

## **BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

November 7, 2007

Columbus, Georgia

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Vice-Chairman James E. Donald  
Mr. Bud Black  
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III  
Chief Lou Dekmar  
Sheriff Bruce Harris  
Mr. Pat Head  
Chief Dwayne Orrick  
Chief J. D. Rice  
Mr. Gene Stuckey  
Sheriff Cullen Talton  
Mr. Ellis Wood

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Sheriff Steve Cronic  
Mr. Dub Harper

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Joe 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  
Lieutenant Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol  
Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol  
Mr. Dan Brown, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol  
Ms. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol  
Ms. Allison Hodge, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol  
Sergeant R.D. Hayes, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol  
Major Wayne Beck, Motor Carrier Compliance Division  
Captain Randy Raiford, Motor Carrier Compliance Division  
Lieutenant Kermit Stokes  
SFC Mark Mitchell  
SGT Craig Phillips  
CPL Charles Chapeau  
CPL Jimmy Traylor  
M/Tpr Kevin Turner  
M/Tpr Lorenzo Harris  
S/Tpr Jimmy Jones  
TFC Ray Malone  
TFC Mike Freeman  
TFC Scott Jeter  
TFC John Threat  
TFC Dallas Van Scoten

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TFC Jay Thompson

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Mayor Jim Wetherington, City of Columbus

Sheriff Jamil Saba, former Board Member

Mr. Gene Hodge, former member of Board of Corrections

Chief Ricky Boren, Chief of Police of Columbus

Sheriff Ralph Johnson, Sheriff of Muscogee County

Mr. Archie Rainey, Director of Command College, Columbus State University

Staff Members of Department of Corrections

Vice-Chairman James E. Donald called the meeting to order. Upon being invited to come forward, Mayor Wetherington welcomed everyone to Columbus, saying he hoped everyone's stay will be a productive one. Mayor stated he was happy to host the Board of Public Safety. He stated that as everyone knows, Mayor used to chair the monthly Board meetings and he enjoyed his relationship with each person. Vice-Chairman Donald thanked Mayor Wetherington for his hospitality. This has been a good opportunity to visit the beautiful city and take feedback from the people of Columbus.

Vice-Chairman Donald requested Board members to recognize guests at this time. Mr. Ellis Wood recognized Sheriff Jamil Saba for attending today. Chief Lou Dekmar recognized and thanked the troopers from LaGrange: Trooper Tim Jones, SFC Mark Mitchell, and Trooper R.S. Jeter. Chief Dekmar also recognized Chief Ricky Boren of Columbus Police Department.

Vice-Chairman Donald welcomed Commissioner B. J. Walker, Department of Human Resources, to the meeting. Vice-Chairman recognized Warden Dwight Hamrick, the senior warden in the community. Vice-Chairman Donald welcomed Chairman Wayne Dasher and Sheriff Cecil Nobles, both of Board of Corrections. Vice-Chairman Donald honored and recognized several staff members of Department of Corrections.

Vice-Chairman Donald and Mr. Rooney Bowen, III called Sheriff Jamil Saba forward. Sheriff Saba has a distinguished career and the Board of Public Safety wanted to take an opportunity to honor him. Mr. Bowen began with stating that Sheriff Saba's leadership on this Board is something that the Board members have kept with them and appreciate everything Sheriff has done for the Board. Mr. Bowen then read the Board Resolution. Sheriff Saba addressed the Board members, giving his thanks for everything done for him and that he has appreciated being on the Board.

Vice-Chairman Donald called on Colonel Bill Hitchens to come forward to honor the Criminal Interdiction Unit. Colonel Hitchens began with reading the Board Resolution to the CIU. Colonel

stated that State Patrol honors people in the agency who have done superior jobs. Colonel Hitchens explained that six weeks ago at a national conference, Georgia's Criminal Interdiction Unit was honored as the best unit in the United States. As post commander in Savannah, Colonel Hitchens had a young trooper by name of Benny Hodges. One night, Trooper Hodges had stopped a vehicle and then found an enormous amount of contraband. It became obvious there was more out there than first realized, and, State Patrol formed task forces across the state to deal with that, having the trooper look beyond the ticket. Over the years, this evolved into the Criminal Interdiction Unit. The unit is not assigned to a post but works the entire state. The troopers look beyond the ticket to find anything from drugs to stolen vehicles to escapees. The unit has done a superior job to be recognized as the best in the United States. Colonel Hitchens then noted Trooper Lorenzo Harris, who was a nominee for Customer Service Award. Last year, Trooper Harris got 90 stolen cars off the interstate system. The unit does a great job with handling different criminal activities. In the last week, the unit was involved in seizing 237 kilos of cocaine. The Criminal Interdiction Unit came forward for Colonel Hitchens to present the Board Resolution. The Board commended the CIU for their high standards and diligent efforts in protecting the state.

Vice-Chairman Donald requested approval of the October Minutes. Chief Lou Dekmar motioned approval of the Minutes, seconded by Mr. Bud Black, and voted approval by the Board members.

### **DIRECT REPORTS**

Colonel Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, began with stating that he had two powerpoint presentations to bring to the Board members. Bringing in the Criminal Interdiction Unit is a good lead-in for the first powerpoint. This will talk about some of the things they do. CIU was very instrumental in getting the law passed through Legislature that it is illegal to have a concealed compartment in the vehicles in Georgia. This was a result of some initiatives along with things that were found. When Colonel Hitchens was Homeland Security Director, he formed a Counter Terrorism Team and CIU Team and teams with GBI, National Guard, and Department of Natural Resources. Colonel Hitchens stated the next powerpoint presentation will be brought by Mr. Dan Brown, the Communications Director. The number one priority for all public safety agencies across the nation is communications. Mr. Brown put this presentation together to talk about putting computers in vehicles; all CIU cars have them. Mr. Brown will talk about the positives and negatives and the costs.

Lieutenant Kermit Stokes stood before the Board to bring the presentation. On behalf of the Interdiction Unit, Lieutenant Stokes thanked the Board of Public Safety and Colonel Hitchens and staff for the outstanding support given to the Criminal Interdiction Unit over these last several years. As Colonel Hitchens mentioned, this was a unit that was part-time back in the 80's and went fully operational around 2002.

With a powerpoint slide, Lieutenant Stokes stated the Interdiction Unit is traffic safety oriented. The unit utilizes traffic safety laws in order to do what the unit does. The overall mission is to enhance the Georgia State Patrol's primary mission. With the next slide, Lieutenant showed the current configuration involving the structure at this time, as far as team locations. The teams are basically split up; there are troop areas. At this point, Team A operates on I-75 North of Atlanta; Team B operates on I-85 North of Atlanta; Team C operates in metro Atlanta area; Team D-2 operates I-20 on the West side of Atlanta; Team D operates on I-85 South of Atlanta, working the primary inbound route for drugs coming in from southwest border; Team E operates around the Madison area on I-20 East; and Team I is still operating down on the coast on I-95. Basically, CIU is split up into seven teams trying to cover the primary routes inbound to Atlanta and up to the north, which seem to be primary drug routes.

With the next slide, Lieutenant Stokes described that the equipment utilized is standard State Patrol equipment. The unit uses the blue and grey Ford Crown Victorias and they are marked; strobe LED emergency lights; all the same equipment that other State Patrol cars have. The unit also has several vehicles that have been donated, due to the generosity of local counties, that include five Chevrolet Tahoe police package vehicles and one Dodge Magnum police package vehicle and one Dodge Charger. Lieutenant Stokes stated vehicles are equipped with on-board laptop computers, which greatly enhance the operational capability. The unit has the capability of accessing GCIC and NCIC; utilize cell phone wireless internet. The vehicles are GPS compatible; GPS is working in five vehicles at this point. Hopefully, in the next year or two all units will be where tracking can be in real time with GPS around the state. All vehicles are equipped with special interdiction equipment, which includes fiber optic scopes (obtained through a grant process); includes density meters to allow checking density of certain materials; includes probes, sampling devices, inspection mirrors, and tool kits.

Lieutenant Stokes reported that under the Canine Program the unit has the majority of the canines for State Patrol. The unit is down to two dogs and is in the process of obtaining a third dog. The dogs have been certified to detect marijuana, methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine. The dogs are part of the tool bag that the guys carry; the dogs are there if needed in case of a refusal on a consent for search.

The year of 2007 is shaping up to an outstanding year for CIU. With a powerpoint slide, Lieutenant Stokes showed some results. The unit has investigated 29 auto crashes; issued over 3,000 citation arrests and over 8,200 warnings during the course of traffic stops. The unit made 32 DUI arrests. During that timeframe, CIU made 159 felony drug arrests; 58 non-felony drug arrests; 63 misdemeanor drug arrests. During 2006, CIU recovered 48 stolen vehicles. Master Trooper Lorenzo Harris has the knack for finding where vehicles are dumped. This year, 113 vehicles have been recovered. There have been 197 criminals apprehended in the process. During 2006, there were over 1,000 motorist assists. In that same timeframe, CIU conducted over 2,000 patrols and expended over 15,000 hours on the highways.

Lieutenant Stokes continued with showing that during the year 2006, 456 kilos of marijuana, 220 kilos of cocaine, 11 kilos of methamphetamine, over 26,000 units of other drugs were seized. The total value of the seizures was over \$5.6 million. This is a significant impact against criminals in Georgia. Lieutenant reported that the seizure of stolen property in vehicles totaled \$939,000 in value.

With a chart on the next slide, Lieutenant Stokes pointed how CIU has done overall; statistics have been gathered since 2002. Lieutenant described the total monetary impact, by taking the wholesale value of the contraband drug, the value of the vehicles that were seized, the value of the currency, the value of the stolen property; and combining all those values to give a total monetary impact that impacts the criminal organizations operating here. Lieutenant Stokes pointed out that marijuana seizures started dropping off in 2005; pointing out the base line was going up and has started coming back down. He pointed out the same thing about cocaine seizures where the base line reflecting it is starting to go back up. The methamphetamine seizures are pushing to 18 kilos so far. Under Dangerous Drugs, Lieutenant stated that fortunately, the unit does not see a lot of heroin in Georgia right now. Primarily, the unit sees ecstasy seizures.

With the next slide, Lieutenant Stokes stated CIU works hand-in-hand with federal partners, other state partners, with county partners, with GBI, FBI, ICE, DEA. Tracking numbers started in 2005; there is no information prior to 2005.

Lieutenant Stokes reported on Currency Seizures. The focus has switched here lately, so, currency seizures have risen quite a bit. With a powerpoint slide, the numbers reflect the total monetary impact. The unit has done about \$39 million worth of impact against criminal organizations in the state. In gathering statistics as far back as 2002, CIU is responsible for \$118.6 million worth of impact.

In addition to standard activities, CIU is also part of the Multi-Agency Counter Terrorism Task Force. For Department of Public Safety, CIU is basically the fourth component of the Task Force. CIU also has five SWAT team members assigned to the Task Force, along with two field troopers from each of the troop areas around the state. CIU operates in cooperation with Georgia Information Sharing Analysis Center (GISAC). Also, CIU is capable of responding on short notice for any requests to increase the security level at any critical infrastructure.

In 2007, Lieutenant Stokes, two troopers from CIU, and eleven field troopers completed the first Immigration and Customs Enforcement Academy held in State of Georgia. CIU team members are actually certified Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officers. CIU has full authority to enforce any federal law relating to immigration. CIU operates in cooperation with ICE; training has been completed and is now waiting on getting logistics as far as getting ICE's computer systems installed. Once fully operational, CIU will be capable of identifying any immigration residency status and enforce those laws relating to that. This would involve document probe, human smuggling, and any other criminal deportable offense. Also, GBI and Department of Drivers Services had several people involved in this training.

Lieutenant Stokes reported that the unit stays active. CIU basically averages training over 1,000 officers a year. Through Trooper School, the unit is adjunct instructors; also doing classes for GBI Academy and for Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Drug Interdiction Assistance Program classes.

Lieutenant Stokes concluded his presentation with presenting a short slide show, which gave an overview of some of the cases that CIU has handled in the past few years. Lieutenant stated the pictures will show what the guys are seeing out on the highways.

Colonel Hitchens added that Criminal Interdiction Unit is not talked about in the public; very seldom will anyone see this unit on television, and that is for a purpose. Lieutenant Stokes brought many of the plaques and trophies to display on tables for everyone to see.

Chief Lou Dekmar commented on the remarkable way Georgia State Patrol handles their interdiction. He has never gone down the interstate and seen a GSP unit parked, with interior illuminated in the vehicle, to make a decision about a stop based on the occupants as opposed to the violation. Last week, Chief Dekmar was in northeast United States, representing CALEA, giving an accreditation status to a state police agency just coming out of a consent decree. That agency got jammed up by racial profiling. There are 26 states in the United States that have racial profiling laws that require data on all traffic stops. Chief Dekmar stated that one of the reasons it is not seen here is because of the leadership and process and procedures that Georgia State Patrol uses in generating these stops. They look for the violation and then look beyond the violation. Chief Dekmar commended Colonel Hitchens for that leadership and for the unit for the way they apply these techniques. Colonel Hitchens added that the particular state agency had called Georgia State Patrol to send two staff members to come and do an instruction class on how Georgia goes about the business.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen asked that if local agencies are interested and want to become more involved with on-the-job-training, would the CIU units travel around and work with other departments. Colonel Hitchens responded that this is done routinely; a couple of counties have requested assistance in technology or training.

Colonel Hitchens then called on Mr. Dan Brown, Communications Director of Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, for his presentation.

Mr. Brown thanked the Board members for the opportunity to be here today. At a previous Board meeting, it was discussed about where State Patrol was and where it was going. Today's presentation is to talk about where State Patrol is in the technology arena. Some local departments already have some equipment. Today will be discussion of advantages and disadvantages and opportunities presented to State Patrol and why the agency is where it is, and, more importantly, where the agency wants to go.

The focus is, and has been, primarily on Customer Service with Governor's initiative with regard to customers, internal and external. The focus in the technology arena has been to capture that matrix. In a conversion of devices, the vision has been to use the appropriated money more wisely. To date the agency will have saved nearly \$250,000 in current technology expenditures with hopes to reinvest that into future technology expenditures in a more wise or concurrent fashion with technology that has improved. In Customer Service, the agency is offering a Help Desk mentality that will allow serving

internal customers, but as taking over the acquisition of the state interoperable network with the motor bridge possibility. It allows the agency to offer to external clients and constituents and local governments the opportunity for them to receive help through the Help Desk program. CRMS is Comprehensive Records Management System and November 1<sup>st</sup> of this year is the first time the agency has had the opportunity that when a constituent called, the agency could give on-the-spot answers with immediate success. The agency has seen the advantage by capturing the matrix; done through computerized performance matrix by entering the tickets. The agency still does this manually. Mr. Brown stated the agency operates the internal focus, which will be focused towards operating outside the agency in a few months. This will allow decentralization of the posts and troops and carry the information across a common platform, called Portal Strategy, which is basically using the internet at a reduced cost. This will allow seeing how many troopers are available immediately through an On Line Roster program and will give a Centralized Employee Information process by which this can be shared on a timely basis. This allows sharing Public Information to get the message out. It gives On Line access in the future as the agency begins to develop the program, where the customer will be able to purchase the Accident and Crash investigation reports on line. With the Radio Conversion Project, State Patrol is working with GEMA in the transition of Georgia Interoperability Network and have almost completed the transition with the radio focus where the agency is able to communicate with the local 800 MHz acquisitions in the 36 metropolitan areas.

Mr. Brown stated that State Patrol's Perspective is based on a simple process; looking at the Mission Elements with regard to plan, preparation, response, recovery, prevention, and mitigation strategies. Across the organizations, whether they be state, local, federal, or non-government law enforcement agencies, State Patrol looks at how to interface that information with regard to communication and information solution collection of data, a fusion of information and ultimately a timely and important decision making process.

The Comprehensive Reporting Management System allows to capture data for the first time through headquarters. The agency will improve data accuracy and integrity of information allowing State Patrol a uniformity of information and operations. Mr. Brown stated it has certainly moved the agency more towards reduction of paperwork. Much of what is done to capture daily activity records is done in a manual process. This computerized process will allow to begin capturing that electronically. It will improve the process workload and will give the available data needed so when working with local governmental partners, the agency will have the information necessary for the reporting process. The application currently has 49 different reports; these reports can be manipulated appropriately based on criteria data that is selected based on the questions or inquiries that may be presented and gives an opportunity to answer the questions more efficiently and effectively.

Mr. Brown continued with his powerpoint presentation with Moving Ahead. This Records Management System advancing is just the first step in computerizing what the agency has worked through in the manual process. When looking through Mobile Data and RMS Solution, CIU and couple of other special units have in car data solutions. The agency would like to, with opportunity of funding, move towards a ruggedized notebook and standard printer and citation solution that would allow the agency to capture the information when the process is done and not duplicate the information with an administrative burden. To do that, at the cost of today's market place, the Mobile Data

Terminal at about \$2,775, with a printer and other ancillary pieces of equipment involved in the installation; with the monthly cellular service of public or private data partnership surrounding the state; and the agency working towards authorized 953 Mobile Data Terminals and Infrastructure, the equipment budget alone is \$5,192,000.00. That cost is not the highest end of the book from the vendors; that is the average between four vendor proposals. The connectivity cost or renewal cost would approach about \$1.6 million for infrastructure connectivity cost. It is quite a tremendous thing to overcome.

Mr. Brown stated there are 46 posts and the agency does not centralized communication. The agency has discussed options towards ten regional communication centers; not replacing the posts as they are but having centralized repository with a Single State Map and GIS Validation. Self dispatching is some of the benefits that will be provided through AVL. Mobile Data Terminals began in the fact that State Patrol is not dispatched normally as public safety agency; as a lot of traffic stops are done by self-dispatching based on traffic interdiction. Mr. Brown stated they would like to include a possible mapping solution. Currently, based on home security models, that mapping is available for Georgia. It is relatively current; however, there are ongoing costs in the work with the local governments to use that data whenever it has been provided in the past. The agency would like to move towards that opportunity. The distribution of the network is going to take some data from Georgia Department of Transportation, as well as Department of Motor Vehicle Services. There is a current state process on the street today regarding availability of drivers license information that is absolutely necessary for the operation of the equipment to work effectively. Currently, there is an electronic crash recording system; it is working in 88% of the posts. The agency is trying to continue to make that work be decentralized. The agency still uses some manual reporting in the process; the agency would have to have an automated system and organization process to be able to provide that on-line for customers, but it is a goal they would ultimately like to acquire. To do that effectively, there are 46 dispatch locations. To do it effectively and economically, the agency would have to reduce the number of environments the agency currently possess to a regional basis and then share the information through mobile CAD data on an Auto Vehicle Locator.

Some lessons learned in talking with Florida and South Carolina, it is determined that South Carolina is currently undergoing the same pilot project that Florida has in their system today with a company called CPS, formerly known as SMRTCOP. These are some of the lessons learned the agency has with some of mainframe projects. It requires agency budget support, funding from legislature, and there is a large recurring cost with connectivity issues. It would also require some additional positions for a project that size and those require budget issues as well. Mr. Brown stated that he believes with what the agency has in Georgia infrastructure and with multiple protocol layered switched network, the agency currently has the data infrastructure and cellular structure to put a statewide system in place. It would require ten servers and connectivity for data and storage, along with bandwidth necessary to support the program as a whole. And, some sort of a central repository to share that information among local partners. Some mobile communications and software are involved. The agency has a three to five year timeline and the current goal is looking at reducing costs, using technology more effectively, acquisition of equipment when available, and budget requirements would have to be met.



Chief Dwayne Orrick stated that, essentially, communication could go from forty-six dispatch centers to ten. There would be a lot of cost savings with personnel. About six years ago, the issue was brought up about linking state patrol posts and dispatch centers where troopers were working. So, consolidate these services electronically and share the data. He and Mr. Dan Brown have had several conversations; with the Chiefs working with the Sheriffs and with State Patrol and other key players, there is a push of a strategic plan where the purpose is that the state will do an approach where law enforcement will identify where accidents occur in cities, counties, and the state and then direct the resources. We quit worrying so much about output of how many citations are worked to outcome and that is how many accidents to reduce. This makes better use of staff instead of randomly working to find out where accidents occur, where injuries occur, and essentially require us to work smarter. It looks like spending a lot of money but in the long run it will save money. Essentially, what is envisioned is the officer has a computer, slides a drivers license in, fills in the data fields from the drivers license, then chooses the offense from the drop box, punches a button, finishes it with an automatic signature. What is a normal six or seven traffic stop will go down to about one minute process.

After comments and questions from Board members, Vice-Chairman Donald recommended a process action or committee meeting to pursue the issue of communications interoperability. Vice-Chairman Donald requested State Patrol Committee meet with Colonel Hitchens to express what State Patrol needs done and bring it back to the Board as a recommendation. Colonel Hitchens agreed, stating it is a serious issue and has all kinds of complications. Sheriff Bruce Harris and several Board members will meet with Colonel Hitchens before the next Board meeting.

Colonel Hitchens concluded his report with stating the Department of Public Safety is recipient of \$250,000 federal grant; a press conference was held in Bartow County. It is programmed to try to make roads safer regarding tractor trailer and passenger vehicle accidents. Statistical data that was submitted shows that there are two chokepoints in Georgia that have significant problems, i.e., on I-75 in Bartow and Cobb counties and the other is on I-95 in Chatham County. State Patrol worked with Cobb County Police, Bartow County Sheriff's Department, and Chatham County Police Department on the statistics. Colonel stated that 89.6% of fatal accidents involving cars and trucks, that the fatality occurs in the car. One of the things people are not aware of is that in the majority of those accidents, the smaller vehicle is typically at fault. This is a two-prong program; one is to educate the public. There will be billboards put up; will be a media campaign; the Department of Drivers Services is giving out informational packets. The Motor Carrier Compliance Division, along with Cobb County Police, Bartow County and Chatham County, are on board.

Vice-Chairman Donald requested if Chief Ricky Boren or Sheriff Ralph Johnson would like to address the group. Both Chief Boren and Sheriff Johnson stood before the Board, and, Chief Boren began with welcoming everyone to Columbus; it being a progressive community and it has a great public safety organization. Chief Boren stated that, as far as Corrections and adult offenders, Columbus has problems with re-offender in the adult area in Columbus. Chief stated the community is addressing more and more juvenile offenders. Eight months ago, he and Sheriff Johnson and the Juvenile Court

Judge and other agencies looked for ways to see what they could do with juveniles in this area. Columbus has officers, when it comes to rap concerts and other events where there is juvenile participation, who do not want to work these functions in an off-duty capacity because of the danger to themselves. Chief Boren stated there are juvenile offenders on the street that nobody wants, so they walk up and down street in the communities. The community would like to open a house or check-in point that when these individuals are kicked out of school, that there is an area to take these juveniles to and supervise them and maybe set up some kind of program on a daily basis. Columbus has had an area that was hard hit by day time burglaries. When investigating these burglaries, law enforcement found out it was youthful offenders. Chief Boren stated the community would like to put together something to deal with youthful offenders as well as adult offenders. Chief Boren, in talking about the communications issue, stated that years ago while working a Columbus case, he visited Gainesville, Florida. The local investigators there had the ability of pulling up on a computer screen and looking at probation site, parole site, local utility company site to search for an offender. If putting people out there working together to talking to a parole officer, or probation officer, then give the people the technical knowledge that will back that up.

Sheriff Ralph Johnson stated he appreciated everybody being here; really appreciate the focus on Sheriff County Jails and in trying to help reduce inmate population. It is the job of himself and Chief Boren to get these criminals off the street, and, the Sheriffs' responsibility to keep them locked up until they go into the state system. The county jails are severely overcrowded; but everyone is working together to try to reduce the population. Concerning the communications issue, Sheriff Johnson's office has invested in a little satellite communication system. Hopefully, this will be used when sending a deputy to handle a crisis in another state, that Sheriff Johnson can sit in that Government Center and talk to the deputy whether in Mississippi or New Orleans. Sheriff Johnson stated he and Chief Boren work so well together, and, they go out there and do what they are supposed to do. Sheriff welcomed everyone to Columbus and hoped they have a good stay.

Vice-Chairman Donald, on behalf of the Board, thanked Sheriff Johnson and Chief Boren on their feedback. Vice-Chairman Donald will action these items and will give answers on the issues.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, began with stating that GBI has an excellent working relationship with both law enforcement agencies here in Columbus-Muscogee County. There are no finer law enforcement professionals than Sheriff Johnson and Chief Boren; the GBI has worked with them for many years and this area is fortunate to have professional executives.

Director Keenan began with following up with a presentation that he did at the last Board meeting, where a presentation was made regarding the impact of the drug problem here in Georgia. Today he wanted to talk about the most destructive drug that is encountered and that is methamphetamine. With a powerpoint slide, Director Keenan talked about information primarily came from a study which was directed by Governor Perdue in 2005. There was a publication that came out from Criminal Justice Coordinating Council report on *The Impact Of Methamphetamine On Georgia*. This also relates to data received from other agencies, such as Georgia Department of Corrections.

With a quick overview, Director Keenan explained why methamphetamine is so destructive and has such a tremendous impact on the state. The information is from Atlanta High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area report, which came out saying that meth addiction is the most foremost addictive substance known to man. The addiction rate is estimated to be at 95%. At one time, there was talk that meth addiction could not be treated. That is incorrect; it can be treated. It does require an intensive treatment program, however, it is not a hopeless cause.

From the Atlanta HIDTA Threat Assessment report, meth is the number one threat in the community and this is based on the violence of the users and trade. It is a preeminent threat to law enforcement because of extreme availability, low cost, high addiction rates, and increase in violence. That is the recurring theme seen during this presentation; not only is there the devastation of addiction itself but all the violence associated with trade itself and with the user.

The next slide showed information of what the impact of methamphetamine is on the state; i.e., that 95% of law enforcement prosecutors reported a meth user is usually involved in a drug activity outside of the meth use itself. 58% of Georgia Sheriffs reports that meth users create unique problems that Sheriffs have to deal with when meth users are incarcerated in their facility. 91% of the DFACs caseworkers, who were surveyed, reported that parents addicted to meth were often involved with family violence and other criminal activity. DFACs workers also reported that 50% of meth users lose permanent custody of their children, and, an average of 42% of child deprivation caseloads involves parents using meth. One slide showed that 50% of domestic shelters reported on the survey. The survey also encompassed the treatment officials, wherein they reported 61% of drug treatment providers have seen evidence of drug users switching to meth because of the lower cost, a longer high, and easier access.

Director Keenan showed information that ties in to charts pulled by State Crime Laboratory on drugs being used in the state. Students, who abuse prescription medications, are the one of the most at-risk groups to begin using methamphetamine. One of the growing drug problems in the state is the illegal use of prescription drugs. With a powerpoint slide, it shows a breakdown of number of Felony and Misdemeanor drug arrests in the state, giving an indication of what law enforcement goes through in making drug arrests in the state. There is a drop in the number of arrests in 2006; does not know at this point what 2007 will be because Director Keenan believes it will be lower based on a chart on the number of drug reports that are being used by State Crime Laboratory. With a slide, Director Keenan showed numbers from State Crime Laboratory Drug Submission reports. The best indicator of what the drug problem is in the state in its totality is based upon the reports that are issued by State Crime Laboratory. That is a direct accounting of the type of drugs that are coming into the state system to be analyzed and then the results come out. The GBI Crime Laboratory serves every law enforcement agency in Georgia. Director Keenan pointed out hydrocodone and oxycotin, which are prescription drugs. As pointed out in a previous slide, this can be a stepping stone into the use of methamphetamine. Director stated that this is going to continue being a major law enforcement problem. At some point, a comprehensive strategy will have to be adopted to combat prescription drug abuse. With a slide, Director Keenan stated this Total Chemistry Reports was completed from FY 01 and issued by State Crime Laboratory. There is a decrease in the number of drug reports completed and that corresponds with the decrease in the number of drug arrests made. But

Commissioner Donald will see an increase in the number of offenders going into the Georgia prison system. Director Keenan showed the slide of Number of Meth-Related Prison Commitments, the chart reflecting numbers ending 2005. In follow-up to the last Board of Public Safety meeting, there has been a major shift in the source of methamphetamine.

With the next slide, Director Keenan pointed out the Prison Admissions. With this chart, 2007 is a partial year; the numbers are going to slide up as the 2007 data comes in. There are about 2500 inmates who are still in the process of being classified into the system, which will tell the story about what they are incarcerated for and their drug use history.

With the next slide, this information directly applauds Governor Perdue's efforts and legislature's efforts in setting up the Meth Force for Georgia. Governor Perdue recommended, and the General Assembly approved, 15 additional agents to work methamphetamine and methamphetamine-related crimes. There are an additional 15 currently in training. When those 15 agents were trained and they hit the street, the drug arrests jumped up. The next slide, Georgia Clan Lab Seizures, told the history of the meth source in Georgia. In the year 2000, there were less than 50 meth labs. There is a peak in 2004, where there were about 500 meth labs. In 2005, the Legislature restricted pseudoephedrine, which is the main ingredient in methamphetamine. That, combined with aggressive law enforcement efforts, embarked upon by GBI and local law enforcement had an impact. There is a dramatic increase in the number of meth labs seized in State of Georgia. Director Keenan state this has important ramifications, because meth labs generate very toxic bi-products. The chemical process itself is dangerous. Nationwide, about 25% meth labs are discovered through fire explosion. Meth labs are down and Georgia seizures are up. Director Keenan explained that what has occurred is that the meth labs are under control but the Mexican drug gangs have stepped in and filled the void. The Mexican drug gangs bring in not only methamphetamine but other drugs, mainly cocaine and marijuana. Because they are bringing it in quantities, meth can be purchased cheaper now on the street than it can be manufactured by a meth user, who would need to buy all chemicals. A meth user can buy the meth cheaper than he can make it; and, he or she won't blow themselves up while producing the drug, in addition to they don't have to search around to buy ingredients.

Director Keenan reported on record ICE Seizures in Georgia. As Commissioner Donald spoke this morning about Special Agent In Charge of the FBI, he stated that Georgia is at ground zero with methamphetamine sources. Because of transportation hub system in the state, because of very large Hispanic communities where drug gangs can hide out in and can ply their trades can basically go undetected, the state becomes the transportation hub for methamphetamine. Georgia is just a stop off. Director Keenan stated that Georgia rates in the nation the number of ice seizures, which is a refined grade of methamphetamine.

With the next slide, Director Keenan stated methamphetamine is not the major abuse drug in the state. Cocaine is the major drug problem by body; violence is not associated with cocaine use as is methamphetamine. That is why meth is such a major problem for the state and particularly for law enforcement. Director Keenan showed statistics from thirty Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces, that is funded through a CJCC grant. Because Georgia has become the transportation hub for the major drug gangs, HIDTA is expanding out beyond the inner core of Atlanta. Director Keenan showed

a map of counties where there have been major Mexican drug cases made. With another slide, it showed the Drugs Seized by HIDTA out of the metropolitan counties; meth is still the number one drug.

Director Keenan concluded with stating that was an overview of what the drug situation is in Georgia; as it relates to methamphetamine.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, began with reporting that the administrative section of the Training Center has been re-done and cleaned up the procedures.

Director Mann stated the Training Center has found about an 18% savings in water, by replacing toilets that are twenty years old that had used the maximum flow, and restricting other areas at the Training Center. As everyone knows, Governor Perdue sent an Executive Order requesting a 10-15% savings. Based upon the estimates in the Board Report, Director Mann will start reporting those to the Board on how much water can be saved.

### **DONATIONS**

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

Two Stalker DSR 2X Radar Units	\$ 5,420.00	Jerry Sherin Paulding County Commissioner
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Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, IIII motioned approval of the donation, seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar, and voted approval by the board members.

Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, brought the following donation for approval:

Donation For Public Safety Memorial	\$11,856.02	Law Enforcement Public Officials Georgia Law Enforcement Museum and Hall Of Fame
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Chief Lou Dekmar motioned approval, seconded by Chief Dwayne Orrick, and voted approval by the Board members.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III inquired how much is in the Memorial Fund. Director Mann responded there are two accounts; one through local bank of \$160,000 and about \$12,000 in the T-Shirt Fund.

There being no Emergency/Administrative Issues, Vice-Chairman Donald called for Old or New Business.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Vice-Chairman Donald called on Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III to recommend the nominations for Coroners' Council. Mr. Bowen brought the attention of the Board members to a letter from Georgia Coroners Association. He reminded the Board they are required to view the recommendations from the Georgia Coroners Association and appoint coroners to the Georgia Coroners Training Council. The letter, addressed to Governor Perdue, nominates Honorable Earl Darby, Coroner of Cherokee County, and Honorable Gary McElhenney, Coroner of Putnam County, to the Georgia Coroners Training Council. Mr. Bowen motioned approval of the nominations, seconded by Sheriff Bruce Harris, and voted approval.

Vice-Chairman Donald called on Mr. Ellis Wood for a report of the Ad Hoc/Basic Mandate Training Committee. Mr. Wood began with thanking Director Mann and Mr. Butch Beach and Mr. Richard Guerreiro and staff for continuing to being very proactive in the Committee. The Committee met again, as a small group, with some DTAE personnel on October 23<sup>rd</sup> in Forsyth. Commissioner Ron Jackson and Executive Director Teresa Resch, both representing DTAE, along with Mr. Ken Vance and Sheriff Mike Yeager, representing P.O.S.T., attended the meeting. Most of that discussion was related to possible relationships with DTAE and P.O.S.T. for continued discussion on possible basic mandate training concepts. Mr. Wood did ask Ms. Teresa and Commissioner Jackson, along with Mr. Vance, to bring a full report to the December meeting. As Mr. Wood explained at the October Board meeting, a group had visited the Florida Law Enforcement Agency; and there is an understanding that Ms. Resch and Mr. Vance will return to Florida to further the research of basic training. Mr. Wood reported that he and Director Mann visited North Carolina and met with Charlotte Mecklingburg Police Department training personnel, as well as, North Carolina Department of Justice personnel, to discuss their basic mandate training methods. Mr. Wood called on Director Mann to continue the report.

Director Mann began with thanking Mr. Wood for the attention given to this issue. Director Mann explained that North Carolina runs their training a little different than Georgia. The training standards are organized under the Attorney General for the State of North Carolina. Their training standards arm is an agency, as part of the Attorney General's office, consisting of a female supervisor and her staff of three. They actually go out and make arrangements with different community colleges and police departments for an academy to do delivery of basic, but also some specialized training. Also organized

under North Carolina system is a Criminal Justice Academy in Salemburg that pumps out curriculum complete programs. Mr. Bob Yow was hired back as a consultant to that group. The North Carolina Justice Academy cranks out curriculum that fees out to all delivery systems. The supervisor, under Attorney General's office, states she is not sure if there are 60 or 65 different training academies; these mostly delivered by community colleges. They don't spend state dollars through training staffers to do the training. The community colleges pump the money into this; the students go to the community college and they get their FTE credits. Charlotte Mecklinburg is an exception to that, along with Raleigh and some other towns in North Carolina, which have their own police academy for their police department. The minimum qualification hours is 618, compared to 480 for Georgia. Charlotte Mecklinburg runs their own academy and trains about 100 officers a year for about 21 to 26 weeks. Three trainers, from Charlotte Mecklinburg, could not remember the last time anybody failed drives training or firearms. Basically, there are about 17,500 certified officers that the Attorney General's office keeps up with. This is what would be called unrestricted peace officers certification of about 12,000 correctional officers and 10,000 jailers. Adding these together is almost an equivalent number of officers in Georgia.

Every quarter, North Carolina might send 35 people to the Probable Cause Committee for decertification. Georgia's equivalent would be about 350 to 450 people who are being decertified or sanctioned. North Carolina's Detention Training is 170 hours long; Basic Communications is 47 hours; Firearms is 48 hours; Drivers Training is 40 hours in Basic Training. Director Mann said he thanked the North Carolina people for being so gracious and for speaking candidly about Basic Training.

An issue brought to the table was the question if there is a universal test. Director Mann responded that is one issue that Mr. Ken Vance is fired up about. None of the changes discussed in the Ad Hoc Committee make an difference until getting to the bottom line; measuring what is being put in classes. There is no state certification exam in Georgia. The question was asked if current legislation provides for P.O.S.T. to generate a rule or would it require a change in legislation. Director Mann responded that P.O.S.T. Council in Title 35 has the authority to do a state certification exam; P.O.S.T. Council could decide that. Vice-Chairman Donald stated the challenge for all agencies is the issue of recruitment and retention; to be careful to not eliminate or create a tighter standard from which to recruit. Chief Dekmar stated when dealing with cases of Probable Cause at P.O.S.T., there are many folks who should not have been employed in the first place. Chief stated he agrees that the market should not be pushed to the point of having a problem, but at the same time, do not lose the standards to the point of fighting other battles. Chief Dwayne Orrick added that reports indicate in the year 2010 there will be 10 million more jobs than qualified people in the United States. It is important to communicate to elected officials, on both local and state level, that public safety is an issue of economic development and if Georgia needs to be economic engine of southeast, then public officials will have to take public safety seriously and start doing what is necessary to attract and retain those people. It is a simple fact that people leave law enforcement because they can; jobs are available when a strong economy and people leave and go to other places as soon as they can. Vice-Chairman Donald added that the military has confronted this same issue; that out of ten people, only three qualify to be in the military. So, whatever is done with new P.O.S.T. certification that puts all agencies on the same level, the agencies need to make sure it is checked out thoroughly so it will not prevent the agencies

from getting qualified people in various positions. Director Mann concluded with stating Mr. Ken Vance, from P.O.S.T., will be able to answer questions at the next Board meeting.

Vice-Chairman Donald announced he will take the three issues that were brought by Chief Boren and Sheriff Johnson. The issue on juveniles will be taken to Commissioner Albert Murray, of Department of Juvenile Justice, for someone to talk on that issue. Second, the issue of sharing information between agencies, i.e., Florida can pull up all probation information shared with local law enforcement counterparts. Georgia probation information cannot be shared at this time, but is getting there. There is a need for State Patrol or Chiefs or Sheriffs to have instant access to information, caseload notes and things like that on felons. Vice-Chairman Donald will bring Mr. Michael Nail, Deputy Director of Corrections Division, to talk about that interoperability issue. The last issue is Sheriff Johnson's concern about overcrowding, which is a concern of all Sheriffs and what Corrections is doing to get that fixed.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III motioned that the December Board meeting be held at the Training Center, which was seconded by several Board members. A group Board picture will be made at the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Rooney L. Bowen, III  
Secretary