



## 20 Hour Military Waiver Information

Many of Georgia's peace officers serve as reserve officers in the United States Armed Forces. In recent months, a significant number of peace officers have been activated due to world events. Georgia law (O.C.G.A. 35-8-21) requires all individuals employed as peace officers to obtain at least twenty (20) hours of in-service training during each calendar year they are employed, even if they work only one day for the agency during that calendar year. Failure to do so results in loss of "power of arrest."

The Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council recognizes that it may be difficult or impossible for officers deployed for lengthy periods to obtain the required training. To compensate for this problem, subsection (e) of O.C.G.A. 35-8-21 provides for the Council to grant a waiver of the requirement of training, in its discretion, *upon the presentation of evidence by a peace officer that he was unable to complete such training due to medical disability, providential cause, or other reason deemed sufficient by the council.* The Council has exercised its discretion in situations involving military deployment, and grants waivers to officers in such situations.

To obtain a military training waiver for any year prior to 2006, an officer must submit evidence of his or her deployment during the calendar year that training was not completed. Acceptable forms of evidence would be a copy of the orders from the military unit or an updated copy of the officer's DD-214 showing the applicable dates on active duty. The form for 20-Hour Waiver Requests is available at this link [http://www.gapost.org/pdf\\_file/20HRWAIV.PDF](http://www.gapost.org/pdf_file/20HRWAIV.PDF).

**If an officer is activated in 2006 and has obtained his/her required training in all previous years, do not send a request for a waiver for 2006 at this time. The officer has until December 31<sup>st</sup> of 2006 to complete the required training. A waiver cannot be issued for a current year, and documents submitted for a current year waiver will not be returned and will not be retained.**

If an officer who was deployed in 2006 fails to complete the required training during the year, he or she may apply for a waiver of the training for 2006 in January of 2007 or later.