

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
February 8, 2007
Atlanta, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice-Chairman James E. Donald
Mr. Bud Black
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Mr. Patrick Head
Chief Dwayne Orrick
Chief J. D. Rice
Sheriff Jamil Saba
Mr. Gene Stuckey
Sheriff Cullen Talton

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chief Lou Dekmar
Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Dub Harper

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Board Attorney
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Colonel Don Chastain, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Major Corky Jewell, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/State Patrol
Mr. Robert Orange, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Sergeant Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety/State Patrol
Ms. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Chief Mark McLeod, MCCD, State Patrol
Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Chris Ash, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Lisa Urich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Terry Gibbons, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Monica Mahone, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Major Reuben McGee, Office of Houston County Sheriff
Ms. Wendy Angelety, Office of Planning and Budget

Vice-Chairman James Donald called the February meeting to order, welcoming everyone to the Board of Public Safety. He called on each person to stand and state his/name.

Vice-Chairman Donald called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the January meeting. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Chief Dwayne Orrick, and voted approval by the Board members.

DIRECT REPORTS

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, began with reporting that the Memorial Committee met a week ago. In his paper report, there is a list of fourteen names voted by the Committee to go on the Memorial Wall, along with four names that are remanded for further research and explanation. Since that time, notice has been received to add a Cobb County Deputy Sheriff, who was killed on his way of work. Director Mann stated the Memorial Committee will have to meet again to review the new request. Director Mann stated there is the continuing issue of 'line of duty' and 'on duty.' For example, a firefighter from Atlanta is on the remanded list, and, Chief Dennis Rubin showed up earlier this morning to talk about finding a way to get that firefighter's name on the Wall. The Firefighters recognition of the Memorial Wall will be held in March of this year. In response to a question that the issue had been discussed last year, Director Mann stated that this issue comes up every year; there is no way to articulate in words every consideration that is taken in by the Memorial Committee. Vice-Chairman Donald added that, because he sits on the Claims Advisory Board, that Board denied the Derwin Brown claim. Vice-Chairman understands it is a gut-rencing decision to have to make; it becomes a matter of drawing a line of saying yes to one and no to another.

Director Mann reported that the Training Center sub-committee, of Sheriff Jamil Saba, Sheriff Cullen Talton, and Chief Dwayne Orrick, met last week to discuss an issue with Director Mann. The Training Center is at a crisis point with Basic Training. Director Mann stated that the Training Center spends more money on training state officers than on training local officers. Director is an advocate for getting resources for local officer training.

With a quick rundown on Basic Training issues, Director Mann went through a powerpoint presentation and stated he wanted the Board's help with decisions on what to do for the future. With the first slide: Basic Mandate/Current Advantages," Director Mann stated local training is done through Regional Academies. For each one of those academies, there is an Advisory Board, and, that the Advisory Board has some control over what goes on in that local Regional Academy. Another advantage is if a sheriff or chief calls a local academy to ask if they will do training, the Regional Academy will find a way to accommodate that request. Other advantages are the sheriff and the chief know the academy staff; officers are closer to home; and customers know the current system and the history of the current system.

With the next slide, "Basic Mandate/Current Disadvantages," Director Mann stated there are some big disadvantages. Even with ten academies, those being the seven under the Training Center and three contract academies, there is no way to keep up with the load of training students. Class size is growing; instead of 24 students in each class there are about 32 students in classes. Thirty-two students is a hard class to teach; it would be ideal to have just 24 people. There are no driver training facilities, no firearms training facilities for those regional academies. Another disadvantage is there is unbalanced workload, such as the academies at Augusta and Columbus. Other disadvantages are basic subsistence has been eliminated; the current system is past the capacity; and academies use instructors from the local chiefs or sheriffs' offices, which is not consistent training.

The slide, "Number of Students Trained FY 06," shows a graph of number of students during 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006. The numbers show that 1,708 were trained in 2003 compared to 2,039 students trained in 2006. The slide, "Where Do We Go From Here?" reflected questions posed to the Board members. Those being how to address issues of student growth; how to address issues of lack of facilities; how to address issues of politics; what is future of contract academies; what is future of departmental academies out of big agencies in the state; and P.O.S.T. extending the number of hours of Basic Training. With "Yearly Average Attendance," from FY 03 through FY 06 there have been about 1,812 students yearly; except for 2006, there was an 18% increase. With the slide, "Total Attendance," Director Mann pointed out the chart reflecting unequal workload. Athens is doing eight Basic cycles a year; however, Augusta is doing four/five cycles. There are more officers in Athens area than in the Augusta area.

With the slide, "Choices," Director Mann began with the first option, Do Nothing. Other choices are to add more Basic academies using the same philosophy; or, give Basic training back to P.O.S.T.; or, open more departmental academies; or, open up some classrooms and dorm space when Department of Corrections moves to Tift Campus; or, recommend the Training Center take excess students in, move Basic to the Training Center, and move advanced/specialized to the field.

Director Mann stated he is open to suggestions. He stated he wanted to get a feel from the Board members on what to do; if a decision is not made soon, the Training Center will end up with Basic students backing up for local police chiefs and sheriffs.

With the slide, "Advantages to Transition," Director Mann stated that if the Training Center starts six classes per month, the sheriffs and the chiefs know that if they hire someone, that person only has thirty days to get into training school. When looking at numbers: 25 students in a class with six ongoing classes equals to 150 students starting in January; then in February, there will be another 150 students. This will result in about 1800 students during the year. A big advantage would be consistency in delivering, because the same person teaches criminal procedure every time. If ever changing the curriculum, it would be done in that one location. Instructor intensity is there; the learning environment is improved; improvement for Performance

Exams increases because of decreasing the number of students per class; and eventually going to performance based learning.

Director Mann stated if the goal is to bring all Basic Training to the Training Center, there may be other issues. With Basic peace officers, training is ten weeks. Eventually, dorm space will run out quickly and there will not be enough staff and/or positions. Director Mann stated that over a period of time, the Training Center would have to bring in academy staff in order to run Basic Training. Director Mann proposes that the Training Center Conference Center be converted into ten large classrooms. He is also proposing constructing new dorm space by building another floor up on those three wings off the dorms.

Director Mann requested a Resolution from the Board members to propose a long-range solution. After roundtable discussion and questions, Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion for a Resolution to encourage Director Mann to begin conducting Basic Mandate Training utilizing a hybrid approach where the Training Center acts as a reliever site by bringing in excess students and promoting more pre-service Basic Training at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. Mr. Bud Black seconded said motion and the Board members voted approval.

Commissioner Donald stated that the Training Center sub-committee has the responsibility to continue the dialogue of various issues that were discussed during this meeting.

Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, began reporting on a couple of items. Colonel stated that he had talked about the Glock many times; he continued with stating that the *Annual Glock* magazine has an article about the Department of Public Safety's transition. The only money spent was for training and for ammunition. Colonel Hitchens stated this has been a good transition.

The Motorcycle Unit is now operational; this being a ten-member team working inside 285 to work in concert with the new timing system and alleviate all the traffic jams. The unit works the scene and gets people around it and cleared out. The unit has been trained, except for one person, who will be sent to California for training.

The legislature decided that monies derived from fines and forfeitures will come back to the Motorcycle Unit to maintain the unit. In response to a question of tracking the Motorcycle Unit, Colonel Hitchens stated that the Concentrated Patrol Recap could be revised to add the activity of that Unit. State Patrol also covered the event of the visitors from "Wild Hogs," which is a new movie filmed in Georgia. Governor Perdue had his picture made on one of the bikes; hopefully this will bring a positive effect out of this event.

Colonel Hitchens reported on the Budget; there are two proposals for this year's budget and FY 07 Supplemental. The P.O.S.T. Council database system, which tracks all law enforcement

officers in the state, will be run through Public Safety budget; the reason being that Public Safety still does financial work for P.O.S.T., for Training Center, for Fire Council, and Highway Safety. The other point is interoperable communication system, called Motor Grids. This is new technology that will allow 800 MHz and VHF systems to work together. They will be shared with putting those in Patrol posts, in GBI offices, and in the 911 centers across the state. Funding will be an annual reoccurring expense.

Colonel Hitchens reported that the agency's Awards Committee looked at allowing uniform to wear military pins. The agency recruits heavily out of the military. This will allow people to wear insignia from their branch of service.

A news release will be placed on the agency's web page announcing "Georgia Troopers To Launch Operation Precious Cargo." Beginning next week, this effort will be implemented towards child safety. Last year there were thirty children, under the age of five, who were killed in motor vehicle accidents in the state. Colonel Hitchens stated that road checks can be difficult to go through. As an example, in 1997, this started out as 'Strap and Snap.' In the first year, there were more than 400 fugitives arrested. This effort will do more than just provide high profile.

In response to a question of trooper school, Colonel Hitchens stated it is now down to 41 cadets. It looks as though the majority will finish; graduation will be in August.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, began with reporting that the Merit System met with him and staff to formalize how the GBI was handling its leadership development and a succession plan. Director Keenan stated that one thing that he has now embarked on is to bring appropriate staff to formal meetings, such as this Board meeting; to accompany Director to budget presentations at General Assembly. This is an education process. Therefore, in the future, GBI staff will be coming to the Board meetings. Their purpose for being here and being at the General Assembly is to listen and learn. Director Keenan remembered his very first budget presentation, which was about twelve years ago. After Mr. Buddy Nix was appointed Director of GBI, both he and Director Keenan had to do a budget presentation before Governor Zell Miller; even though they had never done a presentation. Director Keenan thinks back to how painful it can be of not having been exposed to that process prior to presentation time. What the Board members will see is part of leadership development in GBI and succession plan.

Recently, Director Keenan, along with Colonel Hitchens, Director Mann, and Vice-Chairman Donald, had their plates full with doing budget presentations before the General Assembly. At a previous Board meeting, Director Keenan explained the Governor's Recommendation for the GBI. Today, Director Keenan updated the Board members on legislation which has been approved by Governor Perdue. A bill has been introduced which would address fingerprints

being submitted for background checks. Currently, there are 23 separate occupations that require a national fingerprint check. Some of those laws specify the cards that have to be submitted, as it does for firefighters. This legislation will broaden the language of determining how the submission will be done. Governor Perdue has also approved going forward with legislation to support Child Safety Initiative. Legislation has been introduced which will tighten up the laws as it relates to internet crimes against children. For example, GBI is working cases where child solicitation for sex is being done through cell telephones; there are pornographic images sent over cell telephones. This legislation will tighten up all of this so that whatever communication device exists now, may in the future be covered under child pornography law. Additionally, the legislation will give the GBI original jurisdiction in working child pornography cases. This will give GBI original jurisdiction and take those cases and go forward. The legislation would also give GBI administrative subpoena power as it relates to child pornography cases to be able to require that cell telephones and internet providers comply with providing information needed to track the predator. That legislation is making its way through General Assembly.

In response to a question of the meth task force and agents, Director Keenan stated that when he did the budget presentation at the General Assembly, they asked the Director to come back and speak specifically to the methamphetamine issues of the state. The number of meth labs being seized in the state have decreased dramatically; now down about 60%. The decrease in meth labs is a combination of two things: restriction of sale of pseudoephedrine, which is the main ingredient of methamphetamine; coupled with aggressive law enforcement at the state and local levels. While meth labs are going down, the amount of methamphetamine coming into the state has increased. The shift has now gone towards the Mexican gangs, who are bringing in methamphetamine. About 90% - 95% of methamphetamine used in Georgia is from the Mexican gangs. That has occurred for two reasons: there has been a dramatic increase in the Hispanic population in Georgia; the other factor is that Atlanta is a transportation hub for United States. The plan is to have the 15 agents devoted to working importation cases; most of them will be stationed in Atlanta for the purpose of working with federal agencies and addressing the importation issue.

FISCAL REPORTS:

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, reported on the 2nd quarter for Budget A for the agency. Mr. Hood stated that basically, the agency is on target for where it should be. Mr. Hood pointed out Total Objects which reflects 51% remaining, or, \$54,210,907. That is a little more than where the agency should be. There are some areas in which the agency has identified where funds need remedied. There are few areas where the agency will have to add additional funds from motor object classes or from motor revenues, particularly noting Regular Operating Services has 37% remaining. That is little bit under what the agency will have to have to finish out. In addition, Telecommunications has 37% remaining. Those two object classes will have to add monies; done by adding revenues from federal government that

will come in and also other revenues as collected, that may make up any deficit. In addition to that, the agency may move funds from Personal Services, which is largest budget category. Mr. Hood stated that overall the agency is on target. In response to a question of Motor Vehicles, Mr. Hood stated there are vehicles on the way; as soon as there is a contract by Department of Administrative Services, the agency will be able to order Dodge Chargers. Colonel Hitchens added that the specs were submitted to DOAS last year; but was interrupted by transition of management; there was an error in the bidding process and it was corrected; subsequent to that, received a protest; the process has been redone; and any day now the process should go forward. In response to a question of changing vehicles, Colonel Hitchens stated the Chargers have better performance, better safety issues, computerized tracking system, new motor, designed specifically as patrol vehicle, and cost less and perform better.

Ms. Lisa Urich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, stated the agency is right on target with its spending. With the overall state budget, the agency has spent right at 50%, and anticipate spending all funds by year end.

Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, reported on its 2nd quarterly expenditure report. The total expenditures are 47.7%; state expenditures are also at 47.7%; close to being under 3% at this time. There are a couple of overages in various Object Classes. The agency will be doing some shifting around of funds when going through the remainder of the fiscal year. There will be more revenues coming in, so, Mr. Guerreiro stated that will help address any other problems. The money being saved right now will go toward the pilot Basics at the Training Center. He stated the Training Center is in good shape and will be in good shape at the end of the fiscal year.

DONATIONS/RESOLUTIONS/RULES

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

Two Atlanta LLC	\$ 4,843.00	Sheriff Terry Langley Carroll County Sheriff
Cash Donation	\$17,000.00	Brandon Hutchinson Atlanta Motor Speedway
2007 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Package	\$31,500.00	Sheriff Robert Markley
Emergency Equipment and Installation	\$ 6,311.21	Morgan County Sheriff

K-9 Narcotics Detection Dog	\$ 6,100.00	Sheriff William Smith Camden County Sheriff
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Chief J. D. Rice made a motion to approve the donations, seconded by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III, and voted approval by the Board members.

ADMINISTRATIVE/EMERGENCY ISSUES

There being none, Vice-Chairman Donald moved forward.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chairman Donald called on Mr. Joe Drolet, Board Attorney, to give a quick summary of what is happening with sex offender legislation. Mr. Drolet began with reminding the Board members that House Bill 1059 created residency requirements. Since the effective date of July 1st, the Attorney General's office has been deluged with lawsuits; the largest one wound up in the United States District Court. The Attorney General's office filed a Motion To Dismiss in that case and the Judge has not yet ruled. In the meanwhile, fifty-four other cases have been filed in superior courts around the state. These cases are attacking the broad areas on constitutionality of the statute. Mr. Drolet stated that next week there is a case coming up for argument in Fulton Superior Court; this case being first against Board of Pardons & Paroles for their failure to release people based on Sex Offender Registration Review Board. For one particular case out of Clayton County, there has been one ruling. This case is a current challenge by an offender, Mr. Anthony Mann, who previously challenged the old sex offender law; the previous case went to Georgia Supreme Court and it upheld the previous version of the statute. Regarding the current case, the court ruled on January 17th denying Mr. Mann's petition; the current case is now on its way to Georgia Supreme Court. Mr. Drolet stated there are other cases waiting decisions for variety impacts to the law.

Mr. Bud Black made a motion to host the Board meeting in April up in his area. The meeting will be held on April 26th. Mr. Rooney Bowen seconded the motion, and the Board members voted approval.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary