

Addendum #1: State Police DROP Program

We are currently suffering a critical staffing shortage within the Connecticut State Police. Recent history saw the department staffing level at 1,248 sworn troopers. This allowed for the proper staffing of all legislative and executive level mandated programs, such as the Firearms Trafficking Task Force, the Statewide Narcotics Task Force, commercial motor vehicle enforcement efforts, etc. Today's sworn staffing level is dangerously low at 853 sworn troopers with more retirements expected than hiring is presently scheduled to keep pace with.

Additionally, this staffing level is causing excessive overtime to simply staff the mandated 24-hour functions. In addition, many of the mandated programs are staffed with only one incumbent trooper, simply to say that the function is being fulfilled.

An additional concern is the number of sworn troopers who have reached retirement eligibility. The addition of these individuals to the ranks of the retirees presents an imminent public safety concern. Finally, this concern is exacerbated by the alterations to the pension calculations formula that will become effective on July 1, 2022 which will, in effect, force eligible employees to retire to preserve their retirement benefits.

One model to address this level of present and future loss is to adopt a "DROP," or "deferred retirement option program." Under this model personnel would be allowed to retire but remain on active duty for up to three years, "locking in" their pension benefits and having these retirement monies placed in some sort of investment vehicle. Retirement benefits would not increase (beyond that point) and the employee would be allowed to continue to work in their same assignment for this period drawing their previous compensation. Similar models exist in assorted agencies throughout the country.

Addendum #2: Terrorist Attacks and Mass Shootings

Connecticut police must be trained and equipped to be our "first preventers," those who stop terrorism and mass shootings before they occur, not only "first responders" who react after an attack. The Connecticut Intelligence Center Unit (CTIC) should expand its staffing levels to be able to engage in intelligence fusion, to include analysis to prevent mass shootings, and insist on better federal assistance and intelligence sharing.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/treat-mass-shootings-the-way-we-treated-terrorism/2018/04/05/e4235e14-375f-11e8-acd5-35eac230e514_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.31e4f6fab798

<https://www.city-journal.org/html/blue-front-line-war-terror-10300.html>

<https://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/testimony-rp-eddy-house-committee-homeland-security-6060.html>

Addendum #3: Precursor Steps to Any Consideration of the Legalization of Marijuana

If marijuana is legalized, the Public Safety Transition Committee recommends the following:

1. Determining the nanogram concentration level in an operator's blood that would be illegal to drive and developing the testing instruments to measure this accurately.
2. Prohibiting the use of marijuana in a vehicle that is being operated on a public roadway.
3. Implement a robust public awareness campaign to inform people that it is not safe to drive after using marijuana.
4. Adequate funding to train certified drug recognition experts.