

Law Enforcement Task Force Meeting

June 22, 2017
Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Forsyth, GA 31029

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

Task Force Member	Present	Absent	Excused	Comments
Verda Colvin, Superior Court Judge		x		
Gerald Couch, Sheriff Hall County	✓			
Eddie DeLoach, Mayor Savannah				Conference Call
Sonja Fillingame, City Manager-Union City	✓			
Bert Flewellen, Chief Operating Officer DCS	✓			
Tyler Harper, Senator		x		
George Hartwig, DA Houston County	✓			
Vivadon Horton, Citizen Liaison	✓			
Dan Kirk, Assistant Director GBI		x		
Michael Persley, Police Chief Albany	✓			
Alan Powell, Representative		x		
Mitch Ralston, Sheriff Gordon County	✓			
Pat Strode, CIT Program Administrator		x		
Ken Vance, POST Director, Co-Chairman	✓			
Chris Wigginton, GPSTC Director, Co-Chairman	✓			
Scott Woodell, GSP Training Director	✓			
Others Attending				
Angie Bowen, GPSTC	✓			
Sharla Shockley, GPSTC	✓			
Terry Norris, GA Sheriffs' Assn.	✓			
Ray Saxon, GPSTC	✓			
Cheryl Greathouse, GPSTC	✓			
Tonia Welch, Sheriffs' Assn.	✓			
Sheriff Terry Deese, Sheriffs' Assn. President	✓			
Robert Paris, Gordon County Sheriff's Dept.	✓			

PURPOSE

Governor Nathan Deal appointed the Law Enforcement Task Force to examine the Basic Law Enforcement Officer Training Course and establish competency-based standards for any course revisions deemed appropriate.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chairman Chris Wigginton

Called to order at 10:04 a.m.

Mayor Deloach joined by conference call.

Motion to Accept Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2017.

Motion: Bert Flewellen

Second: Sonja Fillingame

OPENING REMARKS

Co-Chairman Chris Wigginton

Director Wigginton provided a brief overview of the history and mission of the Training Center.

Discussion

Ray Saxon provided an overview of the course orientation and administrative functions of the Basic L.E. course. Ray explained that his staff is experimenting with the use of chromebooks to distribute course materials to the students. He also mentioned that he would like to find a way of conducting testing electronically as opposed to using the scantron. The proposed increase in time in the administrative block will be used for testing and graduation.

Ray then introduced Instructional Area 10, which is health, wellness, and physical fitness. Currently, although the students engage in physical fitness training, there is no time for that training in the existing curriculum. Basic Training staff have been certified by the Cooper Institute as physical fitness instructors. Ray explained that the existing physical standards for entry into the course is simply having a doctor sign a statement that the candidate is physically fit enough to do the job—there is no requirement that the doctor actually examine the candidate or that the doctor even know what is expected of the student. By establishing a baseline and helping the candidate improve their physical fitness during the course this helps cut down on injuries during the class and can also increase the student's mental wellness by helping them handle stress more effectively. Ray envisions two hours per day being set aside for physical training, so that, for example, Ga Criminal Law, which is 24 hours would actually be taught for 6 hours per day, add 2 hours per day for P.T., so Ga. Criminal Law actually takes 4 instructional days to teach.

Director Wigginton explained what is meant by test review. Test review is conducted after testing so that students know what questions they missed and why. Director Wigginton has been examining other states physical fitness standards. South Carolina has a good model that we would consider adopting. He provided a brief overview of that model, which is based on job-specific tasks.

Old Business

Terry Norris explained that the GSA surveyed agencies and found that about 45% of agencies are issuing assault rifles, 75% are issuing shot guns, and all are issuing side arms. The Director explained that before making a decision on whether to include patrol rifle in the basic class, he will wait to hear from the chief's association. He does not believe we can qualify anyone in patrol rifle during the basic course, but believes we should have a shotgun qualification in the course. Currently, shotgun is only taught as a familiarization. Students are not qualified in shotgun upon graduation. The general consensus among the law enforcement executives at the meeting was that we should retain the shotgun familiarization in the existing course, but not add a qualification.

Motion to adjourn at 10:43 a.m.

Motion: Ken Vance

Second: Gerald Couch

Next Meeting:

Thursday, August 3, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. – Georgia Public Safety Training Center, Director's Boardroom