



MCOLES

Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards

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MCOLES Website Gets a New Look



The diverse number of programs and services that fall under the MCOLES umbrella has prompted development of a new look and functionality for the MCOLES website. The purpose of this initiative has been to reflect MCOLES Services in a clear and concise manner, with emphasis on a user friendly environment. The resulting design will simplify navigation, prominently display key features, and provide quick access to all information. Additionally, the new design will feature a header that more distinctly identifies MCOLES.

New features on the website will include links to the "Most Requested" subject areas and another section has been devoted to "Online Services" linking to the MCOLES Network, the law enforcement agency directory, in-service training offerings, and mis-

cellaneous forms. Publication of law enforcement job openings in Michigan will now be supplemented with contact information of new academy graduates who are looking for employment.

Standards, training and licensing information has been centralized under a new section with the heading, "Standards & Training". Web users will be able to easily locate all information dealing with testing, manuals and guidelines, basic training academies, and the recognition of prior training and experience program.

In order to emphasize the wide range of programs that MCOLES is responsible for, these features have been assembled together under "Programs & Services". This will

allow easy access to information regarding Carrying Concealed Weapons, the Survivor Tuition Program, the Public Safety Officer Benefits Act, Licensed Private Security Police Officers, Domestic Violence Services, and the 911 Dispatcher Training Fund.

www.michigan.gov/mcoles

As a part of this effort, MCOLES will be emphasizing the use of **www.michigan.gov/mcoles** as its official Internet address. While the link www.mcoles.org will remain active, this shift in emphasis is necessary to prevent inadvertent referrals to knockoff sites such as www.mcoles.com, which is commercially driven and has no connection with MCOLES.

A Message from the Executive Director...



I am pleased to open these comments with the observation that no Michigan law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty since our last publication.

MCOLES also becomes aware of other public safety personnel who have lost their lives in duty related incidents through administration of the Public Safety Officer Benefits Act (PSOB). As such, we are not aware of any deaths occurring in the public safety community at large since summer.

In relation to PSOB, MCOLES receives funds that are distributed to survivors of public safety personnel who have perished in the line of duty. Those who become permanently and totally disabled in duty related incidents are also eligible to receive a one time benefit.

Since the inception of this program, the

funds we are authorized to distribute have run perilously close to exhaustion by the close of each fiscal year. We actually reached the end of the 2006 fiscal year, September 30, with a negative balance of PSOB funds in relation to claims awarded. The appropriation of \$150,000 for the current fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2006, was offset by payment of claims that could not be awarded earlier, due to lack of funds. This has left us again with a zero balance. As a result, new claims prior to October 1, 2007 could be delayed. Currently, there are no claims waiting for replenishment of the fund, and we have sought a supplemental appropriation to get us through the remainder of fiscal year 2007. I am confident there will be a positive response.

That said, I am compelled to point out that this is probably not the most favorable environment to be requesting additional dollars. The most recent revenue projections for Michigan predict another decline

in state revenues. That poses state government with a structural deficit of approximately \$500, 000 that must be addressed immediately.

This news comes on the heels of tax restructuring as a result of the impending expiration of the single business tax (SBT). In the past, the SBT has accounted for approximately \$1.9 billion in state revenue. A re-configured tax model is not expected to replace the total amount of lost revenue. Consequently, state agencies may face serious fiscal challenges in 2007.

With that said, I remain hopeful that our efforts in concert with the public safety funding coalition will gain traction as part of a larger solution. While it is too early to predict success, this initiative has broad political support.

In closing, I wish each of you a happy and safe holiday season.

The Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards

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Executive Director

MCOLES Job Task Analysis: Law Enforcement Use of Technology Expands Dramatically

Have you ever wondered how many patrol officers in Michigan hold a Master's degree? What about their ethnic makeup? Or, perhaps you want to know what patrol officers think about in-service training or how many use a patrol rifle while on duty. This information, along with much more about the job of a patrol officer in Michigan will soon be at your fingertips. It will be published in a report entitled "Statewide Job Task Analysis of the Patrol Officer Position."

During the past eighteen months, over 3,000 patrol officers and 700 patrol supervisors responded to the MCOLES' job task analysis (JTA) survey. Officers were asked about the frequency of their job tasks and supervisors were asked about the criticality of the same tasks. In addition, patrol officers were asked a series of questions regarding their opinion on training issues, their thoughts about their academy experience, and the types of calls they handle and the types of equipment and sources of information that they use. Response data were collected, analyzed and then published in a final report.

The 2006 Job Task Analysis updates previous studies done in 1979 and 1996. This report was compiled in a cooperative effort with Michigan's law enforcement community. A random sample of agencies and officers were selected to

participate. As a result, 150 representative agencies from across Michigan participated in the JTA. The respondents were divided into eleven separate stratifications, which represent similar agency sizes and types. Individual stratification reports will be available at the MCOLES web site.

The report provides an examination of the changes that have occurred in Michigan law enforcement over the past ten years. **Preliminary findings indicate an increasing complexity in law enforcement work.** The JTA reveals that the use of technology by law enforcement officers has expanded dramatically over the last decade. New tasks and responsibilities have been identified that are core to the job, even though the criticality and frequency with which common tasks were performed remains relatively the same since 1996. For example, officers now respond to incidents such as computer crime, identity theft, personal protection orders, and vulnerable adult abuse incidents, all of which received less attention in 1996. In addition, computer bulletin boards and Internet reports have become core sources of information. A list of core tasks, or essential job functions, identified by this study appears in the report.

A comprehensive analysis of the data will take additional time. The MCOLES staff will examine the JTA results with an eye toward future training initiatives, both at the in-service and basic level, and will review its

entry-level standards in light of contemporary information and modern best practices. Meanwhile, individual law enforcement agencies may also use the JTA results to design individualized in-service training programs, respond to disability situations, or re-examine their entry-level requirements.

Incidentally, approximately 2% of our officers hold a Master's degree, 17% are non-white, and 51% use patrol rifle on the job. What about their thoughts on in-service training? Approximately 95% think officers should attend non-firearms in-service training at least once per year or more frequently.

The MCOLES 2006 Job Task Analysis Report will soon be available, in its entirety, at the MCOLES web site, www.michigan.gov/mcoles.

This work would not have been possible without the cooperation of Michigan's law enforcement community. We at MCOLES wish to express our sincere appreciation to those agencies and officers who participated in this project. We particularly appreciate the fact that officers and supervisors devoted their own valuable time to this effort. Their assistance contributed greatly to a deeper understanding of the nature and extent of contemporary policing in Michigan.

Wriggelsworth and Buczek to Lead Commission



Sheriff Gene Wriggelsworth
Ingham County
Commission Chair

Each year, the Commission selects individuals from its ranks to serve as its leaders over the coming year. These positions require extra time and effort. In addition to making decisions on behalf of the Commission, the Chair and Vice Chair are often called upon to represent the Commission in public appearances and commentary to the media.

At the Commission's October meeting, Sheriff Gene Wriggelsworth of Ingham County was selected to serve as Commission Chair. Commissioner John Buczek received the



Mr. John Buczek
Fraternal Order of Police
Commission Vice Chair

Commission's nod for Vice Chair. Each served in the same capacity during 2005-2006.

Both men are law enforcement veterans. Sheriff Wriggelsworth had long service with the Michigan State Police. After his retirement, he was elected Sheriff of Ingham County, a position he has held for 19 years. Mr. Buczek became the Executive Director of the State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police subsequent to 23 years of service and retirement from the Bay City Police Department.

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