



# CONSTABLES' TRAINING BULLETIN

**NUMBER 118**

**SEPTEMBER 2024**

## **In Memoriam: State Constable and Instructor Phil Michaels**

As many of you know Philip John Michael, born on February 8, 1973, passed away surrounded by loved ones on June 6, 2024. He was the beloved son of Thomas and Barbara (Shady) Michael. Philip is survived by his loving wife, Tricia Carbonara Michael, and their cherished sons, Noah (Kassi) and Benjamin. He will be deeply missed by his brothers, Charles (Ginelle) and Thomas, and his mother-in-law, Joyce Carbonara.

Philip's passion for education was evident in his academic achievements. He graduated from California University with a bachelor's degree in education (History) and later pursued a Master's in Special Education. Additionally, he earned a Master's in Business Administration from Waynesburg University.

Throughout his career, Philip dedicated himself to public service. He served as a former Uniontown City councilman and taught in various school districts, including both West Mifflin and Mapletown School. He was a prominent figure in the community, serving as President of the Uniontown Rotary Club, Head of the Uniontown Sewage Authority, and a member of the Uniontown Chamber of Commerce. Philip was also an active member of St. George Maronite Catholic Church.

Philip's commitment to public safety led him to serve as a Pennsylvania State Constable. Since 2013, Phil was an Act 49 Board instructor in topics such as Law, Communications, Firearms, and a Master Defensive Tactics Instructor for Penn State. He was a strong and passionate instructor and strongly believed in the Constable system. Philip John Michael leaves behind a legacy of service, dedication, and love. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

## **New Constable Program Supervisor: Michael Vaughn**

Please welcome the new Constable Training Program Supervisor, Mike Vaughn. Mike started in the position July 15, 2024. After graduating from King's College and serving in the USAF, Mike attended the Maryland Police Corps Academy in Linthicum, MD. In 1997, Mike was then hired by the Baltimore City Police Department where he served in various assignments throughout the department including uniformed patrol, operations section, Criminal Investigative Division, and the Hot Spot Unit.

**Constables' Education and Training  
Board Members:**

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Board Chair**

**Patricia Norwood-Foden  
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**Major William Cawley  
Honorable Wilden Davis  
Harry Albert  
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**Executive Director, PCCD  
Michael Pennington**

**John Pfau  
Manager,  
Bureau of Training Services**



## **New Constable Program Supervisor: Michael Vaughn - Continued**

In 2013 Mike was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and served as a patrol supervisor and shift commander before being assigned to the Baltimore City Police Department's Training Academy in 2019. At the training academy, Mike served as a supervisor in entry level training and continuing education. While serving in the academy he was also in charge of the department's field training and evaluation program as well as the DOJ's mandated training for the entry level academy.

## **Constable Training: 30 Years**

June 15, 2024 marks the 30th Anniversary of the creation of the Constables Education and Training Program by Act 1994-44, which officially established the Program under the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). Prior to its adoption, Act 1994-44 was preceded by both Act 1990-147 and Act 1992-102.

The first Waiver Exams and Basic Training courses were offered in the fall of 1996. The Board's six regional training delivery contractors offered Waiver Exams and Basic Training courses in numerous locations across the state. The first Board certification number, W000001, was issued to Deputy Constable Robert Clarson, Tioga County, October 17, 1996. The 1998 annual report stated that the Board issued certification numbers to 1,965 constables; 74% of the 2,654 constables who were registered with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Basic training accounted for 1,356 constables and 600 successfully passed the Waiver Exam as allowed under the Act.

Dave Allison from Allegheny County, certification number W000012, completed the waiver exam in 1996 and is still currently certified. Constable Allison is the longest serving certified constable.

As of August 6, 2024, there were 789 active and certified constables and 621 who are firearms certified.

Since the inception of the Program in 1996, there have been 4,856 constables and deputy constables who have completed either the Waiver Examination or the 80-Hour Basic Training class.

Over the past five years, on average, there were 42 Continuing Education classes scheduled, 44 Annual Firearms classes scheduled, 2 80-Hour Basic Training classes scheduled (4 classes held in 2022 and 2023), and 3 40-Hour Basic Firearms classes scheduled (with 5 classes held in 2023).

Introduction of online training was developed in 2019 to start in 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all in-person classes, starting in March of 2020, were cancelled due to safety concerns as directed by the Center for Disease Control. The first online subject was Reacting to Witnessed Criminal Behavior. The subject was 4 hours and completed through Temple's Canvas learning management system.

The Board would like to thank the many constables, past Board members, PCCD staff, instructors, curriculum developers, and training delivery contractors who have contributed over the years to the improvement and growth of the Training Program. The Program will continue to grow and strive to provide quality training to constables and deputy constables of Pennsylvania.



## **Firearms Qualification Ammo**

According to Title 37, Board Regulations, section 431.43, ammunition may not be remanufactured or reloaded.

“431.43. Firearm and ammunition. (a) As a prerequisite for attending a firearms qualification course, a constable shall provide at all times during the course a firearm and ammunition, magazines, speed loaders, safety accessories and cleaning equipment specific to the firearm. The Board will provide ammunition to the constable for use during instruction. The constable shall provide ammunition for use during the qualification test. (b) The firearm provided shall be of a design generally acceptable for law enforcement usage and shall be in a condition for safe operation as designed and intended by the firearm manufacturer. The firearm provided shall be one of the following calibers: (1) .380. (2) .38 special. (3) .357. (4) .40. (5) .45. (6) 9mm. (c) The ammunition provided shall be of a type and design generally acceptable for law enforcement usage, and **may not be remanufactured or reloaded**. (bold, italicize and underline added for emphasis)”

## **Constables must be Enrolled in Classes**

If a constable is not on the roster for a Basic Training, Basic Firearms, Continuing Education, or Annual Firearms being held that day, do not show up to class. If the constable is not enrolled in the class, the constable will be told to leave.

## **Reminder for Online Training**

Only 30% of the constable training population has completed their online training. **All online subjects need to be completed by 5:00 pm on November 15, 2024.** No failure payments will be processed after the date of November 8, 2024. If a failure occurs, then the failure payment MUST have been received by PCCD prior to that date to be eligible for enrollment into the retake section.

## **Weapon-Mounted Lights**

There are no restrictions on weapon-mounted lights unless the light becomes a distraction to the user, impedes their ability to clear a malfunction or creates a safety issue at which an instructor can have the constable remove the light from the weapon. Weapon-mounted lights are **not allowed during the 40-Hour Basic Training classes.**

Your primary duty weapon is an important part of your equipment and should be serviced regularly, by a certified armorer or gunsmith, to make sure it is operating properly. If the primary weapon malfunctions during a class, your grade will be marked as a malfunction, and you will then be able to enroll into another annual firearms class. Second weapons that malfunction during an annual firearms class will not be given a second opportunity for qualification.



## **Constable Program Payments**

To reduce the possibility of payments and/or correspondences being delivered to another department in the PCCD Agency, and ensure their timely delivery to Program Staff, please mail all correspondence and payments to:

PCCD  
BTS – Constables' Training Program  
PO Box 1167  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1167

## **Contact Information**

The Training Delivery Constables' Coordinators contact information is as follows:

**East Region: Michael Marcantino**, Temple University – 267-468-8331 (work) – [michael.marcantino@temple.edu](mailto:michael.marcantino@temple.edu) (Email)

**West Region: Tony Mucha**, PSU-Justice & Safety Institute (JASI) – 814-865-8051 (work) – [txm52@psu.edu](mailto:txm52@psu.edu) (Email)

If you have questions regarding certification, training, insurance, or where to send your election certificate or appointment order, PCCD Program Staff are available by both email and phone:

### **THESE ARE NOT CONTACTS FOR CLASS ENROLLMENT**

Tracy Beaver – [trabeaver@pa.gov](mailto:trabeaver@pa.gov) and 717-265-8552  
Nick Hartman – [nihartman@pa.gov](mailto:nihartman@pa.gov) and 717-265-8551  
Michael Vaughn – [michavaugh@pa.gov](mailto:michavaugh@pa.gov) and 717-265-8557