



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



CHIEFS NEWSLETTER

Chiefs Newsletter

May 2018, Volume 22 Issue 1

News from the Executive Director

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MPTC TY2019 In-Service Training *Continued*

ordinator if you have a suggestion for the local option in your area.

As an ongoing reminder, officers will still be required to complete the annual CPR, first aid, and firearms training and requalification requirements, which *do* count towards the 40-hour training requirement, as does any other police-related training, regardless of the provider and regardless of whether it is classroom or internet based.

Chiefs of Police In-Service Requirements



At its May meeting, the Committee established the following *additional* in-service training requirements for all chiefs of police:

- Restorative Justice (2 hours): This will help address the issue as it applies to the Criminal Justice Reform Act
- A Community Solution to a Community Problem – One region’s response to the opioid epidemic (2 hours):

As a reminder, all chiefs of police must comply with all of the other TY19 in-service training requirements listed above, as well. The Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association will be including these two topics in its annual training conference being held in Norwood on September 18 through 20 and will also include several topics from the TY19 in-service training mandate. For chiefs who cannot make it to the MCOPA conference, the MPTC will provide a single makeup session of the two chiefs in-service training topics in Boylston in the spring of 2019; no date has been set, yet.

Officer Health and Wellness

Here are some valuable insights from Badge of Life:

Numerous suicide prevention “hotlines” are popping up around the country for police officers, many with dubious credentials and training and operating out of their kitchens.

Staffed by “volunteers,” they lay claim to the idea that first responders are only capable of talking to people in the same field and that no one else has the ability to empathize and give attention to their feelings. Some are profiting while, at the same time, referring callers to dubious or outlandish “cures” for PTSD and depression. Badge of Life has steadily maintained its recommendation that officers be made aware of and use the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#), an organization that is noted for its quality training and service to those in mental distress and danger of suicide. There, personnel are connected to a call center local to them who is familiar with available resources and can guide them to folks who are able to offer further assistance. It’s a simple call that could save a life—1-800-273-8255.

How do you find a therapist who is best suited for you? This can be a real challenge, particularly when you’re suffering from anxiety or depression. Certainly, you can ask a friend or family member who is already in therapy, or seek some guidance from your family doctor. It’s a place to begin. Picking a name out of the phone book or on line is another option, of course, but you need to have some idea of what it is you’re looking for in a therapist. Availing yourself of an employee assistance program is another option.





Officer Health and Wellness *Continued*

But what's the difference between all the classifications—there are psychiatrists, **psychologists**, “counselors” and “therapists.” **How do you make a selection?** In [this video](#) police psychologist Anne Bisek offers some suggestions to guide you through the process.

Recruit Officer Course Curriculum Status

The class from the first pilot of the overhauled curriculum is scheduled to graduate from the Randolph Regional Police Academy on June 7. Kudos to Academy Director Lara Thomas for her investment and patience with this class. Because the delivery was significantly different from traditional recruit training, it required a greater investment of time, energy, and patience from Lara to plan, adapt, explain, mediate, facilitate, and deliver. The current schedule is to have the new curriculum implemented statewide by January 2019.

F.O.R.C.E. Concepts (the developer) is estimating the new curriculum will take about 740 hours (+/-) to deliver, even though there will be more facilitated and self-taught learning and more practical exercises, but we will not know for sure until after the first pilot program because the delivery methods are so different than anything we have done in the past.

Preliminary indications are this class will graduate with a higher performance level than previous classes. However, there is still much work to do before we can roll it out statewide, so stay tuned.

Recruit Officer Courses

As you know the backlog of officers awaiting training has been erased. However, we still need your help with respect to planning future recruit training venues. We ask that you please continue to communicate with Pat Caggiano regarding your hiring plans and for the recruit academy enrollment process. Pat's contact information is:

Pat Caggiano, Recruit Training Coordinator
MPTC
6 Adams Street
Randolph, MA 02368
Telephone: (781) 437-0306
Email: patrick.caggiano@mass.gov



As an ongoing reminder, the cutoff for applications is 30 days prior to Day One **OR** when the class reaches capacity with fulltime officers, which can occur before the 30-day cutoff. Consequently, do not rely 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.



Study

Here is an excerpt from an article in *Governing* magazine and a [link to the full article](#): A small but growing body of research links long hours and officer fatigue to a host of public safety issues. Fatigue may do more than affect the way officers perform routine tasks such as maneuvering a patrol car -- recent evidence suggests it can influence their ability to exercise good judgment. Yet many law enforcement agencies maintain lax policies governing just how long officers can work, and some fail to track extra hours at all. Only a third of law enforcement agencies in the most recent federal Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey reported limiting how many overtime hours sworn personnel could work, and barely half placed a ceiling on off-duty employment.

National Domestic Communications Assistance Center

In case you are not aware of it, the NDCAC is a national center, organized under the Department of Justice (DoJ), designed as a hub for technical knowledge management that will facilitate the sharing of solutions and know-how among law enforcement agencies, and strengthen law enforcement's relationships with the communications industry.



The NDCAC will leverage/share collective technical knowledge and resources of law enforcement on issues involving real-time and stored communications to address challenges posed by advanced communications services and technologies.

It is important to note that the NDCAC will not conduct Research and Development (R&D), will not be responsible for the execution of any electronic surveillance court orders, and will not have any direct operational or investigative role in investigations. Rather, the NDCAC will provide technical knowledge and referrals in response to requests for assistance from any member of the law enforcement community.

The NDCAC also provides training upon request including training related to technology and social media. Here is a link to their website [NDCAC](#)

Online Pedestrian Safety Training

Pedestrian Safety Training for Law Enforcement free online course. This course is intended to give police officers the information and tools they need to improve pedestrian safety. This program is a self-paced interactive training designed for all law enforcement officers.

At the end of the course officers will:

- ✓ Understand the factors involved in pedestrian crashes.
- ✓ Identify effective enforcement countermeasure techniques
- ✓ Understand the importance of complete and accurate pedestrian crash reporting
- ✓ Become pedestrian safety advocates in the community

Here is a link to the [training](#)



MPTC Blog

If you have not noticed it yet, the MPTC (Lynda) has developed a blog to keep you, your officers, and the citizens of the Commonwealth informed regarding MPTC events, milestones, and news. The goal is to provide weekly updates. The blog can be accessed here: [Municipal Police Training Committee's](#) homepage.

Decertified Police Officers



With police misconduct continuing to be a topic of national interest and discussion, it is critical that agencies take every opportunity to vet candidates. Even though Massachusetts does not have a decertification process, most states do have one, and over 30 states submit a list of police officers they have decertified (and who are no longer allowed to serve as police officers in their respective states) into the National Decertification Index (NDI). Even though the MPTC only submits names when we know a court has ordered that the officer surrender his/her status, MPTC does have access to the NDI and the list of officers decertified in other states. I encourage you to contact Marylou Powers at Marylou.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.

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 above all else, please be careful out there!

Dan

TY19 In-Service

- Legal updates, including the Criminal Justice Reform Act (6 hours)
- Police Interactions with Persons with Mental Illness (Part II), which will meet the IACP's "One Mind Campaign" pledge for training line officers (3 hours)
- Multi-Agency Response to Active Shooters (3 hours)
- Defensive Tactics Skills (3 hours)
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- Local option (up to 6 hours)
- In addition, the MPTC will furnish at least three (3) hours of a local option.

Additional in-service training requirements for all chiefs of police

- Restorative Justice (2 hours): This will help address the issue as it applies to the Criminal Justice Reform Act
- A Community Solution to a Community Problem – One region's response to the opioid epidemic (2 hours)

In addition, the MPTC will furnish at least three (3) hours of a local option. As a reminder, the local option is a topic chosen by the local MPTC program coordinator based upon input from and discussions with the chiefs of police in her or his area.

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