scheduled for February, 2006. The GBI is down to under 240 agents, which is probably the lowest in almost thirty years.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, brought to the Board a powerpoint presentation. He began his report with stating the long range plan is to get serious about the regional training delivery system. The first step is to look at finding locations to support training for both police academy and fire academy. Under Step 1, Director Mann was able to obtain the Athens YDC Building, which is on almost ten acres. This building is being reconstructed for a regional training academy; reconstruction being done with existing funds. With approval from Office of Planning and Budget, Director Mann used some of the \$72,000 that would have been rent for the old building and redirecting it for plumbers, electricians, and for carpet. Step 2 is to secure funding to renovate or build facilities needed to do quality training. Director Mann reminded the Board members that GPSTC owns the training center and land in Forsyth; the facility and land in Athens; and the building in Augusta, but not the land. The property that is being leased includes space from ABAC in Tifton; space from AASU in Savannah; space with Coosa Valley Tech in Calhoun; renting space at CCSU in Columbus; and space from Department of Agriculture in Macon. Director Mann showed the next slide, that being the property in Savannah. There is an old state patrol post building located on Dean Forest Road. When State Patrol had this property, there were leaking underground gas tanks, causing the building to be closed in 1998. Since this has now been cleaned up by the environmental agency, Director Mann expressed interest in the property. Mr. Rod Bowlden, Deputy Executive Director of State Properties Commission, indicated that GPSTC could most likely get the site, which is on ten acres, along with a ten-acre tract next door. With slides showing the location, which is close to Garden City, Director Mann stated that the issue is the water; the well water is contaminated. There are

current negotiations with the City of Savannah to run fresh water to that property. Director Mann has been assured that an EPD permit will be obtained to hook back up the sewage. In pointing out the building, it is not in good condition and will require gutting the inside. On the property, there is a paved area, which could be used for some low-speed driver training. Behind the patrol post is an old drivers license building that has termite damage. Director Mann requested approval to draw a Resolution requesting State Properties convey the property to GPSTC. Chief Lou Dekmar made a motion that the Board of Public Safety support Director Mann's efforts to pursue the area for a regional training academy; said motion seconded by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III and unanimously voted approval by the Board members.

Director Mann continued with describing there are three diversion centers owned by Department of Corrections, and, expressed interest in looking at the one located in Dalton. Vice-Chairman Donald responded he would have to research the option. Director Mann is looking for GPSTC to own its own property and to look at getting out of the business of contracting with regional police academies. Director Mann responded to a question of placing a training academy in the north metro area; that way law enforcement agencies in northern metro counties will have a convenient place to go. In response to a question of what other academies are out there, Director Mann responded there is one for the City of Atlanta, for County of DeKalb, one of Gwinnett County, and Cobb County has its own. Director Mann stated that with possibly acquiring the diversion centers would help with keeping a student overnight, rather than the drive of 100 miles each day, in that it could help build a group as a team during that week of training. In response to a question of basic training, Director Mann responded that Mr. Butch Beach is working with POST on a revision of basic training. He will bring a recommendation of the revision to the Board members at a later Board meeting. In response to a question of the status of Tift College, Vice-Chairman Donald responded that it is still on the table for the Department of Corrections.

Director Mann announced the Governor's Public Safety Awards on October 26th, and all the Board members will receive an invitation to the ceremony. There are twelve people who will receive award under the "Hero" category; those who have put themselves in peril of saving others.

DONATIONS/RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Terry Landers, Department of Public Safety, requested approval of the following donations:

Belgian Malinois Drug Detector Canine	\$ 7300.00	Sheriff Donny Turner Troup County
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Four Genesis II Ka-Band Radars	\$ 8459.00	ASAC Todd Lowery
Battery Boost		Oconee Drug Task Force
General Maintenance Tool Kit		
Criminal Interdiction Tool Kit		
Criminal Apprehension Locator Kit		
Center Console Light		
Stove Cooktop		
Stove Hood		
Seven Stalker DSR 2x Radars	\$18,865.00	Gordon County Board of Commissioners

Sheriff Cullen Talton made the motion to approve the donations, seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and unanimously voted approval by the Board members.

Mr. Ray Higgins, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, requested approval of the following donation:

30 Foot Flag Pole	\$ 565.00	Woodmen Of the World Life Insurance
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Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made the motion to approve said donation, which was seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar, and unanimously voted approval by the Board.

Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, requested approval of the following donation:

35 ISI Viking Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)	\$17,500.00	Dawson Associates, Inc.
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Chief Lou Dekmar made the motion to approve this donation, which was seconded by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III, and unanimously voted approval by the Board.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III reported that during the previous State Patrol Committee meeting, which held discussions of the P.I.T. maneuver, one of the concerns he had was the proper working of the video and audio camera equipment; that the camera equipment is sporadic in working. Numerous trips would be made by troopers to Stat Patrol headquarters to get the camera equipment repaired. When Mr. Bowen attended the P.I.T. training class, he brought this concern to the class. Following the training class, all patrol posts were instructed to have that equipment repaired in its local area, rather

than driving to headquarters for repair. Mr. Bowen commended State Patrol in that decision which addressed the concern.

It was reported that Mr. Hal Averitt is in the Anderson Cancer Treatment Center in Houston, Texas, and that if anyone wanted to send a card, an address would be provided.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III announced that everyone was invited to visit and observe the local Weight Station, by invitation of the Motor Carrier Compliance Division, after today's lunch.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary