



JULY/AUGUST 2022

# THE GEORGIA POST UPDATE

## OUR MISSION

To provide the citizens of Georgia with qualified, professionally trained, ethical, and competent peace officers and criminal justice professionals.

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## IN SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION

Our staff works every day to further our goal of providing our state with qualified, professionally trained, ethical, and competent law enforcement professionals.

Below are updates and summaries of practical programs we are undertaking to provide the best for Georgia's peace officers and criminal justice professionals and thereby to all the Georgians they serve.

For any questions on these programs, please contact the point of contact listed in the program description.

### 1) EQUIVALENCY OF TRAINING

The demand for officers is at or near an all-time high. GA POST has streamlined and simplified the process for certified officers from other states to become GA POST certified and able to work in week.

**Point of Contact: Terry McCormick, Certification & Training Director**

### 2) OFFICER RESILIENCY

The stress and demands on officers and staff is literally taking its toll on the lives and families of the brave men and women who put their lives on the line every day for their communities.

The GA POST Officer Resiliency Program is a no-cost (to either agency or officer) way to learn simple, daily skills and practices to recover and find relief and help from the mental, emotional and physical demands of those who serve this in the noble profession.

Thus far, over 400 officers representing 72 agencies have made use of this vitally important program.

**Point of Contact: Julie Bradley, Operations Director**



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### **3) BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU CERTIFICATION**

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The martial art of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) has been widely recognized as an effective way to control and de-escalate violent or unruly subjects. GA POST now offers a voluntary certification for BJJ to officers who complete 100 hours of approved BJJ training and complete a demonstration of proficiency. The POST Council approved the new rule in June, and final details will be posted on the website in August.

**Point of Contact: Chris Harvey, Deputy Executive Director**

### **4) NEW ACADEMIES**

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POST added two new certified Police Academies to our ranks. Truett McConnell University and The Military College of Georgia have both initiated criminal justice degree programs which incorporate the Basic Mandate Course, allowing students who pursue either a two or four year degree to also be equipped with a basic peace officer certification upon graduation.

**Point of Contact: Julie Bradley, Operations Director**

### **5) MILITARY POLICE EQUIVALENCY OF TRAINING**

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GA POST is in the process of preparing to offer equivalency of training for US Army Military Police (MP) certification. Consideration of other services MP equivalent programs will also be evaluated. In addition, GA POST is looking into the possibility of providing a program that will make GA POST certification easier for all military personnel who are preparing to leave the military, regardless of MOS.

**Point of Contact: Terry McCormick, Certification & Training Director**

### **6) DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS CERTIFICATION EQUIVALENCY WITH JAILER CERTIFICATION**

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As of June 30, 2022, Certified Corrections Officers who are subsequently hired to work as Jailers will be able to apply for Jailer Certification without attending Jailer Training. The equivalency, however, does not work in the other direction. Certified Jailers will still have to attend Correction Officers Training and earn that training before working as Corrections Officers.

**Point of Contact: Terry McCormick, Certification & Training Director**

### **7) RECERTIFICATION NO LONGER REQUIRED**

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As of January 1, 2022, officers no longer need to apply for recertification every four years.

**Point of Contact: Terry McCormick, Certification & Training Director**

### **8) HIGH SCHOOL JAILER CERTIFICATION**

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County Sheriffs can now individually apply to have a program approved by GA POST whereby high school students can attend Jailer Training while still in high school and receive their certification upon turning 18 years of age. It is important to understand that each county must apply individually with GA POST before they begin this program.

**Point of Contact: Terry McCormick, Certification & Training Director**

### **9) NATIONAL DECERTIFICATION INDEX**

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GA POST has joined the National Decertification Index which is a nationwide database of all decertified peace officers. Individuals and agencies need to register through GA POST to get access to the database, which is helpful in completing pre-hiring background checks.

**Point of Contact: Julie Bradley, Operations Director**

### **10) ELECTION THREATS & PREPARATION**

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The increasing focus on elections and threats to election officials and processes is something that law enforcement needs to prepare to confront and respond to. Deputy Executive Director Chris Harvey (former State Elections Director) can provide training and resources to agencies to prepare for upcoming elections.

**Point of Contact: Chris Harvey, Deputy Executive Director**

### **11) NEW DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS**

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As of June 30, 2022, Certified Corrections Officers who are subsequently hired to work as Jailers will be able to apply for Jailer Certification without attending Jailer Training. The equivalency, however, does not work in the other direction. Certified Jailers will still have to attend Correction Officers Training and earn that training before working as Corrections Officers.

**Point of Contact: Jimmy Callaway, Investigations Director**

### **12) GA POST FEES REDUCED OR ELIMINATED**

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GA POST has reduced or eliminated many fees associated with services we provide. Retired Law Enforcement Credentials (HB 292) and Retired Firearms Cards (HR 218) are now provided at no charge. Go to the GA POST website GAPOST.ORG to see the new fee schedule.

