

Academy Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes

August 30, 2016

PRESENT:

Sheriff Mike Downey, Humboldt County Sheriff
Undersheriff William Honsal, Jr, Humboldt County Sheriff
Maria Sandoval, POST
Lt. Melissa Hansen, Humboldt State University PD

Lt. Bart Silvers, Arcata Police Department
Debbie Topping, Recording Secretary
Ron Waters, AJ Director

Ron Waters called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. All attended via phone.

1. DT Instructors Needed: Ron Waters explained the severe need for additional Defensive Tactics instructors. Without the additional help, cancellation of the upcoming Perishable Skills classes is a possibility as there are not enough instructors to cover the safety ratio. A concern was expressed that local agencies use the FBI training methods and our current instructor utilizes the Koga method. Unless and until other instructors come from the local agencies qualified to teach the FBI method, CR will only be offering the Koga training.

2. Instructor Issue: Waters explained the difference between the California Education Code requirements for College instructors versus the past practices as it pertains to the Law Enforcement Training Center. Although the AJ Training Center has used knowledge and training “equivalency” to allow instructors to teach at the Basic Academy, recent audits of campus-wide practices have brought this to light and AJ is being required to come into compliance with the State requirements as have the rest of Campus instructors. In order to teach at a Community College, one must have a Bachelor’s degree with two years of experience in the teaching subject (in this case, law enforcement) or an Associate’s degree with six years of experience. Any courses being taught by an instructor who does NOT have a degree, will be considered a “guest lecturer” and will need to have a faculty member in the classroom to satisfy Education Code requirements. The AJ program is now working to have all qualified instructors contact Human Resources to complete the process for conversion to Associate Faculty status. All instructors hired in the future will have to be Associate Faculty.

3. Driving Instructors are also needed in order to staff both EVOC and Driving Simulator courses. Currently, AJ has 8 driving instructors but 5 are needed to run a full class, leaving very little wiggle-room for work schedules. Although only one instructor is required for the Simulator, recent retirements have left only three available, making blocks of training out of the area nearly impossible to staff. Driving instructors are required to take both the 40-hour Driving Instructor course as well as the 24-hour slow speed instruction course. Also, those recent retirements leave us short a skid-car instructor as well, which requires another 16-hour course.

Although having these instructors available would be an advantage to the CR Law Enforcement Training Center, Waters reminded all that by having trained officers on staff, agencies would benefit by having trainers available for their own personnel at the convenience of their schedule, including trainings for individuals that may be having difficulties in Emergency Vehicle Operations.

4. FOS Room Update All of the hardware for the Force Option Simulator has been installed in the former media room above the mat room. A reinstallation of the software is needed but there is currently no phone installed in order for our personnel to communicate directly with tech support during the install. The installation will require two instructors. Once the phone is installed, and instructors can synchronize their schedules, the software will be loaded and classes will be scheduled.

It was noted that instructors are also needed for the FOS Simulator.

5. Need for Instructors A spreadsheet went out noting all topics where instructors are needed in the Academy. In order to teach in the Academy, P.O.S.T. requires instructors to attend the Academy Instructor Certification Course (A.I.C.C.) as well as maintain their adult learning theory skills by having eight hours of instructor update training teaching every three years. Undersheriff Bill Honsal noted that the required 40-hour A.I.C.C. presented a hardship to smaller agencies due to the loss of manpower and wondered if an online version could be offered through P.O.S.T. that might have just one or two days of hands-on

and teaching demonstrations rather than personnel being gone from the work roster for a full week. Can FTO training be considered an equivalent for some of the lecture on adult learning theory?

Some topics require specific trainings to qualify (i.e. Lifetime Fitness, Racial Profiling, EVOC, firearms, Arrest & Control). In addition to instructors, the Academy is in need of a Scenario Manager to coordinate the scenario testing that occurs at the end of each Academy.

6. 11550/Drug Recognition has not been presented since 2009 due to a lack of an instructor so has been decertified by P.O.S.T. There have been many requests for the course and AJ would like to present it if an instructor were available. Interested officers who have served on the Drug Task Force would have the necessary training to instruct this course so agencies were asked to share this with qualified officers.

7. In conclusion...Ron Waters made the point to all that AJ needs “agency buy-in” or the Academy, as well as the Advanced Officer side, is in trouble. Without instructors, qualified and willing to pass on their knowledge to both Cadets and current officers, the program will have no way of offering the instruction agencies are requesting, especially since our longtime instructors are retiring and moving out of the area. In addition, if local training isn’t available because agencies are not willing to support their interested officers in efforts to acquire the desired additional training, agencies will be forced to send their officers out of the area for training at a higher cost.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Topping
Recording Secretary