



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 10 JUNE 2026

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Vacant
Township Official of the Second Class

EDUCATOR'S EDGE

The summer heat has taken over and it's a good time to provide an update on some activities at MPOETC. Many of our academies are finishing up classes and gearing up for their next session. In June 2026, the MPOETC Training Team will be administering at least ten separate certification exams across the state. These new officers will bolster the ranks and are a welcome addition. If trends continue, we anticipate a ten percent or better increase in cadet enrollment across the Commonwealth. This is a very encouraging trend but there is still room to grow. If you are a Chief with vacancies or anticipate a vacancy, please contact your local police academy for a list of pre-service cadets. There are individuals who have not yet been hired by a department and are basically "free agents."

The new Control Tactics (CT) program introduced for 2026 has been very well received by agencies and instructors across the Commonwealth. MPOETC initially completed 22 separate "train-the-trainer" sessions around the state and over 275 instructors took advantage of these free seminars. We also produced step-by-step instructional videos on PAVTN for anyone who wants to review the techniques. We're hoping in addition to providing some much-needed instruction on new techniques, we motivate officers to train more than just the mandatory minimum four hours of annual CT training.

MPOETC is currently undergoing a complete curriculum review for our basic academies. We currently require 919 hours of classroom and practical exercises. Although Pennsylvania has the third-highest basic training requirement in the country, our goal is not simply to meet a benchmark. We remain committed to delivering exceptional training that prepares officers to perform their duties safely, effectively, and professionally. In partnership with subject matter experts, we are evaluating our current curriculum to identify opportunities for improvement and determine whether modifications to course content are warranted. We are also looking at what we need to add that we don't currently teach. Once that phase is completed, we are then reviewing how we teach. *"That's how we always did it"* is not a sufficient reason to teach a topic or the way we currently teach it. We need to use the best technology and techniques for better learning and retention of information. Everyone on the curriculum committees has an extensive background in law enforcement, police training, and adult education. We will keep you posted on developments with this incredibly important project.

Lastly, we are only halfway through the 2026 MIST training cycle, and I thank the 17,500 or so officers that already completed this year's requirements. If you haven't already done so, please complete them as soon as possible rather than waiting until the fall. We are finishing up the 2027 classes and already looking toward 2028 topics. If you have an idea or need that would benefit all officers across the state, please email us the topic and rationale to ra-mpotrainig@pa.gov.

Thank you and have a safe summer!

Michael Corricelli
Director of Training



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission is proud to announce the upcoming launch of the new Control Tactics Instructor Development Course (CT IDC), scheduled for release in the Fall of 2026.

This instructor-level course was developed by a select group of 12 subject matter experts and is designed to prepare MPOETC-approved instructors to deliver the updated 2026 Control Tactics curriculum and beyond. This will be a 40-hour course which will include pre-course work, classroom learning, as well as physical training. Additional details including course dates, locations, prerequisites, and registration procedures, will be released in the coming months through TACS and the MPOETC website. Questions can be directed to MPOTRAINING@PA.GOV

Commission Meeting Highlights

On June 16 & 17, 2026, the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission held its regular quarterly meeting at the Inn at Villanova University, Radnor, PA. On Tuesday afternoon, June 16, 2026, the Commissioners held committee meetings to discuss the business of the Commission. On Wednesday morning, June 17, 2026, the Commissioners met in an Executive Committee meeting, which was followed by the normal meeting of the full Commission, where they took the following actions:

- The Commission revoked certifications of four officers who were revoked for convictions of one or more of the following disqualifying offenses: Theft by deception, perjury, false swearing, official oppression, theft by unlawful taking, receiving stolen property, and involuntary deviate sexual intercourse.
- The Commission approved a policy whereby department or academy firearms instructors cannot self-qualify themselves for their annual firearms qualifications. They must be qualified by a separate firearms instructor.
- The Commission approved a policy that all basic academy cadets must complete initial handgun training with iron sites only. If hired cadets are issued handguns with red or green dot optics, they may not use those optics until they satisfy the qualification requirement with iron sites only. Once they have qualified at least one time, they can then use pistol optics for the remaining of training.
- The Commission approved the Luzerne County Community College Police Academy tuition set at \$5,900 per cadet. The Commission also approved the application for the new Director of that academy.
- The Commission rescinded the previously approved cap on the number of officers that one department can submit to MPOETC for Act 89 reimbursements. MPOETC was also directed to evenly distribute funds for eligible applications submitted by departments for salary and tuition.
- The Commission approved the final Act 57 Regulatory packet.
- The next Commission meeting will be held September 16-17, 2026, at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square, 300 West Station Square Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

NEXT MEETING:

SEPTEMBER
16 & 17

SHERATON
PITTSBURGH
at
STATION
SQUARE

300 W.
STATION
SQUARE
DRIVE
PITTSBURGH
15219

412-261-2000



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Type: Legal Update

Title: Malice in DUI – Related Deaths

Content: Commonwealth v. Peters 1 MAP 2025, (5/4/2026)

Facts: The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania reviewed this case to clarify the standard for malice in DUI – related death cases.

The defendant attended an office holiday party in Philadelphia and consumed a significant amount of alcohol, over a 5-hour time frame. The defendant was offered a ride home by a co-worker but refused. He opted to have the co-worker drop him off at a different bar, where he consumed alcohol for an additional 2 hours. The defendant returned to the parking garage, choosing to drive his own vehicle. Video footage from the garage revealed visible signs of intoxication. The defendant struggled with operating the garage's payment kiosk, and he also broke the mechanical arm at the exit to the parking garage.

While on the highway, the defendant was observed driving in an erratic manner. His speed, according to witnesses, fluctuated between excessively high and low. Witnesses also stated that the defendant almost sideswiped other vehicles. According to investigators, the defendant had missed his intended highway exit twice.

Investigators determined that the defendant was traveling between 113 and 115 miles per hour with a BAC of 0.151%. The defendant reached toward the passenger-side floor to retrieve a cellular phone from a bag so he could use it for GPS directions. As he diverted his attention, he failed to brake in time, colliding with another vehicle. The force of the impact caused the vehicle to burst into flames, trapping and killing two occupants while leaving two others with serious injuries. The defendant was convicted, in the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas, of multiple offenses, including two counts each of third-degree murder and aggravated assault.

Issue: Was the evidence, in this case, sufficient to prove malice?

Holding: The court held that there is a single, uniform standard for malice: malice is present if the defendant consciously disregards an unjustified and extremely high risk that their action might cause death or serious bodily injury. This standard applies regardless of whether the conduct involved DUI or another act.

Commonwealth v. Peters 1 MAP 2025, (5/04/2026)

NEW AGENCY EXECUTIVES

Chief Holly Arndt- Columbia Borough Police Department, Lancaster County

Chief Derrick Baker- Manheim Township Police Department, York County

Chief Joseph Brown- Robeson Township Police Department, Berks County

Chief Tracy Fetterman- Mifflinburg Borough Police Department, Union County

Chief Bradley Getz- West Vincent Township Police, Chester County

Chief Wayne Holben- Northern Berks Regional Police, Berks County

Chief Dan Kinzel- West Homestead Township Police, Allegheny County

Chief Thomas Roberts- Moore Township Police Department, Northampton County

Chief Charles Rozzo- South Park Township Police, Allegheny County

Chief Justin Seibel- Lancaster Township Police, Lancaster County

Chief Dan Thomas- Athens Township Police Department, Bradford County

Chief Robert Tobias- Montoursville Borough Police, Lycoming County

Chief Charles Watson- Fox Chapel Borough Police, Allegheny County

WHAT'S NEW AT MPOETC?



Abigail Reed recently joined the MPOETC Training team as an intern in the spring of 2026 and has now graduated from Lebanon Valley College, where she double majored in criminal justice and psychology while playing basketball and running track. She joined the training team after taking a class at LVC with MPOETC Training Director, Mike Corricelli. Starting in the fall, Abbie will be continuing her education as she pursues her Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She currently assists the Training team in conducting research for the ongoing curriculum review.

Danny Trate left MPOETC last month after starting as an intern in May of 2025. Danny spent most of his time scanning paper files for police officers, instructors, and police departments into TACS. He helped update many TACS profiles and freed up a lot of storage space in our file room and completed other miscellaneous clerical tasks.

Danny graduated from Annville Cleona High school in May. He will be spending some time on his family's farm in Idaho over the summer before starting his first semester at Lebanon Valley College, where he is majoring in Music Performance. We wish Danny success in his future endeavors!



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PENNSYLVANIA CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

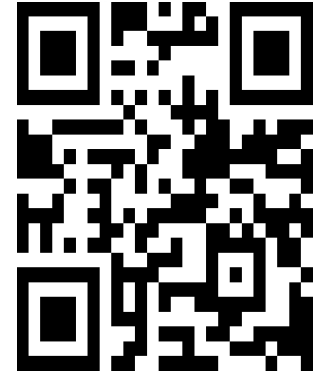
Intelligence Alert

06-2026

May 4, 2026

SWATTING INCIDENTS TARGETING EDUCATION FACILITIES

The Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center (PaCIC) is aware of and tracking multiple swatting incidents involving the phone number (818) 527-6552 received by various schools across the Commonwealth the morning of 05/04/2026. The caller is a male who is making threats to arrive at the school with an AR-15. Schools in Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Montgomery, and Schuylkill counties have reported incidents. Currently, all known incidents have been unfounded and determined to be a swatting attempt. In all situations, a threat should be treated as an emergency until law enforcement determines its credibility. Law enforcement personnel should follow their organization's policies, procedures, and protocols for responding to threats. Any agency with information should contact PaCIC, Threat Analysis Unit (TAU), at tau@pa.gov. Furthermore, if your agency handled a swatting incident today, please utilize the included QR code and survey to report the incident to PaCIC.



TAU@PA.GOV

[Extremist Related Threat Incidents in Pennsylvania](#)

The PaCIC is providing this for informational purposes and situational awareness only. The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhetoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics may be constitutionally protected. PaCIC only reports on First Amendment protected activities for operational planning in the interest of ensuring the safety and security of the demonstrators and the general public.

TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Bucks County Sheriff's Office is sponsoring a FREE Below 100 Training at the Bucks County Public Safety Training Center, located at 1760 S. Easton Road, Doylestown, PA 18901, on July 15. A second training date on July 16 may be added based on enrollment.

The Below 100 Intensive Course will be held from 0800 to 1200 hours and can accommodate up to 80 officers.

Following the intensive course, a Train-the-Trainer session will be offered from 1300 to 1700 hours. This session is limited to 15 attendees and is open to agency-recognized instructors only. Attendance at the morning Intensive Course is required before participating in the afternoon TTT session. If you are interested, please email policetraining@buckscounty.org for more information.



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POLICE ACADEMY OF THE QUARTER



Director Kevin Mahoney

For nearly 50 years, the **Lackawanna College Police Academy** has trained thousands of police officers in Northeastern Pennsylvania. LCPA's cadet classes are heavily recruited during their training periods, and every graduate from their most recent class who applied for a position in law enforcement was either hired or offered employment.

Lackawanna College offers a unique opportunity to obtain certification from its Police Academy along with an associate degree in Criminal Justice in two years. Academy graduates earn up to 21 Lackawanna College credits towards a Criminal Justice Degree and can use their training modules as course equivalencies for several degree requirements. Lackawanna College is the only private college in northeastern Pennsylvania that provides this combined education.

In April 2026, Scranton Police Chief Thomas Carroll and Lackawanna College Police Academy Director Kevin Mahoney announced a historic collaboration between the Scranton Police Department (SPD) and Lackawanna College that will significantly enhance police cadet training while expanding higher-education opportunities for members of the Department.

Under the agreement, which was negotiated over a period of 18 months, every Academy Cadet from Lackawanna College's Scranton and Hazleton campuses will gain access to the City of Scranton's cutting-edge, state-of-the-art training technology. This includes the Axon Virtual Reality systems and the MILO 180-degree immersive range theater, a state-of-the-art, multi-screen training system designed to deliver highly realistic, scenario-based firearms and use-of-force training. The partnership will also expose cadets to modern law-enforcement tools such as unmanned aerial systems (drones), advanced forensic technology, and contemporary tactical equipment. This is designed to ensure graduates are prepared for the evolving demands of 21st-century policing.

Lackawanna College police cadets will also be able to participate in ride-along programs with the SPD, providing valuable real-world exposure to patrol operations and community policing initiatives.

"This partnership represents a major step forward in how we prepare future officers for the realities of modern law enforcement," said Kevin Mahoney, Director of Lackawanna College Police Academy. "By combining advanced technology, realistic training environments, and strong academic support, we are setting a new standard for excellence and professionalism in police training."

As the Academy heads into 2027 and its 50th Anniversary, we wish to congratulate the LCPA and Director Kevin Mahoney on this historic achievement!

Did you know?



Lackawanna County was created on August 13, 1878, following decades of trying to gain its independence from Luzerne County. Lackawanna was Pennsylvania's last county to be created, and the only county to be created after the American Civil War. It is named after the Lackawanna River.

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pennsylvania

STATE POLICE

The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) extends its sincere gratitude and congratulations to Colonel Christopher Paris (ret) of the Pennsylvania State Police for his many years of outstanding service, leadership, and unwavering dedication to the Commission and to law enforcement in the Commonwealth.



Colonel (ret) Christopher Paris received an award for all his years of service and many contributions to the Commission. Along with Colonel Paris is MPOETC Executive Director Major William Brown (left) and Acting PSP Commissioner, Lt Col George Bivens (right)

OFFICER SPOTLIGHT

The Law Enforcement Medal of Valor is the District Attorney's most prestigious award. It is presented to those select law enforcement officials who bravely place their lives at risk to protect the citizens of Montgomery County.

On May 26, 2026, Corporal Anthony Fischer of the Pottstown Borough Police Department, was awarded the Medal of Valor for bravery and exemplary performance in what began as a routine call for a domestic violence incident turned nearly fatal when the defendant resisted arrest and attempted to disarm Corporal Fischer, shooting Fischer in the femoral artery.



**Corporal
Anthony Fischer**

**District Attorney
Kevin Steele**



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LOOKING FOR NEW HIRES?



Below is a list of academies and the number of pre-hire officers available for hire.

Allegheny County Police Training Academy- 2

Allentown Police Academy- 5

Delaware County Community College- 15

Harrisburg Area Community College- 4

Indiana University of Pennsylvania- 10

Lackawanna College- 12

Mansfield University- 8

Mercyhurst University Police Academy- 20

Montgomery County Community College- 24

Penn Highlands Police Academy- 6

Temple University Police Academy- 7

Westmoreland County Community College- 23



A REMINDER FROM CERTIFICATION...

As a friendly reminder, police departments are required to notify MPOETC whenever an officer is determined to have a permanent physical or psychological impairment that would prevent them from performing the essential duties of a police officer. Reporting this information allows MPOETC to take any necessary action regarding certification status and helps ensure that officers who are no longer fit for duty do not seek employment with another agency, as other agencies may not be aware of the circumstances.

Departments may submit this information by emailing the MPOETC's secure Certification Resource Account at mpocertification@pa.gov or by calling (717) 346-7748.

Additionally, departments are required to report any arrest of a certified officer for a disqualifying offense within 15 days of the arrest. MPOETC does receive notifications of Pennsylvania criminal arrests through the CLEAN system because certified officers are fingerprinted as part of the certification process. However, MPOETC does not receive notifications for arrests that occur outside of Pennsylvania or under federal or military jurisdiction.

Please remember to report any disqualifying arrests through the "Report Criminal Arrest/Conviction" option located on your department's TACS dashboard.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to maintaining the professionalism, integrity, and public trust expected of Pennsylvania's certified law enforcement officers.

-Christopher Clark, Director of Certification



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www.psp.pa.gov/mpoetc



HONORING THE FALLEN



E.O.W
03/08/26



E.O.W.
05/29/26

Pennsylvania State Police Corporal Timothy O'Connor was shot and killed during a traffic stop in West Caln Township, near the intersection of Michael Road and Route 10, at approximately 8:24 p.m.

While responding to a complaint about an erratic driver, Corporal O'Connor located and pulled the vehicle over. When Corporal O'Connor approached the vehicle, the driver shot from inside the vehicle, fatally wounding Corporal O'Connor.

The driver was found near the vehicle, deceased from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Corporal Timothy O'Connor had served with the Pennsylvania State Police for over 15 years. He also served with the West Chester Fire Company. Survivors include his wife, daughter, mother, father, brother, sister, and nephews.

Central Berks Regional Police Officer Kristen Yeager was killed in an automobile crash near the intersection of W Philadelphia Avenue and Manatawny Road in Earl Township, while responding to assist a neighboring agency.

Officer Yeager was ejected from her patrol car after it left the roadway and struck a tree while she was responding to the emergency call shortly before 8:00 pm. She was transported to a local hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries.

Officer Yeager had served with the Central Berks Regional Police Department for two and a half years. Survivors include her husband and three children.



ADMINISTRATIONS/CERTIFICATION

ACT 120 APPLICATIONS AND CERTIFICATION,
ACT 120 INSTRUCTOR APPLICATION AND
CERTIFICATION

EMAIL: MPOCERTIFICATION@PA.GOV

TELEPHONE: (717) 346-4086

FAX: (717) 346-7781 OR (717) 346-7782

TRAINING

BASIC TRAINING CURRICULUM, MANDATORY IN-
SERVICE TRAINING, RETIRED LAW
ENFORCEMENT IDENTIFICATION ACT

EMAIL: MPOTRAINING@PA.GOV

TELEPHONE: (717) 346-4086

FAX: (717) 346-7781 OR (717) 346-7782

GRANT REIMBURSEMENT

CONTINUING LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION
REIMBURSEMENT (MIST) BASIC TRAINING
TUITION/SALARY

EMAIL: RA-SPMPOFSS@PA.GOV

TELEPHONE: (717) 346-4086

FAX: (717) 346-7781 OR (717) 346-7782

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS/INSPECTIONS

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE/SCHOOL
INSPECTIONS

EMAIL: MPOSTANDARDS@PA.GOV

TELEPHONE: (717) 346-4086

FAX: (717) 346-7781 OR (717) 346-7782

**MPOETC WILL BE CLOSED ON THE
FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS FOR THE PURPOSE
OF PUBLIC BUSINESS:**

JULY 3, 2026 (INDEPENDENCE DAY)

SEPTEMBER 7, 2026 (LABOR DAY)

The Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission was established in 1974 to set hiring and training standards for police departments in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through strict certification procedures and standardized basic and continuing professional in-service training for police officers. The Commission needs the support of the entire law enforcement community, state and local government officials, and the public to be successful. Please circulate this *Newsletter* throughout your agency and to the government officials in your municipality. The quarterly newsletter is also available on the MPOETC website at <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/mpoetc/resources/newsletters-and-annual-reports.html>

