

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
November 8, 2006
Atlanta, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen
Mr. Bud Black
Chief Lou Dekmar
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Mr. Patrick Head
Chief Dwayne Orrick
Sheriff Jamil Saba
Sheriff Cullen Talton

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Vice-Chairman James Donald
Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Dub Harper
Chief J. D. Rice
Mr. Eugene Stuckey

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Board Attorney
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Major Corky Jewell, Department of Public Safety/State Patrol
Mr. Russ Parry, Department of Public Safety/State Patrol
Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/State Patrol
Mr. Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety/State Patrol
Chief Mark McLeod, MCCD, State Patrol
Major William Boulware, MCCD, State Patrol
Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Chris Ash, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Jon Paget, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. David Rowe, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Lisa Urich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Terry Gibbons, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Division Director Butch Beach, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Terry Landers, Office of Planning and Budget

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III called the November Board meeting to order. Mr. Bowen began with explaining that Vice-Chairman James Donald was unable to attend today; that because the meeting date had been changed, Vice-Chairman Donald had committed himself to a speaking engagement on this day and was unable to reschedule.

Mr. Bowen welcomed everyone to the meeting, asking if there was any guest to be introduced. Colonel Bill Hitchens introduced Mr. Joe Hood, the new Comptroller for Department of Public Safety. Mr. Hood previously worked with Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for twelve years; had also been the Chief Financial Officer at GEMA. Mr. Bowen pointed out that Mr. Terry Landers, who is now with Office of Planning and Budget, was visiting today's meeting.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III requested approval of the Minutes of the September and October meetings. Sheriff Bruce Harris made a motion to approve the September Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Bud Black, and voted approval by the Board members. Sheriff Bruce Harris motioned approval of the October Minutes, which was seconded by Chief Dwayne Orrick, and voted approval by the Board members.

DIRECT REPORTS

Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, began with thanking the Board for holding last month's meeting in Statesboro. The Averitt family wanted him to communicate to everybody that they were very appreciative for what had been done for them.

Colonel Hitchens stated that there were not many staff members here today. Legal Counsel folks are at a public hearing being held today for the tinted windows rule that was discussed at the Board meeting two months ago. Trooper school interviews are being held all this week, so both Training staff and Command Staff folks are at the Public Safety Training Center. The agency is involved in Glock transition; staff is down at Leesburg this week; there are few more weeks to finish up by December 15. Colonel Hitchens stated everyone is happy with the new Glock; this has been a beneficial experience for a lot of reasons.

Colonel Hitchens reported that the agency has been actively involved in Customer Service for several months. The agency has a unique job in that a lot of what occurs is confrontation. It is tough sometimes to make people believe that State Patrol is really there to help them. One thing the agency has done is make available a Customer Service pamphlet to give people an opportunity to fill out and mail in to State Patrol. The agency is trying to get an unbiased opinion on what the agency does. One thing the agency did is talk to AAA Auto Club; their statistical people did a survey, the results were shown to the Board members. Colonel Hitchens stated the Department of Public Safety surveyed all the sheriffs, who probably use State Patrol's Aviation mission more than anyone else in the state. The number one thing that stood out was that 151 sheriffs responded to the survey. Of that group, 93.38% gave an excellent grading. Colonel Hitchens feels like what they do in field of aviation is very beneficial to law enforcement across the state. He stated this was a wonderful demonstration of what is thought of the agency.

Colonel Hitchens reported that, as required, every year he would present a Pursuit Summary Report. The 2005 Pursuit Summary Report is pretty much as he expected. Colonel Hitchens pointed out several categories. The category "Age of Reporting Trooper" is very understandable, this is a very young organization. Most of troopers involved are between ages of 25 – 35, that accounts for 240. "Number of Pursuits By Day of Week" shows the great majority occur on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. "Time of Day" starts about 6:00 in the afternoon and runs until about 2:00 in the morning. "Pursuits By County" looks uniform across the state; Whitfield County and Chatham County were in double digits. "Length of Service of Reporting Trooper" reflects under 1 – 5 years, there were 229 troopers; under 6 – 10 years, there were 89 troopers; and it diminishes rapidly after that. "Type of Vehicle," 99% of vehicles are blue & gray with top light so it stands to reason that 380 were that type of vehicle. "Type Of Road" were state roads and interstates primarily, county roads came in third. Colonel Hitchens pointed out an interesting category, "Total Number of Injuries and Fatalities Involved In Crashes," under Injuries, 8 police officers, 9 bystanders, and 48 violators were injured; under the category of Fatalities, the numbers show 0 police, 0 bystanders, and 5 violators. Of those five violators, two occurred in January and February of 2005. Colonel stated things have slowed down; everybody was brought in for an eight-hour P.I.T. training course. As a result, there has not been a fatality since February of 2005. "How Pursuit Terminated," reflects different categories; such as the number of 50 under Officer Discretion. In response to a question, Colonel Hitchens stated these numbers are not exact; there is not a computerized system to track these. This report was gleaned from all use of force reports that come in; in going through all the reports and gathering all the data. "Forcible Stop Techniques" with headings of Stationary Roadblock, Moving Roadblock, P.I.T. Maneuver, Channelization, Tire Deflating Devices, and Other reflects numbers of pursuits used, number of pursuits used more than once, and, number of pursuits used successfully. "Suspect Arrest/Escape" reflects the numbers of 173 arrested from vehicle, 80 arrested after foot pursuit, 43 escaped in vehicle, and 71 escaped on foot. "Information Learned After Pursuit" shows what people did when arrested; the thing that stood out was the number of traffic violations. "Average Pursuit Distance" is shorter than people realize, the average is 6.23 miles; the average number of police units involved is 2.15; the average time of pursuit is 5.6 minutes. "Average Age" is 29; and "Driver Gender" shows 325 males and 24 females.

Chief Lou Dekmar commended Colonel Hitchens and staff for the report on pursuits; the data is consistent with what had been provided for the study. This will help the profession in that State Patrol is probably the largest agency involved in pursuits, particularly with 15% - 18% of officer discretion terminating pursuits on their own. This will be able to demonstrate that officers are making a difference. Chief Dekmar requested to use these stats; and Colonel Hitchens responded that he would like to get additional data.

Chief Dwayne Orrick commented on the AAA survey. He noted that on the question of whether feeling comfortable that there is safe driving environment, of the people that "strongly disagreed," 64% indicated aggressive drivers and super speeders were the biggest issue. Chief asked if there was a way to use that data to channel the efforts of the troopers. Colonel Hitchens responded there may be legislation introduced this session about speeders being in a different

category and with fines of some sort. Statistics show that troopers are aggressive in going after speeders. Colonel Hitchen reported that Georgia came in second in nation with its DUI Task Force competing against every law enforcement agency in the country. As pointed out, State Patrol struggles with manpower; there are those times when riding a long ways and not seeing a trooper on the road. Colonel Hitchens stated that daily logs are kept on what the troopers do; the logs show things they do that are not important, such as handling escorts or attending court; the post commander is required to review the daily report.

Colonel Hitchens responded to a question that when any agency calls for any emergency, State Patrol helps. State Patrol assists with doing crime scenes for photography and sketchings; task force/aviation unit helping with searching marijuana; and many other things.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, began with reporting on an incident that occurred in Sumter County. Special Agent Mary Holder, who works undercover drugs, was involved in a shootout in Lumpkin, Stewart County, Georgia, two weeks ago. During the incident, Special Agent Holder shot and killed a 21-year-old black male. By way of explanation, the GBI had begun an operation in Stewart County about four months ago. Reminding the Board members, Director Keenan stated that in August of 2005, an incident occurred in Lumpkin where an individual shot the police chief, then shot a deputy sheriff, and then shot an EMT. That individual was subsequently shot and killed by local officers, state troopers, and GBI; this being a very violent scene. After that incident, the Sheriff and Chief asked the GBI to send in undercover agents to attempt to take the streets back from the drug dealers, who had basically taken over the downtown area in Lumpkin.

Special Agent Mary Holder and her partner were working in Lumpkin, covered by other agents; the GBI had made six previous cocaine buys off the deceased. What happened at this particular incident was that the deceased decided to rip off the two undercover agents. They were in undercover GBI pickup truck. Agent Holder was sitting in the center of the seat; an Agent driving; and deceased was on the passenger side of the pickup. The deceased told the agents he wanted them to stop on the side of the road; the area being one block from the courthouse. There was a group of four/five black males standing on the side of the street. The agent suspected at that point that there was going to be a rip-off and altercation. The agent drove to the end of street, stopping at a stop sign; about 60 feet from where the group of people had gathered. When the agent stopped at the intersection, the deceased opened the door and dragged Agent Holder out of the pick-up truck. Agent Holder drew her weapon and shot the deceased. The deceased then ran about 60 feet to where the group were gathered. From that group, two shots were fired at the agents. Agent Holder fired one additional round. The deceased died at the scene. The backup agents immediately responded to the scene.

Director Keenan stated that the videotape shows Agent Holder being dragged out of the truck; the actual shooting itself is outside the video camera. All the shooting took place in the space of few seconds. The GBI has arrested the brother of the deceased; he admitted to firing at the

agents. A handgun has not been found; but the GBI continues with the investigation and will be providing a copy of the complete file to the District Attorney. At some point in the near future, the GBI will go in to the community and make a drug arrest. There are more than twenty drug dealers to be arrested in Lumpkin. This is a perfect example of the danger of working undercover. This speaks to the danger working undercover, not only having to be concerned about the danger of being a police officer undercover, but there is always a major concern that the person you are dealing with will view you as a victim to be robbed. In response to questions, Director Keenan stated that there is a policy when an agent is involved in a shooting incident, then the agent is pulled completely out of the undercover role and put in a field office. Director Keenan stated he will keep the Board informed of this incident.

The second item Director Keenan reported on is an issue with University of Tennessee's National Forensic Academy (NFA). The issue is unique in that the University of Tennessee has offered to provide graduation rings for those persons who graduated from NFA. The GBI's Crime Scene Specialist program was built around training from University of Tennessee. This is a 10-week course, 400 hours, and costs \$6,000 to send an agent to the training. University of Tennessee has a benefactor, Ms. Patricia Cornwell, who became fascinated with the National Forensic Academy. Ms. Cornwell wants to purchase a graduation ring for all the graduates from the Academy, to include the 14 GBI agents who graduated. Director Keenan stated there does not appear to be any conflict or impropriety with this request, and, requested the Board's approval of accepting the donation/award to the fourteen individuals. Chief Dwayne Orrick made a motion to allow GBI graduates to accept this donation/award from National Forensic Academy; said motion seconded by Sheriff Cullen Talton; and voted approval by the Board members.

Director Keenan called on Mr. Jon Paget, Chief of Facilities Management, to request approval of a property Resolution. Mr. Paget described the resolution, stating it is a straightforward matter. The Public Service Telephone Company is acquiring an easement located at the Western Regional Crime Lab in Columbus. This is a 15 foot-wide easement; the property will be appraised, and the fair market value will go back to the State. Chief Lou Dekmar made the motion to adopt the Resolution, which was seconded by Chief Dwayne Orrick, and voted approval by the Board members.

Mr. Butch Beach, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, began with reporting that he was standing in for Director Dale Mann, who is on annual leave today. Mr. Beach stated each Board member had the monthly report in each notebook, but there are a couple of changes. The Training Center has processed about 7,000 applications since July and that has been accomplished in the supervision management process. The Training Center has actually been able to replace the instructors who were missing because of being called to the Reserves; that is now reduced to a workable backlog. The backlog is under 30. Mr. Beach reported that the on-campus facility requests are up; both for meetings and for training. So far, the Training Center has been able to handle 96% of those with the first run as moving through there. In going

through the report, Mr. Beach stated everything in the report is pretty standard from month-to-month with no real changes.

FISCAL REPORTS

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/State Patrol, reported on the 1st Quarter ending September, 2006. Mr. Hood went through the report and highlighted the ones showing differences that may appear to not be on course. Everything overall is where the agency expects to be; for the 1st quarter the expectation is to have around 75% remaining on the budget. Mr. Hood pointed out the first category, Motor Vehicles, has 95% remaining. In that category, the agency is awaiting vehicles that will come in from two purchases. The next item, Equipment, has 45% remaining, which is due to one-time purchase as well; this item goes from month-to-month for purchases. In addition to that, there will be encumbrances on leased purchases, such as a copier, administrative equipment, and will pay throughout the year but recognize the expense for the whole year at the beginning of this first quarter. The next item, Real Estate Rentals, is similar to what Mr. Hood described on copiers; the agency will encumber all real estate rentals at the beginning of the year even though the agency will pay those on a monthly basis throughout the year. In this instance, the agency had some posts that were new and not considered in the initial budget; new revenue will be brought in to accomplish this difference. Mr. Hood explained the agency will have a reallocation of expense from the other line items where they may have additional funds available to meet this deficit. That is a yearly total, so overall for the year, the agency will make up that \$4,000 within the upcoming quarters. The last item, Contracts, shows a substantial difference; again, this is where the agency encumbers the majority of expense on a contract early in the year and then pay it throughout the year. Mr. Hood stated that other than that, the agency is on target for what may be anticipated. There will be additional revenue that will be coming forward from Fines and Fees, which will show in future quarterly reports, so that portion will change substantially as going throughout the year. Mr. Hood stated that overall the agency is where he expects it to be.

Ms. Lisa Urich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, began with stating that her explanation will be similar to Mr. Hood's report. The GBI report reflects 25% has been spent, which is where the agency should be at the end of the quarter. One overage shown is under Regular Operating Expenses, and, that is where encumbrances have been done at 100%. Ms. Urich pointed out an overage in Equipment, because there are purchases in the process of being approved by OPB, but had not been approved yet by the end of the quarter. The difference would come out of Other Funds or Federal Funds to correct that overage. There is an overage in Contracts and that is also based on the contracts for the building and security that are 100% encumbrance. Ms. Urich stated that overall the agency is right on target for the 25%.

Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, reported that the 1st Quarter of the Training Center is now one budget, as opposed to three budgets as had been previously reported. In looking at the budget, the Training Center is under as far as State Funds are concerned going into the 1st Quarter. The Training Center does have some Object Classes that are over expended at this time; there will be revenues coming in which will amend. By the same token, the Training Center will see where they are going as far as expenditures, they will be transferring money along Object Classes to round out the fiscal year. Otherwise, the Training Center is in good shape at the end of 1st Quarter.

DONATIONS

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

13 Streamlight UltraStinger Flashlights and 1 SL20X LED Flashlight	\$ 1,265.00	Johnson County Board of Commissioners
Two Window Tint Meters	\$ 200.00	Statham Police Department
Cash Donation For Meals and Lodging	\$17,000.00	Atlanta Motor Speedway
Decatur Genesis II Radar	\$ 1,700.00	Piedmont Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad
Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$ 2,900.00	Wilkes County Board of Commissioners
Three Dell Laptop Computers	\$ 1,650.00	Talbot County Board of Commissioners
Two Digital In-Car Video Systems	\$ 9,150.00	Troup County Sheriff
Two Genesis II Select Radars	\$ 6,000.00	Lowndes County Sheriff
One Stalker Radar	\$ 2,000.00	
Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$ 2,710.00	Wilkinson County Sheriff
Decatur Handheld Directional Radar	\$ 600.00	Decatur Electronics, Inc.

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

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

Bronze Plaque Memory of Glynn Meeks	\$ 2,360.00	District Attorney Timothy Vaughn
2007 E-One Ford Crime Scene Responsive Vehicle	\$150,000.00	District Attorney Kendall Wynne
5 Canon EOS Rebel XT Cameras	\$ 3,525.00	District Attorney Joe Hendrick
12 1/GB Compact Flash Cards	\$ 660.00	
5 Magellan Roadmate 760 GPS Units	\$ 3,250.00	

Chief Lou Dekmar made a motion to accept the donations, seconded by Mr. Bud Black, and the Board members voted approval of the motion.

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

Two Loads of Pallets 500 Pallets Per Load	\$ 5,000.00	Don English And Sons
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Chief Lou Dekmar made a motion to accept the donation, seconded by Chief Dwayne Orrick, and the Board members voted approval of the motion.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III announced that Mr. Wayne Abernathy underwent bypass surgery in October; he is doing fine and is recuperating at home. Mr. Bowen had spoken to Mr. Abernathy, who indicated that he feels much better and sends his thanks to everyone for the cards and prayers.

Mr. Bowen reported that Commissioner Donald will be visiting with Mrs. Connie Averitt this week to deliver a framed picture that had been made of several Board members with Mr. Hal Averitt.

Mr. Bowen announced that Mr. Jim Wetherington, a previous Commissioner of Department of Corrections, won the mayorship race for Columbus, Georgia; the Board members who knew him wanted to wish him well in his new endeavor.

Mr. Bowen requested the Board members to contribute to the Flower Fund.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen announced the Board members will go into Executive Session; all members present affirmatively agreed to go into Executive Session.

After reconvening to regular session, Sheriff Jamil Saba made a motion that a 4% raise be given to agency heads Director Dale Mann, Director Vernon Keenan, and Colonel Bill Hitchens; said motion seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar, and the Board members voted approval of the motion.

Mr. Bowen asked if there were any Administrative/Emergency Issues and if there were any Old/New Business. Mr. Bowen announced that the December Board meeting will be held in Perry; that Sheriff Talton will make arrangements. After roundtable discussion, the Board members agreed to change the date of the December Board meeting to Tuesday, December 19.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary