

# The PSTA Arbitration Update



## P e n n s y l v a n i a S t a t e T r o o p e r s A s s o c i a t i o n

DAY TWO

SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

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The proceeding commenced with President Edwards being cross examined by the Commonwealth. President Edwards was questioned about the complement of troopers, PRO\_SAM, cadet selection and characteristics of troopers. Attorney Pedrow portrayed Pennsylvania State Troopers as being just like other state employees. Pedrow stated that troopers are supported by taxpayers and funded by the state budget. Pedrow pointed out that Corrections and Penn DOT employees work rotating shifts. Pedrow stated that PSP is highly paid, their benefits and leave packages, as well as their retirement, are better than other state employees. Pedrow asserted that all state employees fall under the Governor's Code of Conduct.

Arbitrator Jarin advised that the Commonwealth acknowledges that Pennsylvania State Troopers' work is different, and that is why they are paid more than other employees. Their argument is that troopers should receive the same pay increases as other Commonwealth employees and should receive the same medical benefits as other Commonwealth employees.

Cpl. Jason Pelotte and Tpr. Linda Gerow gave a detailed account of the West Nickel Mines School shooting and what the initial responding officers observed and the action they took.

Tpr. Todd Rudy testified about the Clandestine Laboratory Response Team and the training and equipment required to be part of the team.

Cpl. Victor Sternby and Ms. Audrey Burenko provided detail testimony about how Ms. Burenko was kidnapped, raped and held captive in the trunk of a vehicle. Due to the instinctive actions of Cpl. Sternby and Tpr. John Dennis, Ms. Burenko was rescued from her captors.

Cpl. James Green and Tpr. Daniel Mosura gave testimony regarding an incident where they were able to locate a child who was to be the recipient of a heart transplant. Cpl. Green and Tpr. Mosura used GPS to locate the child, and his mother, in time to receive his heart transplant.

Tpr. Mark McGinnis gave testimony about his response to a domestic dispute. While responding, the subject threatened Tpr. McGinnis with a rifle. Showing restraint, Tpr. McGinnis used his Taser to take control of the situation.

Tpr. Ron Colyer testified about his experience that occurred when he was following an individual wanted for homicide and the individual stopped, exited the vehicle, and shot at Tpr. Colyer with a high powered rifle, striking him in the left arm.

Retired Cpl. Ken Yuhas gave testimony regarding the murder of Cpl. Joseph Pokorny, and the negative affect the incident had on Cpl. Pokorny's family, friends and fellow PSP members.

Tpr. Andrew Falcon provided testimony concerning occurrences at a traffic stop, where he was struck by a hit and run vehicle while standing outside of a vehicle performing a traffic stop, and how he reacted.

Tpr. Greg Agosti provided testimony concerning two incidents. Tpr. Agosti testified about actions he took to rescue a driver from a vehicle that was driven into a river. Tpr. Agosti was able to remove the person from the vehicle prior to it filling with water. Tpr. Agosti then testified to an investigation he conducted into an arson fire, whereby he discovered that the fire was an arson and the victim was an infant child.

Cpl. Robert Erdley provided testimony concerning the Computer Crimes Unit, and an investigation into child pornography and sexual assaults, where the suspect was a counselor in a group church and living in Alaska.