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DATE: June 7, 1991

SUBJECT: Testimony before House Judiciary Committee Regarding  
Operations of the Municipal Police Officers' Education  
& Training Commission

TO: Chairman, House Judiciary Committee  
Representative Thomas R. Caltagirone

FROM: Major Daniel A. Spang, Executive Director,  
Municipal Police Officers' Education &  
Training Commission

Good Morning Mr. Chairman

1. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Judiciary Committee and answer any questions the Committee Members may have concerning the mission, function and operations of the Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission.

2. The MPOETC was established on June 18, 1974 by the enactment of Act 120 of 1974, the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Law. In the late 1960's and early 70's similar Commissions were established in each state in response to a Federal Study which recognized the need to make minimum basic police training mandatory, defray the major costs of that training, and then certify graduates of that training as police officers.

3. The MPOETC is legislatively designed to be composed of a cross section of government, law enforcement, education and the public. The current members of the Commission are:

Colonel Glenn A. Walp, Pennsylvania State Police  
Commissioner and permanent Chairman

Mr. Ronald L. Jackson, representing the Secretary of  
Community Affairs

Mr. Jerome T. Foerster, Esq., representing the  
Attorney General

Senator Frank A. Salvatore, appointed by the  
President pro tempore of the Senate

Representative David J. Mayernik, appointed by  
the Speaker of the House of Representatives

The following elected officials are appointed by the  
Governor:

Mr. Stephen W. Campetti, Township Supervisor, Haverford  
Twp., Delaware County

Mr. Vincent P. Wiercinski, Mayor of Dickson City,  
Lackawanna County

Ms. Carolyn W. Young, Councilwoman, City of McKeepport,  
Allegheny County

There is a vacancy for a second class Township official.

The following Chiefs of Police are appointed by the  
Governor:

Chief William R. Collins, Fairview Twp., York County

Chief Joseph M. Kletch, Bethel Park Borough, Allegheny  
County

Chief Donald K. Mac Connell, South Whitehall Twp.,  
Lehigh County

Chief Rodney E. Steffy Sr., City of Reading, Berks County

Special Agent in Charge Wayne R. Gilbert, Philadelphia  
FBI representative, appointed by the Governor

Dr. Bart Burne, Educator in Law Enforcement, Pittston,  
Luzerne County, appointed by the Governor

Mrs. Violet L. Stover, Milheim, Centre County, representing  
the public at large, appointed by the Governor

The following noncommissioned police officers are appointed  
by the Governor:

Sgt. Warren J. Broz, Pittsburgh Police Department

Detective Robert Mitchell, Wilkes-Barre Police Department

Inspector Joseph R. Cunningham represents the Philadelphia  
Police Commissioner

Mr. Donald K. Zettlemyer, Dauphin County, represents the  
certified training schools and is appointed by the Governor

The goal of the Commission is to provide Pennsylvania  
Citizens with police officers who are:

1. Professionally trained.
2. Ethical.
3. Physically and Psychologically fit.
4. Well educated.
5. Motivated.
6. Career Oriented.
7. Sensitive to the Public needs.

The Commission attempts to meet that goal by:

1. Requiring all newly employed police officers undergo physical and psychological testing and undergo a thorough background investigation.
2. Refusing to issue a certification to persons who have been convicted of a crime punishable by more than one year imprisonment.
3. Revoking the certification of veteran police officers convicted of a crime punishable by more than one year imprisonment.
4. Requiring all newly employed police officers to successfully complete 520 hours of basic training that is based on a comprehensive task analysis of the basic patrol officers position.
5. Assisting local government by reimbursing the majority of the costs for basic training to the employing municipality.
6. Requiring all police officers to meet minimum in-service training requirements.
7. Providing funding to municipalities for non-mandatory training that can be tailored to a specific need in the municipality.

The basic and in-service training is conducted by 21 schools certified by the Commission. The schools are:

Pennsylvania State Police Academy - Hershey, Dauphin County

Pennsylvania State Police Southeast Training Center in Worcester, Montgomery County

Pennsylvania State Police Southwest Training Center in Greensburg, Westmoreland County

Pennsylvania State Police Northeast Training Center in Wyoming, Luzerne County

Pennsylvania State Police Northwest Training Center  
in Meadville, Crawford County

Allentown Police Academy, Lehigh County

Allegheny County Police Training Academy , Allegheny County

Reading Police Academy, Berks County

Mercyhurst College, Erie County

Lackawanna Junior College, Lackawanna County

Harrisburg Area Community College, Dauphin County

Montgomery County Community College, Montgomery County

Greater Johnstown Area Vo-Tech School, Cambria County

Delaware County Community College, Delaware County

Philadelphia Police Academy, Philadelphia County

Temple University, Philadelphia County

Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana County

Beaver County Community College, Beaver County

Mansfield State University, Tioga County

Pittsburgh Police Training Academy, Allegheny County -  
at the time the school is being renovated and Pittsburgh  
officers are being trained at the PSP, Southwest Training  
Center.

Westmoreland County Community College, Westmoreland County

4. The basic training program is 520 hours in length and is based on a comprehensive task analysis of the basic patrol officers function. Each student must successfully complete 24 testing areas to graduate. The average cost to train an officer is \$6,500. In this fiscal year approximately 1000 officers completed the basic training program. In 1991-92 fiscal year we expect that 1430 officers will be eligible for reimbursement for basic training.

5. Prior to December 21, 1988 Pennsylvania municipal police officers were allowed to work as a police officer for one year without training and there were no mandatory in-service training requirements. Act 180 of 1988 eliminated this condition, and as of December 21, 1988

a police officer must meet all training requirements prior to enforcing the Crimes Code, moving violations of the Vehicle Code or

carry a firearm. Act 180 also empowered the MPOETC to establish mandatory in-service training requirements and in January of 1991 this program began. During the calendar year the approximately 22,000 municipal police officers are undergoing a twelve hour classroom training program that includes the following topics. Authority and Jurisdiction; Criminal and Civil Liability; Use of Force; Legal Update on Rules of Criminal Procedure, Crimes Code and Vehicle Code, Laws of Arrest and Evidence; and Search and Seizure emphasizing motor vehicle search. In addition each officer must maintain a current first aid and Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation Certification and qualify annually with any firearm, shotgun or rifle authorized for use by the police department. Officers who do not meet these requirements by December 31, 1991, will lose their authority to enforce the Crimes Code, moving violations of the Vehicle Code and carry a firearm because they will not have the police certification. The MPOETC does anticipate that there will be some officers who will need an extension of time to complete the training because of extended illness or other legitimate reasons. As of May 30 approximately 15,500 officers have completed the 12 hours of classroom training.

The classroom training in 1992 will involve different topics but the first aid, CPR and firearms qualification will be annual requirements.

6. I had mentioned earlier that the MPOETC grants funds to municipalities for non-mandatory In-Service programs. During the past fiscal year there was \$250,000.00 for that program and the funds were allocated by December 31, 1990. Some examples of programs funded are:

Basic Supervision - Philadelphia	\$1672.00
Arrest technique - Pittston Borough	\$ 423.50
Field Training Officer - Reading	\$2480.00
Stress and the Law Enforcement Officer - Emmaus Borough	\$1168.00
Internal Affairs Investigation - Upper Chichester Township	\$6161.00
Driver Training- Clarion Borough	\$5408.00
Drug Enforcement Technique - Butler County	\$2288.00
Police Executive Training - Lower Southampton Township	\$13,177.00

7. The 1990-91 Budget of the Commission was 7.5 million dollars. The expenditure for personnel services was \$240,00.00,

operational expenses were \$70,768, subsidies and Grants to municipalities was \$6,245,534.00. We had started the fiscal year with an anticipated deficiency of \$2,804,780.00 but by judicious use of funds, and because the Philadelphia Police Department did not hire as many officers as originally planned, we anticipate we have reduced our deficiency to approximately \$904,000.00. Our anticipated 91-92 Re-Budget request will be approximately \$10 million to cover the actual operating costs plus the deficiency.

8. You had asked me to comment on HB 194 concerning the inclusion of the Attorney General's Family Violence Task Forces' Model Protocol for Police Response to Domestic Violence cases in the basic and in-service training required by municipal police officers. The majority of Commission members are opposed to legislation that would require any specific training for police officers. The reason is that there are many groups that would like to have specific topics mandated for training. The difficulty the Commission has is that there is only so much time and so much money available. The present basic training program contains this training and it has been taught to over 3,000 officers since 1989 when the new curriculum became effective. There have been numerous training programs presented around the State by other organizations on this topic and that training is continuing. If this topic were mandated it opens the door for mandated programs on DUI, Rape Investigation, Child Abuse, Elderly Abuse, Hate Crimes, Crime Prevention and a myriad of other topics. The Commission recognizes that all of these topics are important, but would like to reserve the right to have latitude in the basic curriculum and in-service training. We only started mandatory in-service training in 1991 and there are many officers who need many basic courses to bring them up to an acceptable level and other officers are in dire need of refresher training to hone their skills. We will eventually cover all of these topics but just cannot do it as quickly as many people want.

That concludes my remarks Mr. Chairman and now I will attempt to answer any questions you or the Committee may have.