



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 49, ISSUE 5 MARCH 2025

MAJOR WILLIAM A. BROWN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Vacancy
Township Official of the First Class

Vacancy
Non-commissioned Police Officer

Vacancy
Non-commissioned Police Officer

MAJOR NEWS

As of March 2025, PA municipal police academies have seen a 41% increase in enrollment compared to the previous year. As a result, there has been a greater demand for Act 89 Grant reimbursement funding.

The original Act 89 Grant which provides MPOETC with \$5 million dollar annually has been nearly depleted, due to the increased demands for reimbursement. This grant allows for partial reimbursement of tuition and salaries for hired officers attending one of the 18 municipal police academies.

During the March 2025 quarterly MPOETC meeting, the Commission voted to postpone processing Act 89 Grant reimbursement applications until the end of the current fiscal year. All remaining funds will be equitably dispersed among agencies that apply for Grant reimbursement through June 30, 2025, and will be processed on or after July 1, 2025.

MPOETC has requested additional Act 89 funding for FY 2025. Further guidance and information will be provided.

-Major William A. Brown, Executive Director

EDUCATORS EDGE

As of the publishing of this newsletter, approximately 11,000 officers completed at least one of the four MIST courses for 2025. At the end of December 2024, we had nearly 400 officers scrambling to complete their MIST to maintain certification. It's not required, but we would like to see every officer complete the four courses by the end of June. We understand "things happen" like injuries that prevent people from completing their MIST on time, but by getting them done in the first half of the year, you don't have to worry about it!

I'm happy to report MPOETC has formed a Control Tactics working group of experts from around the Commonwealth to improve the current program. Consisting of a wide range of disciplines with instructors from departments and academies, we are reviewing how we train and approve instructors, the annual training requirements, and basic academy curriculum. This is the first such review since the program was developed in 2021 with the goal of providing more effective, legally defensible training for every officer in the state. Contrary to popular belief, we are not trying to turn every officer into a professional MMA fighter but to give them the basic tools to be effective and have a minimum standard, much like the handgun qualification course.

Be well-

Michael Corricelli, Director of Training



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention Control Tactics Instructors

If you are still operating as a “Temporary MIST Instructor” for Control Tactics/Use of Force, you must upgrade to a Certified MPOETC instructor **NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2025**.

After that date, you will no longer be authorized to conduct CT training for your department.

If you need to upgrade, simply complete an MPO 239: <https://tinyurl.com/hmm2hv27> and submit it to ra-mpotraining@pa.gov along with a copy of your most recent Instructor Development Course certificate. If you are unsure if you’ve already upgraded, email MPOETC and we can confirm for you.

Commission Meeting Highlights

On March 12-13, 2025, the Municipal Police Officers’ Education and Training Commission held its regular quarterly meeting in Pittsburgh at the Sheraton Hotel at Station Square. On Wednesday afternoon, March 12, 2025, the Commissioners held committee meetings to discuss the business of the Commission. On Thursday morning, March 13, 2025, the Commissioners met in an Executive Committee meeting, which was followed by the formal meeting of the full Commission, where they took the following actions:

- The Commission voted to disperse the remaining Act 89 grant funds for fiscal year 2024-2025 equally to all grant reimbursement applications that have not yet been approved and to all applications received up to June 30, 2025.
- The Commission voted to discontinue grant reimbursements for mandatory in-service training for the remainder of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- The Commission revoked certifications of two officers: One officer for conviction of simple assault and one officer for convictions of the following disqualifying offenses: Recklessly Endangering another Person and Propulsion of missiles into an occupied vehicle or roadway.
- The next Commission meeting will be held June 10-11, 2025, at the Omni Bedford Springs Resort, Bedford, PA 15522.

NEXT MEETING:

JUNE 10-11, 2025

**THE OMNI BEDFORD
SPRINGS RESORT
2138 BUSINESS 220
BEDFORD, PA 15522
814-632-8100**



NEW AGENCY EXECUTIVES

**CHIEF JOSHUA HALTERMAN- EAST GREENVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
(MONTGOMERY COUNTY)**

CHIEF JARED HAHN- LITITZ BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT (LANCASTER COUNTY)

**CHIEF FRANK LOMBARDO- SOUTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
(LEHIGH COUNTY)**

CHIEF RICHARD POLLINO- RICHLAND TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT (CAMBRIA COUNTY)

**CHIEF CHRISTOPHER KRINER- LYCOMING REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
(LYCOMING COUNTY)**

**CHIEF KRISTOPHER KRUZELAK- SANDY TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT AND DUBOIS CITY
POLICE DEPARTMENT (CLEARFIELD COUNTY)**

**CHIEF JOSEPH KELLY III- LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
(BUCKS COUNTY)**

WHAT'S NEW AT MPOETC?

The Training Unit is pleased to welcome **Matthew Lamade, Ph.D.** as a Police Training Education Specialist. Matt brings a wealth of experience in emergency services, including 14 years as a law enforcement officer and 18 years as a firefighter and EMT. Most recently, he served as a police officer with the Bradford Township Police Department in McKean County, where he held roles as a firearms instructor, armorer, and SFST instructor. Matt holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Safety with a specialization in Emergency Management and a concentration in Homeland Security. He also earned a Master of Arts in Criminology and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. In addition to his law enforcement and emergency services background, Matt has served four years as an instructor at the Helms School of Government at Liberty University, where he has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in criminal justice and fire science. Furthermore, he has served as a subject matter expert, dissertation chair, and committee member for doctoral students.

Join us in joyous celebration for **Jourdan Knapp**, our esteemed Administrative Manager, and her wonderful husband, Ed! On December 19, 2024, the Knapp family was blessed with the arrival of their precious daughter, Nora Alyse Knapp—a delightful Christmas gift! We're thrilled to share that Nora is a happy and healthy baby girl, making her grand entrance just in time to light up the holiday season of 2024. Congratulations to the Knapp's on this beautiful addition to their family!

As you may have noticed, the *Newsletter* has changed! We hope you enjoy the new format. Questions, comments, and information for inclusion in the Newsletter are always welcome. This is your opportunity to submit your concerns or suggestions to the Commission. To do so, please Contact Executive Director, Major William A. Brown or the Editor, Suzanne M. Williams by calling toll free 1-800-342-0858. The Commission can be contacted at mpotraining@pa.gov



QUARTERLY LEGAL UPDATES



TYPE: Legal Update

TITLE: Investigative Detention/Forced Abandonment

Content: Commonwealth v. James 2812 EDA 2023 (02/26/2025)

FACTS: In September 2022, Philadelphia Police Officer Michael Duffy (“Officer Duffy”) and his partner were on marked police issued dirt bikes patrolling the area of 500 Ritner Street, Philadelphia, when they responded to a person “screaming” in nearby Mifflin Square Park. A Spanish-speaking woman “flagged [them] down,” became “excited,” and pointed to four men, including James, who were exiting the park. With her daughter interpreting, the woman stated they “just assaulted” her son. The woman’s son was not on the scene.

Officer Duffy mounted his bike and rode in the direction of the four men. Officer Duffy observed three of the men run away from the park, but James remained walking. When Officer Duffy pulled up to James, James “bladed his body [sic]” away from the officer. James was wearing all black clothing and had a black Nike satchel around his shoulder.

Officer Duffy instructed James to stop several times, but James did not stop. The officer reached out to “grab” James but was unsuccessful. James ran away from the officer. Officer Duffy pursued James on his bike but did not turn on the bike’s lights or siren. Officer Duffy did not draw his weapon prior to or during this chase.

After a pursuit spanning approximately thirty seconds, Officer Duffy stopped James.¹ James no longer had the black Nike satchel. Backup responding officers secured James while Officer Duffy searched for the satchel. Officer Duffy found it in a blue recycling bin. Officer Duffy believed the satchel contained a firearm due to its weight and his experience, explaining “it’s a newer way that individuals are carrying firearms in . . . satchels.” Inside the satchel, the officer recovered a nine-millimeter silver Taurus firearm with seven live rounds, three bags of marijuana, a debit card in James’ name, and \$50 cash.

James filed a motion to suppress the evidence of the satchel, and its contents based on a theory of forced abandonment. The trial court held a hearing, where Officer Duffy testified to the above events, and the Commonwealth played a video recording captured by Officer Duffy’s body camera.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the trial court found Officer Duffy initially conducted an investigative detention, and he possessed the requisite reasonable suspicion to do so. The court reasoned “[t]here clearly was enough information for the officer to investigate” the alleged assault. However, the court found his attempt to grab James was “coercive” and “cross[ed] the line” into a detainment. The trial court then determined Officer Duffy did not have probable cause to attempt to grab, nor subsequently chase, James. Thus, it concluded the doctrine of forced abandonment applied and granted suppression.

ISSUE: 1. “Did the [trial] court erroneously suppress the firearm that [James] abandoned while being pursued during a lawful investigative detention that was supported by reasonable suspicion?”

2. The Commonwealth argues that the trial court erred in applying the doctrine of forced abandonment to the satchel.

RULING: The Superior Court did not disturb the trial court’s finding that Officer Duffy had the requisite reasonable suspicion to initiate an investigative detention, they did hold the court erred by finding that the officer’s actions escalated the detention into a seizure requiring probable cause.

The Superior Court concluded the encounter remained a lawful investigative detention, for which Officer Duffy possessed reasonable suspicion, they held that suppression under the theory of forced abandonment was improper.

[J-S40035-24o - 106285036301174879.pdf](#)



Did you know?

Some of the oldest continuously operating police departments in the United States are in Pennsylvania. For example, the Philadelphia Police Department was established in 1854, making it one of the oldest in the nation. This long history reflects the state's significant role in the development of modern policing practices in America.



The Philadelphia Police Department, known by many as the PPD, is the nation's fourth largest police department, with more than 5,400 sworn and 800 civilian members. The PPD serves the people who live, work, and visit the 140 square miles that is home to 1.5 million people.

The Department has 21 police districts in 6 divisions which are housed under two Regional Operational Commands (ROC). The districts are commanded by Captains, the divisions are led by Inspectors and the ROCs are led by Chief Inspectors. The department is commanded by the Commissioner and his Executive Team of Deputy Commissioners.

Philadelphia Police Headquarters is located at the Philadelphia Public Safety Building (PPSB) 400 North Broad Street. The recruit training facility is in Northeast Philadelphia.





PSP Bureau of Forensic Services Marijuana and THC Guidance Update

The Deputy Chief Counsel of the Pennsylvania State Police has issued clarification on the legality of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and THC products. PSP's position is that consumable products made from hemp which contain any level of THC are **illegal** under current law.

While the PA Industrial Hemp Research Act sets the permissible concentration of Total delta 9 THC (*the sum of THC and THCA*) in industrial hemp plants and products at not more than 0.3% by dry weight, the PA Controlled Substance, Device and Cosmetic Act lists **all** tetrahydrocannabinols as Schedule I substances.

Guidance on PSP's position and more information on how the PSP Bureau of Forensic Services will report cannabis and cannabis products can be accessed through CLEAN via the CJIS Launch Pad. Once logged into CLEAN open the Links folder on the left menu bar. Select CJIS Launch Pad. Click on CJIS Training. Click on the PSP Crime Lab Info Training folder.

PSP Bureau of Forensic Services Reminder

A reminder for LE Agencies to please advise the laboratory of any evidence submissions for cases that have been closed, pled or exceptionally cleared.

We would also like to remind LE that we no longer provide questioned document or firearm distance determination examinations, and they can contact the below resources for those examinations.

The following contact information is available for Questioned Document examinations:
Federal Bureau of Investigation – Questioned Documents Unit - 703-632-8444

Please be advised that the FBI requires a case to meet certain criteria before evidence will be accepted for examination. If a case does not meet the criteria but examination is still desired, private practice questioned documents examiners are available as an alternative. Caution must be used when selecting a private examiner, as not all practitioners meet the minimum training requirements as prescribed by the Scientific Working Group for Forensic Document Examination (SWGDOC)/American Academy of Forensic Sciences Academy Standards Board (AAFS ASB). To find a qualified examiner, it is recommended to visit [Experts in the U.S. - ASQDE](#) to view a list of examiners who meet the minimum standards.

The following contact information is available for Distance Determination examinations:
Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, Quantico, VA: 703-632-7010
Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner Forensic Laboratory: 412-350-6067
Philadelphia Police Department Office of Forensic Science: 215-685-3169

Cases not meeting the submission requirement(s) of the above laboratories can contact private laboratories with the ability to perform Distance Determination examination can be contacted. Discretion should be used when selecting a private laboratory to ensure they meet the desired accreditation requirements before submission. The following resources can be used to make that determination:

AFTE Expert Referral link: <https://afte.org/resources/expert-referral>

AFTE Certified Members Roster: <https://afte.org/afte-certification/certified-member-roster>

ACADEMY OF THE QUARTER



The Municipal Police Academy developed from Temple University of Pennsylvania desire to train its own campus safety personnel. In 1968, the unit was formed with the task of creating a 350-hour training program for Campus Safety Officers (in later years they became the Temple University Campus Police). In subsequent years, TUPA provided similar training services to other policing agencies. For example, between 1969 and 1980 Criminal Justice Training Program provided 80-hours of training to every academy class graduating from the Philadelphia Police Department. In 1974 and 1975 the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission was formed, and two Acts passed, Act 120 and Act 235. Temple University became certified by the Commonwealth as a school/academy to administer these programs. Since that time, TUPA has provided basic training to municipal, transit, housing, park, capitol, and campus police officers. Please contact Jeff Nowak for inquiries of cadets looking for employment opportunities <mailto:policeacademy@temple.edu>

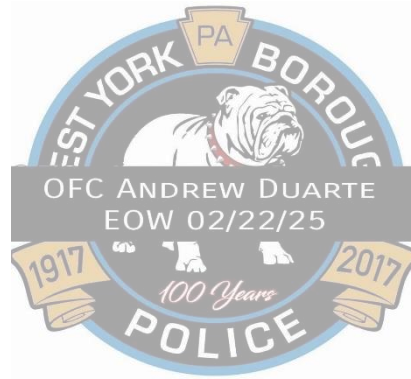
OFFICER SPOTLIGHT

On 12/20/24 Lieutenant Brian Curtis, of the Mechanicsburg Police Department, graduated from the University of Virginia with a master's in public safety. Brian also was hired as an adjunct professor at Elizabethtown College in January of 2025.

Congratulations Brian!!



HONORING THE FALLEN



Patrolman Andrew Duarte was shot and killed while responding to reports of an active shooter at the UPMC Memorial Hospital on Innovation Drive and Roosevelt Avenue in York at 10:43 a.m.

A subject entered the UPMC Memorial Hospital ICU on Saturday morning and started firing before taking employees hostage. When officers arrived at the scene, the subject shot at officers and ordered them to retreat. Despite efforts to talk to the shooter, he refused to engage. When he emerged from the ICU, he was holding a female hostage, whose hands were bound with zip ties, at gunpoint. A firefight ensued, and Patrolman Duarte was struck. The subject was shot and killed.

Two other law enforcement officers and three hospital staff members were also shot.

In 2021, Patrolman Duarte received a hero award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving for his work in enforcing impaired driving in Colorado.

Patrolman Duarte had served with the West York Borough Police Department for over two years and previously served with the Denver Police Department for five years. He is survived by his mother.

Source: <http://www.odmp.org>





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

MAY 26, 2025 (MEMORIAL DAY)

JUNE 19, 2025 (JUNETEENTH)

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

COUNTINUING LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION
REIMBURSEMENT (MIST) BASIC TRAINING
TUTION/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

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>

