



NEWSLETTER

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EDUCATOR'S EDGE

Does training ever end for a police officer? The correct answer should be a resounding “NO!” Recognizing we can’t escape certain requirements like legal updates, training shouldn’t be seen as punitive or a waste of time. Training is what separates the professionals from the amateurs and can possibly keep you alive!

Think about this for a minute: How many officers do you know finish the academy and never do another push-up or run other than chasing their kids or pets around the yard? How many officers practice with their duty weapon and off-duty weapon other than mandatory annual qualifications? The list of shortcomings goes on and on about what we could do but chose not to because “we’re so busy.”

All we have to do is watch the multitudes of videos out there and realize proper, recurring training could have fixed many mistakes that get officers hurt or worse.

For this quarter, let’s focus on firearms and first aid! I often hear officers say, my chief won’t provide ammunition, and I can’t afford to buy it myself. Although nothing beats live fire, you can do dry-fire practice and get huge benefits. When was the last time you practiced just working a smooth, fast draw stroke from the holster with an empty gun? Can you do it with your off hand only if your primary hand is incapacitated? Do you ever practice just drawing with your primary or off-hand only on your off-duty holster? Can you complete magazine changes with one hand? How about off-hand only? Lastly, can you re-holster your sidearm without taking your eyes off your threat and looking down? Usually, the people that argue that point never had to go to hands on with someone...

Using the same concepts, do you carry a tourniquet and some sort of trauma packing materials? Can you get to it with either hand and correctly apply a tourniquet to yourself? Do you know when to apply a tourniquet versus a pressure dressing? Again, be honest with yourself when you answer these questions.

Let’s face it, as we’ve witnessed far too often lately, we can’t protect ourselves from every threat. Despite the advances in technology regarding communications, weapons, and safety equipment, we still have to be proficient in their use. So, if we can’t eliminate danger from our jobs what can we do to mitigate the threat and increase our odds of survival? We can make a personal commitment to get in better physical shape and more proficient with our tools by increasing the training we do every year.

Thank you and be safe!

Michael Corricelli, Director of Training

****(Editor’s Note: Do not practice retention drills with live weapons)***



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

HACC APPOINTS NEW ACADEMY DIRECTOR- PHILIP SNAVELY

Philip Snavely retired from the Ephrata Police Department after 27 years, including 20 years in leadership roles as Patrol Sergeant and Administrative Sergeant, where he managed critical incident response, officer training, and policy initiatives. Beyond policing, he serves as Fire Chief of the Annville Cleona Fire Department and Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for Ephrata Borough. A University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown graduate with a bachelor's degree in Political Science, he completed advanced leadership training through Penn State, FBI-LEEDA, and FBI National Academy Associates.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY APPOINTS NEW ACADEMY DIRECTOR- LOUIS BLAUTH

Inspector Louis Blauth, who joined the Allegheny County Police Department in 2003 as a patrolman, currently leads the Training Division and serves as Interim Director of the Allegheny County Police Training Academy, overseeing law enforcement education across the county. After earning his Juris Doctor from Duquesne University School of Law in 2006, he expanded his role to include teaching legal courses for recruit and in-service training, developing policies, and creating training curricula. Since 2011, he has spearheaded the department's accreditation efforts and continues to manage the reaccreditation process. An Army veteran, Blauth holds a bachelor's degree in Administration of Justice from the University of Pittsburgh.

Commission Meeting Highlights

On September 10-11, 2025, the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission held its regular quarterly meeting at the Inn at Villanova University in Radnor, PA. On Wednesday afternoon, September 10, 2025, the Commissioners held committee meetings to discuss the business of the Commission. On Thursday morning, September 11, 2025, 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 voted to approve four 2027 Mandatory In-Service Training (MIST) topics to include Legal Updates, Law Enforcement Response to Autistic Persons, Law Enforcement Response to Domestic Violence, and Gang Awareness and Identification.
- The Commission voted to set the reimbursable amount for MIST courses at 25 dollars per officer for each of the four approved courses.
- The Commission voted to approve the creation of a new Act 120 police academy at Bucks County Community College and voted to approve the creation of a new Act 120 police academy at Luzerne County Community College.
- The Commission revoked certifications for three officers for convictions of the following offenses: one for Possession and Distribution of a Controlled Substance (methamphetamine); one for Simple Assault and Reckless Endangerment; and one for Retail theft.
- The Commission voted to approve PA Act 60 standards related to the revised training and certification standards for municipal police canine teams.

NEXT MEETING:

DECEMBER 10-11, 2025

MPOETC

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17112

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QUARTERLY LEGAL UPDATES



TYPE: Legal Update

TITLE: DUI and Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) as sentencing enhancement.

Content: [Commonwealth v. Shifflett](#), ___ Pa. ___, 335 A.3d 1158 (5/30/25)

FACTS:

In 2012, George Thomas Shifflett was charged with driving under the influence (DUI) and accepted into an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) program. In 2022, Shifflett was involved in another DUI incident and was charged as a second-time offender based on his previous ARD acceptance. Shifflett pled guilty to the 2022 DUI but contested the use of his 2012 ARD as a prior offense for sentencing purposes, arguing it was unconstitutional under *Alleyne v. United States*.

The Adams County Court of Common Pleas granted Shifflett's motion to exclude evidence of his 2012 ARD and sentenced him as a first-time offender. The Commonwealth appealed, and the Superior Court vacated the sentence, remanding for resentencing as a second-time offender, citing recent Superior Court decisions that overruled *Commonwealth v. Chichkin*, which had held that using ARD as a prior offense for sentencing was unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania reviewed the case to determine if considering Shifflett's ARD as a prior offense for sentencing violated *Alleyne*. The Court held that ARD does not equate to a conviction because it lacks the procedural safeguards of a criminal trial, such as the right to a jury trial and the requirement of proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Therefore, using ARD as a prior offense for sentencing enhancement is unconstitutional under *Alleyne*.

The Court concluded that Section 3806 of the Motor Vehicle Code, which includes ARD in the definition of a prior offense, is facially unconstitutional to the extent it allows ARD to be used for sentencing enhancement. The Court reversed the Superior Court's order and remanded the case for reinstatement of Shifflett's original sentence as a first-time offender.



CANVAS
BY INSTRUCTURE

MPOETC Rolls out Canvas Learning Management System

In February 2025, MPOETC procured Canvas as a modern learning and testing platform to improve efficiency and reliability across the Commonwealth. After a successful pilot, Canvas was officially launched in April 2025 for Certification Exams and Partial-Waiver Assessments, fully replacing the traditional pencil-and-paper, scantron-style testing process.

Since its rollout, Canvas has been used to administer 23 Certification Exams and 12 Partial-Waiver Assessments, with over 500 candidates tested to date. The system has been successfully implemented at police academies statewide, as well as in all exams administered directly by MPOETC.

Looking ahead, Canvas will also serve as a key platform for the 2026 MIST train-the-trainer workshops, expanding its role as a cornerstone of MPOETC training and education. MPOETC continues to explore additional ways to leverage Canvas to streamline services, strengthen testing, and enhance training opportunities for Pennsylvania's municipal police officers.



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NEW AGENCY EXECUTIVES

CHIEF JUSTIN BOUCH – MIDDLESEX TOWNSHIP PD (BUTLER COUNTY)

CHIEF ROB HAUS – ARNOLD POLICE DEPARTMENT (WESTMORELAND COUNTY)

CHIEF JOSEPH D. KELLY, III – LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP PD (BUCKS COUNTY)

CHIEF ADAM LEWIS – CLYMER BOROUGH PD (INDIANA COUNTY)

CHIEF JEFFREY O'BRIEN – SOUDERTON BOROUGH PD (MONTGOMERY COUNTY)

CHIEF MICHAEL TRAIL – NORRISTOWN BOROUGH PD (MONTGOMERY COUNTY)

WHAT'S NEW AT



Captain Patrick Dougherty is the new Assistant Director of Training. He enlisted in the Pennsylvania State Police in 2004, and rose through the ranks to become a Captain, serving as Commanding Officer of Troop P (Wilkes-Barre). Previously, as a Lieutenant, he commanded the Criminal Investigation Section. Throughout his twenty-plus year career with PSP, Captain Dougherty was previously assigned to Troop R (Dunmore), Troop B (Washington) and Troop P. He holds a bachelor's degree in professional studies from Misericordia University, has completed the Northwest University School of Police Staff and Command (Class 478), and earned commendations including a Certificate of Commendation from the U.S. Department of Justice for TF Mafia racketeering arrests.

Jessica Nelson was promoted to the position of Bureau Administrative Manager. Jessica has been with PSP since 2012 and has held positions as a Clerk Typist II within the Bureau of Records and Identification, Accounting Assistant in the Criminal Records PATCH Unit, and most recently as an Administrative Assistant 1 within our Certification Unit.

Katy Schrinier was promoted to the position of Administrative Assistant 1 in the Certification Unit from Clerical Assistant 3 in the Lethal Weapons Unit. Before her recent promotion, she was part of the Lethal Weapons Unit, also known as Act 235 Certification Unit. Katy has provided excellent customer service and takes pride in helping enlisted members and civilians with any issue that occurs. Katy has 3 years of service at PSP.

MIST 2026 ANNOUNCED

26-001 - Legal Updates (Mandatory):

This three-hour course will review recent statutory changes and additions to PA Crimes Code, Vehicle Code, and Rules of Criminal Procedures. Significant state and federal case laws will also be highlighted.

26-002 - Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) (Mandatory):

This three-hour course will provide officers with the understanding and resources to effectively de-escalate interactions with those suffering from mental illnesses. Officers will learn more effective problem-solving techniques to promote positive outcomes when responding to high intensity incidents.

26-003 - Trauma Informed Policing (Optional):

This three-hour course will train officers to understand how trauma impacts victims as well as the officers themselves. It will provide tools to better establish trust and rapport with their community all while providing more effective policing. It will also empower officers to better understand how repeated exposure to trauma impacts them and resources to work through the issues.

26-004 - Responding to Child Abuse allegations (Optional):

This course will provide the officers with the basic tools to recognize and triage an initial report of physical or sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or criminal neglect of a child. Officers will understand how to ensure the safety of the child and preservation of potential evidence as well as what resources are available for further investigation.

Did you know?

The State College Police Department, serving a college town with 50,000 residents, traces back to 1896's High Constable George W. Taylor.



8 Chiefs Since 1916!

Its first full-time officer was hired in 1916.

Robert Mingle served the Borough from 1916-1925 and patrolled 30-35 miles daily on foot for \$60.00 a month!

- Robert Mingle: 1916 to 1925
- Albert E Yougel: 1925 to 1936
- Martin L. Kaufmann: 1936 to 1939
- John J. Juba: 1939 to 1970
- Herbert Wm. Straley, Jr.: 1970 to 1973
- Elwood G. Williams, Jr.: 1974 to 1993
- Thomas R. King: 1993 to 2016
- John F. Gardner: 2016 to Present

ACPD Welcomes Two New Additions to Command Staff

The Allegheny County Police Department (ACPD) has promoted Lieutenant Brett Whittenberger and Patrol Officer Louis Blauth to the rank of Inspector. Whittenberger, a 2006 ACPD veteran, previously directed the Allegheny County Police Training Academy, overseeing regional officer training and securing facility upgrades. He will attend the FBI National Academy and then lead the Pittsburgh International Airport team. Blauth, who joined in 2003 and earned a law degree from Duquesne University, has served as a patrol officer, rewritten department policies, liaised with the County Law Department, and managed accreditation. He will now oversee the Training Division as Director of the Police Training Academy. Congratulations to both!



POLICE ACADEMY OF THE QUARTER



The Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) Police Academy, established in 1975 as the Criminal Justice Training Center, celebrates its **50th anniversary** in 2025. Over the past half-century, the academy has trained over 5,000 cadets across 16 satellite locations, earning certification from the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) and securing its second accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

Recently, the academy partnered with the Armstrong-Indiana Behavioral and Developmental Health Program to integrate Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training into its Act 120 program, extending this training to first responders in Indiana and Armstrong Counties.

Beyond Act 120, the academy offers programs like MIST (Act 180), Act 235 (Lethal Weapons Training), Act 67 School Security Personnel training (online via PCCD), and various instructor courses. The academy has modernized with virtual reality training, an audio/video-enhanced scenario room, a mat room, a gym, and renovated classrooms.

As a stand-alone program, IUP allows qualified candidates to earn 15 college credits upon graduation. Its graduates serve across Pennsylvania and beyond, reflecting its enduring impact.

MPOETC Training Director Corricelli Delivers Keynote at Pittsburgh PD

On Wednesday, June 25, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police held a graduation ceremony, swearing in twenty-eight new officers from Basic Recruit Class 24-03.

Director Mike Corricelli delivered the keynote address. He encouraged cadets to "serve with honor". Mike also encouraged the new officers to take care of themselves and continue to train. Finally, he welcomed the new officers to the family and encouraged them to find a good mentor.



In Other News...



pennsylvania STATE POLICE

PSP Bureau of Forensic Services

AFIS submissions – when including a name and DOB for suspects/accused, the SID should also be included in the comments field. This will ensure we have the correct individual for comparison.

Elimination fingerprints and palm prints from victims, witnesses, and other persons who may have had legitimate access to a crime scene should be obtained for all submissions to the AFIS Section. If elimination fingerprints and palm prints are not submitted with the latent prints, they will **not** be searched through AFIS. Reference OM 7-7, chapter 5.

There have been multiple instances where evidence submitted to the laboratories has not been properly sealed. To avoid potential chain of custody issues during court proceedings, it is imperative that agencies ensure evidence submissions are properly sealed when they are submitted to the laboratory. Please also ensure all items being submitted are entered into Prelog prior to submission. OM 7-7, Chapter 4, Section B – Procedures for Submission of Evidence should be referenced as needed and periodically reviewed.

OFFICER SPOTLIGHT

On August 28, 2025, Lancaster City police officers raced to a report of a woman struggling in the murky, waist-deep waters of the Conestoga River, just south of Holly Pointe Nature Preserve. Upon arrival and without a moment's pause, Officer Detwiler tore off his outer carrier vest and plunged into the cold, muddy river. As he called out to the woman, she ignored his urgent commands and turned toward deeper waters. Undeterred, Officer Ben Detwiler pressed forward, closing the gap quickly until he reached her. He was able to secure her to prevent her from slipping away. With the swift support of his partner, Officer Ryan Hockley, he was able to bring her safely to shore. EMS rushed to treat the woman, revealing she was on the edge of hypothermia—a stark reminder of the officers' life-saving intervention.



OFFICER DETWILER



The Lancaster City Bureau of Police is a full-service police department providing services to the City of Lancaster.

The department is the largest and only urban law enforcement agency in Lancaster County, serving nearly 60,000 residents.

The station is in the heart of downtown Lancaster City.



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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- **14**

Community College of Beaver County- **15**

Delaware County Community College- **22**

Harrisburg Area Community College- **2**

Indiana University of Pennsylvania/CNX- **8/7**

Lackawanna College- **35**

Mansfield University- **7**

Montgomery County Community College- **14**

Pennsylvania Highlands Community College- **3**

Reading Police Academy- **1**

Temple University- **12**

Westmoreland County Community College- **22**

176 Cadets are available for hire. Please reach out to any of these academies for more information.



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HONORING THE FALLEN



Det. Sgt. Cody Becker, 39

Det. Isaiah Emenheiser, 43

Det. Mark Baker, 53

On September 17, 2025, three Northern York County Regional Police Department detectives—Detective Sergeant Cody Becker (39), Detective Isaiah Emenheiser (43), and Detective Mark Baker (53)—were fatally shot in an ambush while serving a warrant in North Codorus Township, York County, Pennsylvania. Two other officers, one from the same department and Lieutenant David Godfrey from the York County Sheriff's Office, were critically wounded but survived in stable condition. The suspect, a 24-year-old man, was killed by police gunfire during the exchange. The incident stemmed from a domestic violence investigation involving the man alleged stalking of his ex-girlfriend.

Det. Sgt. Cody Becker: Detective Sergeant Cody “Booker” Becker, a 16-year veteran of the Northern York County Regional Police Department, was a natural leader whose high school and college athletic prowess foreshadowed his courageous career. In 2010, he fearlessly scaled a burning building to save children, earning deep admiration from his peers and community. He is survived by his devoted wife and two beloved children, leaving an enduring legacy of bravery and service.

Det. Isaiah Emenheiser: Detective Isaiah “Izzy” Emenheiser, a 20-year veteran of the Northern York County Regional Police Department and a York College criminal justice graduate, exemplified courage and commitment throughout his distinguished career. His service included a tenure with the U.S. Secret Service and a remarkable 104 DUI arrests in 2010, earning him Officer of the Year honors. In 2005, he heroically rescued a man from a burning mobile home, showcasing his selflessness. He leaves behind a devoted wife and two cherished children, his legacy enduring in the hearts of his family and community.

Det. Mark Baker: Detective Mark Baker, affectionately known as “Bake,” was a 21-year veteran of the Northern York County Regional Police Department, with prior service in the Philadelphia Police Department. A U.S. Army veteran and skilled computer forensics specialist, he made significant contributions to an FBI human trafficking task force, showcasing his dedication to justice. He is survived by his devoted wife, five children, and cherished grandchildren, leaving a profound legacy of service and sacrifice.

The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission extends its deepest condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of Detective Sergeant Cody Becker, Detective Isaiah Emenheiser, and Detective Mark Baker of the Northern York County Regional Police Department, who tragically lost their lives in the line of duty on September 17, 2025. We honor their exemplary service, bravery, and dedication to protecting the communities of York County, exemplified by their distinguished careers and heroic actions. MPOETC expresses profound gratitude for their sacrifices and unwavering commitment to public safety, which will forever inspire Pennsylvania's law enforcement community. **To donate, York County Safety Collab has established a website [Honor Their Service – York County Safety Collaborative](https://www.honortheirservice.org)**



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

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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

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TELEPHONE: (717) 346-4086

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

GRANT REIMBURSEMENT

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

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TELEPHONE: (717) 346-4086

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

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

OCTOBER 13, 2025 (COLUMBUS DAY)

NOVEMBER 11, 2025 (VETERANS DAY)

NOVEMBER 27-28, 2025 (THANKSGIVING)

DECEMBER 25, 2025 (CHRISTMAS)

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/m-poetc/resources/newsletters-and-annual-reports.html>



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