

*Protecting Ohio's Families*

Ohio Attorney General's Office



**2016**

# OHIO PEACE OFFICER TRAINING COMMISSION AND ACADEMY

**FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT**



**MIKE DEWINE**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL





Dear Law Enforcement Colleagues and Fellow Ohioans,

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and Academy are essential to my office's mission of protecting Ohio's families. Both entities provide for public safety by making sure that law enforcement officers are well-prepared for the challenges and responsibilities of their jobs.

In 2015, the commission (OPOTC) celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year. From setting training facility requirements to establishing qualifications for instructors and certifying K-9 units, OPOTC strives to keep Ohio's law enforcement personnel informed and well-trained.

In late 2014, my office formed an advisory group to thoroughly review the quality, availability, and practical application of peace officer training. Ohio was one of the first states to take on this effort in light of use-of-force incidents throughout the country.

The group issued its report toward the end of fiscal year 2015. It recommended increasing standards for candidates to be admitted to a peace officer training academy, additional hours of basic training, and increasing the hours of annual training for peace officers, among other recommendations.

During the fiscal year, the commission adopted several recommendations including the removal of a restriction on the maximum number of training hours for peace officer basic training; the expansion of academy entrance standards; the addition of a drug screen; the establishment of a minimum fitness level; and the inclusion of concepts related to implicit bias and procedural justice.

These are just a few of the accomplishments the academy and commission realized in fiscal year 2016. I invite you to read on to learn about other ways we worked to provide Ohio's law enforcement community with the best possible training and resources. Please feel free to share your comments or suggestions with Mary Davis, executive director of the commission and academy, at **740-845-2700** or **Mary.Davis@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov**.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine  
Ohio Attorney General

# Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission Overview

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) advises the Ohio Attorney General and provides direction to the executive director on training, eligibility, and service standards for law enforcement and other public safety professionals in the state. The commission's ultimate goal is to ensure the highest level of safety for the citizens of Ohio.

OPOTC has worked to improve the professional capabilities of Ohio's law enforcement and public safety professionals since 1965. With the assistance of 63 dedicated employees and the executive director, the commission's nine members play a pivotal role in helping the Ohio Attorney General shape training and compliance standards for more than 33,600 peace officers and their 954 respective agencies.

The commission is also responsible for academic policies and professional standards for tens of thousands of corrections officers, bailiffs, jailers, private security officers, adult parole officers, probation officers, humane agents, public defender investigators, and law enforcement K-9 units.

Commission members are appointed by the governor and approved by the Ohio Senate. The Ohio Attorney General provides administrative oversight for the commission.

To fulfill its statutory responsibility and improve law enforcement training in Ohio, the commission's role is to recommend:

- Rules for approving peace officer, private security, humane agent, jailer, corrections, public defender investigator, bailiff, K-9, and firearms training and certification.
- The curricula, minimum attendance, equipment, and facility requirements necessary for approval of training programs.
- Minimum qualifications required for instructors at approved training sites.
- Categories or classifications of advanced in-service training programs for peace officers.
- Minimum requirements for the certification of K-9 units used by law enforcement agencies.

The commission is also authorized to:

- Recommend studies, surveys, and reports designed to evaluate its effectiveness.
- Visit and inspect Ohio schools for the training of peace officers, corrections officers, jailers, private security officers, bailiffs, probation officers, and parole officers.
- Establish fees for commission services.
- Make recommendations to the Attorney General or General Assembly on the commission's statutory responsibilities.
- Set the minimum required hours of annual continuing professional training (CPT) for peace officers and troopers.

## Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission Members

Executive Director Mary E. Davis,  
Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and Academy,  
London, Ohio

Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, OPOTC chairperson,  
Fayette County Sheriff's Office,  
Washington Court House, Ohio

Special Agent in Charge Stephen Anthony,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Cleveland, Ohio

Chief Clayton Harris,  
Cuyahoga Community College Police Department,  
Cleveland, Ohio

Sheriff Michael Heldman,  
Hancock County Sheriff's Office,  
Findlay, Ohio

Chief Kimberley Jacobs,  
Columbus Division of Police,  
Columbus, Ohio

Sgt. Troy Mineard,  
Akron Police Department,  
Akron, Ohio

Col. Paul Pride,  
Superintendent, Ohio State Highway Patrol,  
Columbus, Ohio

Deputy Attorney General Stephen Schumaker,  
Ohio Attorney General's Office,  
Columbus, Ohio

## Basic Training Programs

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Ohio Administrative Code</u>	<u>Hours Required *</u>
Peace Officer Basic Training	109:2-01	653
Peace Officer Refresher Training	109:2-01	16
Private Security Basic Training	109:2-03	
A. Academic Portion Only		122
B. Revolver		20
C. Semi-Auto		20
D. Shotgun		5
Bailiff/Deputy Bailiff Basic Training	109:2-05	40
State Public Defender Criminal Investigator Basic Training	109:2-06	40
K-9 Unit and Evaluator Basic Training	109:2-07	
A. K-9 Evaluator, Core		25
B. K-9 Evaluator, Special Purpose		38
C. K-9 Evaluator, Patrol-Related		34
Corrections Basic Training	109:2-09	143
Jailer Basic Training	109:2-11	
A. Jailer, 12-Day Facility		118
B. Jailer, 12-Hour Facility		16
Firearms Requalification	109:2-13	N/A
Humane Agent Basic Training	109:2-15	24

\*Hours subject to change with program revisions

## Commission Highlights

### Updating basic training curricula

OPOTC and its staff continued to evaluate, revise, and implement numerous topics within basic training programs in fiscal year 2016. The revisions are being guided by a job task analysis that drew feedback from more than 2,300 officers and 1,000 front-line supervisors from more than 800 Ohio law enforcement agencies.

Effective July 1, 2015, and Jan. 1, 2016, two sets of curricula were released, encompassing changes within the peace officer, peace officer refresher, private security, jailer, and corrections basic training programs. Lesson plans covering 109 topics were released to the field. Additionally, emergency updates to peace officer and jailer basic training brought about further curriculum releases in March 16, 2016, and Feb. 16, 2016.

Additionally, during the fiscal year, several recommendations from the Attorney General's Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Training were presented to the commission for consideration and/or approval. Some of the most notable recommendations adopted by the commission included the removal of a restriction on the maximum number of training hours for peace officer basic training; the expansion of academy entrance standards, including a high school diploma or equivalent; the addition of a drug screen; the establishment of a minimum fitness level; and the inclusion of concepts related to implicit bias and procedural justice.

As review of the curricula continues, the commission remains committed to providing current, pertinent, and industry best-practice material to basic academy students while incorporating instructional techniques that reflect the most effective adult-learning theories.

### New additions to basic training

During the year, peace officer basic training included the addition of two new topics, Companion Animal Encounters and Critical Injury First Aid. The releases included increases in peace officer basic training from 605 hours to 653 hours. Peace officer refresher training added a Policing: Keeping Current topic that was designed to bring officers up to date on recent trends, tactics, and laws that have been implemented during their time away from law enforcement. Also, an entirely new jailer basic training program also went into effect, which resulted in an increase from 48 hours in the previous jailer program to 118 hours. The doubling of hours for the jailer program is attributed to increases in the topics of Subject Control Techniques, Community Diversity, Crisis Intervention & Suicide Prevention, and Interpersonal Communication.

### Providing resources electronically

The commission provides many of its resources electronically to allow agencies greater access to services and information.

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) offers online registration for its regional and on-campus courses, allowing officers to search and register for courses through the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) at [www.OHLEG.org](http://www.OHLEG.org). Designated agency approvers receive an email alerting them to training requests. Once approved, the officer and approver receive an email confirmation. Approvers also can register officers for courses and view their officers' OPOTA training history to enhance agency training records. Agencies can activate their online registration account by sending an email to [OPOTARegistration@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](mailto:OPOTARegistration@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov).

The OPOTA Course Catalog at [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OPOTACourses](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OPOTACourses) lists classes available around the state and at the London and Richfield OPOTA campuses. Users can search by subject for full details about available classes.

Peace officers throughout Ohio can access the academy's online courses 24/7 through eOPOTA, which is available on OHLEG. Some courses of general interest – such as a series of classes on human trafficking and a course on the opiate overdose-reversal medication Narcan – also are offered to the public via the Ohio Attorney General's website, [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov). The peace officer basic training, refresher training, private security academic curricula, and instructional resources have also been placed on OHLEG to provide easy access for commanders and instructors. The commission offers an electronic Law Enforcement Directory, which provides contact information for Ohio police chiefs and sheriffs and links to the Ohio State Highway Patrol, state agencies, and correctional facilities. The directory can be found at [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Law-Enforcement/Law-Enforcement-Directory](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Law-Enforcement/Law-Enforcement-Directory). Law enforcement officers throughout the state can update their contact information at [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OPOTAUpdate](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OPOTAUpdate) to ensure they receive electronic communications from the academy and commission.

Law enforcement officers and administrators also can email OPOTA with general, certification, or training questions ([askOPOTA@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](mailto:askOPOTA@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov)); to register for, or seek, information on courses ([OPOTARegistration@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](mailto:OPOTARegistration@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov)); and to transmit agency changes of officer status or new appointments ([SF400@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](mailto:SF400@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov)).

### **Continuing Professional Training for peace officers and troopers**

Funds from the biennium budget bill for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 permitted OPOTC to mandate Continuing Professional Training (CPT) for 2016. In September 2015, OPOTC unanimously voted to set 11 hours of CPT as the required minimum number of hours for 2016. For public appointing authorities to be eligible for reimbursement of training costs in the amount of \$20 per hour: two hours of CPT needed to include critical subject training related to constitutional use of force; two hours had to be on crisis de-escalation with a focus on mental illness; four hours had to focus on community-police relations (for example, Implicit Bias, Procedural Justice, and Blue Courage courses); one hour had to cover human trafficking; the remaining two hours, which could relate to any general law enforcement topic, had to be completed; and the public appointing authority was in compliance with the annual roster reporting requirements required by law.

As in previous years, CPT was any training the agency administrator deemed as directly related to the duties and responsibilities of a peace officer or trooper. The training had to meet the requirements of the Ohio Administrative Code, serve a recognized law enforcement purpose, and have significant intellectual or practical content, with the primary objective being to improve a participant's professional competence as a peace officer or trooper. However, new for 2016, if the training was not an OPOTA course, it had to be approved by OPOTC. At the end of the fiscal year, halfway through the 2016 calendar year, 465 courses had been submitted for review and approval, accounting for more than 1,735 hours of training.

## Administrative Action Overview

State certification exams	2,729
Schools opened (including K-9)	955
Schools closed (Including K-9)	948
Certificates issued	7,382
Instructor certificates issued	1,684
Peace officers decertified	29
Prior equivalency training determinations	65
Update training determinations	4,663

## Ohio Peace Officer Profile

Ohio agencies commissioned 33,678 peace officers in fiscal year 2016. Below is a breakdown by agency type and appointment status:

Full-Time Peace Officers:	24,034
Sheriffs' Offices: 5,496	
Police Agencies: 18,538	
Part-Time Peace Officers:	3,438
Sheriffs' Offices: 293	
Police Agencies: 3,145	
Special Appointments:	2,780
Sheriffs' Offices: 2,556	
Police Agencies: 224	
Auxiliary Peace Officers:	1,769
Sheriffs' Offices: 282	
Police Agencies: 1,487	
Reserve Peace Officers:	1,634
Sheriffs' Offices: 854	
Police Agencies: 780	
Seasonal Peace Officers:	23
Total Ohio Peace Officers:	33,678

## Ohio's Concealed Carry Weapons Update

OPOTC maintains a database of statistics related to Ohio's concealed handguns law and issues an annual report highlighting the statistics, which are reported quarterly by sheriffs in Ohio.

During fiscal year 2016, the sheriffs reported issuing 104,765 regular licenses, 49 temporary licenses, 42,956 license renewals, 1,372 license suspensions, 463 license revocations, 1,486 concealed carry license applicant denials, and 118 license process suspensions.

## Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy Overview

OPOTA is recognized as a national leader in advanced training for law enforcement. Groundwork was laid for its establishment in 1970 when then-Gov. James Rhodes signed House Bill 1160, authorizing OPOTC to launch its own training academy. The academy opened in 1976.

OPOTA uses the latest research and instructional methods to develop outstanding training programs that meet the needs of law enforcement professionals and the communities they serve. Courses are offered at the academy's main campus and Tactical Training Center, both in London, at a satellite campus in Richfield, through Mobile Academy and regional trainings throughout the state, and online through eOPOTA.

Courses cover a wide array of topics pertinent to today's law enforcement community – from latent fingerprint development, shooting reconstruction, and instructional skills, to computer forensics, crisis intervention, and first-line supervision.

The academy is committed to:

- Providing outstanding instruction to the Ohio law enforcement community.
- Promoting rapid student development through the use of superior training methods.
- Continually upgrading course content by incorporating the latest research and recommended professional practices.
- Stimulating inquiry and providing fresh perspectives within the law enforcement profession.

## Academy Highlights

### Mobile Academy – Mobile Subject Control

This one-day course provides students the most up-to-date concepts in the use of force. Students learn skills necessary to engage or disengage from a standing or ground encounter. Weapon retention, handcuffing, and edged weapon defense are incorporated. This course can be hosted over multiple days to benefit individual agency needs.

### Close Call Reporting Database

In January 2015, the Attorney General's Office established the Close Call Reporting Database. Close call reporting is a process of identifying, analyzing, documenting, and sharing close calls to avoid a catastrophic incident. The database gives departments throughout the state access to anonymously submitted reports, agency-created solutions, and training opportunities relevant to the close call. This information is available on the Attorney General's website in the form of quarterly reports. Close call reporting can assist agencies by preventing injuries, maintaining a climate of safety, giving officers an open forum to discuss concerns they have, raising awareness of issues that affect officer safety, and sharing experiences so others can reduce close calls in their departments.

This year, 25 submissions met the definition of a close call and were posted to the database on the Attorney General's website. All of the state's law enforcement agencies received quarterly reminders to review the database and during roll calls to share lessons learned and to encourage additional training.

## **Online eOPOTA courses**

OPOTA also has continued to expand its free eOPOTA online courses, provided via a secure Internet link through OHLEG. Over 100 courses were available at the close of fiscal year 2016. More than 18,300 Ohio law enforcement officers completed over 107,200 course sessions.

## **Procedural Justice and Police Legitimacy**

Procedural justice is the process used by police officers to treat citizens fairly and with proper respect. Legitimacy refers to a citizen feeling that a police officer should be deferred to, complied with, and trusted. The goal of procedural justice and police legitimacy is to strengthen a department's relationship with the community and, ultimately, improve officer safety and efficiency. It's as basic as the old adage: It is not what you say, but how you say it. It's not just about what you do, but how you do it.

The course was developed through OPOTA's partnership with the Education and Training Division of the Chicago Police Department, with substantial support from Yale University law professors.

## Commission and Academy Financial Report

In fiscal year 2016, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and Academy expenditures totaled \$10.7 million.

<b>Spending by Category</b>	
Payroll, Overtime, Fringe, etc.	\$ 5,836,329
Purchased Personal Services and Contracts	\$ 555,489
Supplies and Maintenance	\$ 1,896,910
Equipment	\$ 316,965
Subsidy and Shared Revenue	\$ 2,103,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,709,392</b>

<b>Spending by Program Area</b>	
Advanced Training	\$ 1,533,531
Certification and Standards	\$ 4,855,563
Education and Policy	\$ 3,601,167
Administration and Operations	\$ 719,131
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,709,392</b>

## Commission and Academy Statistics

<b>State Certification Exam</b>	
Corrections Students Tested	438
Corrections Students Retested	20
Corrections Students Tested - Special Accommodations	0
Corrections Students Retested - Special Accommodations	0
Jailer Students Tested	19
Jailer Students Retested	4
Peace Officer Basic Students Tested	1,530
Peace Officer Basic Students Retested	140
Peace Officer Basic Students Tested - Special Accommodations	11
Peace Officer Basic Students Retested - Special Accommodations	2
Peace Officer Refresher Students Tested	200
Peace Officer Refresher Students Retested	19
Peace Officer Refresher Students Tested - Special Accommodations	0
Peace Officer Refresher Students Retested - Special Accommodations	0
Private Security Students Tested	274
Private Security Students Retested	54
Private Security Students Tested - Special Accommodations	13
Private Security Students Retested - Special Accommodations	5
<b>Total Tests Administered</b>	<b>2,729</b>

<b>Peace officer basic open enrollment letters issued</b>	<b>1,060</b>
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<b>Instructors</b>	
Peace officer basic amendments	1,038
Corrections amendments	61
Jailer amendments	3
Bailiff amendments	0
Private security amendments	52
<b>Total amendments</b>	<b>1,154</b>

Peace officer basic renewals	407
Corrections renewals	37
Jailer renewals	0
Bailiff renewals	0
Private security renewals	40
<b>Total renewals</b>	<b>484</b>

Peace officer basic unit certifications	271
Corrections unit certifications	55
Jailer unit certifications	0
Bailiff unit certifications	0
Private security unit certifications	25
Adult parole authority unit certifications	7
<b>Total unit certifications</b>	<b>358</b>

Peace officer basic special certifications	37
Corrections special certifications	17
Jailer special certifications	0
Bailiff special certifications	0
Private security special certifications	9
<b>Total special certifications</b>	<b>63</b>

<b>Updates and Prior Equivalency Evaluations</b>	
Peace officer basic update determinations	4,270
Bailiff update determinations	2
<b>Total update determinations</b>	<b>4,272</b>
Peace officer basic prior equivalency determinations	36
Corrections basic prior equivalency determinations	32
Bailiff basic prior equivalency determinations	3
<b>Total prior equivalency determinations</b>	<b>71</b>

<b>Decertifications /Revocations</b>	
Commanders	0
Instructors	9
Peace Officers	69
<b>Total decertifications/revocations</b>	<b>78</b>

<b>Suspensions</b>	
Commanders	0
Instructors	1
Peace Officers	3
<b>Total suspensions</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>K-9 Certification</b>	
Unit examinations approved	306
Unit examinations completed	315
Unit special purpose certifications	678
Unit patrol-related certifications	515
Evaluator special purpose certifications	43
Evaluator patrol-related certifications	41

<b>Firearms Requalification</b>	
Instructor requalifications	276
Instructor amendments	212
Instructor renewals	583

<b>OPOTA Advanced Training</b>	
Courses	697
Students	17,546
Training days	1,941
Student training days	38,133

<b>Schools (excluding K-9)</b>	
Adult Parole Authority Basic Training Schools Opened	8
Adult Parole Authority Basic Training Schools Closed	7
Adult Parole Authority Basic Training Schools Canceled	2
Bailiff Basic Training Schools Opened	5
Bailiff Basic Training Schools Closed	5
Bailiff Basic Training Schools Canceled	0
Corrections Basic Training Schools Opened	32
Corrections Basic Training Schools Closed	30
Corrections Basic Training Schools Canceled	0
Jailer Basic Training Schools Opened	3
Jailer Basic Training Schools Closed	3
Jailer Basic Training Schools Canceled	0
Peace Officer Basic Training Schools Opened	97
Peace Officer Basic Training Schools Closed	92
Peace Officer Basic Training Schools Canceled	0
Peace Officer Refresher Course Training Schools Opened	8
Peace Officer Refresher Course Training Schools Closed	9
Peace Officer Refresher Course Training Schools Canceled	0
Private Security Academic Plus Firearms Schools Opened	13
Private Security Academic Plus Firearms Schools Closed	5
Private Security Academic-Only Schools Opened	36
Private Security Academic-Only Schools Closed	24
Private Security Academic-Only Schools Canceled	5
Private Security Firearms Basic Schools Opened	195
Private Security Firearms Basic Schools Closed	167
Private Security Firearms Basic Schools Canceled	17
Private Security Firearms Requalification Schools Opened	233
Private Security Firearms Requalification Schools Closed	226
Private Security Firearms Requalification Schools Canceled	9
Probation Schools Opened	19
Probation Schools Closed	21
Probation Schools Canceled	0

## 2016 Ohio Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony

Perhaps the best way to understand the magnitude of these commission and academy activities is to pay a visit to the Ohio Fallen Officers' Memorial Wall, located at OPOTA's London campus.

There, the names of 770 fallen Ohio peace officers killed in the line of duty since 1823 are forever etched in the memorial's walls. They serve as a constant reminder of just how important the training function is to the brave men and women behind the badge.

The annual Ohio Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony is held the first Thursday in May to honor officers who gave their lives in the line of duty the year before. In 2016, fallen K-9 officers were included for the first time in the ceremony. A K-9 memorial plaque was placed on permanent display in the lobby of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy.

The honorees in May 2016:

- Deputy Michael A. Brandle, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office; end of watch, May 21, 2015
- Officer Sonny L. Kim, Cincinnati Police Department; end of watch, June 19, 2015
- Officer Nathan J. Van Oort Sr., Ohio University Police Department; end of watch, Nov. 7, 2015

The historical induction:

- Alfred Knight, B&O Railroad Police Department; end of watch, Sept. 15, 1927

The K-9 honoree:

- K-9 Falko, Toledo Police Department; end of watch, Aug. 12, 2015

The K-9 historical inductions:

- K-9 Bandit, Cincinnati Police Department; end of watch, April 16, 1987
- K-9 Cero, Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office; end of watch, March 25, 2000
- K-9 Bungee, New Albany Police Department; end of watch, May 25, 2011
- K-9 Andy, Vermilion Police Department; end of watch, June 26, 2012

## **2015 Ohio Distinguished Law Enforcement Awards**

These individuals and groups received Distinguished Law Enforcement Awards at the Ohio Attorney General's 2015 Law Enforcement Conference to recognize their outstanding achievements and dedication:

### **Distinguished Law Enforcement Civilian Leadership Award**

#### **Theresa Kay Snyder, Perry Behavioral Health Choices**

Theresa Kay Snyder's contributions to the community of New Lexington are exceptional and far-reaching. She has been a driving force for addiction prevention and recovery as director of Perry Behavioral Health Choices, an outpatient drug and alcohol treatment center, and as a member of the Perry County Drug Coalition. Through the treatment center, Snyder secured a grant to open a sober house for addicts in recovery and Evolution, a men's rehabilitation facility. Using her health-care knowledge, Snyder, a registered nurse, has educated many in the community about addiction. She has taught prevention in schools and talked to addicts about the medical aspects of their disease. Snyder has also served as a foster parent.

### **Distinguished Law Enforcement Community Service Award**

#### **Det. Kimberly Mager, Ashland Police Division**

In 2001, when Kimberly Mager was a patrol officer with just a few years on the force, a young boy who had been removed from his parents due to neglect confided that he had received nothing for Christmas. Officers pooled their money and bought gifts for the child. The next year, Det. Mager decided to do something to bring Christmas cheer to other needy children – and Shop With a Cop was born. She gathered resources and contacted Job and Family Services and area schools to identify children in need. The first year, a few dozen children were able to buy items for themselves or gifts for family members. Each year, the program has expanded. It now includes all Ashland County law enforcement agencies, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and area fire departments. Last year, about 180 kids were able to take part. Throughout the year, Det. Mager solicits donations and works to raise money.

### **Distinguished Law Enforcement Training Award**

#### **Chief Cel Rivera and Officer Michael Gidich, Lorain Police Department**

Chief Cel Rivera and Officer Michael Gidich, in an effort to stem the tide of opiate-related overdose deaths in their community, succeeded in an early program to equip officers with naloxone, a drug that blocks the effects of opioids on the brain. With the implementation of the program, a policy and training were needed. Chief Rivera worked on the policy and asked Dr. Evans and Officer Gidich, who is also a paramedic, to work on a training presentation and video. Within two weeks, the training materials were ready for distribution throughout the county. Since then, Chief Rivera and Officer Gidich have been assisting other departments with their programs. From October 2013 until May 2015 in Lorain, 54 overdose deaths were averted through the delivery of naloxone by police officers.

## **Mark Losey Distinguished Law Enforcement Service Award**

**Officer Kurt A. Holden, Wright State University Police Department**

Kurt A. Holden, a six-year veteran of the Wright State University Police Department, is a versatile officer who works on the Bike Patrol, K-9 and Crime Prevention units, and as a field training officer and supervisor. Yet, in addition to his busy schedule, he finds time to serve as a coach and mentor to foster youths at the university. The mentoring is close to Officer Holden's heart because he grew up in foster care. Determined to overcome his difficult childhood, Officer Holden focused on his education and has earned associate, bachelor's and master's degrees. He has been a guest speaker for events at Wright State, Sinclair Community College and Montgomery County Children Services. In November, Officer Holden helped care for a man suffering a heart attack. He was in a restaurant with his family when a diner collapsed. Officer Holden could find a pulse, so he and another patron began administering CPR. They continued resuscitation efforts until medics arrived.

## **Mark Losey Distinguished Law Enforcement Service Award**

**Col. Paul A. Pride, Superintendent, Ohio State Highway Patrol**

Colonel Paul A. Pride is nationally known for his work to reduce traffic-crash deaths. His tenure as superintendent is marked by several innovative initiatives. His Trooper Shield program is meant to reduce traffic-related fatalities and increase criminal patrol efforts. As heroin abuse reached epidemic proportions in 2012, Col. Pride felt officers could make strides in targeting the method of transport. Under the Trooper Shield program, the basic traffic stop acts as a gateway to identify criminal operations, with officers being urged to spend more time with traffic violators and look more closely for cues of illegal activity. To help in the effort, Pride increased the number of K-9 officers and instituted a program to allow troopers to receive specialized training on criminal patrol operations. Each patrol district was also assigned a criminal patrol lieutenant to oversee crime enforcement efforts in each region. The patrol adopted a multifaceted approach to combat drugs and drug-related crime using a reallocation of resources, targeted enforcement, specialized officers, and initiatives.

## **Distinguished Law Enforcement Group Achievement Award**

**Cincinnati Police Department/Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Organized Crime Investigative Squad**

**Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms  
and Explosives**

Resident Agent in Charge Francesco  
Occhipinti  
Special Agent John Scott  
Special Agent Derek Graham

**Cincinnati Police Department**  
Sgt. William Halusek  
Police Specialist Rick Malone

Officer Daniel Kowalski  
Officer Joe Ruchti  
Officer Brett Stratmann  
Officer Jason Wharton  
Officer Chris Vogelpohl

**U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern  
District of Ohio**  
Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony Springer  
Assistant U.S. Attorney Ken Parker

Members of the Cincinnati Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) work together as the Organized Crime Investigative Squad (OCIS) task force to target gangs and illegal traffickers in firearms in southwestern Ohio. The task force was recognized for breaking up two violent robbery crews that were operating in Ohio and Kentucky. On the heels of the case, OCIS began investigating a series of armed robberies in Hamilton County. One of the suspects had a social media account featuring pictures of his associates with guns, drugs and money. The task force used that information in an investigation of the man's associates for weapons charges. The associates began cooperating with the task force in the armed robbery cases. After listening to hundreds of hours of jail calls, preserving social media data, serving search warrants, comparing DNA evidence, conducting interviews, obtaining old case files, exploiting cellphone data and mapping cellular calls, a case was built, and six suspects were arrested.

## **Distinguished Law Enforcement Group Achievement Award**

### **Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force**

#### **Austintown Township Police Department**

Lt. Jeff Solic, task force commander  
Officer Robert Whited

#### **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)**

Special Agent Kevin Ireland

#### **Beaver Township Police Department**

Officer Danny Beniston

#### **Canfield Police Department**

Officer William DiFrangia

#### **FBI**

Special Agent James McCann  
Intelligence Analyst Tom Jordan

#### **Liberty Township Police Department**

Sgt. Ray Buhala

#### **Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office**

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Martin  
Desmond

#### **Mahoning County Sheriff's Office**

Sgt. Lawrence McLaughlin  
Deputy Tyrone Hyshaw  
Deputy Donald Belosic (also with the  
Youngstown DEA Task Force)

#### **Ohio Adult Parole Authority**

Parole Officer Jeff Kaschak

#### **Ohio Board of Pharmacy**

Agent John Bonish

#### **Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)**

Intelligence Analyst Michelle Bukowski

#### **Poland Township Police Department**

Det. Greg Wilson

#### **Springfield Township Police Department**

Det. Constantino "Gus" Lolakis

#### **Struthers Police Department**

Capt. Matt Haus

#### **U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio**

Assistant U.S. Attorney David Toepfer

#### **Youngstown Police Department**

Officer Sam Mosca (also with the Youngstown  
DEA Task Force)  
Officer Robert Patton  
Officer Brian Simmons

#### **Youngstown State University Police Department**

Officer Tom Williams

#### **Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force**

Administrative Assistant Candy Parks  
Administrative Assistant Wendy Welsh

The Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force is a multi-jurisdictional group made up of agents and officers from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. It targets drug trafficking organizations in northeastern Ohio. In one recent case, the task force investigated a drug trafficking organization that was suspected of bringing vast quantities of heroin into Youngstown and western Pennsylvania. During a two-year investigation, the task force employed a variety of techniques, including federal Title III wiretaps, which ultimately resulted in the indictment of 18 people in U.S. Northern District Court, Eastern Division, on 129 counts. In addition, 37 others were indicted in Mahoning County Common Pleas Court on charges, including possession of heroin, conspiracy to traffic in heroin and possession of criminal tools. The investigation resulted in the seizure of more than 1,700 grams of heroin as well as crack cocaine, marijuana, prescription pills, guns and money.

## **Distinguished Law Enforcement Group Achievement Award**

### **U.S. Secret Service Southern District of Ohio Electronic & Financial Crimes Task Force**

#### **U.S. Secret Service**

Resident Agent in Charge Jon Schuck  
 Special Agent Doug Dean  
 Special Agent Michael Burton  
 Special Agent Bart Tackett

Deputy Director of Enforcement Mark  
 Leatherman

#### **Westerville Division of Police**

Det. Larry French, task force officer

#### **Internal Revenue Service**

Special Agent Charlie Birch

#### **Whitehall Division of Police**

Officer John Slosser

#### **Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement)**

Special Agent Jeff Landthorne

#### **Gahanna Division of Police**

Officer John Power  
 Det. Blair Thomas

#### **Columbus Division of Police**

Det. Wyatt Wilson  
 Criminal Intelligence Analyst Andrew Hawkins

#### **Delaware County Sheriff's Office**

Det. Jason Campbell  
 Det. Charles Gannon

#### **Ohio State Highway Patrol**

Trooper Frank Applegate

#### **Ohio Auditor of State**

Investigator Elizabeth Miller

#### **Ohio Casino Control Commission**

Gaming Agent Deb Morford

#### **Chillicothe Police Department**

Det. Pete Shaw

The U.S. Secret Service Southern District of Ohio Electronic & Financial Crimes Task Force spent almost four years building a case against, and then dismantling, a multimillion-dollar fraud and money laundering scheme in central Ohio. In 2011, the U.S. Secret Service Southern District of Ohio Electronic & Financial Crimes Task Force began investigating a Columbus family suspected of using their ATM business to launder proceeds from skimmed credit-card transactions. Skimming occurs when a suspect scans a card through a miniature card reader, which stores the number. Later, an "encoder" buys the stolen numbers and embeds them on gift cards, which can then be used to make fraudulent purchases. The family and other conspirators would buy credit-card numbers from various sources and cash them out at their ATMs and point-of-sale terminals at two stores they owned. They would use re-encoded cards to buy genuine gift cards, cigarettes and other products. They would then sell the items for cash. On March 3, 2015, six search warrants were executed on the family's

home as well as the homes of accomplices. Two members of the family and other accomplices were sent to U.S. District Court to answer to the charges. Bank accounts and almost 50 ATMs were seized for a total asset seizure of about \$750,000. The family's operation resulted in more than \$3 million in losses to credit-card companies and consumers.

## **Distinguished Law Enforcement Meritorious Service Award**

### **Cleveland Division of Police**

Det. Brian Middaugh, Det. Michael McNeeley, and Det. Anthony Sauto

On July 21, 2014, detectives Michael McNeeley, Brian Middaugh and Anthony Sauto, who were assigned to the Gang Impact Unit, set out to patrol a neighborhood in response to a series of violent crimes that were thought to be caused by a gang. The three had reason to believe that a violent fugitive being sought for a nearby shooting was linked to gang activity, so they decided to watch his home. After a while, the detectives saw the suspect and another man leave the home, and they confronted the pair, who turned out to be armed. Sauto disarmed and captured one of them, but the other man brandished a handgun and took off. Detectives McNeeley and Middaugh chased the suspect and defended themselves by firing several shots during the pursuit. The suspect, who was wounded, was captured and charged.

## **Distinguished Law Enforcement Meritorious Service Award**

### **Ohio State Highway Patrol**

Lt. Clint G. Arnold  
Lt. Matthew J. Hamilton  
Lt. Kevin S. Long  
Sgt. Joseph J. Luebbers

### **Butler County Sheriff's Office**

Lt. Morgan A. Dallman  
Deputy Brian L. Oswald

A team of troopers and two deputies worked together and risked their lives to try to save a mother who had been abducted from her home. On Sept. 12, 2014, the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) was notified that the suspect in a murder and possible abduction in Paducah, Ky., and his captive were believed to be traveling into Ohio. The report identified the man and said he was suspected of killing a teenage boy and forcing the boy's mother into an SUV. A short time later, an OSHP trooper advised that he was following the suspect's vehicle on I-75. Other troopers joined the pursuit and signaled the suspect to pull over. As troopers exited their cars, they heard gunshots coming from inside the SUV, but its tinted windows blocked the view. Using a loudspeaker, the troopers ordered the suspect to surrender. Along with the lieutenant and deputy from the Butler County Sheriff's Office, the troopers developed a plan using protective shields and breaching tools. The six officers formed two teams to approach the vehicle from opposite sides. The right team broke the rear window, and the left team broke the driver's window. The suspect was found bleeding and motionless in the driver's seat. The victim had been fatally shot and was lying on the floorboard of the middle seat. The suspect recovered and faced aggravated murder and kidnapping charges.

## **Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award**

### **Cleveland Division of Police**

Sgt. Kevin Coleman  
Patrol Officer Daniel Jopek  
Patrol Officer Kevin Kincaid Jr.  
Patrol Officer Robert Mangan

Patrol Officer James Merritt  
Patrol Officer Ian Mussell  
Patrol Officer Mark Pesta  
Patrol Officer Robby Prock

The officers of the 4th District station put their lives at risk to rescue a man in a wheelchair from a burning vehicle. On the evening of June 1, 2014, the officers heard a crash and ran to see what had happened. Two vehicles had collided in the intersection of E. 93rd Street and Kinsman Road, next to the station. One of the vehicles, a minivan, struck a utility pole and smoke was coming from under the hood. The officers found that the driver of the minivan is a quadriplegic. He was seated in a wheelchair secured in the vehicle. Officers got into the van and tried to free the wheelchair and remove the driver, but were overcome by smoke. Soon, the van began burning. As an officer ran back to the station to get a fire extinguisher, the others freed the driver and pulled him to safety. He was transported to the hospital, where he was treated and released.

## **Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award**

### **Cleveland Division of Police**

Patrol Officer Timothy Hannon  
Patrol Officer John Jarrell  
Patrol Officer John Lyons  
Patrol Officer Brandon Melbar  
Patrol Officer David Muniz  
Patrol Officer Michael Surtz

As an angry gunman stalked and fired upon officers in an apartment complex, they kept their cool and tried to bring about a peaceful resolution. On March 10, 2015, a man who had been drinking got in an argument with his wife and threatened her and the landlord with a handgun. After the husband passed out, the wife went to the 4th District station for help. The officers responded to the suspect's address. While the backup officers waited, two others accompanied the landlord to the stairs leading up to the apartment. The suspect stepped out and fired two shots, striking Officer David Muniz in the chest, hitting his ballistic vest. All of the officers rushed to covered positions in the stairwell and a kitchen. They told the suspect to drop the gun and come downstairs. He refused saying he wanted to die. He walked toward the officers in the kitchen and raised his gun at them. Officers Timothy Hannon, John Jarrell, John Lyons and Michael Surtz fired in defense of their lives, killing the suspect.

## **Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award**

### **Cleveland Division of Police**

Patrol Officer John Lyons  
Patrol Officer Matthew Pollack

On Oct. 11, 2014, officers John Lyons and Matthew Pollack were working a night patrol in a high violence area when they got a call with the location of a man who was wanted on outstanding warrants. They reached the address and saw the suspect in the driveway. They left the patrol car and approached him. The suspect pulled out a handgun and fired at Officer Lyons' chest, hitting his ballistic vest. Officer Lyons took cover and fired once at the suspect. Officer Pollack exchanged gunfire with the suspect, who then fled. When backup arrived, the suspect couldn't be found. Eventually, he emerged with a gunshot wound in his chest. He was arrested and taken to a hospital, where he recovered. The shooter was sentenced to 25 years in prison. Officer Lyons was treated for his injuries and released.

## **Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award**

### **Uniontown Police Department**

Capt. David A. Brown  
Sgt. Michael P. Batchik

On Sept. 15, 2014, Cap. David A. Brown and Sgt. Michael P. Batchik responded to calls of a man trapped in a burning vehicle in the parking lot of a grocery store. When the two arrived, they found the driver unconscious with his foot jammed on the accelerator, the doors locked and the windows rolled up. His vehicle was smashing into a parked car. The two tried to quickly break a window with a fire extinguisher but failed. Sgt. Batchik ran back to his cruiser to get a window punch. Smoke from the fire and the spinning tires made it hard to see or breathe. Sgt. Batchik climbed in the vehicle to unlock the driver's door. Capt. Brown and Sgt. Batchik together pulled the 6-foot-2-inch, 220-pound victim to safety, away from the burning vehicle. Firefighters and paramedics soon arrived to help. The victim was treated at the hospital for several days and released.

## **Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award**

### **Cleveland Division of Police**

Patrol Officer Joseph Edwards IV  
Patrol Officer Nicholas Lombardi

On Jan. 21, 2015, while on patrol, officers Joseph Edwards IV and Nicholas Lombardi received information from other patrol officers that shots had been fired during a burglary and that the suspect fled in a gold pickup truck. A few minutes later, officers Edwards and Lombardi saw a truck matching the description and began to follow it. The truck stopped in a driveway and the driver got out and started walking toward the house. Officers Edwards and Lombardi ordered the man to return to his truck. The officers attempted to pat him down for weapons, but he wouldn't keep his hands on the truck. Officer Lombardi attempted to put the suspect's hands behind his back and he began to struggle. The suspect pulled out a gun and fired inches from Officer Edwards' head. Officer Edwards fell but then jumped up to help get the suspect in handcuffs. Both officers had to be treated at the hospital. Officer Edwards had burns on his face, a bite mark on his hand, damage to his eye and cuts. Officer Lombardi had bruises on his head and cuts on his hands. "Even though Officer Edwards was momentarily stunned and obviously injured, he had the wherewithal to collect himself enough to get back in the fight to ensure that his partner was assisted in subduing this dangerous felon," said Capt. Jennie Socha.

## **Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award**

### **South Euclid Police Department**

Patrolman Steve Wilson

As a woman's life was in the balance, an officer took action to save her from a knife-wielding attacker. At 4:13 a.m. on Oct. 18, 2014, Patrolman Steve Wilson and Det. Sgt. Rick Friedl responded to calls of a burglary in progress. When they arrived at the home, they heard a woman screaming for help and saw that the back door had been forced open. The two entered the residence and saw a man with a knife on top of an injured woman. Both ordered the man to put the knife down, but he refused. Officer Wilson fired two shots, both of which hit the suspect, who later died at the hospital. The victim said her attacker targeted her because she had broken off a relationship with him. In a note to the police, she wrote, "Thank you for doing a superb job as police officers. Most importantly, thank you Steve for saving my life."



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Ohio Attorney General's Office  
**Ohio Peace Officer Training  
Commission and Academy**

**FISCAL YEAR 2016**

**Annual Report**

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