

## **BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

November 14, 2013

Georgia Public Safety Training Center-Forsyth, Georgia

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chief Danny Bowman  
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan  
Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic  
Mr. C. Murray Kight  
Sheriff Dane Kirby  
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.  
Chief Mark Revenew  
Mr. Brian M. Rickman  
Sheriff Joey Terrell  
Chief Craig Tully  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Mr. Daniel M. Bryant  
Commissioner Brian Owens

### **OTHERS:**

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office  
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison  
Major Eddie Grier, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Gene Davis, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Captain Lewis Young, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Assistant Comptroller, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Joan Crumpler, Legal Deputy Director, Department of Public Safety  
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mrs. Connie Buck, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Keith Howard, Assistant Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Carlos Ortiz, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Ray Saxon, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Sharla Shockley, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Chaplain Danny Horne, Department of Corrections  
Mrs. Louise Rampy

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Department of Corrections Chaplain Danny Horne gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Attorney Joe Drolet introduced Ms. Amy Radley, new assistant in the Attorney General's office.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked those present to introduce their selves.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the October 2013 minutes. Sheriff Dane Kirby made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Chief Mark Revenew and voted approved by the BPS members.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Major Eddie Grier, Commanding Officer of the Georgia State Patrol, in the absence of Commissioner Mark McDonough, stated DPS has been busy trying to get toward the end of the year with a lot of training for the troopers. Major Grier advised DPS has just about completed the ALERRT Training, active shooter training. Major Grier stated a little different approach has been taken in what was had in the active shooter training when DPS first took the training. Major Grier noted ALERRT Training was set up by an organization in Texas and their goal is to have all the police officers in the US trained the same way on ALERRT Training. Major Grier declared there is a different approach in how one enters the school, how one approaches the shooter as it has to do with what a lot of people think of in SWAT movements; the training has been broken down so the everyday police officer that does not have SWAT training, can show up with a police officer from somewhere else and get to the active shooter and stop the shooter. Major Grier stated DPS is trying to get a universal training that is standardized where everyone is trained the same way and all of DPS will be trained on this by the end of the year. Major Grier shared that Traffic Incident Management System training has just about been completed across the state, with the goal to train every trooper in the state under the TIMS training. Major Grier shared at the last Colonels Conference that he attended there was not another state in the southeast that is getting the training that the troopers are receiving. Major Grier noted there was some grumbling from the field as to how they are supposed to accomplish all of this, but feel like in the end after all the training, this will be very beneficial to the state and to the officers.

Major Grier stated there will be a trooper school graduation Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, with 18 cadets. Major Grier added there will be another trooper school graduation in February, 2014 and have recently met and completed the process for the January 2014 trooper school. Major Grier stated the 104 candidates that were chosen completed the background and the polygraph, and then after the psych test, 20 percent were lost. Major Grier stated the DPS went back to the board earlier in the week and picked other candidates for alternates to fill in in order to start with 104. Major Grier noted the compliment for the Atlanta area has been met and now need troopers in the field as there are posts with 7-8 troopers that use to have 15 troopers. Major Grier advised as soon as the cadets are processed through the school, the troopers will go to the field posts. Major Grier shared the DOT spoke with Commissioner McDonough recently and wanted to look at the south side of Atlanta for manpower and Commissioner McDonough advised DOT, the field needed troopers. Major Grier stated the goal is to get the posts built back up and then maybe take on more of Atlanta after that time.

Major Grier stated GSP has required all of the troopers to check their POST certifications and hopefully will not have the problem that was had last year where some troopers did not have their POST certifications.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Major Grier to comment on the Fallen Trooper Road Memorials that have been completed since the last meeting. Major Grier advised there would be a bridge memorial for deceased Lt. Joey Boatwright in December. Major Grier shared there was a memorial for Trooper Bass in Troup County last week and all went very well as Captain Renfroe did an excellent job in setting up the memorial. Major Grier advised all the Fallen Trooper Road Memorials have been completed for this year, except for the bridge dedication for Lt. Boatwright and the other 14 have been approved to go before the legislature next year. Major Grier stated there were two memorials in Troop F since the last Board meeting.

Vice-Chairman Wood commented that each of the memorials have individual unique qualities and has been refreshing and interesting to see the family members come a long distance, with distance relationships and see how much the family appreciates the memorials for their families. Vice-Chairman Wood noted that Trooper Bass was killed in 1950 and his family was extremely grateful.

Director Vernon Keenan began his report by stating there would be a training session on December 18<sup>th</sup> at the GPSTC in regards to elder abuse. Director Keenan stated Attorney General Sam Owens would be giving the open remarks at the all-day training event with lunch for the participants. Director Keenan asked the agency heads present at the meeting to send some of their personnel as this will be a great training event on how to investigate elder abuse cases.

Director Keenan stated the GBI Medical Examiner's Office does autopsies for 151 of the 159 counties in Georgia. Director Keenan advised the GBI has 14 board certified forensic pathologists, who do 3,000 autopsies a year and another 1500 external exams. Director Keenan advised Dr. Dan Brown in Augusta has retired which leaves a vacancy in Augusta and the GBI is not doing autopsies in this area; the bodies have to be transported to Savannah, Macon or GBI Headquarters. Director Keenan shared Dr. Posey will be retiring in December which will leave GBI with two vacancies. Director Keenan advised it normally takes two years to recruit a board certified forensic pathologist as there are less than 500 in the US, very much a specialty area and the doctors in that profession, many of them are reaching their retirement age so the pool to recruit from is very small. Director Keenan stated the GBI is very fortunate the GBI has two excellent applicants that backgrounds are being worked on now and are very interested in coming to the GBI, working in the Medical Examiner's Office. Director Keenan stated having board certified forensic pathologists is extremely important as without them, local agencies would be on their own trying to find someone to do an autopsy. Director Keenan stated in the rural parts of the state it is problematic and resource intensive for them to have to transport bodies to Macon, Savannah or many times to Atlanta. Director Keenan stated at least there is a place to transport the bodies to get the autopsies and if the state of Georgia ever gets into situations as some of the surrounding states are that do not have the medical examiners system adequately staffed, then there is nothing to be done. Director Keenan stated counterparts in NC are going through a meltdown of their medical examiners' office and are turning down autopsies; the locals have to call up and are told the state cannot do the autopsies. Director Keenan stressed the GBI is not in this type of situation and will do everyone in the GBI's power to keep the staffing level where it is at. Director Keenan solicited everyone's understanding if they hear complaints out in the field about having to transport bodies; at

least they have a place to transport the bodies to in order for the autopsy and noted the state does not charge for the autopsies.

Updating the BPS members, Director Keenan noted the Social Security Administration stopped issuing undercover social security numbers to law enforcement. Director Keenan stated if an agency is involved in doing undercover investigative work, whether it is drug enforcement, fraud or whatever, to get undercover identification, required a social security number. Director Keenan stated the Social Security Administration stopped issuing this information four years ago because of some problems that had occurred across the US where law enforcement officers were getting the undercover social security numbers and then misusing them. Director Keenan declared at the national level, the National Sheriffs' Association, the International Association of Chiefs' of Police and the Association of State Criminal Investigative agencies went to the Social Security Administration and told the SSA, undercover investigations could not be done unless there is access to the social security database. Director Keenan stated the Social Security Administration and the Inspector General's office has agreed to issue the undercover social security numbers to a state if the state has one agency who will take responsibility for doing the necessary due diligence before the numbers are issued, will maintain control of the numbers and will pay the fee that is necessary to get the numbers. Director Keenan advised the National Sheriffs' Association and the IACP agreed that ASCIA in each state, the bureau of investigation will convene a meeting of the chiefs and sheriffs to make a decision of which agency would take responsibility for monitoring and managing the program. Director Keenan stated in the next few weeks there will be a meeting to make those decisions. Director Keenan noted the Social Security Administration understands law enforcement cannot operate in undercover operations without access to getting the IDs. Director Keenan stressed in today's world, the criminals are very astute in determining whether an undercover officer is an undercover officer or not, they have access to different databases and without the proper identification and safe guards, then the officer is exposed and then this becomes very much a safety aspect.

Director Keenan advised of a national program being rolled out by the National Sheriffs' Association and the IACP as it relates to deconfliction of police operations. Director Keenan explained deconfliction is when there is a situation and have two different law enforcement agencies going to the same address or location to execute a warrant to make an arrest or have some type of law enforcement operation at the location. Director Keenan noted there have been incidents across the US where there have been police on police confrontation which is also called blue on blue shield, where there might be a federal agency and a state agency at the same address and neither one knows the other one is there and also happens with police at the local level. Director Keenan stated there are national systems that are no cost to law enforcement where a law enforcement officer who is going to execute a search warrant or go to a residence to make an arrest, can go to the system on the computer or by phone and notify or alert the officer will be at this address executing an arrest warrant. Director Keenan noted the officer will then know if there is another law enforcement agency that has done the same thing and will connect them up if there is a problem. Director Keenan stated in GA, the program is run through HIDTA, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, who has the data base with the deconfliction system already set up and very easy to use. Director Keenan shared the GBI has a mandate that any arrests that are made, any search warrant the GBI goes after, or any type of law enforcement activity, the GBI goes

through HIDTA into the deconfliction system. Ironically the first case, the GBI deconflicted was within the GBI, with the child sex trafficking unit and the truck cargo theft unit working at the same location. Director Keenan stressed there will be a major push across the US and in GA to get law enforcement agencies to participate in the deconfliction system. Director Keenan stated in rural GA, the Sheriff of the county may think he knows everything going on in the county and does within his agency, but the deconfliction system would be set up where the US Marshall's Service or other federal agencies were to come into the county to do an operation and did not alert the Sheriff's office then a blue on blue confrontation would be prevented. Director Keenan declare the Attorney General has mandated the federal agencies participate in this system and will see a major push in the very near future to get all agencies involved in some type of the deconfliction system.

Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center presented the GPSTC Organizational Chart for approval.

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood made the motion to approve the GPSTC Organizational Chart, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the BPS members.

Yesterday in Cherokee County, Director Bearden advised the GPSTC had their ground breaking ceremony at the Cherokee County Training Center, a partnership between the GPSTC and Cherokee County. Director Bearden shared thanks to the legislature, GPSTC put in \$700,000 for a shoot house and land at the facility, while Cherokee County put in another 4.6 million for a building with classrooms and offices. Director Bearden stated this is a great partnership so far and fully expects this partnership to continue between the GPSTC and Sheriff Garrison as they move forward. Director Bearden advised the first Basic Mandate classes and some supervision classes with a small staff should begin in January and knowing with the way the state grows, this will be an important place for the GPSTC and Cherokee County to move forward.

Director Bearden stated some changes had been made at the GPSTC in regards to security. Director Bearden stated he and Assistant Director Keith Howard had numerous conversations as to how to make the GPSTC more secure. Director Bearden noted the police officers and the firefighters on the campus do not have weapons on in the main room and dorms, and people know this and have prison inmates that probably know the facility better than most of those at the GPSTC. After the Navy yard shooting, Director Bearden stated the GPSTC made a decision to put a security company in place until the GPSTC can get the structure in place to see if GPSTC needs to stay with the security company or if the GPSTC can provide security themselves. Director Bearden stated he had taken Mr. Lester Rampy out on a tour of what was taking place, but right now the front gate is being manned by a private security company from 0600 hours to 1700 hours, and from 1700 hours to 2200 hours, the duty officers are in place to make sure everything is taken care of, then the security company comes back in at 2200 hours to 0600 hours. Director Bearden stated the security company patrols throughout the night, checking dorms, the ammo area and weapons area, and also has a 30,000 gallon propane tank and a 10,000 gallon diesel tank underground the security company checks on. Director Bearden stressed these are areas the GPSTC needs to make sure are being protected properly. Director Bearden stated the GPSTC is in the process of removing trees and shrubs from the gates which will give more

visibility on potential weak spots. Director Bearden shared the GEMA came in and did an assessment which was an eye-opener to the GPSTC security and added the GPSTC is doing everything it can do to make sure the environment is safe for the students and employees at GPSTC.

Director Bearden shared the TVs and screens in the room would be utilized by GEMA in their contact with the news media in the event of a disaster.

Director Bearden reminded the BPS members of their recent approval for the sale of a bond package to be sold on December 5, 2013, which will be utilized to replace the tile with strong walk off carpet and industrial strength carpet throughout the GPSTC. Director Bearden stated the construction on the shoot house has been completed.

Director Bearden shared the GPSTC is working with the Georgia State Patrol in regard to Due Regard Training and shared for this fiscal year there have been 2,268 people that has taken the class on-line. Director Bearden added since the GPSTC has had the Due Regard Training on-line, there have been over 10,000 people taking the on-line course. Director Bearden noted between the GSP and the GPSTC, they are trying their best to get the information out to the public safety officials throughout the state as it is a very important issue. Director Bearden stressed when working together they can do a lot of good things to make sure these people are trained.

Director Bearden stated an active shooter class was held last month with a class starting next week for the ALERRT training. Director Bearden stated there were 25 people from 9 different agencies in the class and the FBI plans to hold 8 more classes before June 2014, to make sure the trained officers go back to their local jurisdictions to get the training out to them so that when an active shooter situation takes place, they will be able to handle the situation.

Director Bearden shared there would be a firefighters' graduation tonight at 6:00 pm.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked Director Bearden and his staff for hosting the BPS meeting today and in December. Director Bearden noted the Governor's Public Safety Awards program would be held December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 4:00 pm.

**DONATIONS**

Mrs. Amy Stancil, Assistant Comptroller, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

Twelve eSeek License Scanners/cables	\$	4,845.45	Tri-Circuit Drug Task Force
Four X26 Tasers	\$	3,599.80	Grantville Police Department
One MPH-900 MS Three Camera Mini Split Mobile System Tag Reader	\$	19,162.50	Stewart County Commissioners

One Intoximeter Alco-sensor FST	\$	574.98	Trenton Police Department
One Stalker Dual DSR2X Radar	\$	3,700.00	Turner County Sheriff's Office
One Panasonic Toughbook Laptop Computer and Accessories	\$	4,272.67	McIntosh County Sheriff's Office
One Stalker DSR 2X Radar and One Samsung Video Security System with Cameras	\$	4,499.00	Braselton Police Department
Two Stalker DSR 2X Radars, Four Vigilant Video LPR Systems, One New and Three Refurbished Fiber Optic Scopes	\$	116,910.00	Braselton Police Department

The motion to accept these donations was made by Chief Mark Revenew, which was seconded by Mr. Lester Rampy, Jr., and voted approved by the Board members.

### **FISCAL REPORTS**

Mrs. Connie Buck, Fiscal Officer, Georgia Bureau of Investigation presented the GBI fiscal report ending September 30, 2013, and stated the GBI is at target to spend the GBI budget as anticipated. Mrs. Buck noted the administration program is at 69% remaining, which reflects in the first quarter of the year, the GBI reserves funds for things like maintenance, security, contracts for the entire year, etc.

Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic asked Director Keenan about the staffing levels and the authorized levels of personnel and was curious if these were authorized positions budgeted, are there finances supporting these positions so they can be filled, or are the positions simply carried on paper and cannot really fill the positions. Director Keenan advised this is a combination of both, as sometimes there will be an open position with funding but hold the funding because the funding may be needed somewhere else or in the hiring process. Director Keenan stated the other positions are authorized by the legislature but there is no funding to fill the positions. Mr. Cronic stated from the GBI Board report there was no way to tell how many positions are open that can be filled versus the positions that cannot be filled. Director Keenan stated the GBI can provide this information which will change each month.

Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center presented the GPSTC fiscal report ending September 30, 2013, and stated the GPSTC is on target with their budget. Mrs. Franklin noted the Bond Funds category was added to the fiscal report.

Mrs. Amy Stancil, Assistant Comptroller, Department of Public Safety stated DPS should be at 75% of budget spent, but are at 70.83% and noted during the first quarter there are prepaids for rents and leases that hit in July. Mrs. Stancil stated in the past, Executive Security and SCRT was broken out on the fiscal report, but is now rolled up in Field Office and Services and will no longer be listed individually.

### **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Joan Crumpler, Department of Public Safety presented a Resolution for the BPS's consideration and approval in regards to declaring as surplus a five acre portion of property owned by the State of Georgia with custody in the Department of Public Safety upon which is located Georgia State Patrol Post 5 Headquarters and Barracks for conveyance to Whitfield County for preservation and use as a historical site.

Chief Danny Bowman made the motion that the members of the Georgia Board of Public Safety declare 5AC Conveyance Property located at 2401 Chattanooga Road, Dalton in Whitfield County of no further use and benefit to the Department of Public Safety and the Georgia State Patrol and, further, authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to take all appropriate action and prepare the appropriate documents, including signing such documents on behalf of the Board of Public Safety, for the express purpose of effecting the conveyance to Whitfield County of said 5 AC Conveyance Property to be preserved and used as a historical site including the erection and maintenance of a 6 foot high barrier fence as approved by the Department of Public Safety. The deed of conveyance of said 5 AC Conveyance Property shall include a reversionary clause that said property will revert to the State of Georgia if the property ever ceases to be used for the purpose conveyed. This was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mrs. Connie Buck, Georgia Bureau of Investigation presented a Resolution for the BPS's consideration and approval to request the State Properties Commission transfer custody of a certain real property located in Trion, Chattooga County, Georgia, formally known as the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Northwest Regional Crime Lab to the Department of Corrections.

Mr. C. Murray Kight made the motion for the members of the Georgia Board of Public Safety to approve the transfer of custody of the above real property from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to the Department of Corrections and request the State Properties Commission prepare and process appropriate documents reflecting the transfer. This was seconded by retired Sheriff Steve Cronic and voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood advised the 2014 BPS meeting dates have been published. Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the BPS members the December BPS meeting will be at the GPSTC on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm with the Governor's Public Safety Awards to follow at 4:00 pm.

Mr. Brian Rickman shared with the BPS members an incident involving three of Sheriff Terrell's deputies in Habersham County. Mr. Rickman stated there was a very routine traffic stop in regards to a jet ski theft; the deputy walked up to the driver, asked the driver to step out of the vehicle, who steps out producing a high point 9mm, sticks the gun to the deputy's head and pulls the trigger; the gun did not go off, as the suspect produced the weapon, the violator depressed the magazine eject button which kept the gun from firing. Mr. Rickman stated one of the deputies that was on scene charged the violator head on and tackled him, another deputy at the rear of the pickup truck shot the violator through the back glass of the pickup when his head came into view, putting seven rounds through the



back of the pickup in about 2.2 seconds. Mr. Rickman stated the violator was hit in the head, but did not die, and is in the Hall County jail. Mr. Rickman advised when the criminal case is closed and the video can be released; probably ever law enforcement officer in training will want a copy. Mr. Rickman noted after the violator was shot, the violator was slumped out of his car still holding the gun and the deputies could have unloaded as many shots as they wanted to neutralized the threat and kill the violator, but did not. Mr. Rickman stated there was a passenger in the vehicle for the whole time; pulled out of the vehicle and taken into custody without incident. Mr. Rickman emphasized there is no question the incident happened so quick, this just reinforces something we all know, which all of this leads back to training. Mr. Rickman stressed every bit of the reaction was training, the deputies did not have the time to process, they immediately fell back on the training they had. Mr. Rickman stated he has never seen anything like it and just goes to reinforce the role of training, as it is a miracle the deputy is alive. Mr. Rickman noted the violator had already served 20 years in prison for a previous child cruelty case in Rockdale County.

Chief Danny Bowman shared with the members that he had 16 applicants for the Forsyth County Fire Department this past week and GBI Agent Pam Rushton, polygraphed the applicants. Chief Bowman shared when Agent Rushton comes into a room; she is very pleasant and one would think she is a school teacher until she turns the polygraph machine on. Chief Bowman advised out of 16 applicants, Ms. Rushton weeded out 4 that were less than honest on their application and told Director Keenan, Ms. Rushton is good people that he hired.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Director Keenan if the GBI foresees a backlog in the autopsies. Director Keenan responded not with the GBI being able to bring the two new doctors on almost immediately. Director Keenan stated he has discussed with the governor's office the fact the medical examiners' office operates with a marginal staff that if we have two doctors leave basically at the same time and have asked the governor's office to give consideration to the GBI having additional resources in the medical examiners' office so we are not operating at the marginal staff. Vice-Chairman Wood noted from looking at the reports for the last 12-18 months, the GBI has made tremendous strides in reducing the lab backlog materials. Director Keenan responded by saying what you are seeing is the results of having new scientist positions filled and then the training completed. Director Keenan explained when going through the training process, scientists that should be working cases are doing the training, you have a vacant position being trained and a veteran scientist who is now not working cases full-time and that is when the backlogs go up. Director Keenan noted when the training is complete, the new scientists and the veteran scientists are working cases and the backlog comes down. Director Keenan shared the GBI through cooperation with the governor and the legislature has gotten pay raises for scientists which has stopped the turnover rate. Director Keenan stated the backlog will continue to come down a little bit and there will always be some level of a backlog, while operating with a marginal staff, as when scientists go out on maternity leave or sick leave then that affects the backlog.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Brian M. Rickman  
Secretary