

**BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**August 10, 2006**

**Lake Lanier, Georgia**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Vice-Chairman James Donald  
Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen  
Mr. Bud Black  
Chief Lou Dekmar  
Mr. Patrick Head  
Chief Dwayne Orrick  
Sheriff Jamil Saba  
Mr. Gene Stuckey

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sheriff Bruce Harris  
Mr. Dub Harper  
Chief J. D. Rice  
Sheriff Cullen Talton

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Board Attorney  
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison  
Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol  
Lieutenant Colonel Arthur White, Department of Public Safety  
Major Don Chastain, Georgia State Patrol  
Major Corky Jewell, Georgia State Patrol  
Mark McDonough, Georgia State Patrol  
Captain Chuck Ulveling, Georgia State Patrol  
Mr. Terry Landers, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety  
Major Billy Boulware, Motor Carrier Compliance Division  
Chief Mark McLeod, Motor Carrier Compliance Division  
Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. David Wall, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Todd Wainright, Georgia Fire Academy  
Ms. Sharon Sparks, Georgia Fire Academy  
Mr. Al Wright, Georgia Fire Academy  
Mr. Corky Flora, Georgia Fire Academy  
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Blake Andrews, Office of Planning & Budget  
Ms. Wendy Angeley, Office of Planning & Budget  
Chief David Kimbrell, Hall County Fire Services  
Battalion Chief Chad Black, Hall County Fire Services  
Chief Johnny Crawley, Thomson Fire Department  
Chief Dennis L. Rubin, Atlanta Fire Department

Deputy Chief Pat Wilson, Monroe County Fire & EMS  
Chief Craig Tully, Colquitt-Miller County Fire Rescue  
Assistant Chief Marvin Riggins, Macon-Bibb County Fire Department  
Mr. Ed Stremple, Department of Corrections

Vice-Chairman James Donald called the Board meeting to order, thanking the Firefighters Association for hosting the Board meeting today. Earlier this morning, the Board members attended the State Firefighters Association Memorial Service, and, Chaplain Odom had commented that “we are Band of Brothers who are servants”; he commented about the fact that “we do not always get the notoriety, but we all know the Lord indeed is pleased with our service.” Vice-Chairman Donald feels a personal relationship with the Firefighters Association in that the Georgia Department of Corrections has 23 fire departments throughout the state. These are primarily in rural communities. In the past year, Corrections opened the first ever and the only all-female fire department in the nation located at the Lee Arrendale prison. Vice-Chairman thanked Director Mann and his folks at the Academy for their training. Vice-Chairman Donald stated the Memorial Service was very poignant, very appropriate, and he was moved by the thought that people like fire services folks, even in death, get their appropriate recognition. Vice-Chairman explained to visitors this Board is chaired by Governor Perdue; it is designed in many ways to make sure policy issues and things relating to public safety are on track. It is designed to enhance inoperability; it is designed to ensure synchronization of all efforts. Vice-Chairman stated, “we need not go farther than what is on the television today to see the importance of all of us working together. It definitely got my attention to say a good reminder of why we have such organizations and meetings like this.”

Vice-Chairman Donald asked if Board members had any guests. Sheriff Jamil Saba introduced Hall County Sheriff Steve Cronic. Sheriff Cronic stood to officially welcome the Board members and thank them for choosing Hall County to hold this meeting; he hoped there will be more meetings in the future here. Sheriff Cronic, in looking around the room, thanked everyone for everything they do; his office has enjoyed wonderful partnerships with all the agencies represented here, which has been a key to a lot of successes over the last few years.

Mr. Bud Black introduced Fire Chief David Kimbrell, along with Bud Black’s son, Mr. Chad Black, with the Hall County Fire Department. Chief Kimbrell is the one who initiated the invitation to the Board. Chief Kimbrell welcomed everyone, saying he is glad the Board could be here with the Fire Services.

Mr. David Wall introduced Georgia Fire Academy staff: Mr. Al Wright, Mr. Carlton Flora, Mr. Todd Wainwright, Ms. Sherry Spark. Following those introductions, each visitor stated his/her name and agency.

Vice-Chairman Donald stated the Board is giving special recognition to Mr. Wayne Abernathy, a person who has been a mainstay of this Board. Before presenting the Resolution, Vice-Chairman welcomed any comments. Mr. Bud Black stated that Mr. Abernathy has been on the Board during four governors; when mentioning the Public Safety Board, it is Wayne Abernathy's name that comes up. Mr. Black stated Mr. Abernathy has made a lot of friends over the year, and, has served the Board very well; his name and reputation has been good for all the Board members all these years; Mr. Black is proud to call Mr. Abernathy a friend. Mr. Rooney Bowen commented that the Board members can appreciate Mr. Abernathy's knowledge that he has acquired over the years of being on the Board. This has been a tremendous help because Mr. Abernathy has been already been through the bumps in the road and can look at those situations and give advice; his experience has spoken volumes for what he has done for the Board and for Mr. Bowen. Vice-Chairman stated that Mr. Abernathy is synonymous with Public Safety Board with many years of great service to this Board; and the Vice-Chairman is proud to know Mr. Abernathy. The Resolution was read for Mr. Wayne Abernathy, honoring him in the presence of his community. Mr. Abernathy thanked everyone for the Resolution. He stated that, when first appointed on the Board, he thought he would be on about a year. He is proud of every person he has met during this time; he has met the finest people in law enforcement and outside law enforcement. With all the friends he has made, he hoped they feel the same about him that he does about them.

Vice-Chairman Donald requested approval of the July Board Minutes. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III requested a correction in the Minutes in changing the name of Mr. Dan Roach to Major Don Chastain in two areas on page three in the Minutes. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion to approve the Minutes, as amended, which was seconded by Mr. Bud Black, and the Board members voted approval.

### **DIRECT REPORTS**

Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, stated that he also has had a long-standing relationship with Mr. Wayne Abernathy. The friendship goes back many, many years. Even after retiring the first time, Colonel Hitchens had interaction with Mr. Abernathy. Mr. Abernathy has been very steadfast on this Board; he doesn't say much but when he does, everybody listens. Mr. Abernathy has been a good friend to Colonel, and he appreciates everything Mr. Abernathy has done for the state.

Colonel Hitchens apologized for not attending the July Board meeting because he had been on vacation. But he wanted to thank the Board for recognizing Mr. Cal Pipkin last month. Colonel Hitchens stated he knew it would be an emotional event; it pulls at his heart strings sometimes when there is someone who very obviously does not want to leave State Patrol. Mr. Pipkin's emotions probably spoke how he felt. Colonel Hitchens stated he appreciates what the Board did for Mr. Pipkin.

Colonel Hitchens reported on Trooper School graduation, which will be held on Friday, August 18. He stated that Governor Perdue will be attending the graduation, but because of his scheduling problems, the time has been changed to 9:00 a.m. Colonel Hitchens stated they appreciate Governor Perdue making efforts to go out of his way to attend the ceremony. The Board members will receive notice of the change of starting time. There will be 25 cadets graduating from trooper school. This is the second school of the year. State Patrol was able to get 36 candidates in the first school and 35 in the second one. Twenty-four graduated out of the first school, and the second school will have 25 graduating.

Colonel Hitchens reported they are moving forward on August 28<sup>th</sup> with the Glock contract. State Patrol made a good deal with Glock. Glock will be using State Patrol in some advertising, and it will probably work very well. There are 45 weapons that will be ready on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately, this is the exact same weapon but with a different caliber with a slight change, which is an eighth of an inch on the slide. However, State Patrol will have to get new holsters. Colonel Hitchens stated that the Department made a pretty good deal about the issues that everybody had with protective vests; those all will be replaced and the Department will get a \$150,000 credit. That money will be used to purchase the holsters. State Patrol has had the other guns for 13 years and will have these new guns for the next 13 years.

Colonel Hitchens brought to the table the issue of melding together training. Everyone knows that Capitol Police came to the Department about five years ago, and Motor Carrier Compliance came in in 2005. The common areas provided for law enforcement training will be melded. The Motor Carrier Compliance will do P.I.T. training regarding trucking. State Patrol training regarding actual investigation will remain separate. Overall, the whole training unit will meld, which requires approval because of changing the organizational structure; Colonel Hitchens requested final approval from the Board. Vice-Chairman Donald recommended that the Board vote on this issue; Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and the Board members voted approval of the motion. Vice-Chairman Donald thanked Colonel Hitchens for the courtesy of bringing that to the Board.

Another issue Colonel Hitchens reported on is a problem with the video cameras in the cars. Video cameras are placed in the trunk, so they are overheating. This overheating distorts some of the film. Colonel Hitchens believes there is a resolution; the manufacturer and State Patrol garage folks are working together to put fans on the actual technical part of the camera. Another part of this is that some of the equipment dates back to 1988. The Department is now replacing with digital cameras, which are much more effective, the contrast is better, a better picture overall. The one thing that is impressive is that there is a three-minute overlap on the actual filming. When the trooper activates the blue light in the car, the tape comes on and everything is filmed. If somebody does something that precedes the activation, the video can be brought up. Such as, if the person has thrown dope out of the window, the trooper can hit the button and it locks down the digital video and the trooper can go back and view the beginning of the event. Colonel Hitchens stated the other issue is having problems with fire. Because it has been so hot

and so dry, grass has caught on fire. In one instance, there had been a chase, and when the individual abandoned the car, the trooper ran off after the individual. When the trooper returned the individual to the vehicles, they found both vehicles had completely burned up because the grass caught on fire and subsequently caught the vehicles on fire. So, heat has been a real issue this year.

Colonel Hitchens reported the agency's immigrations and customs support, as is mandated by Senate Bill 529, an implementation of the Immigration and Naturalization Act. The Department recently met with the I.C.E. Special Agent In Charge of the Atlanta area. Colonel Hitchens wrote a letter to the Assistant Secretary of I.C.E. asking to authorize funds for training. The issue has been to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which is key on whether or not Immigration and Naturalization is forthcoming with funding for training. With I.C.E. agreeing to write the MOU; if funding is available, Colonel Hitchens will send the two Interdiction Units, consisting of about 15 people, to training. Colonel Hitchens indicated that what would be appropriate is to incorporate some of the investigative people and drivers services people for the training. Colonel Hitchens stated he wanted to make everyone aware that the law specifies that any agent involved with this will do just what is within the scope of normal duties. The troopers, within their normal duties, will not be going to places where illegal immigrants are working or living; immigrants will be stopped when there is a probable cause. The reason for using the Criminal Interdiction Unit is because they do a pretty good job of interdicting criminals of all sorts, stolen vehicles, drugs, other situations. With this training, they will be able to identify who has proper documentation and will have the ability to get into databank to see if there is any criminal history. If the immigrants are, in fact, illegal or if they have been involved in criminal actions, then I.C.E. will take over.

Mr. Black stated that recently at North Georgia College, a group of military guys came to Mr. Black and asked about any part-time work with State Patrol. He noted how these guys go through ranger camp and get out of the military with degrees; those guys would be potential for radio operator positions. Mr. Black further explained that the guys would like to work weekends or nights; these are military guys who have finished their four years. Colonel Hitchens responded that if they want to work the late shift and weekends, it would not be hard to accommodate them. A person can work Saturday, Sundays, weekends, holidays; but it is hard for some people to make that commitment. Commissioner Donald questioned how far the College is from a couple of prisons in that area; he indicated the Department of Corrections is working hard to hire correction officers. Both state agencies are looking to recruit from the military. After a quick visit from U. S. Senator Saxby Chambliss, Colonel Hitchens confirmed that the Department is already hiring college students for radio operator positions.

U. S. Senator Saxby Chambliss visited the Board meeting. Vice-Chairman Donald introduced him, then asking the Senator to speak to everyone. Senator Chambliss stated he felt humbled to be in the presence of this group. Senator Chambliss stated he wanted to step in to say that in thinking about troopers and firefighters and law enforcement personnel who put their lives on the

line every single day to protect the citizens, he is humbled by their presence and what great Americans they are. He stated everyone is reminded again today of what a dangerous world it is to live in; upon turning on television last night and seeing the story of the two Georgia Tech students who went to court; how everyone was reminded that they were funding terrorist activities right here. This is not something that happened in New York City or just in London, but here. Law enforcement face this every single day. Senator Chambliss takes every opportunity to say thanks to them, because when they walk out the door in the morning, their families hope they will come back. He stated that for public service he wanted to say "thank you" for what they do. Law enforcement makes them, the policymakers, very proud of money spent to give training and assets from federal level to fight terrorism and protect people. Law enforcement are the folks that really make America the great and free country that it is. He thanked everyone for letting him come visit. Vice-Chairman Donald thanked, on behalf of Governor and Board members, Senator Chambliss for his contribution; the state pledges its support to him and his initiatives. The Homeland Security grant the state received was comparable to any other state. Director Keenan confirmed that Senator Chambliss has done the state very well. Senator Chambliss then left the Board meeting to continue visiting with the Firefighters Conference.

Chief Lou Dekmar thanked Colonel Hitchens, Director Keenan, and Director Mann for the contribution that all three state agencies made for the white paper on pursuits, this will be a real positive piece of work for future legislation and policy. Chief Dekmar stated it is on the web site in a 120-page document. Chief Dekmar stated there were several issues essentially covered: data collection, policy consideration, technology, the P.I.T. maneuver, and then an overview. Chief Dekmar stated he would work with getting copies to the Board members. Vice-Chairman Donald stated that in looking back a couple of years, that piece of legislation is something that is a product of this Board's interactions. Georgia took on a tough issue that other states perhaps have not addressed; the state now has guides for the future. Colonel Hitchens stated that the people who did the study were the Ph.D. personnel from Engineering and Physics Department of Georgia Tech, which gives it great credibility. Those people say it is a controlled maneuver where ramming is very uncontrollable.

Colonel Hitchens added he wanted to say the same thing about the taser; that his agency has not been nearly as involved in the taser issue as the other issues. All the evidence is in a white paper and the basic scientific study predicted what the doctors and physiologists show that taser use is very justified. At the Chiefs meeting, Colonel Hitchens stated State Patrol has had about 130 incidents, but never received the first complaint from a citizen and nobody has been hurt. It is advantageous to be able to use that piece of equipment and technology and allow everybody to come out with minimal problems. It is significant to the individual for about five seconds, but the recovery is four or five seconds and the person is back to normal; this is much better than using more severe force.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, reported that he had originally planned to have the GBI staff to do a briefing on the Sex Offender legislation and its impact on state and local law enforcement. Because of time restraints, this will be presented at next month's Board meeting.

Director Keenan took a moment to express to the Board and firefighters the things he had learned about firefighters in general. His brother is a captain in the Fire Services at Jacksonville, Florida. When the two get together, they do not discuss their jobs. So, Director Keenan never really had an understanding of what firefighter profession is and their hardworking dedication until Hurricane Katrina came along. Last year, Governor Perdue deployed state forces to Louisiana and Mississippi. Director Keenan went with State Body Recovery Team to coastal Mississippi. The first day they were there, Director Keenan was approached by a group of firefighters from Birmingham, Alabama; they came to Director stating they were Birmingham Heavy. Director Keenan learned that Birmingham Heavy refers to Birmingham Fire and Heavy Rescue; they were specialists in their profession. Birmingham Heavy requested to be put to work, and Director Keenan explained to the group that Body Recovery was grueling and distasteful; but the group, at the time being underutilized, was willing to work. The twenty firefighters, from the Birmingham Fire and Rescue, were married in with the 30-person Body Recovery Team from Georgia. Director Keenan was extremely impressed with how they worked and how they pitched in their expertise. Again, the next day a firefighter group from DeKalb County came to Director Keenan requesting that they be put to work. Director Keenan stated that they wound up with more firefighters than state law enforcement. Director Keenan came away with an appreciation and admiration of the work ethics of a firefighter and their willingness to pitch in when operating in a crisis that is outside their mission. But they saw a need and they were willing to work. Director Keenan has been a strong advocate of firefighters since that event.

Director Keenan reported that in the next two weeks the GBI will receive a \$200,000 grant from the Office of Highway Safety. That grant will allow purchase of a piece of toxicology equipment for the State Crime Laboratory. This equipment will allow the Crime Lab to take a blood sample submitted by law enforcement officers or troopers or those working a case where they believe the driver is under the influence of prescription medication. For example, if the trooper or deputy sheriff or uniform officer have reason to believe the driver is impaired by Zanax, they can send in and request that the blood be screened for Zanax. With this new piece of equipment, the Crime Lab can screen for the 25 top prescription drugs. This will increase the productivity efficiency of the Crime Lab and it will have some very positive impacts on DUI prescription drug violations in Georgia. In response to a question if that included non-prescription drugs, Director Keenan responded that the Crime Lab already screens for those. The Crime Lab is moving into the arena using extremely high tech equipment for analysis. In fact, GBI Crime Lab is leading the nation in some of the issues. The U.S. Department of Justice has asked for background information on the Crime Lab in using this new equipment, or the commonly abused drugs, and now the prescription drugs.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, complimented Mr. Wayne Abernathy and that he appreciates all that Mr. Abernathy is doing.

Director Mann reported that he received a request from the State Defense Force asking to use a couple of large meeting areas on the weekends. Director Mann called General Poythress to ask if he was in agreement for the Training Center to make space available to the State Defense Force for meetings; but no meals and no lodging. General Poythress assured Director Mann that they are a disciplined unit now and he has control over the unit. Director Mann requested permission to offer space to the State Defense Force for meetings. Upon questioning what the State Defense Force is, Director Mann explained that under Georgia Code 38-2 the Force is part of the Georgia Militia. The Georgia Militia is defined in Georgia Code as the Georgia National Guard, Air Guard, any of active duties that are assigned to Georgia National Guard, and, the State Defense Force is actually a separate code within Georgia Code 38-2. The Force is activated by the Governor; a lot of what they do is through the National Guard. Colonel Hitchens added that his agency has allowed the State Defense Force to use the Centennial Conference Room for several years; that the Force had a limited role in G-8; and this group is all volunteers. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion to approve the State Defense Force use space for meetings at the Training Center; said motion seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy; and the Board members voted approval.

Director Mann pointed out latecomer guests, Mr. Blake Andrews and Ms. Wendy Angelety, from Office of Planning and Budget.

Director Mann introduced Mr. David Wall, Director of Georgia Fire Academy, and asked him to make a presentation that tells about the role of the Fire Academy and the things he has been doing for the last couple of years.

Mr. Wall thanked everyone for the opportunity to be at the meeting. He has been at the Georgia Fire Academy under the Georgia Public Safety Training Center for eighteen months. Mr. Wall mentioned that Senator Chambliss had been a voluntary firefighter early in his career.

Mr. Wall began with questioning if anyone had read The Tipping Point, which is a book about important little things in history. One thing in the book talks about Paul Revere's ride. Paul Revere did a great thing; got the information and carried it forward out into the countryside. However, there was another rider that no one heard about. The other rider did the same thing that Paul Revere did; the other rider went in the other direction going into other towns. Mr. Wall pointed out that the other rider didn't know the same people that Paul Revere did; so the other rider had the same message to tell, and, he rode the same distance to other towns. What is learned is what is called connectors; people are connectors.



Mr. Wall stated that one of the things this Board did last year was appoint an Advisory Group. Mr. Wall gave the Board members a copy of the list of members of the Georgia Fire Academy Advisory Council Members. This Council is charged with reporting periodically to the Board. Mr. Wall introduced a few Council members because they are connectors; they carry the message to the fire services in Georgia. Mr. Johnny Crawley, who was in the meeting but had to leave, is the President of Georgia Fire Chiefs Association. Present at the meeting were Mr. Marvin Riggins, who is with Macon Bibb County Fire Department; Chief Craig Tully, who is a volunteer Fire Chief in Colquitt-Miller; Captain Pat Wilson, who is Captain in Monroe County Fire Department; and Chief Dennis Rubin, who is with Atlanta Fire Department. Several other members on the Advisory Group are "connectors" as well.

Mr. Wall, beginning with a powerpoint presentation, stated that his mission was to re-connect with the Georgia fire services. Director Mann has done a tremendous job of this several years ago when he was appointed; and then he hired Mr. Wall to do the same thing. The Georgia fire services has been in fractions for years, but a few years ago they produced a five-year strategic plan. One of the first things was to take a look at the part of the plan that had to do with the Fire Academy. The Fire Academy started listening to its customers; of the fifteen goal areas, he pointed out that Item 2 is training. Item 1 was accomplished with the appointment of the Advisory Group and training officers at the Fire Academy.

Mr. Wall explained that goal number 1, Senate 169 requires minimum training for all firefighters, not just for the career firefighters; that Standards and Training be equivalent to P.O.S.T. on the fire side and be charged with certification process. The Fire Academy reacted with knowing there were a lot of revisions to do. The Basic Firefighter program had to be revised. Revision entailed many meetings for several months to come up with a 187-hour, four-week intense training program, which includes physical training. At the Firefighters Conference, a CD will be given to training officers about new standards on how firefighters can meet the mandates. It includes Module I Firefighter program for volunteers, which includes a new requirement of Live Fire training.

Mr. Wall called on Captain Pat Wilson, who is an integral part of the Live Fire Control Instructor Program. Captain Wilson stood to state that it is an honor to be part of Advisory Council for Fire Academy. The Live Fire Control Instructor program is a program that had been done years ago; but brought back a year ago because the law says it has to be in place. It is a 24-hour program where a firefighter is taught how to teach students in firefighter exercises. Across the nation, there are firefighters who are killed because of mistakes. The firefighters are taught safety. The program has been great; over the next couple of years it will be even better. Captain Wilson said he had a great time working with Mr. Wall's staff on this.

Mr. Wall stated there are eight regional burn buildings throughout the state that were underutilized for various reasons. Last year, the Fire Academy asked for and received funding in the Supplemental Budget to upgrade the burn buildings.

Mr. Wall called on Chief Rubin about his participation. Chief Rubin thanked the Board for the appointment to the Advisory Council. He stated it is inspiring to hear the kind words from the various agencies about the fire departments and brings on mind his very own son. From his standpoint, he had a chance to be on two other significant groups, one being a board member with GMAC. Being able to be on that board and serving on this Advisory Group, and being with the Chiefs Association, he is able to take information back to chiefs throughout the state. Chief Rubin also appreciates the work that is being done, that there is direct connection back to the end user, to the customer, back to the firefighter. He commended Mr. Wall for the work that he is doing and that it is absolutely incredible, necessary, needed, and hope they continue the great service.

Mr. David Wall continued with describing the second goal area in this five-year plan as the Fire Chiefs training. They list 23 different topics in management. In each of these topics, what is usually known is in sheriffs and police chiefs training, these are not new things. Topics are budget, management, disciplinary action, or, what is called the "soft skills." Teaching the hard nose stuff is relatively simple. This is not something the Fire Services as a whole had embraced, but they did embrace it. This group of fire chiefs said they want to make it happen. The first thing the Fire Academy did is Occupational Task Analysis Workshop, or developing a curriculum. That involves bringing in groups of people who are experts or purveyors in that field. This has been done in five skill and task areas, for the last year and half, and since then produced two courses. The Fire Academy is teaching those courses now, one of which is Orientation to Fire Chief Officer.

Mr. Wall called on Chief Craig Tully for his input on those courses. Chief Tully stood and stated he thanks the Board for their support and confidence in appointing him to the Advisory Group. As for the volunteer side in the State of Georgia, that is the difference between fire services and law enforcement. Law enforcement does not have a volunteer side. When dealing with volunteer side, it brings a whole different perspective. There are people working hard making a living for their family, then trying to participate in fire services. One problem seen in training throughout the state is not getting the volunteers to the level that they need to be. Through the chiefs training, once the chiefs are educated, then the firefighters will follow. One of the goals that the Fire Academy has done is reach out to the volunteer side in Georgia. They have made training accessible for volunteers, so that not everything is set up on week days. Based on the chiefs training in Georgia, there is no certification for fire chiefs and that needs to be changed. Chief Tully believes there should be a standard set; the boundaries are set to state that everyone is in this together. The standards are being raised to what is required to be a fire chief in Georgia. Two courses are already put together and these are excellent classes teaching fire chiefs the very minimum that they need to know. Chief Tully requested the Board follow the firefighters and support them to see where they are trying to get. Fire Services in Georgia is in better shape than it has ever been.

Mr. Wall continued with goal area no. 3, which is NIMS. The Fire Academy received a grant and training is provided right now. The Academy has trained over 8,000 people with \$899,000

in FY 05 budget to train folks with NIMS level of 700, 100, 200, now with 300, etc. There are many success stories out there; a lot of them are local. The Academy developed a program called 402, the Executive Briefing, which is for elected officials and appointed officials who will not hold an operational position. This has been done in diverse communities from as far as Fitzgerald to as close as City of Atlanta and many places in between. Last December, the academy was invited to Fitzgerald to brief the sheriff, the county commissioners, the city manager, and the new mayor. According to federal mandate, the officials knew that the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for training was coming up on them. The elected officials were trained in February with a class of 170 people for the 700 class; then splitting them up the following weekend to do the 100 and the 200. This training changed the entire community. Fitzgerald has come a long way in six months; that is one of many success stories that came out of the NIMS program.

Mr. Wall called on Assistant Chief Marvin Riggins, who has a unique perspective of being an Assistant Chief in Macon-Bibb County. He has worked as a paramedic and EMS person for years. Assistant Chief Riggins stood and thanked everyone for the opportunity to be a part of this body and thanked the Board for allowing to share. He stated they are all about a mission to set the course properly; for fire services to be a public safety entity. Assistant Chief Riggins stated they are going to make that happen. So, from fire services perspective to make a difference in the state, so report lessons learned so mistakes will not be made, the state will be a lot safer. Mr. Wall stated, as talked about before, that experience is a great teacher but it has a high price of tuition.

With meeting the mission, they added five more Fire Fighter weekends to the calendar. Several classes are on campus, which helps serve the volunteer fire services. About half of the courses are done off campus; but in adding NIMS, that would be about two-thirds because there are a lot of those. There is additional funding for the field programs including funding for the on-campus volunteers. The Fire Academy is using some funds from GEMA. The Fire Academy will look ahead for ways to see what can be done. The other part of the program that was funded in past legislature was the Technical Rescue Program. This means everything from High Angle to Transfer Rescue to Structural Collapse to Confined Space to Vehicle Extrication Technician. The Fire Academy has also brought back some of the intense programs. Some people might say that is a lot of research to throw at a few number of people, but the ripple effect of having dynamically trained individual is exponential. That is the only way for the Fire Academy to get the mission out there.

Mr. Wall continued with his report about continuing the incident management training that is being done now with higher levels of 300, 400, plus. This being key because the academy has to include all disciplines, multi-disciplines, incident management teams. The firefighters having been trained through 300, 400 level, get trained to be on these teams. The teams are ten to twelve people who have the training as logistics, plants chief, operations; all the incident command positions. They will train and work as a team not just for incidents but events as well. That is the mission in the state; part of the mission is assisting with the training.

Another Pandora's box recently opened was re-visiting the Live Fire Training Procedures with the Environmental Protection Division. Years ago, houses were burned in the field for training. Five years ago an agreement was signed between the Training Center and EPD to effectively kill the program. Now that the box has been opened again with initial meetings, the folks at EPD are saying they could meet the agency is in the middle in having an organized program and having it structured. Today there is ongoing unregulated, unmonitored burning; but it is better to have it monitored and regulated and done in a safe manner.

Mr. Wall hopes to seek additional funding for training sites throughout the state. This will be reported from Director Dale Mann in weeks to come. Mr. Wall thanked for the time before the Board members. He added that there is an inmate firefighter program at the Training Center, so he is in close contact with Mr. Rick Huggins of the Department of Corrections.

Mr. Wall concluded with stating this is a big job; it is a big state. There are 159 counties, with only 669 fire departments. The majority of those fire departments are volunteered. There are 10,000 career firefighters, but double that figure of number of volunteers. The only way this job can be done is to do what is done now, and that is collaborating, cooperating, and opening communications to share as much resources as can be. Mr. Wall thanked the Board members for their support and thanked Director Mann.

Chief Dekmar questioned what are the certification requirements for firefighters. Chief Dekmar recently had an application for firefighter and found the applicant has background of domestic violence, pointing a gun at someone, and DUI twice. Director Mann responded that the law states if not convicted of a felony in the past ten years, the person can become a firefighter. The exception is for inmate firefighters, who have been cleared of all conditions by Pardons and Paroles. Director Mann added that Firefighter Standards and Training is starting to become more like P.O.S.T. Council. P.O.S.T. routinely deals with revocations and denying certifications, however Firefighter Standards is not there yet. This is an issue of concern and everybody recognizes the issue. Chief Dekmar continued with his questioning of numbers show 60% of firefighters have heart attacks; is there any training on fitness or exercising. Mr. Wall responded that an exercising component had been added to the course which did not exist before. Chief Orrick asked if the issue of asbestos under EPD is being addressed, wherein Mr. Wall responded that is one primary concern. This is one issue that will be brought back to the table at another time; it has to do with quantity, has to do with effect.

Vice-Chairman Donald thanked Mr. Wall for the excellent presentation.

**DONATIONS:**

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

Two BGH-125 Nozzles	\$ 1,640.00	Task Force Tips, Inc.
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Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III motioned approval of the donation, seconded by Mr. Bud Black, and the Board members voted approval of the donation.

Mr. Terry Landers, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, requested approval of the following donations:

One Streamlight Strion Flashlight	\$ 90.00	Mr. Gary Cenault MATEN II Traffic Network
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One Stalker DSR Radar	\$ 1,897.00	Sheriff Clayton Lowe Madison County Sheriff
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Two Gateway Laptop Computers	\$ 1,998.00	Sheriff Patrick Cannon Dade County Sheriff
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Six Stalker X-2 Radars	\$16,170.00	Sheriff Scott Chitwood Whitfield County Sheriff
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Seven Stalker X-2 Radars	\$18,865.00	Sheriff Phil Summers Catoosa County Sheriff
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Veterinarian Services Canine "Rocky"	\$ 1,500.00 annually	Dr. Donald Webb Web Animal Clinic
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Three Kustom Signalss Pro Laser III Radars	\$10,785.00	Charles Bishop, Chairman Bibb County Commissioners
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Mr. Wayne Abernathy motioned approval of the donations, Mr. Bud Black seconded, and the Board members voted approval of the donations.

## **RULES**

Ms. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, requested approval of Chapter 570-32, which was initially adopted at the June Board meeting. The chapter provides guidelines for the retention of badge and gun for sworn members of the Department, and for retention of badge by radio operators upon leaving the Department under honorable conditions. After the June meeting, the Department posted the notice on the web site. Yesterday, a public hearing was held at headquarters and no public comments were received. Ms. Rodgers requested final adoption of the new chapter. Chief Lou Dekmar motioned adoption of the chapter, seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and the Board members voted approval of the chapter.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE/EMERGENCY ISSUES**

None reported.

## **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Vice-Chairman Donald announced that Mr. Gene Stuckey has been appointed to the Department of Public Safety/State Patrol Committee.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III motioned approval of the October Board meeting to be held in Statesboro. This will be held in honor of Mr. Hal Averitt, who was a member of this Board; this will be a big event for the family. The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> in Statesboro.

Colonel Hitchens proudly announced several accomplishments for State Patrol. Yesterday, the Governor's Awards Challenge, which derives from IACP, was held, and, State Patrol won many awards, including the Governor's Challenge Medal. Public safety is certainly what State Patrol does. Colonel Hitchens stated he was notified two months ago of the national competition; Georgia State Patrol came in second to the Arizona Department of Public Safety. More importantly, Georgia came in first in the country in DUI Enforcement. Hence, the Nighthawk Unit is going to be recognized nationally in Boston in the fall. Those guys do a great job; statistics show it. The unit works downtown Atlanta in the middle of the night, and, people are aware of the unit's presence. They work very hard and very diligently. The Nighthawk unit is under a federal grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

Vice-Chairman Donald stated perhaps the Board would like to consider some type of recognition of that unit, and, Mr. Rooney Bowen, III said it might be nice to bring them in for a meeting at a future date.

The announcement was made that the lunch is being served for everybody, hosted by Firefighters Association and Fire Chiefs Association.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Rooney L. Bowen, III  
Secretary