



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of the Secretary

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December 14, 2009

STATE OF MARYLAND

MARTIN O'MALLEY
GOVERNOR

ANTHONY G. BROWN
LT. GOVERNOR

GARY D. MAYNARD
SECRETARY

G. LAWRENCE FRANKLIN
DEPUTY SECRETARY

The Honorable Ulysses Currie
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller State Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1911

DIVISION OF CORRECTION

DIVISION OF PAROLE AND
PROBATION

DIVISION OF PRETRIAL
DETENTION AND SERVICES

PATUXENT INSTITUTION

MARYLAND COMMISSION
ON CORRECTIONAL
STANDARDS

CORRECTIONAL TRAINING
COMMISSION

POLICE TRAINING
COMMISSION

MARYLAND PAROLE
COMMISSION

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COMPENSATION BOARD

EMERGENCY NUMBER
SYSTEMS BOARD

SUNDRY CLAIMS BOARD

INMATE GRIEVANCE OFFICE

The Honorable Norman H. Conway
Chair, House Committee on Appropriations
Room 121, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1911

RE: Joint Chairmen's Report – Police and Correctional Training Commissions – Firing Range Report Requirements

Dear Chairmen:

The 2009 Joint Chairmen's Report requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Maryland Transportation Authority to submit a report pertaining to the firing range requirements for the Maryland Transportation Authority Police. This requirement is accompanied by language concerning a memorandum of understanding and the release of funds to complete an upgrade to the firing range at the Public Safety Education and Training Center. The following language requirements can be found on page 216 of the 2009 Joint Chairmen's Report:

Provided that prior to the expenditure of design funds for the firing range:

(1) MDTA and PCTC shall jointly submit a needs assessment to the budget committees to determine whether the current capacity for pistol lanes at PSETC meets the needs of MDTA and all other law enforcement agencies. This needs assessment shall take into consideration the 10 additional pistol lanes that MDTA was seeking to build to determine if there is a need for these additional lanes. If there are unmet needs for pistol lanes, the proposed remediation of the rifle firing range shall also include the construction of up to 10 additional pistol lanes at PSETC.

(2) MDTA and PCTC shall agree to a memorandum of understanding concerning MDTA's use of PSETC firing ranges and provide a copy of the memorandum of understanding to the budget committees.

(3) The budget committees shall have 45 days to review and comment from the receipt of each of these reports.

Further provided that PCTC shall develop a long-term needs assessment that considers the current and future needs of law enforcement agencies for firing ranges over the next 20 years. The

report shall be submitted to the budget committees by December 1, 2009, and the budget committees shall have 45 days to review and comment on the report.

The attached is the portion that is report the needs assessment performed by the staff of the Police and Correctional Training Commissions. If it along with the already presented memorandum of understanding meet with your approval, we would like to request the release of the design funds associated with the upgrade project – a portion of the \$2.4 million (Joint Chairmen’s report, page 70).

If the Department or I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gary D. Maynard
Secretary
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

And

Beverly K. Swaim-Staley
Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation

Attachment

- c: Senator Edward Kasemeyer, Vice Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
- Senator James E. DeGrange, Sr., Chair, Senate Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment Subcommittee
- Delegate James Proctor, Vice Chair, House Committee on Appropriations
- Delegate Galen Claggett, Chair, House Subcommittee on Public Safety and Administration
- Delegate Adrienne A. Jones, Chair, House Subcommittee on Capital Budget
- Delegate Tawanna Gaines, Chair, House Subcommittee on Transportation & Environment
- Members of the House Committee on Appropriations
- Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
- Mr. Matthew Gallagher, Chief of Staff, Governor’s Office
- Mr. Joseph Bryce, Governor’s Chief Legislative Officer
- Ms. Stacy Mayer, Governor’s Deputy Legislative Officer
- Mr. Warren G. Deschenaux, Director, Department of Legislative Services
- Ms. Rebecca Moore, Policy Analyst, Department of Legislative Services
- Mr. Matthew Klein, Capital Budget Analyst, Department of Legislative Services
- Ms. Jaclyn Hartman, Policy Analyst, Department of Legislative Services
- Mr. Chadfield Clapsaddle, Executive Director, Capital Budget Division, Department of Budget and Management
- Ms. Diane Lucas, Supervisor, Budget Analysis, Department of Budget and Management
- Mr. David Grossman, Budget Analyst, Department of Budget and Management
- Mr. Sean Egan, Capital Budget Analyst, Department of Budget and Management

Mr. Joshua Watters, Staff, House Committee on Appropriations
Mr. David Smulski, Staff, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Ms. Cathy Kramer, Department of Legislative Services
Ms. Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services
Mr. Patrick Fleming, Manager, Division of Capital Planning, MD Transportation Authority
Chief Marcus Brown, MD Transportation Authority Police
Mr. Martin Harris, Legislative Affairs, MD Department of Transportation
Deputy Secretary G. Lawrence Franklin, DPSCS
Assistant Secretary/Chief of Staff Thomasina Hiers, DPSCS
Acting Assistant Secretary Randall Nero, Ph.D., DPSCS
Assistant Secretary David Bezanson, DPSCS
Acting Director Raymond Franklin, PCTC, DPSCS
Director Rhea L. Harris, Office of Legislative Affairs, DPSCS



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE

MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

**REPORT ON THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE CAPACITY OF CURRENT
FIREARMS TRAINING FACILITY'S PISTOL RANGE LANES**

December 2009

Governor Martin O'Malley
Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown
Secretary Gary D. Maynard, DPSCS
Secretary Beverly K. Swaim-Staley, MDOT

This assessment report is prepared in response to the requirements of the 2009 Joint Chairmen's Report – Section 56 on pages 216 to 217, stating:

That it is the intent of the General Assembly that upon the completion of a transfer of \$1,182,500 from the Maryland Department of Transportation's Secretary's Office to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Capital Appropriation provided for in this Act, then the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) shall have use of a pistol firing range at least three times per year at the Public Safety Education and Training Center (PSETC) in Sykesville or at Liberty Range in Baltimore County when the Department of State Police can accommodate MDTA. MDTA and the Police and Correctional Training Commissions (PCTC) shall collaborate to remediate the rifle range at PSETC and to construct up to 10 additional pistol lanes at PSETC if additional pistol lanes are found to be necessary per provision (1) below.

Provided that prior to the expenditure of design funds for the firing range:

- (1) MDTA and PCTC shall jointly submit a needs assessment to the budget committees to determine whether the current capacity for pistol lanes at PSETC meets the needs of MDTA and all other law enforcement agencies. This needs assessment shall take into consideration the 10 additional pistol lanes that MDTA was seeking to build to determine if there is a need for these additional lanes. If there are unmet needs for pistol lanes, the proposed remediation of the rifle firing range shall also include the construction of up to 10 additional pistol lanes at PSETC.*
- (2) MDTA and PCTC shall agree to a memorandum of understanding concerning MDTA's use of PSETC firing ranges and provide a copy of the memorandum of understanding to the budget committees.*
- (3) The budget committees shall have 45 days to review and comment from the receipt of each of these reports.*

Further provided that PCTC shall develop a long-term needs assessment that considers the current and future needs of law enforcement agencies for firing ranges over the next 20 years. The report shall be submitted to the budget committees by December 1, 2009, and the budget committees shall have 45 days to review and comment on the report.

The Firearms Training Facility (FTF) at the Public Safety Education and Training Center (PSETC) is a firearms training facility centrally located in the state for all law enforcement, correctional, and parole and probation employees. Currently, the FTF is serving twenty-five police, correctional and parole and probation agencies. The pistol shooting ranges, the target of this assessment, provide four separate training areas configured with two – eleven shooter position ranges and two – sixteen shooter position ranges. For class sizes larger than what a single range can accommodate; one eleven position and one sixteen position range can be operated from a single control tower allowing a maximum single class size of 27 shooters.

Firearms training and qualification are conducted during daylight hours throughout the entire year. To eliminate impact on the surrounding residential neighborhoods, "low light" (night-time) firearms training does not occur after 9 pm. As such, this training is

limited to five months (January-March and November-December) each year, between the hours of 4 pm and 9 pm.

The FTF also provides two instructional classrooms equipped with visual, audio and simulation equipment for conducting instructor lead presentations and preparation for range exercises. Student seating capacity is thirty (30) for the large classroom and twenty-four (24) for small classroom.

Compensating for state holidays, inclement weather dates and required maintenance time, the above schedule provides a total of 1,826 hours per range or 7,304 hours for all four pistol ranges to conduct daylight firearms training. Total "low light" (night-time) training hours are 445 hours per range or 1,780 hours for all four ranges. Classroom availability is based upon the same number of hours as a single range. As there are only two classrooms, the total number of annual available classrooms hours is 50% of the total annual hours of range time for both daylight (3,652 hours) and "low light" (890 hours) training.

The following figures provide actual 2007 and 2008 training/qualification conducted at the FTF:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<u>Daytime</u>		
Range Use	4,064 hours	3,584 hours
Classroom	2,824 hours	2,472 hours
<u>Low Light</u>		
Range Use	485 hours	640 hours
Classroom	175 hours	370 hours
<u>Total Trained*</u>	5,321 Officers	5,462 Officers

The following provides training/qualification information for the first six months of 2009:

	<u>Jan-June 2009</u>
<u>Daytime</u>	
Range Use	2,152 hours
Classroom	1,584 hours
<u>Low Light</u>	
Range Use	205 hours
Classroom	150 hours
<u>Total Trained*</u>	2,952 Officers (Projected Annual Total 5,900)

*"Total Trained" – an individual officer may have been trained multiple times. "Total Trained" data indicates the actual number of times a firing lane was occupied.

This represents the total usage for the three major components of the FTF; classrooms, day time and low light (night-time) shooting ranges. The nearly three years of compiled data reflect that classroom usage ranged from 67.7% to 86.7%, day time firing range

usage ranged from 49.1% to 58.9% percent and low light (night-time) firing range usage was 23.1% to 35.9% of availability. Total number of officers trained annually increased each year with an annual increase of 2.7% for 2008 and, based upon the first six months, 2009 training will result in an additional 8.1% increase of total officers trained. The additional 5% increase for 2009 is primarily due to the anticipated increase for the Maryland Transportation Authority Police (MdTAP) enhanced firearms training.

The following data relates to the Maryland of Transportation Authority Police (MdTAP) firearms training conducted at FTF from January 2007 through June 2009 and planned training for the remainder of 2009 to be conducted at the FTF:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	
			Jan-June	July-Dec (Projected)
<u>Daytime</u>				
Range Use	80 hours	440 hours	264 hours	544 hours
Classroom	80 hours	440 hours	264 hours	544 hours
<u>Low Light</u>				
Range Use	5 hours	165 hours	125 hours	176 hours
Classroom	5 hours	165 hours	125 hours	176 hours
<u>Total Trained*</u>	285 Officers	719 Officers	359 Officers	400 Officers (Projected)

* "Total trained" – an individual officer may have been trained multiple times. "Total Trained" data indicates the actual number of times a firing lane was occupied.

The above data for MdTAP for 2009 reflects the projected needs, including a recently implemented "enhancement" training program, to conduct annual pistol firearms training for the foreseeable future. Therefore, it is expected that the current four pistol ranges, with 54 shooting lanes of which 11 have been dedicated to MdTAP use, will accommodate all of MdTAP's needs and still allow for increased firearms training needs of all current and future FTF users.

Prior to 2009, the MdTAP's use of the PSETC Firearms Facility was sporadic based on scheduling and low light firing restrictions that did not correspond with their firearms needs. MdTAP's use of the FTF became more impractical based on the expenditures of money and time, which was required for extended travel distances and the inability of officers to return to their patrol duties. The Maryland Correctional Institution (Jessup), the Aberdeen Police Department, and the Sparrows Point ranges were used to supplement MdTAP's firearm needs. With the signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC) in July 2009, the MdTAP has been able to meet a majority of its firearms needs, but must still rely upon utilization of the range at the Southern Maryland Pre-Release Unit in Southern Maryland and the Aberdeen Police Range in Harford County. These additional ranges are needed because it is impractical for officers stationed at the Harry W. Nice or Thomas J. Hatem Bridges to drive to the Sykesville facility for qualification and proficiency training in a 8-hour day.

The need for future statewide pistol lanes will be addressed in a separate Joint Chairmen's Report submitted by the MPCTC. The MdTAP have committed to working with MPCTC to determine Maryland's law enforcement firearms training needs for the

next 20 years and the role that the proposed MdTAP firearms facility would play in the long-term statewide plan to effectively and efficiently address future demand.

While FTF classroom usage, currently at 86.7%, is approaching maximum capacity, additional space is available at the nearby PSETC Academic Center. Additionally, conversion of support space at the FTF can be easily accomplished without significant expenditure. At 58.9% current usage FTF's four pistol ranges are clearly sufficient to handle all MdTAP's needs along with a 2-3 % annual training increase for the near future. Additional pistol range lanes will be required based upon a 3% annual increase and an 85% maximum occupancy for training and qualification, it is expected that in about 10 years additional pistol range lanes will be required..