



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

The Capitol
House Room 3
Richmond, Virginia 23219

DRAFT MINUTES

June 21, 2016
1:00 pm

Members Present

Lt. Christopher L. Cook, Newport News Shipbuilding
Teresa Gooch, Department of Criminal Justice Services
Col. David Hines, Hanover Sheriff's Office
Sgt. Gary Horner, Virginia State Police
Chuck Lewis, Westminster Canterbury
Robert Pealo, Esquire, Newport News, City Attorney's Office
Rick Pleasants, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Thomas Rambo, Roanoke College
Daniel Schmitt, RMC Events
Thomas Shaia, Esquire, Suffolk Commonwealth's Attorney's Office
Ron Staton, Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy
Sgt. Christopher Tennant, CBN/Regent University Police Department
Chief Kelvin Wright, Chesapeake Police Department
David Van Buren, TAC Solutions

Members Absent

Greg Lukanuski, Esquire, Richmond, City Attorney's Office
Sheriff Brian K. Roberts, Chairman, Brunswick County
Chad Wilmouth, Centcom

Call to Order. Chief Kelvin Wright, acting on behalf of Chairman Sheriff Roberts, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm with a quorum of members present.

Approval of Past Minutes. Sgt. Gary Horner moved to approve the minutes from the May 24, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Daniel Schmitt. Members unanimously approved the minutes.

Discussion. The committee is charged with establishing training subjects for 98 hours of entry-level training for unarmed SCOPs and 130 hours for armed SCOPs. A sample worksheet, updated with training information from the May 24th meeting, was provided to members and used to start the discussion, along with information from the Hanover County Sheriff's Department.

Approve Entry-Level Training Standards (subjects and hours) to Include Firearms Standards.

Members began reviewing training subjects for the entry-level training standards. The similarities and differences between law enforcement and SCOP training standards were discussed, and Col. David Hines explained a model prepared by his office. The committee discussed how to best allocate 98 hours of training hours for SCOPs. Although some members felt additional hours are necessary to prepare SCOPs for service, they ultimately and unanimously agreed to the following allocations of hours and subjects. Members also agreed that requiring a separate exam on these subjects is appropriate and should not be considered part of the 98 hours of instruction.

- 4 Hours – Orientation – Special Conservators of the Peace Laws and Regulations
- 12 Hours – Basic Laws
- 8 Hours – Virginia Crimes
- 22 Hours – Legal Procedures/Due Process
- 20 Hours – Use of Force and Liability Issues
- 16 Hours – Patrol Techniques
- 16 Hours – Personal Safety – Defensive Tactics and Survival
- 98 hours total

The committee also followed up on a previous inquiry about whether DCJS could require CPR and First Aid training as pre-qualification requirements for SCOP applicants instead of including it in the 98 hours designated for unarmed SCOPs. When DCJS indicated that yes, this was possible, the members agreed this should be pre-qualification requirements for SCOP applicants.

When asked whether training waivers that recognize past law enforcement training would be available to SCOP applicants, DCJS indicated that a waiver process is already in place and would continue to be utilized.

Firearms Standards.

The discussion turned to how to train SCOPs on the use of firearms within the allotted 32 hours. The importance of time spent on a range was quickly recognized by members as a way to appropriately train SCOPs on the use of firearms. Some members suggested that the classroom portion of hours be kept to a minimum because time on the range is a great opportunity for SCOP applicants who have not had much or any firearms experience. The committee used the Law Enforcement Officer Training Reference Manual as an additional guide for the discussion. It was noted that basic law enforcement officer firearm training only focuses on one firearm, and not rifles or other weapons. Members thought this should apply to SCOPs as well. It was recommended that four hours be devoted to classroom instruction (for one handgun) and the remaining 28 hours be spent on the range (for one handgun). The discussion then focused on the number of rounds of ammunition that should be required for SCOPs. The consensus was that 200 rounds of ammunition prior to qualification is appropriate.

One member mentioned the potential cost associated with requiring too much range time and suggested that merely adopting the law enforcement standard may be cost prohibitive for some people. Other members responded that if one wants to become an SCOP, there should be a certain amount of specific firearms training which can only be accomplished on a range and not by other, cheaper means, such as simulators. The subject of liability was recognized by members as a reason to ensure that SCOP firearm training is driven by public safety needs instead of financial considerations.

One member discussed the current firearms training requirements for SCOPs and asked the committee if they were recommending that the firearms training requirements currently in place for law enforcement officers be adopted. This would include the adoption of the Performance Outcomes and Training Objectives, Night firing, rounds fired, qualifying score and courses of fire. The committee members unanimously agreed that armed SCOPs should meet these requirements.

Chief Wright then summarized the points the committee had agreed upon:

- that SCOPs should meet the same firearms performance outcomes and training objectives required for certified law enforcement officers;
- that 32 hours of firearms training be accomplished through four hours of classroom teaching for one handgun and through 28 hours of range training for one handgun;
- that 28 hours of SCOP range training be accomplished with a choice of two qualifications courses;
- that the number of rounds of ammunition fired by SCOPs to familiarize themselves with the firearm be 200 daylight;
- that SCOPs be required to annually recertify their firearms training and proficiency;
- that SCOPs qualify for firearms certification with a 70% or better passing rate;

Chief Wright asked for a motion to accept the proposed firearms training requirements for SCOPs. Ronald Staton moved that the proposed training standards be approved as described and the motion was seconded by Col. David Hines. The motion passed unanimously.

Identify Subjects and Hours for In-Service Training/ Identify Subjects and Hours for Advanced Training.

Current annual SCOP in-service training requires eight hours of training. Members questioned whether this was sufficient. It was noted that certified law enforcement officers are required to obtain 40 hours every two years, to include legal updates and career development subjects. A number of topics were suggested as appropriate for SCOP in-service training.

One member suggested that 12-14 hours could include four hours of legal and liability issues; four hours of career development; and four to six hours of advanced training. Another member suggested a format of four hours of legal and liability issues; and eight hours of career development, of which four hours must come from a list of DCJS approved advanced courses.

A question was raised as to whether the in-service training would be for unarmed or armed SCOPs. The committee clarified that, separate and apart from the in-service training hours currently under consideration, an armed SCOP would have to requalify every year on firearms.

A suggestion was made to consider active shooter topics as an available training course given the recent incidents happening nationwide and it is an opportunity for the Commonwealth to take the lead on requiring private entities with arrest powers to be adequately trained and prepared to handle this type of incident. Members supported the concept while recognizing that various types of active shooter training is available for different audiences.

Chief Wright summarized the in-service training standards discussed by the committee:

- that all SCOPs should be required to obtain 12 hours of in-service training each year;
- that four of the 12 hours be dedicated to legal updates and liability issues;
- that eight of 12 hours be dedicated to career development, four of which could be selected from a list of DCJS approved advanced courses;
- the advanced courses could be tailored to suit the needs of the individual SCOP's and his employer's needs;
- that the advanced training subjects may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Active Shooter
 - Clery Act
 - Crime Prevention
 - Hazmat
 - Autism / Alzheimer's Awareness
 - Terrorism
 - Drug Recognition
 - CPR and First Aid
 - Disaster Response
 - Blood Borne Pathogens
 - Incident Command System
 - Mental Health First Aid
- that SCOPs may seek approval from DCJS for other classes.

David Van Buren made a motion to accept the summary for in-service training standards as described. Rick Pleasants seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The final meeting will be held on October 4, 2016, from 1:00-4:00 pm.

Public Comment. No individuals signed up to provide public comment.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 pm.