

PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE TESTIMONY
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MAY 11, 2017



PRESENTED BY

LIEUTENANT COLONEL STEPHEN BUCAR
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF STAFF
PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE

Good morning, Chairmen Taylor and Keller and members of the House Transportation Committee. I am Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Bucar, Deputy Commissioner of Staff for the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP).

The PSP is the tenth largest police agency in the nation and the third largest internationally accredited law enforcement agency in the world. Currently, we patrol 82 percent of the land area of the Commonwealth and 60 percent of the highways, including all our interstates. The PSP provides either full-time (approximately 1290) or part-time (approximately 410) police protection to over 1,700 municipalities.

PSP is legislatively mandated to provide police service to those municipalities that do not have their own police department, as well as to those municipalities that do have their own police department but request our services or

assistance. In addition, we also deliver specialized services to municipal police agencies at no cost.

As part of his budget plan, Governor Wolf has proposed a \$25 per capita fee for State Police services in municipalities which do not have a full or part-time police department or that do not participate with a regional police department for the provision of police services. Under this plan, based on information provided from the municipalities, a \$25 per capita fee would be charged for State police services provided during the fiscal year. In determining the municipality's population, the most recent decennial census would be used. Further, inmates in state correctional institutions would be excluded in determining a municipality's population. In addition, municipalities determined to be distressed under the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act will not be charged the per capita

fee. Fees collected annually under the Governor's proposal are to be deposited into the General Fund as an increase to the State Police General Government Operations and are to be earmarked to support State Police cadet classes and State Police services.

The PSP is one of the most well-respected state police agencies in the country and delivers a variety of services to all municipalities across the Commonwealth upon request, regardless of whether they have their own police agency. Every Protection from Abuse (PFA) Order across the Commonwealth is entered ***into the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network*** and a copy is maintained by PSP. Further, every Amber Alert message is disseminated through PSP. Our Aviation Section provides aerial support; our Western and Eastern Special Emergency Response Teams (***SERT***) provide tactical

support; our Hazardous Device and Explosives Section provides explosive and suspicious package support; our Clandestine Laboratory Response Teams (**CLRT**) provide evidence collection and clean up support for illicit drug labs; our DNA and six regional laboratories provide laboratory support; and, our Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center (PaCIC) provides vital information to our public safety partners to keep police officers and citizens safe, as well as aiding in protecting critical infrastructure and key resources. This center is staffed by 44 analysts and supervisors, along with representatives from a host of state and federal law enforcement agencies and all-hazard partners, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security.

In 2016, PaCIC received nearly 1,600 tips associated with a wide variety of topics including those associated with

suspected terrorism, drug dealers, and the location of fugitives. In addition, PaCIC received 37,490 requests for information from federal, state, and local agencies and in response to those requests, our analysts completed over 57,000 products for these agencies, enhancing and furthering their investigations.

PSP assisted municipal police through the following incidents in 2016:

- 13,007 Request Assist-Other Police (includes traffic control, crash investigation, Presidential escorts, or criminal investigations).
- 15,621 Request Assist-Other Agency (assisting a governmental agency in some manner; community ambulance companies, county coroners, etc.).

Commented [JW1]: Should this be "with"?

- 101,067 incidents were handled by PSP which were not in our primary patrol areas. These incidents could be located within either full-or part-time municipal police jurisdictions.
- 40 homicides were investigated at request of municipal police.
- 24 shooting incidents involving municipal law enforcement officers were investigated.
- SERT responded to 23 municipal police requests for assistance.
- CLRT responded to 139 municipal police requests.
- Approximately 70% of PSP laboratory services annually are devoted to municipal police departments.

I want to thank the Committee for this opportunity to testify before you on this important matter. At your convenience, I am willing to address any questions you may have.