

Training Advisory Committee: Meeting Minutes August 21, 2019

Members Present: Lt. Steve Coote, VSP; Sgt. Fred Whitcomb, Stowe Police; Senior Deputy Andrew Bent, Washington CSD; Sgt. Jason Covey, Middlebury Police; Chief Skyler Genest, VT DLC; Commander Greg Sheldon, Rutland Police; Officer Dan Delgado, Burlington Police.

Others Present: VCJTC Director of Training, Cindy Taylor-Patch.

Presentations by VCJTC Training Coordinators Jenn Firpo, Ken Hawkins, and Jake Hansell.

Regrets: Sgt. Chad Barrett, Vermont Fish & Wildlife; Chief Jeff Whitesell, Winhall Police; Officer Adam Murach, Brandon Police; Sgt. Jennifer Harlow, Newport Police; Chief George Merkel, Vergennes Police; Lt. Bob Giolito, VT DMV.

Meeting was called to order at 10:04 by LT Coote. No changes were made to the agenda.

BASIC TRAINING REVIEW:

TC Hansell proposed adding time to the program for more in depth discussion of deadly force, force on force scenarios, scenarios utilizing the Use of Force Training Simulator, an introduction to patrol rifles, additional range time, target acquisition, and after-action processes.

Sgt Whitcomb asked about the level of preparation being done with incoming recruits in relation to their firearm. TC Hansell explained that there is a great deal of variability across agencies. Discussion ensued around the use of a pre-academy firearms checklist that is modeled after the Level-II checklist. A motion was made by Commander Sheldon that a pre-academy firearms checklist be required that is modeled after the Level-II checklist but excluded the need to shoot the qualification course and is also attested to by a firearms instructor; seconded by Chief Genest; Passed unanimously.



TC Firpo discussed additional time for Domestic Violence. It was explained that all issues being released in annual mandates are not getting relayed to recruits currently as there is no time. An overview of those issues could be accomplished with an additional 4 hours, which would also include exercises where recruits will practice interviewing and talking with victims. In addition, TC Firpo discussed bringing the topics of strangulation and stalking investigations into the regular curriculum (versus optional nighttime training). This makes the material testable, doesn't take away from recruit study time, and allows for incorporating these issues into scenarios. She asked for 8 hours; Committee members suggested we start with 4 hours.

Further discussion was had related to input gathered from various instructors, with consideration given to resources, instructor demands, budgetary hurdles, etc.

Meeting was recessed by the Chair at 1125 hours for lunch and reconvened at 1225 hours.

Based on all feedback received, some requests being supported and others not at this time, Chief Genest moved that a recommendation be made to the Council for the addition of four weeks of additional training time; seconded by Sgt Covey. Passed unanimously.

TC Hawkins outlined the current Field Training program required for Level-II officers and discussed the Field Training is not currently required for Level-III officers. Discussion ensued.

TC Hawkins outlined the current Level-II certification process

At 1303 hours, Sr Deputy Bent moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chief Genest. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Taylor-Patch
Director of Training