



NEWSLETTER

Commission Membership

Christopher L. Paris – Chair
Commissioner
Pennsylvania State Police
Dauphin County

William C. Barrett
City Official
Luzerne County

Richard M. Bosco
Chief, Latrobe Borough PD
Westmoreland County

Jason D. Brinker
Noncommissioned Police Officer
Dauphin County

Bart E. Burne, Ed.D.
Law Enforcement Educator
Luzerne County

Madra L. Clay
Local Government Policy Manager
Dept. of Community & Economic Dev.
Dauphin County

Anthony C. Clements
Noncommissioned Police Officer
Dauphin County

Kristen L. Denne
Township Official of the First Class
Chester County

Vincent J. DiCenzo, Jr.
FOP Representative
Allegheny County

Barry J. Jozwiak
PA House of Representatives
Berks County

John Kitzinger
Office of Attorney General
Dauphin County

Richard W. Long, Esq.
Representative, Public at Large
Cumberland County

Altovise Love-Craighead
Chief Inspector, Philadelphia PD
Philadelphia County

Kevin F. Mahoney
Director Certified School
Lackawanna County

Richard L. Mendez
Chief, Lancaster City PD
Lancaster County

Corey B. Meyer
Township Official of the Second Class
Lancaster County

Joseph M. Pizano
Borough Official
Luzerne County

Senator Mike Regan
Senate of Pennsylvania
Dauphin County

Guy A. Salerno
Chief, Blakely Borough PD
Lackawanna County

Donald E. Sedlacek
Chief, Hopewell Township PD
Beaver County

2023 Departmental Use of Force and Control Tactics

The 2023 Departmental Use of Force and Control Tactics is mandatory training for all Act 120 and School Police Officers.

Beginning in 2023, this departmental training was added to satisfy the PA Act 59 annual requirement. In conjunction with Firearms Qualifications, Use of Force and Control Tactics must be completed by each law enforcement officer through their department or law enforcement agency every year going forward.

Unlike Firearms Instructors, Control Tactics Instructors must maintain a certification through a Defensive Tactics Instructor's course to continue to train law enforcement officers. The 2022 Temporary MIST Instructors for Control Tactics have been grandfathered into the program this year; however, these instructors will also need to maintain their DT Instructor certifications.

Presently, the 2023 Departmental Use of Force and Control Tactics training is to be documented in TACS by each Chief (or Admin Officer) as a CLEE course. There are directions on how to complete the CLEE course data entry on the MPOETC website. Please include your department's instructor in that list of students so that they also get credit this year. (Use of Force and Control Tactics Instructors do not need to be taught by a separate qualified instructor.) If your departmental Control Tactics Instructor is teaching other law enforcement officers outside of his/her department, it would be that department's responsibility to data enter the information into TACS for their officers.

Go to the Use of Force and Control Tactics webpage at <https://mpoetc.psp.pa.gov/training/Pages/Use-of-Force-and-Control-Tactics.aspx> on the MPOETC website for further training information, a list of MPOETC-approved instructors, and directions on how to enter this training as a CLEE course in TACS.

Quarterly Legal Updates

The Commission recognizes that both statutes and case law can change frequently and throughout the year. While officers take mandatory Legal Update training, many times the officers would have benefited from knowing about the changes when they happened rather than waiting months to attend the class. To help reduce the time it takes for officers to hear about recent changes to the law, the Commission's quarterly newsletter now includes a synopsis of the most significant recent changes.

Xylazine and Nitazine

On June 3, 2023, the PA Department of Health issued temporary orders on Xylazine and Nitazine compounds. These temporary orders are in place for one year.

Nitazine compounds, which include Isotonitazene, Protonitazene, Flunitazene; Metodesnitazene, Metonitazene, Etonitazene, Butonitazene and Etodesnitazene, are now considered a Schedule I Controlled Substance by the PA Department of health. As stated in Pa.B 3033:

“The DEA determined that, because Nitazenes, including: Isotonitazene; Protonitazene; Flunitazene; Metodesnitazene; Metonitazene; Etonitazene; Butonitazene; and Etodesnitazene: (1) have high potential for abuse; (2) have no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States; (3) lack accepted safety for use under medical supervision; and (4) have been responsible for numerous deaths, it was, therefore, necessary to schedule these substances into Schedule I of the CSA to avoid an imminent and continued hazard to the public safety.

Pharmacological data suggest that this Nitazene class of compounds have potency similar to or greater than Fentanyl based on their structural modifications. Because the Nitazene class of compounds pose a substantial risk to the residents of this Commonwealth, the Secretary has determined to schedule them as Schedule I controlled substances on a temporary basis. In doing so, the Secretary is acting to protect the residents of this Commonwealth and bring the Commonwealth into conformity with Federal law.”

Xylazine is now considered a Schedule III Controlled Substance by the PA Department of Health.

It is for veterinary use only. As stated in Pa.B 3031:

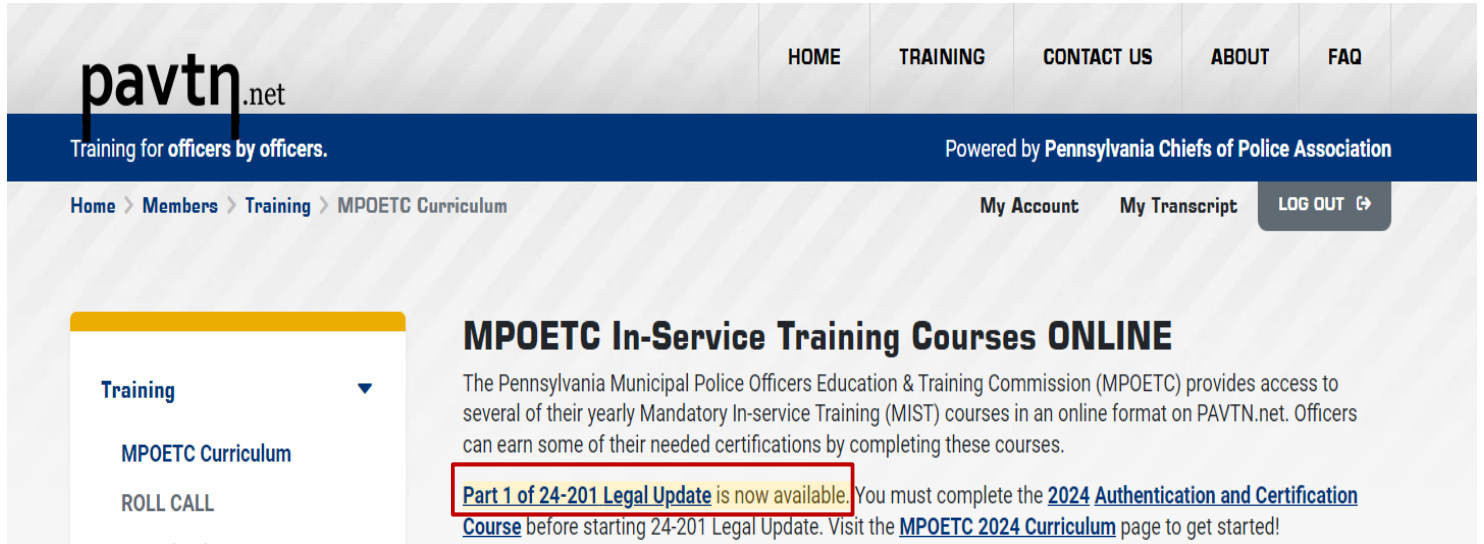
“Although approved only for veterinary use, Xylazine is a nonopioid with an increasing presence as an adulterant, often in combination with opioids, in the illicit drug supply. Adulterants are frequently added to clandestine drugs to: (1) increase or decrease a drug's effects; or (2) increase a drug's resale value. Following these trends, the earliest reports of Xylazine indicate that it was being used to enhance the effects of heroin. Both isolated and in combination with other drugs, Xylazine is implicated as a cause or contributing cause of death in the United States. According to the United States Drug Enforcement Administration: (1) the emergence of Xylazine across the United States appears to be following the same path as Fentanyl, beginning in the Northeast before spreading to the South and then working its way into drug markets westward; and (2) its low cost contributes, in part, to Xylazine's expanded presence in the Nation's illegal drug supply.

Xylazine use may be accompanied by skin ulcers with wounds that excrete puss, have decaying tissue and bacterial infections, which can lead to amputation at higher rates than those who inject other drugs. Heroin and Xylazine have some similar pharmacological effects including bradycardia, hypotension, central nervous system depression and respiratory depression. When used in combination with an opioid, Xylazine may worsen respiratory depression in the event of a drug overdose. Because Xylazine is not an opioid, **Naloxone is not known to be effective at reversing overdoses caused by Xylazine.**”

Possession/PWID of these substances would be cited under the Health and Safety Act, 35 Pa. State 780-113. The penalties would be the same as those for any Schedule I or Schedule III drug.

AVAILABLE NOW on PAVTN: 24-201 Legal Update - Part 1

As mentioned in the March 2023 Newsletter, MPOETC will be releasing 24-201 Legal Update in two parts available online on PAVTN.net. Part 1 is now available by selecting the link to the course from the main MPOETC Curriculum webpage as depicted below.



Part 1 addresses updates that occurred between November 2022 and May 2023.

To receive credit for the entire 24-201 Legal Update course, officers must complete both parts of the course on PAVTN. Please note, that once all of Part 1 of 24-201 Legal Update has been completed, no grade or completion status will be sent to TACS. Completion status of 24-201 Legal Update will be sent to TACS upon completing the second part of this course. Part 2 of 24-201 Legal Update will be released in January 2024 at the same time the entire course will be released or in-classroom training.

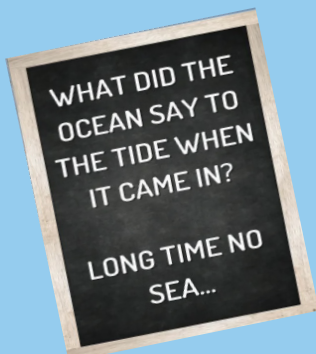
NOTICE: Factoring Criteria for Firearms with Attached “Stabilizing Braces”

The purpose of this notice is to inform Departments of a ruling made by the US Department of Justice concerning firearms equipped with stabilizing braces. This notice is not to be construed as legal advice.

On January 13, 2023, the U.S. Attorney General signed the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) final rule 2021R-08F, *Factoring Criteria for Firearms with Attached “Stabilizing Braces,”* amending ATF’s regulations to clarify when a rifle is designed, made, and intended to be fired from the shoulder.

The final rule was published in the Federal Register on January 31, 2023, and owners of such devices must take action by May 31, 2023. Any weapons with “stabilizing braces” or similar attachments that constitute rifles under the NFA must be registered no later than May 31, 2023; or the short barrel removed and a 16-inch or longer rifle barrel attached to the firearm; or the “stabilizing brace” or similar attachment must be permanently removed, disposed of, or altered such that it cannot be reattached; the firearm can also be turned in to your local ATF office; or the firearm is destroyed in accordance with ATF guidance.

Additional information about this final ruling can be found on the MPOETC website’s Firearms webpage.



The office of the Municipal Police Officers’ Education & Training Commission will be closed on the following dates for the purpose of transacting public business:

Independence Day: July 4, 2023
Labor Day: September 4, 2023

Regular office hours are from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Monday through Friday

Highlights from the June 2023 Commission Meeting

On June 21-22, 2023, the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission held its regular quarterly meeting in Wilkes Barre, PA. On Wednesday afternoon, June 21, 2023, the Commissioners held committee meetings to discuss the business of the Commission. On Thursday morning, June 22, 2023, the Commissioners met in an Executive Committee meeting, which was followed by the formal meeting of the full Commission, where they took the following actions:

- The Commission approved certifications for municipal police officers and police academy instructors and revoked the certifications of one officer for psychological impairment, one officer for conviction of a disqualifying offense – simple assault, and one academy instructor for inappropriate behavior reflecting unfavorably on the school.
- Status of the training unit was updated with the notification that two more staff are expected to begin sometime in July. A review of the current tasks training staff perform includes, but is not limited to: TACS Talks, preparation and development of the 2024 MIST classes, developing and proctoring Certification Exams and Assessment Tests, Academy Inspections, TACS support to various Chiefs, administrative staff, and officers, CLEE approval, Departmental Control Tactics Instructor application review and approval, and research/appropriation for new web-based testing software.
- The Commission discussed Legal Update classes and how to improve delivering important legal changes to officers in a timely manner. The training staff will explore new strategies to make this happen.
- The Commission discussed Act 60 Canine Training and Certification Standards for certifying agencies. An application for certifying agencies of canine/handler teams seeking approval to be included on the Commission's list will be posted on the MPOETC website.

Information Regarding the September 2023 Commission Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission is on September 13 and 14 2023 at The Inn at Villanova University, 601 County Line Road, Radnor, Pennsylvania, 19087. Phone: 610-519-8000. Further information about the meeting, including a topical agenda, will be available at <https://mpoetc.psp.pa.gov/Pages/about-us.aspx>. *Please note that a public notification will be made if this meeting is rescheduled.*

- Committee meetings begin on Wednesday, the 13th at 12:30 P.M.
- Executive Committee meeting begins on Thursday, the 14th at 9:00 A.M.
- Full Commission meeting begins on Thursday, the 14th at 10:00 A.M.

The Commission encourages attendance by police chiefs, law enforcement officers, police academy directors, instructors and other interested parties. If you have further questions concerning the meetings, please feel free to contact the Executive Director.

The Executive Committee will hear reports from all committees. In addition, the Executive Committee will also open their meeting to comments from the audience. If you would like to make a presentation to any committee, please contact the Executive Director in order to be placed on the agenda for the appropriate committee. This is your opportunity to have your concern or suggestion heard by the Commission.



uestions, comments and information for inclusion in the *Newsletter* are always welcome. This is your opportunity to submit your concerns or suggestions to the Commission. To do so, please contact the Executive Director, Major William A. Brown or the Editor, Leah M. Napoli, by calling toll-free at 1-800-342-0858. The Commission can be contacted using the email addresses on page 5. You may also write to:

MPOETC Newsletter

Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission

8002 Bretz Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112-9748

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 general 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 www.psp.pa.gov/MPOETC, under About Us > Quarterly Newsletters.

New Agency Executives

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Chief Richard M. Bosco | Latrobe Borough PD Westmoreland County |
| Chief Charles A. Irvin | Greensburg City PD Westmoreland County |
| Chief Phil T. Pulaski | East Norriton Township PD Montgomery County |
| Chief William M. Righter | Tinicum Township PD Delaware County |
| Chief Larry R. Sciroto | Pittsburgh City PD Allegheny County |
| Chief Michael Turner | Wyoming Area Regional PD Luzerne County |
| Chief Matthew P. Williams | Weissport Borough PD Carbon County |
| Chief Greg A. Winokur | Slatington Borough PD Lehigh County |
| Chief Paul M. Wolfe | South Abington Township PD Lackawanna County |
| Chief Jason A. Yerg | Hampden Township PD Cumberland County |

Congratulations!



Areas of Responsibility and Contact Information for Commission Staff

The following resource accounts are provided to allow your questions and concerns to reach the Executive Director, Staff Member, or Members of the Commission.

ADMINISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION

Act 120 Applications and Certification, Act 120 Instructor Application and Certification

Email: mpocertification@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

TRAINING

Basic Training Curriculum, Mandatory In-Service Training, Instructor Training, Retired Law Enforcement Identification Act

Email: mpotraining@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

GRANT REIMBURSEMENT

Continuing Law Enforcement Education Reimbursement (Mandatory In-Service Training), Basic Training Tuition and Salary

Email: RA-SPMPOFSS@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND INSPECTIONS

Regulatory Compliance, School Inspections

Email: mpostandards@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782