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OHIO DEPARTMENT
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TO: Lieutenant Joseph Mannion, Ohio State Highway Patrol

FROM: Thomas J. Stickrath, Director, Ohio Department of Public Safety 

DATE: December 3, 2010

SUBJECT: Hearing Officer Report - Ohio Inspector General Request #2010037

I have thoroughly reviewed multiple transcripts, video testimony and other collateral materials related to Ohio Inspector General Case #2010037, involving the supervision of inmates at the Governor's residence. Overarchingly, I agree with the Inspector General's conclusion that there were "numerous problems and unsafe practices in this program."

The Inspector General stated in his report that a "large share of the blame goes to Mannion, who displayed an alarming lack of knowledge and concern about the security breaches that have occurred under his watch." While I would not want to attribute percentages or degrees of blame, I do believe that you bear some amount of responsibility, which you acknowledged during our discussion. I also believe that the issues regarding security were a result of a systems failure and other individuals within your chain of command bear some responsibility as well.

The Inspector General concluded that you were untruthful during portions of your testimony. I have carefully reviewed your transcripts and while I did come across testimony that could have been clearer, I do not find as part of this discipline that you were intentionally untruthful to investigators.

In my opinion, it is unrealistic to expect the person directly responsible for providing personal security for the Governor to be responsible for the day-to-day operations and security at the Residence. The demands involved with providing this critical service to the Governor (such as frequent traveling) do not allow for full attention to be paid to the security necessary at the Residence. At no place or time was this more evident than on Jan. 8, 2010. As you were making delicate moves of the Governor from location to location in New York, you were receiving fragmented and incomplete information about a proposed sting at the Governor's mansion.

Recognizing the system failure, DPS has taken appropriate steps such as:

- The Department (DPS) entered into an MOU with DRC and DAS clarifying DPS' role as being in charge of security issues at the Governor's Residence and making the Patrol (OSP) responsible for conducting periodic safety and security assessments and enhancements in accordance with Ohio Homeland Security and Executive Protection Unit (EPU) best practices and conducted at appropriate time intervals: (Should the inmate program at the Governor's Residence be reinstated, this MOU would

presumably be revisited in light of current knowledge in addition to any recommendations resulting from Dr. Reginald Wilkinson's study.)

- The Patrol has also restructured its Office of Investigative Services (now called the Security and Investigations Section), in an effort to improve the overall efficiency of the office and accountability of its sections. In addition, OSP is amending OSP Policy 500.01-02 so that EPU and Post 95 (Governor's Residence Security) will work together more effectively, improve their communication and better coordinate their operations. Some of these amendments include weekly meetings between EPU and Post 95, EPU receiving advance and on-scene support and/or criminal intelligence from the newly restructured Section and daily briefings between the Governor's Residence security and the EPU;
- DPS has also taken steps to reorganize the dignitary protection functions and Residence functions. DPS and OSP both recognize that there are issues regarding span of control and have initiated a division of responsibility regarding the management of the affected supervisors. An OSP supervisor is responsible for overseeing OSP staff at the Residence as well as the security of the Residence itself, and reports to the designated commander. There is also round-the-clock trooper coverage. EPU reports to a separate supervisor regarding dignitary functions.

These improvements and revisions will ultimately sharpen your roles and responsibilities. In my mitigation of this issue, I learned that you were attempting to manage an entire detail on as lean of a budget as possible and ultimately were put between the proverbial "rock and a hard place." I understand and take this into consideration as you were operating in a frugal environment at the request of the administration. Ultimately, I am confident that the steps taken by DPS, DAS and DRC in conjunction with any recommendations that emanate from Dr. Wilkinson's review, will further ensure that safeguards are in place if the inmate program at the Governor's Residence is resurrected.

I wholeheartedly agree with the Inspector General that Mr. Gunnell, the DAS official in charge of the Residence, "succinctly analyzed" the oversight of this program by stating "(T)he Highway Patrol can't just be responsible for the physical protection of the First Family and the perimeter and nothing else. DAS can't be just responsible for the physical structure of the grounds and the people who maintain it. DRC can't be just responsible for the interns who get dropped off and picked up. There has to be obviously much better integration of who's doing what to who and when and where those responsibilities overlap and what kind of communication's happening."

Notwithstanding the above, you should have been more keenly aware of the security shortcomings listed in the Inspector General's report. Also, although you did take several steps to alert your supervisor to security shortcomings at the residence, you had an obligation to be more assertive with supervisors regarding the corrective measures needed to address these issues. For these reasons, I have issued you a verbal reprimand for failure to adhere to the Rules and Regulations of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, 4501:2-6-03 (A) Responsibility of Command.

Cc: Colonel David Dicken, Superintendent, OSHP