

Use of Force Committee Meeting

October 16, 2019

Prepared by Jake Hansell, Training Coordinator

Members Present: Sergeant Michael Akerlind, Wade Johnson – VT DOC, Trooper Paul Sokolowski, Lieutenant Warden Russ Shopland, Corporal Randy Lopes, Sergeant Eugene Duplissis, Chief Matt Murano, Corporal Jason Williams, Warden Robert Currier, Lieutenant Eugene Cote

Members Absent: Chief Robbie Blish.

Academy Representatives: Executive Director Richard Gauthier, Director of Training Cindy Taylor-Patch, Director of Administration Drew Bloom, Training Coordinator Jacob Hansell, Technology and Program Services Clerk James Park

Meeting called to order: 10:32 am

Old Business

- **Approval of the 5 June 2019 meeting minutes**
 - Motion to accept the minutes as is was made by Trooper Sokolowski, seconded by Sergeant Duplissis.
 - **Motion passed unanimously**
- **Patrol Rifle Course report**
 - Corporal Williams gave a follow up report after the Patrol Rifle Instructor course, the submission of the completed curriculum was delayed by outside forces.
 - **The Committee has asked Corporal Williams to submit the typed course curriculum to the Committee when he has it completed.**

New Business

- **New Member Introductions**
 - New Committee members Lieutenant Eugene Cote from the Department of Motor Vehicles, Warden Robert Currier from the Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Corporal Jason Williams from the Rutland City Police Department briefly introduced themselves to the Committee.
 - **No action needed.**
- **Negligent Discharge Protocol**

Training Coordinator Hansell asked the Committee to consider whether or not the current firearms training policy, specifically as it relates to negligent discharges and safety violations, is sufficient or in need of change or expansion.

 - The Committee decided that while safety rules are of the utmost importance, they stressed that this is a training environment and mistakes will happen. Instant removal from the program is something they would like to avoid if possible,



Training Coordinator Hansell will be looking into the FBI's remedial training plan after a negligent discharge to see if it can be adapted for the Academy's use. The plan will be distributed to the Committee via email when Training Coordinator Hansell receives it.

- **Discussion has been tabled until the Committee can review the FBI's training plan.**

- **Firing Range Rules Review**

- Training Coordinator Hansell asked the Committee to review the current range rules and see if any changes need to be made.
- The Committee reviewed the current rules finding them to be comprehensive.

- **No Action Taken.**

- **Firearms Instructor Recertifications**

- Training Coordinator Hansell gave a brief update on the status of Firearms Instructor Recertifications across the state. To date, only 28 instructors still need to recertify.
- He also informed the Committee that the Academy will be hosting Firearms Instructor days on the range. These days would be used to provide instructors a chance to teach lesson plans that they are currently working on to other instructors in order to get feedback. It will also provide a chance for instructors to get time on the range where they are firing instead of only teaching.
- The topic of instructors having a negligent discharge on the range was discussed. The Committee determined it was best to follow the same procedure that is in place for the recruit class. The Academy staff in charge of firearms training will examine any incident in context and manage them on a case by case basis.

- **Informational, no action needed.**

- Corporal Randy Lopes passed out an update to the annual qualification course for the Committees review and possible adoption.

- **Discussion was tabled until the Committee members have a chance to run the new course and offer their feedback.**

- **Expanded Course Length for Basic Training**

- Director of Training Cindy Taylor-Patch informed the Committee that there has been a request made to expand the overall length of the Basic Training program which would mean an overall increase in the time allotted to firearms and use force training.

- **Informational, no action needed.**

- **Next Meeting Date Selected**

- The Committee members have decided on 14 January 2019 at 10:30 as the next meeting date.

- **Meeting Adjourned: 11:32**

