



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

JAMES ZEHRINGER, DIRECTOR

September 5, 2012

Randall J. Meyer, Inspector General
30 East Broad Street, Suite 2940
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414

Ref: Response to recommendations

Dear Inspector General Meyer:

This letter is in response to the recommendations made by your office to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) in case # 2012 CA-00009.

Recommendation #1: Internally review the actions of all employees involved to determine whether their conduct warrants further administrative action or training.

Action: The ODNR conducted administrative investigations to determine whether rule violations occurred. We determined there was just cause for discipline and are pursuing administrative action against Officer Matthew Roberts and Supervisor David Warner.

Officer Jason Keller, alleged to have been riding with Officer Matthew Roberts on December 2, 2010, was cleared of all suspicion.

Recommendation #2: Review the communication policy with all personnel to insure compliance.

Action: On August 1, 2012, a directive was sent to all law enforcement senior staff members (see attached) requiring compliance with existing communication policy. Specifically, in accordance with the policy we required officers in the field to update their status hourly either through voice or use of their mobile computer terminal (MCT). To avoid excessive radio traffic during high volume periods we modified our system to allow updates to occur when an officer uses their MCT. We continue to review our practices to ensure the best possible use of our communication system aimed at officer safety first and accountability as a consequence.

Recommendation #3: Increase monitoring of on-duty ODNR Division of Wildlife enforcement officers to adequately ensure safety and accountability.

Action: We have begun the process to ensure our supervisors carefully review and approve time and activity reports – including where feasible pre-approval of scheduled activities. Managers have received specific training to reinforce the importance of verifying the time and activity reports and reiterating that their approval signifies agreement and responsibility for the accuracy of documents.

Thank you for your staff's time and effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Corbin".

Richard Corbin
Deputy Director

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OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL