



The Peace Officers Association of Georgia, Inc.

DEDICATED TOWARD THE PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND
DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PEACE OFFICERS

Position statement by the Peace Officers' Association of Georgia regarding support and appreciation to the International Law Enforcement Exchange Training Program

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The Peace Officers Association of Georgia (POAG) is the oldest and largest organization of "peace officers" in Georgia. Our diverse membership includes local, state, and federal officers of all ranks and duties. From corrections officers, district attorneys, to corporate security with the power of arrest in Georgia.

The motto of the Association is "In unity there is strength" a measure that members have taken great pride in over the years. Records indicate the Association's existence in the early 1900's. We know the efforts to create the Peace Officers Annuity and Benefit (POAB) fund go back to 1938. POAG was incorporated in 1950 as an organization and from the efforts of POAG on February 1st, 1952.

POAG has a long record of representing the interests of ALL law enforcement officers, especially in the area of education and training. In 1962, the Executive Committee unanimously approved POAG continuing to support the establishment of a police academy; this was accomplished in Atlanta in May of 1964. In 1967, POAG sponsored legislation proposing a minimum training program for all that enter the police profession. This and other recommendations from POAG's Executive Committee were instrumental in establishing the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) program. POAG began offering POST certified training at its annual convention in 1988, and the practice continues today. The president of POAG is a voting member of POST Council.

In the above spirit and tradition of the POAG, we come together now in the strongest terms in support of one of our state's most important and meaningful programs. A program recognized for its tremendous benefit and continuing utility to Georgia Peace Officers' and the citizens of our state. This is the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) training program. Many of our members, past-presidents, and other board members have been through this program and as a result enhanced their competencies and perspectives in the many domains of policing. Moreover, this program has over the years become an integral part of the professional growth and development of the collective body of our state's peace officers. Any attempts to tarnish the credibility or reputation of the GILEE by purporting engagement in violence or military operations toward any group is false and without any merit whatsoever. On the contrary GILEE embraces human rights, rule of law, and service to all and everyone.

We stand beside and support the efforts of Dr. Robbie Friedmann, and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University, to continue their contributions into the architecture of the professional growth and development with meaningful networking for law enforcement in our state. This program pays tremendous dividends in our investments to the citizens of Georgia who we serve.

Executive Director, P.O.A.G.