

The Academy Connection

Where South Carolina Law Enforcement Training is Defined

SOUTH CAROLINA
CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY



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Director's Message Hubert F. Harrell

It is no secret that the law enforcement profession has come under a great deal of scrutiny and in many cases criticism for what the public feels is unnecessary use of force. There have been public comments carried by the media in which they presume that law enforcement officers must be "kinder and gentler" when dealing with the public and even I, in my remarks, to both the students here at the Academy and in public have agreed that there must be a better way to smooth our relationship with those we serve. I have however, tried to temper my emotion with calmer perspective and consideration.

In the last issue I posted Sir Robert Peals "Principle of Policing" and I have posted those principles throughout the Basic Training Village so that all who enter here for training will be exposed to them. But then, I had to look at the bigger picture and try to define in my mind what is really happening to our country and our state. Let me say that it goes much further than our ability to uphold the

dignity and purpose of our profession. The officers who graduate from here are certainly prepared to perform the basic functions of law enforcement, but it is upon graduation that the real education begins.

I will be the first to admit that I haven't got a clue how to define what is happening to our society when there seems to be such a lack of respect for anyone who holds a position of authority. I know that respect must be earned. Who or what we respect is learned through our life's experiences. It is learned as we experience our environment, by what our parents teach us, what we learn in school or from our friends. It is learned from our churches or religious leaders and yes, even from the media. All of these institutions, in one way or another determine how we feel about who we are, what we stand for, and ultimately how we fit into the grand scheme of things. It can be confusing for the young and confounding to the old. What has become of "Truth, Justice and the American Way"? We



are certainly evolving; the question is, to what?

It is difficult to change or re-educate someone on how to associate with others who may be different than themselves. Most of our trainees, as is indicative of our electronic culture, are not very conversant and find it difficult to express conscious thought to someone who is different from themselves. Social media and video games are their enjoyment and monopolize most of their time. Many have come to their agency from the military, some of whom are combat veterans who must be retrained to employ a different set of

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Director's Message Continued

skills and attitudes. Both groups are, after all, products of our modern environment. Twelve weeks seems hardly enough time to change the cultural norm established by dependence on technology. Social media allows comment without rebuttal so when confronted with someone who thinks or feels differently, we have difficulty processing what is actually before us, based on our limited experience. I think we will all agree, we are in the process of experiencing a cultural shift and it is now manifested itself in our nations behavior on both sides of the thin blue line.

Consider the fact that each adverse encounter experienced by law enforcement which resulted in the use of physical force, was precipitated by a lawful directive. In almost every case the order was repeated but was not complied with. This is when things become difficult for the officer. If we examine his choices we can see the dilemma he would be faced with. In a society governed by laws, each citizen is compelled to comply with lawful orders or directives presented to them by a person recognized to have the authority to issue those orders or directives. If there was willing compliance, there should be no confrontation or unnecessary use of force. Any disagreements about the charges preferred or the officer's conduct should be presented before the court as our laws dictate, but that would be in a perfect world.

My take on this subject is very simplistic because I am a simple man. It appears that trust and respect is an individual decision engrained in us by our life experiences. If our potential candidates were raised to respect their neighbors, respect their leaders, respect the right to worship as you choose, respect our laws and respect each other without regard to social or economic status, then they have established a foundation to become good law enforcement officers. If their experiences have taught them to disrespect either of the aforementioned things, they should probably look for another line of work or re-educate themselves to accept that we are a diverse community and our very foundation as a nation is founded on "the belief that all men are created equal". I guess the moral to this is we have to give respect before we can expect to receive it. But how do you do that? Some say, Training!

I submit that law enforcement officers are people, not machines. We cannot program them to react the same way each time they are confronted with a situation. They react to situations as they present themselves and with re-enforced training; can respond in an appropriate and legal manner. Sometimes we don't get it right and the world gets to review situations we become involved in, at its leisure. The truth is, our emotions and perceptions and experiences play a major role in how we react to adverse situations and usually there is no time to evaluate our course of action before we take it. Our training teaches us to not make assumptions about the people we encounter but to rely on what we see or hear. We should not act as judge or jury. The person wearing the black robe does that. Our role is to bring someone who is suspected of disobeying the law before the courts and let the courts decide innocence or guilt. Not the media, not Facebook, not the blogs or the nameless faceless people who have never experienced many of the situations we are confronted with on a daily basis. In a perfect world, law enforcement should never have to resort to physical force. Unfortunately, we do not live in a perfect world.

I have said these things to illustrate that those of us, who serve our communities, must do so with a "Servant's heart". We are the "Sheepdogs", who serve the flock and protect them from the wolves. The majority of the folks in our communities appreciate what we do and support us, but sometimes the wolves wear sheep's clothing and cry the loudest when detected. We have to continue to protect our flock, but persecute the wolves where ever we find them, as the law demands. That is our task and what we are sworn to do. This is your Academy!



"ALL POINTS BULLETIN" FROM THE CONSTABLE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Retired SLED Agents and South Carolina Constable Online Training site is now accessible at: <http://sledconstabletraining.org>

Below is the information for the new SCETV Website everybody has been waiting on:

SC Criminal Justice Academy courses Legal Update, Domestic Violence, The Line Up, Between the Bars, and Meth & Drug Endangered Children are now available on this new site. To access this training you must create a new account and enroll in the course(s) you need. Links to instructions on how to create a new account, enroll in a course, and access your course(s) are on the main page directly under the brief welcome message and above the course category list. It is strongly recommended that you review these step-by-step instructions to assist in creating your new account.

An enrollment key code is needed to enroll in each course. Once enrolled in a course you remain enrolled. After you are enrolled in at least one course, you have access to the Online Training Resources page in which all of these codes are stored.

Important: Read ALL instructions listed on each course page!

For each course you must view a series of videos.

After you have viewed a video, a "Continue" button will appear for a short amount of time. Click that button to complete the video and open the next video or activity in the course. If you do not click the "Continue" button within the allotted time, you must watch the video again for the "Continue" button to reappear. Once you have viewed all the required videos in a course, you have access to the course certificate.

As a reminder, each constable is responsible for completing the annual legal update video(s), domestic violence video(s), firearms qualification, and bloodborne pathogens training in order to maintain compliance with training requirements of the constable commission.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact ETV Customer Service at 1-888-761-8132 for assistance.

JP Strom Award Winners October–December 2015



BLE 638
Christopher C. McCart
Greenville Police Department



BLE 640
Garrett D. Bare
Oconee County Sheriff's Office



BLE 641
Jenna A. Pitcher
Charleston City Police Department

Basic Class Information

Basic Law Classes

B642 October 12, 2015—January 22, 2016
 B643 November 2, 2015—February 12, 2016
 B644 November 30, 2015—March 4, 2016
 B645 January 3— March 25, 2016
 B646 January 24—April 15, 2016
 B647 February 14—May 6, 2016
 B648 March 6—May 27, 2016
 B649 March 27—June 17, 2016

Limited Duty January 31—February 12, 2016

Basic Detention Classes

BD 359 January 11—29, 2016
 BD 360 February 7—26, 2016
 BD 361 March 13—April 1, 2016
 BD 362 April 10—29, 2016

Basic TCO (formerly E-911)

BTOT 201 January 10—22, 2016
 BTOT 201A January 25—February 5, 2016
 BTOT 202 February 21—March 4, 2016
 BTOT 202A March 14—March 25, 2016

BASIC LAW SFST DRINKING LAB

With the SFST and Datamaster DMT classes in the 12 week basic training curriculum, it is necessary to ask the field to assist us with volunteer drinkers. This training assists officers in not only DUI detection, but also help officers to recognize when subjects are impaired. This can make a huge difference in what approach an officer will take when handling various situations. We need approximately 250 volunteers per year. I know this sounds like a lot, but that is less than one percent of South Carolina's police population. If you can be of assistance or have any questions please contact Michael Brantley of the Traffic Safety Unit at (803) 896-7791 jmbrantley@sccja.sc.gov or Dale Smith at (803) 896-5556 desmith@sccja.sc.gov.

Below you will find a list of dates we need volunteers. We can provide rooms to any volunteer who will need to travel and stay overnight. Alcohol and meals are provided for all volunteers; however, if they desire to bring their own alcohol that is permitted.

Dates for BLE Drinking Lab 2015-2016

February 3rd & 4th 2016
 February 24th & 25th 2016
 March 16th & 17th 2016
 April 6th & 7th 2016
 April 27th & 28th 2016
 May 18th & 19th 2016
 June 8th & 9th 2016
 June 29th & 30th 2016



Welcome Our New Employees



Troy Wright
Range Instructor



Birgit Vanderstraeten
Standards and Testing

RETIREMENT

Cheryl Beard is retiring after 30 years of state service. She began her career in October 1985. She has worked for Department of Corrections, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Motor Vehicles. She has worked in Human Resources in some capacity for all 30 years. Cheryl plans to spend her retirement with her husband, four grandchildren and do some traveling. Congratulations on your retirement!

