



State of New Jersey

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER
P.O. BOX 024
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0024
(609) 984-2888

PHILIP JAMES DEGNAN
State Comptroller

For Immediate Release
December 20, 2016

Contact: Jeff Lamm
(609)633-2377

Office of the State Comptroller Review Finds State Police Training Bureau Continuing to Comply with Professional Standards

TRENTON – An Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) review of the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) released today found that the NJSP is continuing to comply with professional standards designed to prevent discrimination. While no significant problems or violations were noted, OSC did identify areas where improvements could be made with regard to staffing of the Training Bureau and the recording of firearms qualifications.

Under state law, OSC is required to periodically review the performance of the NJSP with regard to its continuing efforts to prevent racial and other forms of discrimination in their policies, practices and procedures and the state Office of Law Enforcement Professional Standards' (OLEPS) oversight of those efforts. This is the fourth in the series of OSC reviews of NJSP and OLEPS practices.

OSC's review found that staffing levels at NJSP's Training Bureau should be analyzed to ensure that these levels are adequate to maintain the quality and thoroughness of NJSP's training efforts going forward.

The review also found, in general, that semi-annual qualifications on state-issued and backup firearms were occurring. OSC found, however, that limitations in the NJSP firearms database contributed to instances where records for tactical weapons and off-duty/backup weapons qualifications were incomplete or erroneous.

OSC found that the Trooper Coach Program, which provides training and assistance to probationary troopers, is generally working appropriately despite a one-time modification of the requirement that Trooper Coaches have three years of experience prior to being accepted into the Trooper Coach Program.

OSC also continued to evaluate OLEPS, which is charged with overseeing the actions of the NJSP. OSC noted that OLEPS' oversight reports effectively identified deficiencies in NJSP operations that mirrored OSC's findings, and that the NJSP is taking action to make changes recommended by OLEPS.

"The New Jersey State Police continues to meet its training requirements. While our review notes some concerns that need to be addressed, the leadership at the New Jersey State Police has been receptive to our findings and, indeed, has already made some of the recommended changes," State Comptroller Philip James Degnan said.

OSC's report contains eight recommendations to address the issues noted. The recommendations include upgrading the NJSP firearms inventory and training databases and annually assessing the permanent staffing level of the NJSP Training Bureau. OSC will continue to monitor NJSP operations as required by the Law Enforcement Professional Standards Act.

State Comptroller Degnan thanked NJSP, OLEPS and the Office of the State Auditor for their assistance and cooperation throughout this review.

All OSC reports are available on the Office's website, www.nj.gov/comptroller.

OSC is an independent state agency that conducts audits and investigations of government agencies throughout New Jersey. The Office also reviews certain government contracts and works to detect and prevent Medicaid Fraud. The Office strives to enhance the efficiency and transparency of government and to ensure that public funds are spent effectively and efficiently.

Suspected government mismanagement and fraud can be reported to OSC by calling 1-855-OSC-TIPS (1-855-672-8477) or via email at comptrollertips@osc.nj.gov.

###

Click [here](#) to read the complete report.

Follow the Office of the State Comptroller on Twitter
@NJComptroller
and visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NJComptroller.