



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Municipal Police Training Committee**
“Training for Today, Planning for the Future”

CHIEFS NEWSLETTER

Chiefs Newsletter

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News from the Executive Director

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Training Records Database

In case you have not heard, we have experienced problems with updating information in the training record database as a result of a coding error in a system upgrade. We realize this has created frustrations for departments trying to update information (and increased

frustration for Marie Conlin who wants to keep our records as accurate as possible), but it was beyond our control. Because it is/was a coding error, it took longer to fix than most software glitches. I apologize for any inconveniences this has caused, but we are

hopeful the issue will be resolved shortly.



What's New in Distance Learning

The following courses have been added to the EOPSS e-Learning website relatively recently:

- “Autism Spectrum Disorders and Law Enforcement” discusses dealing with children who have autism from a police officer’s viewpoint, including the perspectives of an officer whose child has autism.

- Crash reporting provides an overview of the changes to the crash reporting form, provides guidance as to when crashes should be reported, and clarifies the information needed in the areas of the report that often have incorrect entries.
- Officer Survival Parts I and II are back on line.
- All three years of

the classroom portion of first responder are now posted. For a complete list, visit this link, [EOPSS e-Learning](#) and click on the MPTC link on the left-hand side of the page.

In addition, with the departure of our distance learning coordinator (Sandra Sousa) to DOC, the distance learning program is at a juncture. Conse-



What's New in Distance Learning *(Continued)*

quently, I conducted a review of usage and found that less than ten percent of course offerings were being utilized. In other words, the return on investment is very low. The reasons for the lack of participation are many, and if we were starting over, we would certainly do things differently. But the current reality shows that the distance learning program has failed to live up to participation expectations and its potential.

As a result, we will be restructuring the program. MPTC will go

back to having one developer on staff. Due to the broad availability of distance learning programs from many sources that address general police topics or specialized areas, the MPTC program will focus on Massachusetts-specific information and will develop shorter, roll-call types of interactive training programs. We will reevaluate in the coming year to see if the changes create more participation. **However, do not expect these new training opportunities for at least six months** because our remaining de-

veloper will be on leave for at least three of those months.

That said, all current distance learning programs will continue to be available. We do not plan to shut down the site nor take down any currently posted programs. We are simply restructuring future postings. Moreover, none of these decisions affect the need to have updated officer information for the training record database. That database is linked to **but independent from** the distance learning program. The database is intended

to capture and track *all* training, not just distance learning programs. Consequently, continue to keep us notified of changes in personnel or contact information.

Executive Series Training for Chiefs of Police and Command Staff

As you will recall, the legislature included a \$250,000 earmark in the MPTC budget to be used specifically for chiefs of police. We have interpreted that to mean not only chiefs of police but command staff as well as part of the mentoring and career development process for future chiefs of police. You may be wondering what constitutes a command staff member. The answer:

It is not based upon rank; it is whoever you say it is. In other words, MPTC is not going to second guess who you send to the training. Currently four training opportunities are being offered through this funding:

- The FBI's LEEDA Executive Leadership, a four-day program (4 sessions statewide)
- The FBI's LEEDA Command Institute, a

five-day program (4 sessions statewide)

- Executive-level legal issues presented by Chief Robert Pomeroy (ret.) – (6 sessions statewide) Executive-level legal issues presented by Eric Daigle (6 sessions statewide)

All of these programs are being offered at no cost to the attendees. The LEEDA programs are usually \$550 or more per person. Please

refer to the MPTC website for current listings and venues. If you have any questions or if you have any ideas for other topics or programs that would have a statewide applicability in the areas of emerging issues, best practices, or leadership, please contact Kevin Donnelly, who is the coordinator of the program, at (781) 437-0351 or E-mail: [Kevin.Donnelly](mailto:Kevin.Donnelly@state.ma.us)

Recruit Officer Courses

We have a new Recruit Training Coordinator!

Lynda Kearns will now focus her attention on our website and other special projects. **Pat Caggiano** is the new coordinator. He has 26 years of experience as a police officer with Plaistow and Atkinson Police Departments in New Hampshire, retiring as the interim chief of police in Atkinson. Please communicate with Pat regarding your hiring plans and for the recruit academy admission process. Pat's contact information is:

Pat Caggiano, Recruit Training Coordinator,

MPTC, 6 Adams Street
 Randolph, MA 02368
 Telephone:
 (781) 437-0306
 Email: [Pat.Caggiano](mailto:Pat.Caggiano@mptc.com)

As you likely know, due to the demand for recruit officer training, we will be running back-to-back Recruit Officer Courses at the MPTC academies for the foreseeable future. Here is the list of upcoming MPTC-hosted Recruit Officer Courses:

- Reading:
 March 10, 2014
- Plymouth:
 March 31, 2014

As an ongoing re-

minder, the cutoff for applications is 30 days prior to Day One **OR** when the class reaches capacity with fulltime officers. Therefore, do not count on the 30-day cutoff. If you want to get a student officer into a particular class, make sure the complete application packet (application, PAT, medical, and letter of appointment) gets to Pat without delay.

Also, as I have mentioned before, to help us accurately determine the need for a class, we ask you to notify Pat Caggiano 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 access the online form to update your hiring plans here: [Request Recruit Officer Training](#) or you can contact Pat directly. Thank you for your help.

Program Coordinator to Help at Western Mass and Boylston Academies

We also have hired a new program coordinator to work with the Boylston and Western Mass police academies and their respective training programs. **Todd Mongeon** has 17 years of experience as a police officer, serving with Gill, Western New England University, and Hampshire College Police Departments. He is also an MPTC-certified CPR/First Responder instructor and

has experience as a protective services worker. Todd will be based at the Western Mass Regional Police Academy. Todd can be reached at Ph: (781) 437-0364.

MPTC Police Academy Start Dates

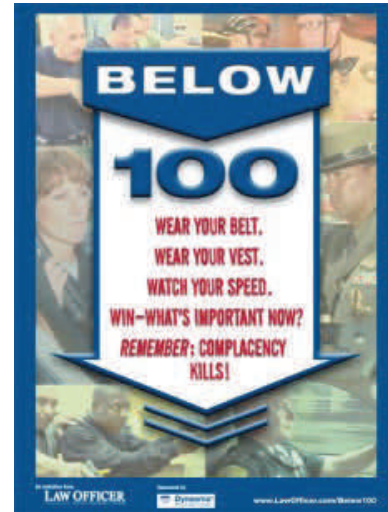
- **Boylston**
 January 13, 2014
- **Plymouth**
 March 31, 2014
 September 15, 2014
- **Reading**
 March 10, 2014
 September 8, 2014
 March 10, **2015**
- **WMASS-Springfield**
 February 3, 2014
 February 2, **2015**

Below 100

The Municipal Police Training Committee is committed to the Below 100 effort, which is an initiative to reduce police office line-of-duty deaths to below 100 for the first time since 1944 by getting police officers to make a personal commitment to their own officer safety and survival. The goal can be realized if every officer will wear their belt, wear their ballistic vest, watch their speed, remember what's important now (WIN), and avoid complacency. More information about

the Below 100 effort and resources to help get us there, including printable posters and reminders, can be found on the Below 100 website: [BELOW 100](http://BELOW100)

The 5 Tenets of the Below 100 Campaign:



Consider including reminders in roll-calls and department bulletins and posting reminders at cruiser checkout stations and on bulletin boards within the department.

Online Training for Recognizing Drug Impairment at Roadside

NHTSA has released a FREE online course that covers material culled from the ARIDE (Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement) Course. This online course was designed to enhance a police officer's ability to detect drivers who are impaired by drugs. However, it is NOT a substitute for ARIDE training. Instead, it is meant to support those agencies that otherwise could not afford to send their per-

sonnel to ARIDE training due to budget or personnel constraints. Officers who take this course will better be able to recognize the signs and symptoms of drug impairment with the desired result of calling in a DRE to conduct a formal evaluation when appropriate.

According to NHTSA, prior to taking the online course, applicants will need to have demonstrated pro-

ficiency in the SFST testing battery. Access to the course will be denied unless this requirement is met. Instructions are on the website. To access the course, a student should log in at [TRANSPORTATION SAFETY INSTITUTE](http://TRANSPORTATIONSAFETYINSTITUTE). Under the TSI logo on the left, click Course Catalog. Under Browse Subjects, click Highway Safety Training. Then, click on the ARIDE link which will take the student to the registration

section. Once the officer is accepted into the course, the officer will have up to 60 days to complete the material or they will be required to begin the process once again.

Safe Call Now

I have found an organization called [Safe Call Now](#). Their Motto is, “Saving the lives of those who protect us.” The goal is to get help to officers and their families who are afraid of the stigma that may be created by approaching someone within their department. Safe Call Now’s mission statement states, “Safe Call Now is a confidential, comprehensive, 24-hour crisis referral service for all public safety employees, all emergency services personnel and their family

members nationwide.” And its vision statement adds, “Safe Call Now provides education, healthy alternatives and resources to save lives and put families back together.”

For example, the website contains these statements:

MAKE A SAFE CALL NOW!

- Having thoughts of Suicide?
- Suffering from dependency or a substance abuse addiction?
- Need help but don't know where to go?

Make a Safe Call today for help:

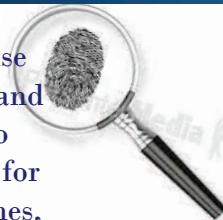
206-459-3020

Updated NIJ Crime Scene Investigation Manual Available at No Cost

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE
Research • Development • Evaluation

An updated edition of the very popular *Crime Scene Investigation: A Guide for Law Enforcement* is now available. The Guide discusses the fundamental principles of investigating a crime scene and preserving evidence and contains everything you need to know in order to yield reliable information. Originally released in 2000, the updated ver-

sion is intended for use by law enforcement and other responders who have responsibilities for protecting crime scenes, preserving physical evidence, and collecting and submitting the evidence for scientific examination. Read or download the updated version of [Crime Scene Investigation: A Guide for Law Enforcement](#)



Free Online Forensic Training

On a related note, the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC) provides a wealth of free forensic training materials at Projects.NFSTC.org.

The resources and training available include seminars, workshops and courses designed to provide a greater understanding of forensic science principles and practices for law enforce-

ment, forensic science practitioners and other investigators. Resources include PDF agendas and presentations, videos of speakers, and [even podcasts](#).



Some examples include: Biological Screening,

DNA Analyst Training, Principles of Forensic DNA for Officers of the Court, Collecting DNA Evidence at Property Crime Scenes, Firearm Examiner Training, Medical Examiner Forensic Training, Trace Evidence, Impression and Pattern Evidence, Post Conviction DNA Case Management, and Using and Presenting

Digital Evidence in the Courtroom.

Sovereign Citizen Roll Call Video

The Southern Poverty Law Center has produced a video for law enforcement regarding the threats posed by individuals in the Sovereign Citizen movement. The short 12-minute video is suitable for roll-call and provides officers with a number of useful tips on identifying members of the movement and steps officers can take to protect themselves from the more radical members of this loosely defined movement. Here is a link to the site: [SPLC Video Reveals Dangers of 'Sovereign Citizens'](#)

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. Over 30 states currently participate in the database. 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 e-mail [Marylou Powers](#) or contact her by telephone @ (781) 437-0302 if you would like us to see if an applicant or candidate you are considering is on that list.

As always, thank you for your service to the Commonwealth and her citizens. Please feel free to contact me with questions, comments, or concerns. But most of all, please be careful out there! Dan



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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 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 Police Academies

Boylston Police Academy

221 Main Street, Boylston, MA 01505

Fax: (508) 869-3187

Lisa Ann Reich, Academy Director

Ph: (781) 437-0322

Todd Mongeon, Program Coordinator

Ph: (781) 437-0364

Plymouth Police Academy

24 Long Pond Road, Plymouth, MA 02360

FAX: (508) 830-6319

John DeGutis, Academy Director

Ph: (781) 437-0331

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Ph: (781) 437-0333

Eileen Goodick, Basic & Reserve

Intermittent Coordinator Ph: (781) 437-0334

Randolph Police Academy

6 Adams Street, Randolph, MA 02368

Kevin Donnelly, Veteran Officer Programs Coordinator

Ph: (781) 437-0351 / Fax: (781) 963-0235

Reading Police Academy

P.O. Box 522, Reading, MA 01867

FAX: (781) 942-0968

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Larry Norman, Program Coordinator Ph: (781) 437-0343

Highway Safety Division

Pam King, Grant Training Coordinator

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