

Article by Elmer Criswell

The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP)/Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) Polygraph Institute at the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center (NCTC), which is located in Annville, Pennsylvania, (20 miles northeast of Harrisburg) on the Pennsylvania National Guard military base at Fort Indiantown Gap, is a consortium between the entities in the Institute name. The school is funded through state and federal grant money provided through the Pennsylvania National Guard.

The PSP/HACC Polygraph Institute @ NCTC is for sworn law enforcement officers only from state and municipal law enforcement and corrections or probation/parole agencies. The Institute does not train any officers from any federal agencies or any foreign countries. Officers from Pennsylvania are given first preference for 50% of the available slots with the other 50% reserved for officers from the 18 states served by NCTC to include all states from, and including, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, and Virginia to the south and west, and all states north and east of those. Officers from the rest of the United States are eligible to attend if a class is not filled within 90 days before the beginning of the class. Classes since the inception of the school in 2003 held 14 students. Starting January 2006, the class size is being increased to 18 students, with three classes scheduled for 2006. The last 2005 class began on July 18th with 14 students.

The program is a 12 week program of 480 scheduled hours for the academic portion then a 6 month to 24 month supervised internship for the practical portion of the course. The course is accredited by the American Polygraph Association, recognized by the American Association of Police Polygraphists, and exceeds the basic training education standards of the American Society for Testing & Materials. In order to be part of the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center, it must also be approved by the CALEA, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, and undergo periodic inspections. Approval is also being sought by the U.S. Department of Education and the American Council of Education (ACE) for ACE college credits. Credits have already been granted by Harrisburg Area Community College for successful completion of the program. HACC has provided polygraph training since 1970 and has been APA-accredited since the early 1980's. The polygraph training program closed for approximately 10 years and was re-accredited by the APA in 2000. An Associate degree program in Forensic Polygraphy has been approved by HACC, and two transfer institutions are in the process of approving baccalaureate Criminal Justice degrees with concentrations in Forensic Polygraphy. Once all of this fall into place, graduates of all other accredited polygraph schools will be eligible to pursue the Associate and Bachelor degree programs.

The facilities are state-of-the art. The building houses a classroom for 18 students, each with their own desk/computer station so whatever is projected onto the smart board is also projected onto their computer screen which will also allow projection from a document reader for paper polygraph charts as well as projection for videos and DVD's. There is also a library/media room, "break room," several offices, storerooms, and 10 interview/examination rooms with each separated by an observation room with video and sound as well as two-way mirrors, and storage space. The examination rooms are

equipped with desks, adjustable polygraph examinee chairs, chart reading tables, printer stands, and examiner chairs.

The students are given thorough instruction, training, and practical use of analog instruments for the first half of the course, and thorough instruction, training, and practical use of computerized instruments the second half of the course. The school has Axciton, Lafayette, Limestone, and Stoelting computerized instruments, and the student may learn use of that which their department already has or will have as well as any of the other 3 instruments, if desired. The computerized polygraph manufacturers send representatives from their respective organizations for training of students with their instruments to include **Chris Fausett**, **Yasmin Brokema**, and **Ross Hahn** (Lafayette), **Jamie Brown** and **Tyler Buttle** (Limestone), and **Ken Bird** and **Al Cross** (Stoelting).

The curriculum provides thorough training and use of the DODPI ZCT; the DODPI “You” Phase ZCT; the DODPI MGQT – Army and Air Force Versions; the Canadian Police College ZCT; the Matte ZCT; the Relevant-Irrelevant and Modified Relevant-Irrelevant formats; and the Utah ZCT Single-Issue and Multi-Issue Raskin Version test formats. The students are given further instruction in the Arther Specific Accusation format; the Backster “You” Phase ZCT, Exploratory, and “SKY” formats; the Gordon Integrated ZCT; the various Marcy Test formats, and the Reid Test formats. Instruction is given in the latter formats so that students will be able to properly identify a technique on a test brought to them from and outside public or private examiner and determine if the test protocol was used properly. We believe in the approach that “the more tools one has in their toolbox, the more effective one will be.” This is especially true when testing someone who has been tested in the past, or who was tested “inconclusive,” or who may be well-versed in the anti-polygraph areas, or who might plan to use countermeasures. The examiner will then have different avenues from which they may approach the examinee rather than just having one or two formats from which to choose.

Our highly-skilled and many well-known faculty members are comprised of all present or former law enforcement polygraphists from municipal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies who still remain active in testing. From the federal agencies, we have **Patrick Kelly** (Ret. FBI) who teaches Interview and Interrogation, Statement Analysis, Polygraph Skills Exercises, and other polygraph topics; **Don Imbordino** (Ret – DEA), who is also the current Vice President of AAPP, teaches Axciton Computer Systems, Asset Forfeiture Testing, Drug/Narcotics Testing, Testing Informants, Use of Interpreters, “Blind” Test Data Analysis, and other polygraph topics; **Bob Drdak** & **Ken Shull** (both Ret – FBI) and principals in **National Polygraph Consultants (NPC)** who teach Best Polygraph Practices, “Blind” Test Data Analysis, Concealed Information Test, Relevant-Irrelevant Test, Modified Relevant-Irrelevant Test (MRI), Countermeasures, Quality Control, and provide the 11 laminated Quick Reference Guides published by NPC to the class; and **Dave Renzelman** (Ret. DOE- current Detective with Pasco (WA) P.D.) – “Blind” Test Data Analysis, Screening, Countermeasures, Research, Question Formulation & Test Formats, and other polygraph topics. All of these instructors are former instructors at DODPI where **Renzelman** was Director of Instruction for 8 years. **Imbordino** is also currently a staff instructor for the Texas DPS Polygraph School.

Our state-level faculty include **Morris Ragus** (Spec. Agent PA Inspector General) who teaches Psychophysiology, Demo Tests, Question Formulation & Test Formats, “Blind” Test Data Analysis, Research, Axciton Computers, and other polygraph topics and can teach Physiology and Psychology topics as well; **Jack Consigli** (Ret. Capt. Mass. State Police) who is also the current President of the APA and teaches Backster Test Formats, Backster Test Data Analysis Methodology, “Blind Test Data Analysis, and other polygraph topics; **Holly Fegley** (Cpl. PA State Police) who teaches Question Formulation and Test Formats, “Blind test Data Analysis, Analog and Computer (Lafayette) Instrumentation, Polygraph Skills Exercises, and other polygraph topics; **Dave Gluth** (Cpl. PA State Police) teaches Canadian Police College Zone Comparison Test Formats and Question Formulation and Canadian Police College Test Data Analysis as well as “Blind” Test Data Analysis; **Dallas Wolfe** (1st Sgt WVA State Police) teaches Pre-Test Interviews, Interrogation, Question Formulation, Demo Tests, “Blind” Test Data Analysis, Polygraph Screening, and other polygraph topics; **Ray Solt** (Cpl. Ret. PA State Police) teaches Analog and Computerized (Axciton & Lafayette) Instrumentation, Pre-Test Interviews, Interrogation, Utah Question Formulation & Test Formats, “Blind” Test Data Analysis, Polygraph Skills Exercises, Sex Offender Testing, and other polygraph topics; **Robert Soop** (Spec. Agent. PA Attorney General Office and former municipal police detective) teaches Polygraph Skills Exercises, Polygraph History & Development, “Blind” Test Data Analysis, Polygraph Screening, Internal Affairs testing, and other polygraph topics; **Ken Davis** (Cpl. PA State Police) teaches Polygraph Skills Exercises, “Blind” Test Data Analysis, Sex Offender Testing, and other polygraph topics.

Our municipal-level faculty include **Erik Abel** (Sgt. Lancaster P.D.) who teaches Analog and Computerized (Lafayette) Instrumentation, “Blind” Test Data Analysis, Polygraph Screening, Utah Question Formulation & Test Formats, Polygraph Skills Exercises, and other polygraph topics; **Dr. Jim Matte** (Private Polygraphist/Author/Contracted to municipal police agencies) teaches the Matte Quadri-Track ZCT and Backster topics; **Elmer Criswell** (School Director – former Clearview P.D. Sgt.) teaches all polygraph topics. All of the aforementioned instructors have been certified as Primary Instructors by the American Polygraph Association.

Our Legal Issues instructor, **Dave Spotts** (Chief – Mechanicsburg P.D. is a practicing attorney and a former police polygraphist; also, one of our Psychology instructors, **Clark Bearinger** (Sgt. Lancaster P.D.), is a former mental health clinician and a practicing police polygraphist who teaches Psychological issues, Polygraph Screening, and Polygraph Skills Exercises. Our Anatomy & Physiology and Psychology topics are taught by **Dr. John Sword**, an Anatomy & Physiology Professor at HACC and **Steve Seitchik**, a practicing mental health clinician an a Psychology Professor at HACC.

Past faculty, who may at some point be able to return to us, have included **Terry McElheny** (Trooper - Ret. PA State Police) one of the founders of the school who has been on extended medical leave and taught all polygraph topics **Don Krapohl** (DODPI and NPC) who taught Test Data Analysis, Countermeasures, Best Practices and Concealed Information Test; **Lt. Bruce Robertson** (Centerville P.D. & AAPP President)

who taught Polygraph Screening and E.P.P.A.; **Dr. Frank Sack** (Utica Marshall's Office) who taught Countermeasures, Research, and Orientation to the Arther Technique; **Mike Brennan** (Trooper - Ret. PA State Police) who taught Question Formulation & Test Formats, "Blind" Test Data Analysis, Polygraph Skills Exercises, Interviewing and Interrogation, Pre-Test Interviews, and Sex Offender Testing; **Les Freehling** (Trooper – Ret. PA State Police & Current Chief County Detective Cumberland County) taught Polygraph Skills Exercises and "Blind" Test Data Analysis; **Judge James Charley** (PA District Magistrate, former Police Polygraphist) taught History & Development.

The school is directed by Elmer Criswell who has been a police and private polygraphist since 1972. He taught at the Harrisburg Area Community College School of Polygraph Technology from 1975 to 1977 when he became Director until the school closed in 1988. He directed the Pennsylvania Institute of polygraph Science from 1992 until 1998 which had AAPP recognition but could not get APA accreditation because of rules, at the time, against satellite-type programs. HACC reopened its polygraph school as the Police Academy Polygraph School and was re-accredited in 2000 by APA and recognized by AAPP. It was absorbed by the PSP and NCTC consortium in 2002. Criswell is also the program chair of the HACC Criminal Justice program. He has been bestowed the Clinchard Award by the APA and the Wastl Award by the AAPP, He has published many articles, mostly as the Editor of the "Polygraph Chronicles," the forerunner to the "Relevant Issue."

The school has no tuition, lodging, or meals costs for sworn public law enforcement officers from municipal and state law enforcement agencies. The only cost is for transportation. This also includes over 1,000 pages of handouts in 5 binders, Matte's textbook and supplement, Forensic Psychophysiology, and the 11 laminated Quick Reference Guides from NPC, and several instructional CD's. it also includes use of all polygraph equipment for the 12 weeks in residence. The lodging facilities are recently built on the military base and are clean and comfortable. The meals are provided from a variety of local restaurants that have excellent meals. Also, by having no costs associated with the training, law enforcement agencies no longer have the excuse that I have to send officers to voice stress school because of budgetary reasons.

Quality Control for the school is provided by the Pennsylvania State Police, who inspect it frequently during a 12 week class, and is directed by Corporal Thomas Lazicki the Coordinator of the PSP Polygraph Unit. The Quality Control Committee, which provides guidance on policies and procedures, screens applicants for the program, and serves as a 'clearinghouse for any grievances or complaints, includes representatives from Pennsylvania State Police, Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General, Harrisburg Area Community College, and the Northeast Counterdrug training Center. Each entity also provides several inspections of the program during a class.

For information, please visit our website (which is under construction for updating of the polygraph school information, but still working):

www.counterdrug.org

The NCTC website also includes an abundance of other courses of an investigative nature; *e.g.*, from Identifying Deceptive Behavior and Interview/Interrogation to Money Laundering, Drug Investigation, POLEX, Spanish for Law Enforcement, Undercover, Grant-Writing, etc. These are also at no cost to sworn law enforcement officers.

We are in the preliminary stages of planning an annual update course for polygraphists as well which would be from 3 to 5 days and include well known speakers in our field. If the funding is available, this will be available to all sworn law enforcement polygraphists. Also, dependant upon the funding will be the availability of no-cost lodging and meals and first priority would go to graduates of PSP/HACC Polygraph Institute @ NCTC

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