

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

March 15, 2006

Atlanta, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Chief Lou Dekmar
Mr. Dub Harper
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Mr. Patrick Head
Chief Dwayne Orrick
Chief J. D. Rice
Sheriff Jamil Saba

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Hal Averitt, Sr.
Mr. Bud Black
Vice-Chairman James Donald
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 Corky Jewell, Georgia State Patrol
Major Don Chastain, Georgia State Patrol
Major Keith Sorrells, Georgia State Patrol
Sgt. Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety
Chief Mark McLeod, Motor Carrier Compliance Division, DPS
Major Billy Boulware, Motor Carrier Compliance Division, DPS
Mr. Terry Landers, Department of Public Safety
Ms. Becky East, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Lee O'Brien, Department of Public Safety
Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Assistant Director Chris Ash, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Ray Higgins, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Deputy Director Paul Heppner, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Ben Hinson, Mid-Georgia Ambulance, Chairman of Memorial Wall Committee

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III, Secretary, called the March Board of Public Safety meeting to order. Mr. Bowen announced that Vice-Chairman Donald had an engagement today and could not attend. Mr. Bowen then welcomed all guests to the Board meeting.

Mr. Bowen called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the February meeting. Mr. Pat Head made a motion to approve and requested that a change be made under "Board Members Absent," that an asterisk be placed next to name of Sheriff Bruce Harris. There had not been a quorum at the February Board meeting, therefore, Sheriff Harris was teleconferenced in for voting purposes. With the change being noted, Mr. Wayne Abernathy seconded said motion and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur White, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, stood in for Colonel Bill Hitchens. Lieutenant Colonel White began with reporting on the personnel count. As of February 13, 2006, there are 761 troopers out of the allotted positions of 953; there are 176 CEO's out of allotted 253; Capitol Police has 22 out of allotted 36 positions; there are 61 Safety Officers; and there are 305 MCCD personnel, of which 278 are sworn personnel.

Lieutenant Colonel White reported there are details assigned to two events this upcoming weekend. The first one, State Patrol will be working the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah. This event will also be used as a recruiting tool with getting out and making troopers more visual, drawing more attention to the Georgia State Patrol. State Patrol will not only have personnel available at the parade, but will also have a car in the parade. The second event, State Patrol will be working at the Nascar Race this weekend at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Lieutenant Colonel White reminded the Board members of the Trooper School graduation which will be held on March 24th at the Training Center. He noted that Colonel Hitchens is planning to invite the retirees and recognize them during the graduation ceremony. Lieutenant Colonel White stated that Major Sorrells and Major Chastain have made assignment for the graduating troopers.

State Patrol has been testing two Dodge vehicles; receiving positive and rave reviews on the vehicles. Everyone is pleased with them.

Mr. Bowen commended State Patrol on working to get the Senate bill passed on slick-top cars. Mr. Bowen noted how the Department addressed the concerns of the Senators and expressed the importance of this bill. Lieutenant Colonel White responded that Colonel Hitchens had assembled a legislative committee that worked real hard with the legislators. Sergeant McDonough, Captain Greer, and other members of the Command Staff worked together to sell State Patrol's services to the General Assembly.

Mr. Bowen announced that the General Assembly is recommending an additional 3% pay raise for law enforcement officers. Sheriff Bruce Harris suggested that the Board do a Resolution showing the Board members support the pay raise; this increase will be on top of the Governor's Recommendation. Chief Lou Dekmar made a motion for the Board to pass a Resolution in support of the pay raise for sworn personnel, and to include a request to incorporate the trainers out of the Training Center. Chief J. D. Rice seconded said motion. Discussion was held on this recommended 3% pay raise and that it is in addition to the Governor's recommended pay raise for state employees. The Board members voted approval of the motion.

Major Corky Jewell came before the Board members to give a quick presentation and to explain where the agency is with the interoperable communications initiatives in the State. Currently, there are three active initiatives. The first one is the Urban Area Security Initiative, which is primarily in the Troop C area. This will create an interoperable, 5-channel simulcast 800 MHz system that will cover Cobb County, Fulton County, DeKalb County, and the City of Atlanta. This will also include the state partners; those agencies that received the 800 MHz radios purchased for G-8. Those purchases came out of the UASI grant in order to ease the burden on the state. So, those radios will be active on the UASI system. This UASI system will also become the primary dispatch vehicle for State Patrol in Troop C. This needs to be exercised on a daily basis to ensure that it is operating correctly, which State Patrol volunteered to utilize as their dispatch vehicle to make that happen. On the heels of that, another grant was applied for by City of Atlanta and other local agencies, which will allow inclusion of other players, such as the University System, here in metro area, and agencies such as Hapeville, College Park, Alpharetta, and outlying small entities. This will allow State Patrol to increase it to a 10-channel simulcast system. By doing so, this will allow all agencies to respond in case of a major disaster or incident in metro Atlanta. This will also allow tying into various systems to bring resources in from outside metro area and be able to let them talk. This will include a number of hand-out radios that will be given to the command and control functions of those units coming in, and will be able to talk to them during the time of a disaster. The third initiative is the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program. With the grant, it allows utilizing the state's data network to go out and create interoperable clusters in different areas of the state, depending on what the need is at any given time. Approximately 0 interoperable devices have been purchased, which will be tied into different radio systems and create an interoperable cluster. In describing the device, it is a voice-over internet device; which is being used by Israeli Defense Force to allow them to set something up in a remote area and still have command and control capability back at command area. That technology is tied into different radio systems and creates an interoperable cluster. Each gateway device has eight "legs" allowing tying into an individual and unique radio. In pointing to a map reflecting particular points of radio coverage, Major Jewell note the areas of "fixed assets," meaning a gateway device will be put in to make sure there is interoperability with other authorities, tying in 16 different radios together to make an interoperable cluster. The map showed "crosshatched" areas that can be tied into that cluster; then include other areas in that cluster in case of a huge manpower raw and have a dedicated radio system for that purpose. He continued in pointing out the "mobile assets" areas, wherein a mobile platform can be brought in to be able to create an interoperable cluster. Population, exposure, and need for

interoperability determined the areas to be used for the gateway devices. Frequencies are being taken from major players, such as State Patrol; Sheriffs ban will become part of the cluster; Inner City frequency will become a part of it; and National Emergency Channel will become a part of it. The GBI has been kind enough to dedicate some of their frequencies. By doing this, it will allow, at a time of disaster, to tie all areas to create a super radio system or have the ability to do command and control from a remote area. By doing this, it will also allow State patrol to assign light shifts to troopers. State Patrol would be able to pick up some of the areas that own the gateway device or be tied to a gateway device, and, work that radio from a remote location so that State Patrol can maintain the ability to community with others in the agency. This will allow communications to be in many areas on either an emergency basis or daily basis, depending on the need to be able to communicate.

Major Jewell responded to questions of whether law enforcement agencies have contacted State Patrol requesting to be allowed in the system, wherein Major Jewell stated that as resources are available, radios are made available. Major Jewell responded to a question that this project is the project of Georgia's Homeland Security. Major Jewell responded to a question of how law enforcement agencies in north Georgia and south Georgia are being informed of the capability; responding that Georgia Tech and GEMA are going around giving informational talks, in conjunction with local All Hazards Council meetings, to explain to local officials the ability of this system and the needs of those different agencies.

Before requesting the next Director's Report, Mr. Bowen introduced Mr. Joseph Drolet, the new Board attorney. Mr. Drolet stated he is happy to be with the Board and will help in any way.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, began with this report. Director Keenan gave each Board member a copy of the "Terrorism Tip Line" DVD, that is being mailed out to every law enforcement agency in Georgia. The roll call video explains a program that is a partnership between the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, Georgia Sheriffs Association, Georgia State Patrol, GBI, and the FBI. Georgia, as part of Homeland Security, embarked on the Georgia Terrorism Information Program. Of several aspects, the first aspect, Tier One, involves taking the largest law enforcement agencies in Georgia who have an intelligence unit and providing them with Homeland Security funds to increase their capability to gather, analyze, and share intelligence information as it relates to terrorism. Those agencies are the metro law enforcement agencies, which are Cobb County, DeKalb County, Fulton County, Clayton County, Gwinnett County, and GBI. There were several million dollars available in Homeland Security funds to provide enhanced training for intelligence units at those agencies, and also buy them state-of-the art computer equipment. That program is ongoing and has been ongoing for the last eighteen months, and, has substantially improved the capability of those large agencies to handle intelligence information. The next stage is referred to as Tier Two, and, that is to take the primary law enforcement agencies in the other areas of Georgia. For instance, Bibb County Sheriff's Department, Albany Police Department, Augusta/Richmond County,

Savannah/Chatham County agencies will be provided with enhancements to establish an intelligence unit. Then, Tier Three becomes the issue of what to do with the rest of the law enforcement agencies in Georgia. An intelligence unit is not needed nor is it necessary in a smaller law enforcement agency; because running an intelligence unit takes a tremendous amount of resources and management oversight. However, the GBI is interested in obtaining any information that a local law enforcement agency may have relating to terrorism and homeland security. What the third aspect of GTIP is to do, is to work with the FBI to set up a 24/7 all center that any law enforcement officer, who during the normal course of duty might run across information that believe relate to homeland security, that the officer can call the 1-800 number, go into the GTIP center, and talk with an FBI analyst or agent or a GSAC agent and provide that information to GTIP. The law enforcement officer will be assured that the information that is being passed on is going to someone who is interested in what is being provided. If a local law enforcement officer is involved in a case and needs assistance with something relating to homeland security, the officer can call this 1-800 number and talk with an agent or analyst and get the service needed. In working with the federal partners, the GBI determined that the FBI had a mandate to take all intelligence capabilities, or analysts or agents working that unit, and centralize them into a Field Intelligence Group. It was a matter of taking their capabilities and using their resources to set up the 800 line. Director Keenan stated that the video is self-explanatory; and, that the GBI wrote and produced this in conjunction with FBI and other partners. The video is designed to go to any law enforcement agency to be used in their in-service training to explain the program.

After the video presentation, Director Keenan continued with explaining the GBI has begun mailing out this training video to all law enforcement agencies. The next step will be to disseminate it to the Fire Services offices and EMS technicians in the state. In response to a question of providing this video to all agencies, Director Keenan added that the GBI is looking for opportunities to go before professional groups to make this presentation and show the video. This video will be available for any training facility in the state, to all the academies, to anyone who needs this video. Director Keenan stated that the FBI is producing a laminated card that has the TIP phone number to provide to all first responders.

Mr. Pat Head requested Director Keenan to brief the Board members, at the April Board meeting, on a pending action against the GBI in the United States District Court. Director Keenan responded that he would provide a status of the legal action at the next Board meeting.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, began with introducing Mr. Ben Hinson. Mr. Hinson is Chairman of the Memorial Committee. In the Board members' notebooks, there is a List of Honorees for Memorial Wall, which had been voted on by the Memorial Committee. The Memorial Committee consists of representatives from Chiefs Association, Fire Chiefs Association, State Patrol, Firefighter Standards and Training, Peace Officers Association, EMS Association, Homeland Security and GEMA, P.O.S.T., F.O.P., GBI, Fire Academy, DNR, CJCC, and several other representatives. The Memorial Committee follows the "Selection Criteria For the Georgia Public Safety Memorial." Because the Board members had been given the List of Honorees through an e-mail, Director Mann asked Mr. Bowen for direction. Mr. Bowen stated there had been strong discussions based on the list. There were a few controversial cases; some of the cases dealt with whether the officer had been on duty, off duty, concerns on the firefighter, concerns about law enforcement and about the Fulton County Judge. Director Mann started with responding to one of the cases in controversy, that being the case of Officer Karl Todd Helcher of Braselton Police Office, wherein the Memorial Committee voted to not include him. At this point, Director Mann called on Mr. Hinson to explain the Committee's position. Mr. Hinson explained that the Committee does not diminish the situation of the list of honorees; that the Committee is charged with being sure not to diminish the duties of those officers. The Committee's point is: was the officer killed in the line of duty; was he doing something to put himself at risk to preserve life and property for the citizens of State of Georgia. Mr. Bowen, at this point, questioned two other cases, one being the case of Officer Douglas Waters, who died as a result of a heart attack and that this case was approved; compared to the case of Officer Michael Crawford, who died as a result of a heart attack but that case was denied. Mr. Hinson responded the Committee discussed those two cases; the Committee reviewed whether the officer was in the act of protecting life and property. Mr. Pat Head pointed out Section 7, of the Selection Criteria For The Georgia Public Safety Memorial, which reads: "Died in the line of duty means death occurred as a direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained while engaged in a line of duty activity or which arose out of and as a result of such personal performance of a line of duty activity." Discussion ensued on this topic, and, Director Mann added that this is what the Committee struggles with in reviewing these cases. After roundtable discussion, Mr. Rooney L. Bowen recommended that the (Board) Public Safety Training Center Committee might need to look into this and discuss the criteria with the Memorial Committee. Mr. Bowen continued with stating that there had been concerns with the following cases: Douglas Clark Waters, Jr., Case No. 687; Michael Lee Crawford, Case No. 688; Karl Todd Helchel, Case No. 695; and Judge Rowland Barnes, Case No. 697. Mr. Bowen requested a motion that the List of Honorees be approved, except for those cases listed as 687, 688, 695, and 697. Said motion was made by Mr. Dub Harper and seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar. Mr. Pat Head called a question. Mr. Head questioned the timeline of approving those four particular cases. Mr. Bowen responded that those four cases have been remanded for additional research. After a question called, Mr. Bowen called for Board vote. Eight members voted yes and one Board member voted no on the motion. Mr. Bowen

announced the “ayes” carried the motion. Mr. Bowen reiterated it is the intention of the Board to let the Public Safety Committee work with the Memorial Committee to review the criteria for the Memorial Wall.

Director Dale Mann continued with his report. He stated that Senate Bill 529, the Immigration bill, reflects in one of the sections that the Training Center will write guidelines for Sheriffs on what to do when releasing an immigrant inmate from county jail. Director Mann stated that with the assistance from the Sheriffs Association, the language in the bill will be changed.

Director Mann noted that GPSTC is acquiring the Diversion Center in Albany and in Dublin. The State Properties Commission will meet and discuss this issue, after the end of the Session. Director Mann spoke today to Ms. Jill Stuckey of the State Properties Commission concerning a little outparcel in Savannah, along with the old patrol post on Dean Forest Road in Savannah. Director Mann will bring this property back to the Board members for approval.

DONATIONS:

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

Several Scout Training Instruments	\$ 3,925.00	Douglas County Fire Department
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Mr. Wayne Abernathy made a motion to approve the donation, seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar, and unanimously approved by the Board members.

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

Five (5) Laser Lab Tint Meters	\$ 495.00	Sheriff Donny Turner Troup County Sheriff
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1 Stalker Radar Unit	\$ 2,965.00	Chief George Potter City of Perry
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Eight (8) Pro Laser III	\$29,560.00	Spalding County Government
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Physical Training Clothing: (60 Shirts, 30 Sweatshirts, 30 Sweatpants, 30 Shorts, 30 Hats)	\$ 2,233.50	Sheriff Robert Markley Morgan County
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Cash for Meals and Lodging	\$18,508.00	Atlanta Motor Speedway
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Mr. Wayne Abernathy made a motion to approve the donations, which was seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar, and unanimously approved by the Board members.

There being no Administrative/Emergency Issues, nor any Old/New Business, the meeting went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Chief Lou Dekmar made a motion to go into Executive Session, Mr. Wayne Abernathy seconded said motion, and, everyone present affirmatively voted approval.

Upon reconvening into Regular Session, Mr. Bowen reminded the Board members the next meeting will be on April 19th and will be held in Atlanta.

There being no further business, the Board meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III