



State of Connecticut
Judicial Branch
Court Operations Division
Judicial Marshal Services
Judicial Marshal Academy

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To: Public Safety Committee Members

From: Diane E. Hatfield, Program Manager, Judicial Marshal Services

Date: March 3, 2009

Subject: Designation of land for use as a Driver Training Facility for police and public safety officials

I would like to explain why the State of Connecticut would benefit from an official Driver Safety Training facility for police and public safety officials.

Judicial Marshal Services has approximately 720 Judicial Marshals. Judicial Marshal's are contractually mandated to obtain and maintain a Commercial Driver's License. The Judicial Marshal Academy trains approximately 120 plus new marshal trainees per year at our 12-week academy. The academy is a commuter type program, which runs from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

Judicial Branch has a memorandum of agreement with the CT Military Department for use of the CT National Guard building, Stanley Street, New Britain. Judicial Marshal Services uses this facility for pre-service academy training classes. Classes run 12 weeks and we run two to three classes per year.

During each academy, class 5 to 10 days is spent on CDL training. Due to limited space and scheduling, the driver's course must be set up daily. Many times throughout CDL training the National Guard has physical movement at their facility, trucks in and out; both military and civilian. The CDL course must be broken down and set back up when the military completes their operation. There are also days, many times on a moments notice, Judicial Marshal Services is unable to utilize the facility, due to military issues and our training must be relocated.

A permanent state Driver Training Facility would also be beneficial to Judicial Marshal Services. Judicial Marshal Services has 47 transport vehicles on the road daily, we transport approximately 950 prisoners daily, which is better than 230,000 prisoners yearly and our transport vehicles travel, in excess, of 950,000 miles yearly.

While Judicial Marshal Services has a very good track record on the road the quality and quantity of training would be enhanced if a Driver Training Facility was available for such purposes. Providing CDL training to new recruits and safety is paramount to daily operations of Judicial Marshal Services.