

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
January 11, 2007
Atlanta, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice-Chairman James E. Donald
Mr. Wayne Abernathy
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:

Mr. Bud Black
Chief Lou Dekmar
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 Arthur White, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Colonel Don Chastain, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Major David Brack, 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
Sergeant Russell Hayes, Department of Public Safety/State Patrol
Ms. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Jacqueline Bunn, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Lee O'Brien, Department of Public Safety/State Patrol
Chief Mark McLeod, MCCD, State Patrol
Major Billy Boulware, MCCD, State Patrol
Ms. Allison Hodge, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Dan Roach, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Trooper Andrew Gideon, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Corporal John Cronin
Sergeant Jeffrey Puckett
Trooper Stephen Langham
Trooper Ron Calvert
Trooper Stacey Collins

Trooper Walter Christian
Trooper James Richart
Sergeant Grant Rowe
Trooper Ru Barber
Corporal James Buchanan
Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Chris Ash, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Bill Malueg, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Paul Heppner, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Lisa Urich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Willie McGee, Office of Houston County Sheriff

Vice-Chairman James Donald called the January meeting to order, welcoming everyone to the Board of Public Safety. He stated there are new things to talk about today and people to honor. Vice-Chairman Donald requested Colonel Bill Hitchens to introduce his task force.

Colonel Hitchens introduced a couple of staff people; beginning with Ms. Jacqueline Bunn. Ms. Bunn is a staff attorney at Public Safety and comes from the Attorney General's office. Colonel Hitchens also introduced Mr. Robert Orange, who is the new Budget Officer. Colonel Hitchens pointed out that Major David Brack was attending, and, has been promoted and is now Commanding Officer of Georgia State Patrol. Colonel Hitchens noted that State Patrol's DUI Task Force, the Nighthawks, were attending today.

Director Keenan introduced Mr. Bill Malueg, who is the new Deputy Director for Investigations. Mr. Malueg is a 30-year veteran of GBI and has worked every rank in the special Investigative Division; his last assignment was Inspector over Internal Affairs.

RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Colonel Hitchens stood before the Board to announce that Lieutenant Colonel Arthur White will be retiring the end of January. Colonel described Arthur White as someone who is a dedicated and loyal employee of the Department of Public Safety. Colonel Hitchens then read the Resolution to Arthur White, who received a standing ovation. Several Board members, along with Director Vernon Keenan and Director Dale Mann, thanked Lieutenant Colonel White for what he has done for the law enforcement community. Vice-Chairman Donald thanked Lieutenant Colonel White for his outstanding performance with giving him a Commissioner's Coin and Letter. Colonel Arthur White thanked the Board members and Department of Public Safety for the honor.

Colonel Hitchens announced that the Georgia State Patrol DUI Task Force/Nighthawks had achieved the DUI Law Enforcement award from International Association of Chiefs of Police. Colonel Hitchens stated the Task Force is very professional and does an exceptional job; the DUI conviction rate is well over 90%, which is unusual this day and time. During 2005, the Task Force increased impaired driving arrests by 285%. The Nighthawk unit made 352 arrests for impaired driving, 1249 arrests or citations and 163 warnings for speed-related violations, 131 arrests or citations and 31 warnings for seatbelt violations, and, 18 arrests and 5 child-seat warnings during a three-month period in 2005. Chief Dwayne Orrick added that the IACP conference is the largest police conference in the world, bringing competition from all over the country; this is a huge award and great recognition for Georgia State Patrol.

Colonel Hitchens announced Trooper Andy Gideon is the recipient of the third Resolution, which cannot adequately describe what happened to Trooper Gideon. The Resolution describes how Trooper Gideon was employed with Georgia State Patrol in 1996 and served with Georgia Army National Guard. In December of 2004, Trooper Gideon was activated and deployed to Iraq, during which time his vehicle was struck by an IED. As a result, Trooper Gideon sustained serious multiple injuries. Upon completion of rehabilitation, Trooper Gideon returned to work with Georgia State Patrol at Post 41 LaFayette, where he remains active on regular patrol. Colonel Hitchens added he was impressed that Trooper Gideon returned to work, even after the serious injuries and the rehabilitation period. Colonel stated he has received letters of commendation about how Trooper Gideon has been helpful. Trooper Gideon received a standing ovation.

DIRECT REPORTS

Colonel Bill Hitchens stated the law requires the position of Deputy Commissioner be nominated by Colonel Hitchens and approved by Board of Public Safety. Colonel Hitchens nominated Lieutenant Colonel Don Chastain be placed in that position. Lieutenant Colonel Chastain came to State Patrol in 1975; graduated from Georgia Southern University; has a Masters in Public Administration from Columbus State University. He has been stationed all over Georgia in variety of positions and has come up the ranks. Colonel Hitchens described Lieutenant Colonel Chastain as someone who has integrity and voracity. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made the motion for the Board to confirm the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Don Chastain to Deputy Commissioner; seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and approved by the Board members.

Colonel Hitchens continued with reporting that Department of Public Safety/State Patrol was the lead agency for security in the inauguration; he was very proud of the effort his staff put into it. There were seven venues with about 200 troopers and motor carrier compliance staff; in addition to Capitol Police already in place around Capitol. Major Brack was the Incident Commander and Sergeant Mark McDonough handled the Inspection Detail. Colonel Hitchens stated he had heard good comments from not just members of public but also from legislators. The GBI

helped with dignitary protection; EOD and National Guard did sweeps prior to events to insure locations were safe and secure.

In response to a question, Colonel Hitchens stated that Trooper School, with 80 positions available, started with 54 people who met the criteria. He understands that as of today there are 46 cadets in school; this is pretty standard considering the ones who drop out. There are about 300 people who pass the tests; everybody goes through extensive background investigations, polygraph tests, psychological evaluations, physical examinations, and physical fitness tests; a lot of people are eliminated along the way. On the first day of Trooper School, there are several who realize this is not what they thought they wanted to do in life. It still continues that the agency loses more people than they are hiring; this is not only troopers, but also Capitol police and radio operators positions.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, began with stating that men and women of GBI very much value their relationship with men and women of Georgia State Patrol. They are proud of the hard work that Georgia troopers do. Director Keenan stated troopers are appreciated by not only co-workers in law enforcement but also by the community.

Director Keenan reported that Governor Perdue recommended to the General Assembly that his three initiatives be funded in the GBI. In FY 07 Amended Budget, Governor Perdue is recommending that they fund the initial start-up cost for Child Safety Initiative. Governor Perdue calls for tripling the size of the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit. His budget calls for the GBI to receive an additional eight special agents and four computer forensic specialists to do the analytical work with the child pornography cases. Governor's budget also requests the General Assembly to fund special agents to be assigned to the Georgia Secure ID Initiative; this being a partnership between GBI and Drivers Services. This program calls for ten investigators in Drivers Services to be stationed at their facilities to intercept cases of persons coming in with fraudulent documents to obtain Georgia ID's or drivers licenses. Director Keenan stated they will work in partnership with that group, and, the special agents will be assigned to do the follow-up investigation for purpose of tracking back cases to the source of the counterfeit documents. The GBI will be working in partnership with Immigration Custom Enforcement (ICE) unit, which also has a federal task force operation unit.

Governor's Budget also requests funding to double the size of Meth Force. Governor Perdue had recommended funding last year for fifteen special agents to work methamphetamine in related crimes. This year's budget calls for an additional fifteen agents to be funded. Director Keenan stated they are very pleased to receive additional resources, because this is the first opportunity to have received funding to take on new special agents.

Governor's Budget for FY 08 requests the General Assembly to fund the GBI bonds of \$2.6 million to expand the Medical Examiner facility at the Summerville Crime Laboratory. Currently, the GBI has a forensic pathologist who is stationed there; but they are operating out of

a morgue facility, which is totally inadequate and unsafe environment. Governor's Budget could call for building a state-of-the-art morgue. Director Keenan believes the GBI will receive strong support in the General Assembly for funding all Governor's initiatives, which will be extremely valuable to public safety of Georgia.

Director Keenan reported that the GBI has hired a replacement for a pathologist forensic position at the Macon Crime Laboratory and Medical Examiner facility. In Savannah, there had been two forensic pathologists; however, one has resigned. The GBI has hired Dr. Edmund Donoghue, who is retiring as Chief Medical Examiner from Cook County, Illinois. The doctor is looking to remain in the medical profession, but did not want the mundane work of budget and personnel; therefore, he is coming to GBI and will be stationed at Savannah. Out of the 400 board-certified forensic pathologists in the nation, there are thirteen in Georgia. When one of those thirteen leaves the GBI, it takes over a year to recruit and bring in a board-certified forensic pathologist. It is fortunate that Dr. Donoghue wanted to come to Savannah.

Director Keenan announced the GBI is completing a hiring process for a Special Agent class, which will begin March 1st. The GBI is hiring thirteen special agents, which will fill existing vacancies of those who have either retired or resigned. For the Governor's Recommendation for the agents going to the Child Safety initiative and Meth Force and Security ID, the funding will be available to employ agents after July 1, 2007. Director Keenan stated the plans are to begin another school on September 1st to fill those positions.

In response to a question on what it takes to be a computer forensic specialist, Director Keenan stated it takes an extensive background in computer sciences. These are the men and women who do the technical analysis of information entered in a computer. They are trained to take a seized computer, such as in child pornography case, and download all that material and do an analysis of what is found in that computer. Computer forensic specialists also work in dealing with internet computers that entice children; while at the same time a special agent is doing the criminal investigation side.

Vice-Chairman Donald added on the discussion of methamphetamine epidemic that the Department of Corrections takes in between 250 and 300 offenders a month on methamphetamine felonies alone; at the cost of about \$3600 a year. There is a three-fold approach to this problem: Governor Perdue has given 400 new beds to Department of Corrections for residential substance abuse treatment program for meth offenders. Secondly, both Pardons and Paroles along with Corrections are being funded with additional money to hire methamphetamine counselors. The third leg is awareness; Corrections is getting the word out to the communities to discourage the use of meth through the program "Make The Right Choice/Choose Freedom." Director Keenan stated he commends Governor Perdue for recognizing the extent of the methamphetamine problem in the state. In the last three years, there has been a change in the meth environment. The problem used to be the meth labs; the numbers went from 730 labs seized in one year, to a 60% decrease in the number of labs seized. The problem now is that the supply has shifted from domestic-produced methamphetamine to

methamphetamine being imported from Mexican gangs. Currently, the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration, relying on Georgia's statistics, concluded that 95% of meth being seized in Georgia is imported from Mexico. With Governor's Recommendation, the GBI will have fifteen additional meth force agents, who will be assigned to try to disrupt the importation of methamphetamine. Atlanta has become the distribution hub for the southeastern United States; the pipeline is directly from Mexico into Atlanta and being distributed throughout Georgia and the rest of the southeast. Director Keenan stated it is beginning to come into the metro area; but the major problem with meth is in north Georgia. Director Keenan stated the difficulty that agents and troopers will experience is coming up on someone using meth and that person being extremely paranoid and aggressive. Someone can use cocaine long term and can still function. Someone cannot use meth long term; the person ends up in prison or self-destructs.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, reported that the Memorial Committee will meet on February 1st. Seven names of law enforcement folks, who have died in the line of duty in the last calendar year, have been submitted to the Memorial Committee. Director Mann invited the Board members to attend.

Director Mann reported that the kitchen is being upgraded. He noted that 300 more inmates are being added at Burruss Correctional Institute, which is located on GPSTC grounds. Therefore, in order to handle the additional inmates, the kitchen has been upgraded, with the assistance from Department of Corrections. The gas line has re-plumbed; re-wiring the electrical; and now waiting on the kettles to be built. The new freezer will be in within the next two weeks.

Director Mann is hosting a Public Safety Training Center Committee meeting with Sheriff Jamil Saba, Sheriff Cullen Talton, and Chief Dwayne Orrick. Director Mann will discuss changes that the Training Center will undertake, once Department of Corrections moves its Training Section to the Tift Campus. With the extra space at the Training Center, Director Mann will look at options to do a different business plan in the way to deliver Basic and Advanced Specialized.

DONATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Lee O'Brien, Department of Public Safety/State Patrol, requested approval of a Resolution wherein Glynn County agrees to finance and construct a new post for the Department of Public Safety and Georgia State Patrol. The facility and property will be conveyed to State of Georgia for use by Department of Public Safety for State Patrol Post 23. Mr. O'Brien asked the Board to approve this Resolution to allow entering into negotiations with Glynn County to resolve all the issues necessary to accomplish building the post and ultimately transfer of the property to Department of Public Safety. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion to approve the

Resolution for a new patrol post in Glynn County; said motion seconded by Chief J. D. Rice, and approved by the Board members.

Ms. Lisa Urich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, requested approval of the following donation:

19 Dell 18" Flat Panel Monitors	\$ 7,600.00	Army Crime Lab Fort Gillem
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Chief J. D. Rice made a motion to approve the donation, which was seconded by Chief Dwayne Orrick, and approved by the Board members.

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

Three Window Tint Meters	\$ 345.00	Carroll County Sheriff
Four Window Tint Meters	\$ 500.00	Douglas County Sheriff
One Dell Laptop Computer	\$2,340.31	Multi-Jurisdictional Narcotics Task Force

Sheriff Cullen Talton made a motion to approve the donations, seconded by Sheriff Bruce Harris, and voted approval by the Board members.

ADMINISTRATIVE/EMERGENCY ISSUES

Vice-Chairman Donald requested approval of the Minutes of the December meeting. Said motion was made by Chief Dwayne Orrick, seconded by Chief J. D. Rice, and voted approval by the Board members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rooney Bowen, III welcomed back Mr. Wayne Abernathy, who has not been able to attend a couple of the Board meetings. Mr. Abernathy had quadruple bypass heart surgery several months ago.

Mr. Bowen announced that former Board member Bob Keller has been appointed to the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. Mr. Bowen noted Mr. Keller's integrity, along with the

background of prosecution and dealing with judicial issues. Vice-Chairman Donald added that Mr. Keller co-sponsored a bill of the Probation Management Act for Department of Corrections.

Vice-Chairman Donald reported on the Governor's Budget, which contains a 3% across-the-board pay raise for state employees. In addition, Representative Burke Day conducted a series of meetings on law enforcement pay. At some point during the General Assembly, the study will be discussed in more detail. Also in the Budget, there is a little bit of flexibility, depending on resources, with the performance-base pay as well. Governor Perdue contracted with Mercer, Inc. designed to look at the budget across the board and look at where the salary was, particularly with law enforcement and other state entities. As a result of the meetings, the Study Committee came back with a preliminary recommendation. There is a need to look at state law enforcement pay in general. The Study Committee has asked each agency for input to what each director thinks the starting pay should be for law enforcement personnel. He stated the agencies are pleased to have another year of pay raises for great employees. In response to a problem of retention, Vice-Chairman Donald stated that all directors have had the chance to express their concern. This year's turnover rate for the Department of Corrections is 26%. Director Keenan stated that Chairman Burke Day's Study Committee asked for a tremendous amount of data, which all the agencies provided. One thing that Director Keenan pointed out to Governor's staff is that within the last six years, the GBI spent \$4.7 million training Special Agents who left to go to other jobs; spent \$5.4 million training Crime Lab scientists who left to go to other jobs. That money would solve the salary issues; could stop the money wasted on training men and women who leave state jobs.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary