



AJ / BASIC ACADEMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 16, 2019 – 0930
USCG Station McKinleyville

ATTENDANCE: Ron Waters (CR), Brian Ahearn (Arcata PD), Steve Watson (Eureka PD), Billy Honsal (Humboldt SO), Bill Dobberstein (Fortuna PD), Brett Smith (Ferndale PD), Donn Peterson (Humboldt State University PD)

1. PELLETB Testing

Background: We are being asked by applicants for various agencies who are using the PELLETB as an entry requirement to take the test at random times. We do group testing in March, April, May, September, October and November. If possible, coordinate your recruiting efforts to allow your applicants to take the PELLETB in a group setting. Due to costs involved with individual testing, we are going to start charging for tests done at other than the group tests.

(UPDATE: POST will soon be doing this testing online, so this issue is actually going to resolve itself. Your potential hires can take the testing soon by computer from our office and we will get the results back immediately instead of having to wait.)

NOTES: HCSO is now doing PELLETB testing themselves. EPD does also.

2. Community Service

Background: Several years ago, the Advisory Committee decided to require 10 hours of Community Service time as part of the Basic Academy. We have had to modify this requirement due to the switch to the Modular Academy format. Now 2 hours for Mod III, 3 hours for Mod II and 5 hours for Mod 1 or if there for entire academy, 10 hours anytime during Academy. Seeing most cadets just do their 10 hours and no more. At the same time, we are seeing cadets get hired then leave agencies after seeing what the job is really like. Suggestion – modify community service requirement and add ride-along requirement. (This was an Advisory Board request to do community service originally.)

NOTES: Committee felt there was more of a need for students to do ride-alongs than focus on community service. Sheriff Honsal did not want his personnel doing security-type work, and the rest agreed with him. Recommendation was to require four 4-hour (minimum) sessions per student. Those affiliated should ride with their own agency. We should still offer community service opportunities, but not require them. Those who do community service will have that noted on their evaluations and top community service participant will be recognized at graduation.

3. Uniform caps

Background: Cadets have been required to wear baseball caps as part of their academy uniform. The caps we have been getting are not lasting long and turn brown. Thoughts on discontinuing the caps???

NOTES: Group wanted to keep hats, but look at having Broeses uniforms provide a better quality cap.

4. Cultural Diversity Project

Background: Cadets are required to receive 15 hours of Cultural Diversity training in the Academy. Napa academy is doing a cultural immersion project instead of having students just listening to lecture. 8 hour total immersion along with college level research paper where at least 3 people in the chosen cultural group are interviewed. This work is done outside of class time and has been seen as extremely beneficial to get students to understand the diversity issues better. Thoughts???

NOTES: Group thought this was a good exercise with positive benefits.

5. Sponsored Cadets

(1) We need paperwork from the cadet if they're going to be attending. (2) PELLETB and physical ability testing are college course requirements – not something agencies can waive. (3) Telling us to hold a certain number of spots with no paperwork puts your cadets in a time crunch and potential registration problems. (4) In the future, we will not be "HOLDING" a spot for agencies. We will need the paperwork to put someone in the class. **NOTE:** If you have a sponsored cadet in the academy, it really helps if you have people periodically (frequently) check in with them and with the Coordinator/FTOs to see how they're progressing.

NOTES: Group understood the problems holding a space created and supported this.

6. Student Privacy

We're getting agency personnel calling wanting information on a cadet or past cadet they're thinking about hiring. Callers ask how the student did. We can't even legally acknowledge they were a student without violating student confidentiality rights. We need a release to give any information. Please pass this on to your personnel.

NOTES: Group understood the problem and will pass the information on to their personnel.