



Chiefs Newsletter

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News from the Executive Director

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Changes to Chapter 6, Section 116

As you may have heard, in Chapter 262 of the Session Laws of 2010, the legislature has inserted the University of Massachusetts (UMass) and the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP) officers into Section 116 of Chapter 6. This means the MPTC is now tasked with setting training standards for those officers in addition to its previous mandate to set standards for municipal officers. As a result of this change, UMass and MEP officers

have the same access and prioritization as do municipal officers when it comes to admission to training. Welcome aboard, UMass and MEP! To state the obvious, this change will hopefully facilitate our attempts during the next legislative session to create a POST in Massachusetts that is funded through a dedicated revenue stream, such as the automobile insurance surcharge.

“In Chapter 262 of the Session Laws of 2010, the legislature has inserted the University of Massachusetts (UMass) and the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP) officers into Section 116 of Chapter 6”

Exemptions and how they work

Since we are experiencing confusion regarding exemptions and how they work, we offer this guide. First, the General Laws allow for two kinds of exemptions: permanent (the officer does not need to attend basic recruit training) and temporary (a deferment allowing the officer to work until the next available recruit

academy, but no more than 270 days). The exemption process applies to both officers and chiefs of police who plan to exercise police powers. The quotes inserted on the next page are from 550 CMR 3.0 (Municipal Police Officer Training Requirements).

550 CMR 3.00: Municipal Police Officer Training Requirements

3.01 Authority/Purpose/Scope/Effective Date

(1) *Authority:* G.L. c. 6, s. 118.

(2) *Purpose:* In accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 30A, the Municipal Police Training Committee (“Committee” or “MPTC”) promulgates 550 CMR 3.00 in furtherance of the G.L. c. 41, s. 96B requirements that full-time municipal police officers and part-time reserve/intermittent municipal police officers be assigned to and satisfactorily complete a course of study prescribed by the Committee before exercising police powers.

(3) *Scope:* These regulations shall apply to every municipal police academy and training program operated or approved by the Committee pursuant to G.L. c. 6, s. 118.

(4) *Effective date:* 550 CMR 3.00 shall take effect on June 1, 2008

Exemptions and how they work *(continued)*

Permanent exemptions: There are two key components to qualify for a permanent exemption:

- The officer must have “successful completion of training that is substantially equivalent to or greater than that of a Massachusetts municipal police officer at a comparable level of experience.” This includes basic recruit training and subsequent in-service training. As a starting place, we would compare the number of hours of basic training the incoming officer had to what a Massachusetts officer would have attended at that same time. For example, if the lateral officer attended basic training in 1990 in Ohio, we would compare that officer’s basic training to the MPTC program from 1990.
- Plus, the officer must have “a minimum of two years of fulltime law enforcement experience since completion of the entry-level police academy.” Please note it does not restrict the experience to municipal or campus policing.

Temporary exemptions: To qualify for a temporary exemption, the department must demonstrate in writing “a documented public safety emergency or other exigent circumstance.” As an example, such exemptions may be granted for smaller departments that have experienced a large turnover. As a result, they may have several officers needing recruit training, but due to coverage issues, cannot afford to send all of them to training at one time. If such an exemption is granted, the officer has 270 days in which to enter recruit officer training, but may work as a fulltime officer in the meantime. To qualify for a temporary exemption, the officer must have:

- Current certification in first aid and CPR;
- “Current qualification in the use of firearms as certified by a Committee-approved firearms instructor;” and
- Completed a reserve/intermittent or SSPO basic training program.

Gaps/interruptions in service: If a Commonwealth officer leaves the policing profession and desires to reenter, the length of that gap in service determines the reentry requirements. First, a gap/interruption in service only occurs when the officer “has not exercised police powers substantially equivalent with those of a Massachusetts municipal police officer at a comparable level of experience.” In other words, leaving the Commonwealth to accept a police job in another state is not an interruption in service. If that officer realizes the grass was not so green on that side of the fence and desires to come back to our Great Commonwealth, as long as that officer is continuously employed as an officer while out of state, there is no interruption in service for MPTC purposes. Obviously, the department will want to conduct tune-up training, if you will, but there are no MPTC requirements. However, if the officer does leave the police profession, the following reentry requirements apply:

- Interruption of less than one (1) year:
 - No training requirements.
- Interruption of more than one (1) year, but less than two (2) years:
 - Update of certification in first aid and CPR;
 - Fire a qualifying score on the MPTC firearms qualification course; and
 - Begin attending the current professional development (in-service) training program within 90 days of being hired.

Exemptions and how they work *(continued)*

- Interruption of more than two (2) years, but less than five (5) years:
 - All of the reentry requirements above, plus
 - Complete all professional development (in-service) legal update classes not taken due to the interruption in service and pass the respective, associated written examinations; and
 - Complete any and all additional departmental training requirements.
- Interruption of five (5) years or more:
 - Completion of the fulltime or reserve/intermittent, respectively, basic recruit training or in extraordinary circumstances, “completion of alternative training requirements set forth by the Committee.”

Reserve/intermittent officers: The General Laws do not give the Committee authority to grant exemptions, either permanent or temporary, for reserve/intermittent officers. Therefore, an officer coming from another state cannot work as a reserve until the officer attends and MPTC-approved reserve/intermittent basic training program. The current MPTC-approved training standard for new reserve officers is either the 242-hour MPTC Reserve/Interruption Basic Recruit program or the 600-hour SSPO program offered by the State Police. Certainly, a full-time officer can work as a reserve for another department without attending either of these classes, with permission of course.

Application and advisory opinions: The application for an exemption can be found on our website (www.mass.gov/mptc) by clicking on the “Petition for Exemption” link in the lower right-hand corner. Although we cannot give a binding exemption until we get a formal request from the hiring authority, MPTC does offer advisory opinions. Those can be obtained by contacting Director of Training Marylou Powers at Marylou.Powers@state.ma.us or at 781-437-0302. Her assessment would then be based upon how the Committee has handled similar requests in the past. These advisory opinions non-binding and are available to officers hoping to be hired in the Commonwealth and to chiefs of police wanting to know how much training a potential candidate may need once hired.

Online Professional Development

As you likely know, we have experienced a host of challenges in getting this year’s professional development training on line. Currently, the First Aid and Sexual Assault Investigation classes are active. We anticipate the Legal Issues class will be live by mid-January and the Defensive Tactics class will be live by the end of January. I apologize for the frustrations

and inconvenience this has caused.

But help is on the way. In case you have not heard, we have doubled the size of our distance learning unit by hiring another distance learning developer. Coleen Kulchar joined us in November. She was most recently the online training administrator and program developer for the

Department of Health’s Food Protection Program and also an instructional design assistant with UMass-Boston’s distance learning program. She has a Masters of Education degree in Instructional Design and a Graduate Certificate in Instructional Technology. (Welcome aboard, Coleen!) We hope her addition to the program demonstrates our commitment to continuing

and expanding our online training opportunities.



Defensive Tactics Statewide Coordinator

As you may have heard, after many years of dedicated, loyal service to the Commonwealth and its police officers, Dave Standen has stepped down as the statewide coordinator. Dave is to be commended for taking the program to high levels and for its focus on the practical aspects of making defensive tactics a system that is easily transferable from the classroom to the street. Dave also understood the need to balance tactics and public perceptions. Without question, Dave's efforts have prevented injuries and saved lives. Thank you, Dave!!!

Statewide Coordinator Vacancies

In addition, we currently have a vacancy in the Health and Wellness coordinator position, made vacant when Chief Majenski stepped down last spring. Here are the announcements for filling the Health and Wellness and Defensive Tactics coordinator positions. Please share this information with anyone you feel may be a good choice for either of these positions. Please note that the Health and Wellness coordinator does NOT need to be a police officer.

Health and Wellness Statewide Coordinator

The Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) is looking for a qualified person to serve as the statewide coordinator for its health and wellness program. This program promotes health and fitness for police officers across the Commonwealth, both recruit and veteran officers. It includes the development and delivery of health and fitness related training and assessments. This is currently a part-time, hourly position. The person selected for the position will be expected to oversee the development and delivery of training, to chair a working group dedicated to improving police officer health and fitness, to document training and services, and to collaborate with others to achieve program goals.

Minimum qualifications:

- Certification, degree, or other credentials related to health, nutrition, and exercise physiology.
- Previous experience with supervising health and wellness-type programs.
- Police experience is a plus, but is NOT a prerequisite.

Desired skills:

- Excellent interpersonal skills
 - Attention to detail
 - Teamwork and collaboration
 - Organization
 - Planning
-

Statewide Coordinator Vacancies *(Continued)*

Defensive Tactics Statewide Coordinator

The Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) is looking for a qualified officer to serve as the statewide coordinator for its defensive tactics program. This program promotes and develops training standards and training programs for police officers across the Commonwealth. It includes the development and delivery of use-of-force and defensive tactics training and assessments, including commonly used tools, such as baton, pepper spray, handcuffs, and electronic control weapons. This is currently a part-time, hourly position. The officer selected for the position will be expected to oversee the development and delivery of training, to chair a working group dedicated to improving police officer performance, to document training and services, and to collaborate with others to achieve program goals.

Minimum qualifications:

- Currently an active, fulltime police officer with a minimum of ten (10) years of experience as a Municipal, University of Massachusetts, or Environmental police officer.
- Currently certified as an MPTC defensive tactics instructor (at any level).
- Previous experience with coordinating and supervising training programs.

Desired skills:

- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Attention to detail
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Organization
- Planning

The deadline for letters of interest for each of these positions is January 31, 2011. To apply:

A cover letter and résumé are required. At a minimum, the résumé should include descriptions of related training and certifications, an overview of programs that have been coordinated and supervised, and a list of training that has been developed and delivered. Submit the letter and résumé to and for more information, please contact:

Howard Lebowitz
Director of Programs and Standards
Municipal Police Training Committee
6 Adams Street
Randolph, MA 02368
Telephone: 781-437-0304
Email: Howard.Lebowitz@state.ma.us

Recruit Officer Training

The following recruit classes are currently scheduled. None of the MPTC classes have a float status:

- Reading Regional Police Academy:
February 28, 2011
- Western Mass Regional Police Academy:
March 7, 2011
- Lowell Police Academy:
June 6, 2011

As I have mentioned before, to help us accurately determine the need for a class, we ask you to notify Lynda Kearns with updates regarding your recruit officer training plans (AKA hiring plans), whether those plans are in the immediate future or months away. That way,

we can schedule classes that more closely meet your needs and do so in a timely, expedient manner. You can contact Lynda at Lynda.Kearns@state.ma.us or at 781-437-0306. Thank you for your help.

National Decertification Index (NDI)

As an ongoing reminder, MPTC has access to the National Decertification Index, which has data from participating POST states all over the country. The NDI is a list of officers who have been decertified and are no longer allowed to exercise

police powers in their respective states. Please feel free to contact Marylou Powers at Marlou.Powers@state.ma.us or 781-437-0302 if you would like us to see if an applicant or candidate you are considering is on that list.



Budget

At this point, no news is good news. The word on the street (and in the news) is next year's state budget will be more challenging than this year's. However, the MPTC has NOT been asked to engage in any 9C (Governor-ordered) cuts for the current fiscal year and even though we have been asked to prepare impact statements for next year's budget, no final decisions have been made.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions, comments, or con-

cerns.

But most of all, be careful out there! Dan



Dan Zivkovich, Executive Director (781) 437-0301
Municipal Police Training Committee
6 Adams Street, Randolph, MA 02368
Main Number: 781-437-0300 Fax: 781-963-0235

The mission of the Municipal Police Training Committee is to set and enforce training standards, to identify and meet the training needs of the Commonwealth's municipal police officers, to facilitate the delivery of up-to-date, state-of-the-art training, and to document training. At the same time, the MPTC must be responsive to the needs of municipal departments and the communities they serve.

MPTC Regional Police Academies

Boylston Regional Police Academy

221 Main Street,
Boylston, MA 01505
Lisa Ann Reich, Academy Director
Ph: (781) 437-0322
Fax: (508) 869-3187

New Bedford Regional Police Academy

1204 Purchase Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
Rose Sauvageau, Program Coordinator
Ph: (508) 992 - 7014
FAX: (508) 9791771

Plymouth Regional Police Academy

24 Long Pond Road
Plymouth, MA 02360
John DeGutis, Academy Director
Ph: (781) 437-0331
FAX: (508) 830-6319
Alison Taylor, Veteran Officer Coordinator
Cape & Islands (781) 437-0332
Joanne Heres, Veteran Officer Coordinator
(781) 437-0333
Eileen Goodick, Basic & Reserve Intermittent (781) 437-0334

Randolph Regional Police Academy

6 Adams Street, Randolph, MA 02368
Carl Parsons, Academy Director (781) 437-0321
James Scott, Specialized Training (781) 437-0307
Fax: (781) 963-0235

Reading Regional Police Academy

P.O. Box 522, Reading, MA 01867 FAX: (781) 942-0968
Rhoda Pires, Academy Director (781) 437-0341
Larry Norman, Program Coordinator (781) 437-0343
Pam King, Governor's Highway Safety Division (781) 437-0342
FAX: 781-942-0969

Western Mass Regional Police Academy c/o STCC

1 Armory Square, Bldg. 12, Springfield, MA 01102
John Claffey, Academy Director Ph: (781) 437-0361
Dori-Ann Ference, Veteran Officer Coordinator (781) 437-0362
FAX: 413-755-6331 for the immediate future, but will eventually
change to (781) 437-0369.



We're on the Web!
www.mass.gov/mptc