



Criminal Justice Services Board
Committee on Training
Special Conservator of the Peace Curriculum Review Committee

The Capitol
House Room 3
Richmond, Virginia 23219

MINUTES

May 24, 2015 Meeting
1:00 pm

Members Present

Sheriff Brian K. Roberts, Chairman, Brunswick County
Lt. Christopher L. Cook, Newport News Shipbuilding
Teresa Gooch, Department of Criminal Justice Services
Sgt. Gary Horner, Virginia State Police
Chuck Lewis, Westminster Canterbury
Greg Lukanuski, Esquire, Richmond, City Attorney's Office
Rick Pleasants, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Daniel Schmitt, RMC Events
Sgt. Christopher Tennant, CBN/Regent University Police Department
Sgt. Terry Sullivan, Hanover Sheriff's Office (representing Col. David Hines)
Chad Wilmouth, Centcom
Chief Kelvin Wright, Chesapeake Police Department
David Van Buren, TAC Solutions

Members Absent

Robert Pealo, Esquire, Newport News, City Attorney's Office
Thomas Rambo, Roanoke College
Thomas Shaia, Esquire, Suffolk Commonwealth's Attorney's Office
Ron Staton, Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy

1. **Call to Order.** Chairman Brian Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.
2. **Purpose of SCOP CRC**

The Chairman explained that the Special Conservator of the Peace ("SCOP") Curriculum Review Committee, established by the Chairman of the Criminal Justice Services Board, and is tasked with identifying and recommending entry-level, in-service and advanced training standards for unarmed and armed SCOPs. The process will include identifying performance outcomes for each approved subject.

The documents provided to the members were reviewed, which included current SCOP training requirements, a sample list of SCOP training subjects and hours, SCOP eligibility

requirements, a sample of law enforcement officer training requirements, pertinent code sections, and a quick chart comparison of the training requirements for SCOP's and law enforcement officers.

The regulatory process was explained, as was the delayed implementation for the training hours. Once the training standards are finalized through the regulatory process, current SCOPS will have three years in which to comply with the training requirements.

3. SCOP Program Overview

DCJS provided a brief summary of the primary SCOP code sections and recent legislative changes to the program, to include: the use of standardized forms developed by the Supreme Court; clarifying that SCOPs are not law enforcement officers but for a specific exemption in the code; SCOPs do not qualify under federal Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act; and the requirement that appointment orders identify the geographical area and specific property owned by a corporation so as to delineate the exact reach of the SCOP powers. Additional legislative updates clarified that courts may revoke appointments at any time, which can be triggered by written petitions filed by chiefs of police, sheriffs, attorneys for the commonwealth, and DCJS.

It was also highlighted that the new law requires 98 hours of entry-level training for unarmed SCOPs and 130 hours for armed SCOPs.

4. Current SCOP Training Requirements

The current training requirements, the regulations, and a comparison of SCOPs, armed security guards and law enforcement officer training requirements were briefly reviewed and explained.

5. Discussion

A sample worksheet containing categories for training subjects, hours and performance objectives was distributed and used as a starting point to begin the discussion.

Members began reviewing training subjects under the Orientation category. The similarities and differences between law enforcement and SCOPs were discussed, as well as how the two professions should have a cooperative approach to working with each other. Members agreed that increasing the number of hours devoted to this subject should be increased from two hours to a range of four to six hours.

Under the broad topic of Legal Procedures and Due Process, it was noted that the current requirement of 8 hours should be increased to 40 to 60 hours as these were core subjects that SCOPs should know. Members agreed that certain aspects were very important, including the mechanics of a proper arrest. Members noted that the civil law

components were probably not as important to all SCOPs and that this subject may be better suited as an advanced topic or separately provided by the employer.

As members discussed various subjects, it was apparent that not one size fits all. Some SCOPs are exposed to certain types of crimes and people, while other SCOPs are not. Members concurred that reorganizing the subjects to eliminate duplication would be beneficial.

It was noted that Liability of SCOPs was an important subject, as well as the importance of practical, hands-on learning (actionable teaching).

Members concurred that some topics may be better suited as an advanced training option for SCOPs. Employers could pick advanced training subjects a la carte, depending on their needs. Drug recognition was identified as being an appropriate subject for advanced training.

The topic of Use of Force was identified as needing a significant increase in training hours, specifically that four hours be increased to at least 16 hours. A question was posed whether non-lethal weapons such as tasers should be included in the training. DCJS explained that the purpose of creating training standards is to identify the minimum training standards that all SCOPs would need to know in order to receive their certification. Some topics and types of equipment are discretionary, such as the carrying of tasers and would be the employer's responsibility to determine the appropriateness of carrying these items. In addition, this type of equipment comes with manufacturer specifications and training instructions that would not be a part of the SCOP curriculum but could certainly be a topic that the employer could add on if they wanted their employee to carry this item. It should be noted that DCJS does not provide minimum training for law enforcement officers in the use of Tasers and other similar types of equipment as many agencies do not use them.

Members highlighted how the Rules of Evidence subject should be changed to "evidence preservation" as many members indicated that their SCOPs did not collect evidence and left it to law enforcement to handle.

Court Room Testimony was identified as being a practical subject to include, as making an arrest naturally leads to testifying in court.

The category of Patrol was identified as important and it was suggested that no less than 16 hours be devoted to this subject; another member indicated that 70 hours was appropriate. It was noted that all SCOPs should be trained in terrorism, first responder, active shooter and how to respond in a crisis.

There was a consensus that 8 hours of medical training such as CPR should be a mandatory requirement for all individuals applying to become registered with DCJS as an SCOP. DCJS agreed to look into this and report back at the next meeting.

The category of Personal Safety was discussed. The suggested number of hours ranged from 8 to 24 hours. It was agreed that it was important for SCOPs to know how to protect themselves and use appropriate force. One member indicated that his company provided 160 hours of personal safety training.

The final meeting was scheduled for October 4, 2016, from 1:00-4:00pm.

6. **Public Comment.** No individuals signed up to provide public comment.
7. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 pm.