

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
January 9, 2020
Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Forsyth, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chief Bruce Carlisle
Chief Stacey L. Cotton
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Mr. Steve Cronic
Mr. George Hartwig
Commissioner Michael Nail
Mr. Mark Revenew
Mr. Charles D. Sikes
Sheriff Joey Terrell
Chief Craig Tully
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sheriff Dane Kirby
Mr. Rossie Ross
Commissioner Timothy C. Ward

OTHERS:

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General's Office
Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Russell D. Powell, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Tommy Waldrop, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Lt. Colonel Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Kevin Rexroat, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Jeremy Vickery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Marc Godby, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Department of Public Safety
Director Vic Reynolds, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. John Melvin, Assistant Director, Chief of Staff, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Bruce Stanford, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Cindy Jones, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. John Hutcheson, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Chadd Wilson, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Judy Couch, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Cheryl Greathouse, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Cindy Jones, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Sharla Shockley, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the January 9, 2020 Board of Public Safety meeting to order. Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone to keep the families of Ms. Cheryl Buie, Mr. Charles Sikes and Mr. Tom Phillips in their thoughts and prayers following the passing of family members.

Mr. John Hutcheson gave the Invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety introduced Major Kevin Rexroat who is replacing Major Hank Fielding. Commissioner McDonough stated Major Rexroat is no stranger, as Major Rexroat has done all the radio issues within the agency, has run the garage and dealt with all facilities and maintenances related issues and has been involved with the computer aspect and is probably the most qualified man ever to do the headquarters job.

Commissioner McDonough thanked Lt. Colonel Waldrop, Major Wright and Captain Godby as there were three funerals this past month related to a state representative, a state senator and a former state representative and GSP was involved in support of all those funeral details. Commissioner McDonough thanked Captain Godby for his hard work and for making it special for those families.

Commissioner McDonough shared DPS is preparing for the national political conventions and noted four years ago, the state of Ohio requested GSP's help and took a platoon of 50 people supported by the SWAT for their convention. Commissioner McDonough advised the conventions will be held in Charlotte, NC in June and Milwaukee, WI in August and have a personal relationship with both of those colonels and they have given notice that a help request is coming and most likely will be in the form of a Mobile Field Force. Commissioner McDonough stated Lt. Colonel Jason Johnson has begun preparations for what may be a very active year and have also sent people over to Anniston, Alabama to receive the federal training and up to the federal standard for cut teams and will be adding this to our repertoire as well. Commissioner McDonough stated in the months ahead, they will be hearing about Georgia troopers going to NC and WI.

Commissioner McDonough advised the weigh stations are at the tail end of the recovery from the ransomware attack and are working with a vendor known as IRD, a Canadian company that supports the weigh in motion at each one of the weigh stations and the extent of the damage that occurred with the ransomware attack, even affected the weighing aspects of the weigh in motion at the weigh stations in Georgia. Commissioner McDonough stated DPS is working to get the required server replacements and should be done and acquired by next week and once that is in place, the company will come down and in about six weeks, all of the nineteen individual weigh stations should be back operational.

Regarding the drone program, Commissioner McDonough stated this past year at the SE Colonels Conference in NC, they did an excellent presentation through their reconstruction team as far as the use of drones. Commissioner McDonough advised there will be three groups within DPS that will be using the drones, the SWAT team, the Reconstruction team and the Public Information Office. Commissioner McDonough stated DPS has some drones, but made a purchase of over 36 additional drones, so that each SCRT investigator will have one in their vehicle and have the ability to use a

drone to aerial map all of the scenes they come in contact with. Commissioner McDonough added in addition to purchasing the drones, is the ability from the drone footage to be able to produce a scaled diagram, so the time in the roadway from that aspect of it will be reduced to 20 minutes.

Commissioner McDonough advised DPS is putting together a working group as he is concerned about drones and safety to general aviation and that working group will be headed by SFC Lance Scott, a pilot in the Aviation Division, as well as Lt. Wade Chaffin, who oversees the SCRT division and Lt. Stephanie Stallings, PIO Director. Commissioner McDonough stated the working group will be working with GEMA and GPSTC to make sure they have proper training, not only within post structure, but also with the FAA, and there will be associated policies in place to properly operate the drones. Commissioner McDonough stated a lot of people in state government have drones, but when the state has a natural disaster, one of the biggest things the DOT must do, is to inspect bridges. With the drone capability the DPS will have, Commissioner McDonough noted instead of just with the duties DPS has, in times we will be able to reach out and help other people that are outside of the DPS.

Legislatively, Commissioner McDonough shared there are three issues, DPS will have this year, the annual update to the MCCD rules and in addition to that, as times goes on there are certain defenses that are made. Commissioner McDonough stated instead of just the update that covers the MCCD rules that the federal government has established, they will ask to be codified as state law.

Commissioner McDonough advised they will be updating language so that there is a clear inclusion of intrastate and interstate when it comes to the definition of Motor Carrier. Commissioner McDonough stated the federal rules that govern commercial motor carrier effort are applied whether it is an interstate operation, other words between states or intrastate, meaning business within the state. In addition, Commissioner McDonough advised DPS has been given the green light to update the definition of within the DPS statute, governing how certain benefits come to DPS based upon retirement and the retirement aspect, particularly in the line of disability. Commissioner McDonough stated when MCCD officers came to DPS, the definition in the DPS Code section was not updated to include them, in other words, the definition talks about the uniform division which is specific to GSP. Commissioner McDonough added since that time, there have been two other divisions that have come to DPS, where we employ Capitol Police Officers in a sworn capacity and Motor Carrier Compliance Officers in a sworn capacity. Commissioner McDonough declared because they are not in this definition, there are problems when there are line of duty type disability issues, because they are not in that definition, they are not covered in the retirement and in addition, they do not get the law enforcement exclusion in state retirement where they are allowed to retire without penalty at age 55. Commissioner McDonough shared this is an excellent example as to why we should attempt to change this and should not be a huge physical impact to this even though it is a related retirement thing, as there is a very small segment of police officers this definition concerns.

Commissioner McDonough advised the demolition of the old training center building in preparation of the new HQ building is underway. Commissioner McDonough advised the building is no more, on the ground and the trucks are going through the salvage aspect of hauling the debris off and are making progress there.

In regard to the Air Method issue in SW GA, Commissioner McDonough stated this is still being dealt with and right now there is only one vendor that is interested, which is Survival Flight. Commissioner McDonough added they have decided to take the Department of Community Health out of the middle of it and DPS will handle it and will be the ones putting out the proposals and they are aware of that. Commissioner McDonough stated the DPS contract person is working on this and should go out in the next week or two.

Director Vic Reynolds, Georgia Bureau of Investigation shared his family was blessed with their first grandchild, a granddaughter on December 20th in Houston, TX.

Director Reynolds advised everything is well at the GBI and very busy. Director Reynolds stated Commissioner Nail and his DCS employees, along with Commissioner Ward and his DOC employees have worked a lot of hours, setting up a statewide gang database. Director Reynolds stated they are anticipating when Governor Kemp gives his state of the state address on the 16th, he will announce the data base is up and running and anticipate having in the database by that date, between 16,000 to 17,000 offenders. Director Reynolds stated they have picked several data site project partners to work with on the first iteration of the database, will be working with the Cobb County Police Department, South Fulton Police Department, Morrow Police Department, and Hall County Sheriff's Office, along with the GBI Task Force and GISAC and all six of those units will have initial access to the system. Director Reynolds advised they will be trained up to learn how to access the system, how to use it and will use those first six in the data site groups to give feedback on how they think from a law enforcement perspective how the system works and work out the bugs before it is pushed out and made available to every single law enforcement office in GA. Director Reynolds stated this will be free of charge and will do the training to make sure they know how to use the data base. Director Reynolds stated the DOC, DCS and GBI people worked all through the holidays to get the system up to the point, that we believe it will be by next week. Director Reynolds shared with DCS Commissioner Nail that he sincerely appreciates what his employees did on this project and the partnership with DCS. Commissioner Nail echoed the same with Director Reynolds and the GBI and added it is one of those rare spirit of cooperation.

Director Reynolds stated a lot has been done regarding human trafficking, which is extremely important to the First Lady. Director Reynolds advised he is serving as Co-Chair on the Grace Commission and are having a press conference at the Capitol on Monday. Director Reynolds added the Grace Commission will meet immediately after the press conference where we will make some announcements about some exciting things we are doing in this field and are very proud of the work law enforcement has done in bringing human trafficking cases to the top of their priority list as well and make sure we do not step over those cases. Director Reynolds noted these are hard cases to make and difficult to prosecute in a court of law, the victims make difficult witnesses after what they have been through, it is tough to get convictions, but we are seeing them happen. Director Reynolds stated the first ever human trafficking case was prosecuted in Long County and one in Gilmer County, where the trafficker was a member of the Gangster Disciples, a criminal street gang. Director Reynolds stated he does anticipate during the first half of 2020, a new unit will be formulated inside the GBI, and with a grant, will allow the GBI to hire a couple of agents, one will be dedicated to sexual

servitude human trafficking cases and the second one will be dedicated to actual labor servitude trafficking cases which is something they have not been able to concentrate on or spend a great deal of time on. Director Reynolds advised part of the grant will provide a program coordinator to help put this together and these people will be dedicated to this mission and are very excited about this.

For the legislative session, Director Reynolds stated he anticipates part of the governor's package will be toughing of the criminal street gang statue laws as they have been working with the governor's staff to help draft legislation that toughens the statue, that allows prosecutors more lead way to in gang convictions on criminal street gang members.

Director Reynolds acknowledged that it will be an interesting legislative session and hopefully fighting criminal street gangs and making sure human trafficking cases are at the forefront and paying attention to that will be a couple of their priorities and part of this will be education. Director Reynolds advised the state of Georgia will be pushing out to their employees based on some conversations with DOAS basically a process of what to look for in human trafficking cases and how to report them.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center shared when the group attends Trooper School graduation in the morning, they will notice the dining area is under renovation and when the GPSTC was built, it was built to handle about 300-400 students a day and when opening up in January there were over 1300 students on the GPSTC campus. Director Wigginton stated the dining room has been redesigned to make it flow a little better along, with assigned specific times for classes.

Director Wigginton stated there is a painting behind where the Public Safety Awards Ceremony is held which reflects the memorial out in the court yard and the painting was done by an inmate in prison for life, who just received his parole letter and will be getting out in two months. Director Wigginton noted it is a very nice painting and the inmate is doing 3-4 smaller paintings that will reflect the fire service, law enforcement, dispatchers and EMTs.

Director Wigginton stated last week there was a group of instructors from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center teaching at GPSTC spun up on teaching tactical medicine. Director Wigginton advised that the majority (66%) of law enforcement that die, die from hemorrhaging and the FLETC are here teaching tactical medicine classes to be taught in the basic academy. Director Wigginton advised the Director from FLETC came yesterday to see what his guys were doing and to look at the facility. Director Wigginton shared the director advised him he rode around looking at the facility and said this is what FLETC should look like, a pretty good compliment. Director Wigginton acknowledged that he tells his staff all the time, we forget because we live here in Georgia, come into this facility every day and see it every day, and take for granted what we have here in Georgia. Director Wigginton stated there is not another state facility and apparently not another federal facility that looks like or well-kept, doing the kind of training that is done at GPSTC. Director Wigginton declared the partnership with FLETC continues to build.

Director Wigginton, with time permitting encouraged the BPS members to ride around the campus and look at a lot of the construction projects that been talked about for the last few years are about to be

completed. Director Wigginton advised with bond packages, there were able to build three new ranges and a new tactical skill building with a 360-degree simulator. Director Wigginton noted with a little bond money left over, GPSTC was able to build an accident reconstruction building.

Mr. Bruce Stanford, Division Director of the GA Police Academy stated they are tasked with teaching all of the crash reconstruction in the police academy division and currently the basic reconstruction curriculum is about 288 hours and have over 150 additional hours of advance training for motorcycle crashes, pedestrian crashes, and the use of the UAS and mapping tools. Mr. Stanford advised Mr. Jay Hoekwater came to work at the Georgia Police Academy in 1985 when it was still on Confederate Ave. and retired in December 2011, he always worked in crash reconstruction and in the late 80s there was no standard curriculum in Georgia concerning crash reconstruction. Mr. Stanford advised several officers went out of state and received crash reconstruction training. In the early 90s, Mr. Stanford shared Mr. Hoekwater wrote a curriculum based on some other models in the country and built the program that GPSTC has today. Mr. Stanford advised GSP also uses an off shoot of this, it is science and is pretty much all the same, when delivering the materials and the materials stay the same. Mr. Stanford declared the work Mr. Hoekwater did for his 26 years in the Police Academy Division is the foundation of what the GPSTC has built on and have gone to other states teaching classes. Mr. Stanford stated Mr. Hoekwater was a mentor to him as well as others that now teach crash reconstruction courses. Mr. Stanford requested to name the GPSTC Driver Skills Building to honor Jay Hoekwater, the Jay Hoekwater Crash Investigation Laboratory.

Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to name the GPSTC Driver Skills Building to honor Jay Hoekwater, the Jay Hoekwater Crash Investigation Laboratory. This was seconded by Mr. Steve Cronin and voted approved by the Board members.

DONATIONS

Mrs. Amy Stancil, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

Four Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$	12,392.00	Dade Co. Board of Commissioners
Eight Whelen Howler Sires and Installations	\$	5,600.00	Dooly Co. Sheriff's Department
Five DragonEye LIDARs	\$	10,250.00	Crisp County Sheriff's Department

The motion to accept these donations was made by Mr. Mark Revenew, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell, and voted approved by the Board members.

Mrs. Cindy Jones, Georgia Public Safety Training Center requested approval of the following donation:

GoPro Hero 4 with sled and Carry Case	\$	392.00	GA Arson Control
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Mrs. Cindy Jones, Georgia Public Safety Training Center requested to rescind a previous donation from the Monroe County Sheriff's Department, a 1999 Ford Crown Victoria VIN#2FAFP71W9XX161708.

The motion to accept the donation and to rescind the previous donation of a 1999 Ford Crown Victoria from Monroe County Sheriff's Department was made by Chief Bruce Carlisle, which was seconded by Mr. Charles Sikes, and voted approved by the BPS members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chairman Wood advised part of the BPS duties and responsibilities is to appoint the membership of the Georgia Coroner's Training Council.

Chief Bruce Carlisle made a motion to appoint Mr. Michael Fowler, Dougherty County Coroner and Mr. Mark Bowen, Richmond County Coroner to serve on the Georgia Coroner's Training Council. This was seconded by Mr. Charles Sikes and voted approved by the Board members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Mark Revenew
Secretary