

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

The staff of the Academy is continuing to refine and improve our basic law curriculum. I am amazed at the intuitive nature of our instructors and how hard they are willing to work in order to provide South Carolina with quality law enforcement instruction on a comparatively small budget. I hate to always harp on how limited our resources are but it is what it is. I recognize that it takes a team effort to do what we must do and how hard it is to satisfy the needs of the field, but from registration to graduation, this staff provides top notch service.

We are once again entering into the budget process with the realization that we are a very small part of state government. We continue to bring the physical plant of the Academy up to current standards including, air quality, electrical upgrades, security and infor-

mation technology advances. We continue to explore computerized testing and have requested computer netbooks in this year's budget. We believe by putting our training manuals on these netbooks, we will realize significant savings in printing costs and apply those funds to other areas of training. We can adjust training manuals from a central point including new laws and legislation in a timely manner rather than waiting for the printer to finish. Thanks to Jim Crossland and Florence McCants and their divisions for spearheading this project.

I would like to take some time to mention our friend and mentor Jim Kirby, who suffered a fall and broke his hip. Jim is a legend in the South Carolina law enforcement community and just recently celebrated his eighty eighth birthday. We all hope he has a speedy recovery and



will once again provide us with more historical facts and advice about the Academy. Thanks also to Bill Floyd for keeping us advised about Jim's status.

There have been several disturbing events which have occurred around the nation, the most recent being the shooting at the Washington Navy Yard. To me it illustrates how we can never let our guard down and how diligent we must be concerning our surroundings.

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Director's Message Continued

I pray for the families of those who were lost and hope that we can come to grips with the question of how we provide for those who are mentally ill. I don't have any answers, but I believe collectively, as a nation, we must find one. It won't be simple and I'm sure it won't be cheap, but we have to try. Until we find an answer, law enforcement must be forever vigilant for those who suffer mental illness. We are the first to respond to these incidents but we are not the solution. We can make contact and contain the perpetrator and when possible eliminate the threat. We must continue to train for the eventuality that it could happen in our community.

I met with the Detention Center Administrators Association this past

week and I was amazed at how much of their resources are expended on detainees who suffer from mental illness. It appears that our detention centers are becoming surrogate mental hospitals and the burden for care of these individuals is being handed to the detention center staff, many of whom may have only three weeks training. The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) makes their jobs even more challenging and the combination of mental illness, protective custody, gang influences and ever changing standards make their jobs an almost impossible and expensive task.

I want to thank the Academy staff and all of the departmental training officers for working so hard to make our state a safer place to live. I know

they set the example for team efforts without regard for agency size or budget. Diligence, teamwork and professionalism are the watchwords in the training community.

We must learn to work together as one common force, prepared to help other agencies when requested. That is one goal of having a central Academy. We all receive the same training, in the same place with the same standards as other law enforcement officers from agencies other than our own. There are many states who wish they had that type of cohesion. Thanks to our law enforcement community, we do. "This is your Academy".

Crisis House: New Technology

By: Brian Bennett

Basic training cadets at the Academy spend many hours in the classroom settings learning the legalities, procedures, investigative techniques and tactics of the law enforcement profession. For all that is taught in the classroom, nothing quite compares to the experience of hands on training through practical problem scenario based training. It's been well established over the years that hands on training contributes to better retention of the material that was presented in the classroom setting and a better practical understanding of how to apply the knowledge learned. The concept of scenario training is not a new one. Such hands on training has been part of the Academy's training program for many years with the understanding that practice in a controlled environment leads to better decisions in the sometimes uncontrolled environment of patrol work and the real world. It's often through our mistakes that we as officers learn the most. It's always better for an officer to make a mistake in training than to make one in a real world event where the outcome of a poor decision could be the death of someone much less a liability lawsuit.

Approximately 20 years ago the Academy created a practical problems range to supplement classroom training where officers are exposed to various criminal and civil issues to evaluate and respond to. Academy instructors along with experienced guest instructor's role play and observe the cadets during scenario training. Observations made of the cadets are used to thoroughly evaluate and debrief the cadets.

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In particular, the building known as the “Crisis House” was outfitted with cameras and sound equipment to record the actions of cadets for review by the cadet themselves, guest instructors and Academy instructors. The camera system provides a third person independent eye that captures both the right and wrong of police cadets actions.

Over the years the recording system has transitioned from VHS recording format and then to a DVD recording format. Older components of the recording system, however, started to fail over the years and become unreliable. A new modern upgrade was needed in order to lower operational cost of using the system, repairing the system, and providing the basic cadets and other training units with the best option possible to evaluate training scenarios. There was also an identifiable need to have

a system that was easily expandable and upgradable over time.

After many months of searching and following the State bidding procedures, the Academy finally partnered with a national digital video surveillance company called CodeLynx, which has a Charleston, South Carolina office. CodeLynx installed and integrated a modern computer controlled digital recording system with a large 42 inch TV monitor for ease of viewing. Operational control of the cameras, microphones, recording, playback and storage are all run through a Windows based PC with easy point and click controls. The current system supports 9 cameras but is easily expandable to as many cameras as are desired. Cameras and microphones cover multiple angles of each room of the Crisis House to include the exterior of each side of the house. Cameras and microphones are all recording simultaneously so that nothing is missed. The flat screen TV is integrated into the system, which allows for multiple camera views to be displayed at the same time. The benefit of such a system is that it is easily expandable and upgradable as the Academy moves into the future. There are no mechanical switches or mechanical components to wear out over time and digital recording reduces the cost of having to purchase outdated hardware like VHS tapes and DVD discs that also take up valuable storage space. The current digital systems can store an entire year’s worth of 24 hour recording. Multiple camera views allow for the simultaneous viewing of various rooms in the house and the exterior by the instructional staff and other cadets waiting their turn for a scenario. The playback feature enhances the debrief and after action evaluation of cadets who get to see their own mistakes or mistakes made by other cadets. The simultaneous recording of all the cameras and microphones allows playback of actions missed in any portion of the Crisis House during any scenario.

For a nominal investment, the Academy has enhanced the learning capabilities of the cadets who come through for training and for those who will attend training in the future. The system will serve the needs of the Academy and cadets well into the future.

**JP Strom Award Winners
July-September 2013**



**BLE 602
Samir Sisc
Spartanburg Public Safety**



**BLE 603
Timothy B. Adams
Sumter County Sheriff's Office**



**BLE 605
Christopher L. Grady
Richland County Sheriff's Office**

**Bert Friday Award Winners
July-September 2013**



**BJ 329
Amanda G. Wyatt
Batesburg/Leesville Jail**



**BJ 330
Natalie Y. Bishop
Spartanburg County Detention Center**



**BJ 331
Rickie L. Biggs
Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center**

Basic Class Information

Basic Law Classes

B607	August 12–November 1, 2013
B608	September 2–November 22, 2013
B609	September 23–December 20, 2013
B610	October 14, 2013–January 24, 2014
B611	November 4, 2013–February 14, 2014
B612	December 2, 2013–March 7, 2014
B613	January 6–March 28, 2014

Limited Duty October 21–31, 2013

Basic Jail Classes

BJ 333	October 28–November 15, 2013
BJ 334	December 2–20, 2013
BJ 335	January 13–31, 2014

Basic TCO (formerly E-911)

BTOT 180	November 11–22, 2013
BTOT 181	December 9–20, 2013
BTOT 182	January 13–24, 2014

BASIC LAW SFST DRINKING LAB

With the addition of SFST and Datamaster DMT classes in the new 12 week basic training curriculum, it will be necessary to ask the field to assist us with volunteer drinkers. I believe this training will assist 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 2013-2014

Oct. 23rd & 24th 2013
 Nov. 13th & 14th 2013
 Dec. 11th & 12th 2013
 Jan. 15th & 16th 2014
 Feb. 5th & 6th 2014
 Feb. 26th & 27th 2014
 March 19th & 20th 2014
 April 9th & 10th 2014
 April 30th & May 1st 2014
 May 21st & 22nd 2014
 June 11th & 12th 2014



COURAGE AWARD

The Courage Award was presented to Malachi Simmons, Sr. of the North Charleston Police Department/Jail Division on September 20, 2013 at the Basic Jail 331 graduation ceremony. He served over 40 years in the United States military, both Army and Air Force, and retired as a Master Sergeant from the Air Force.

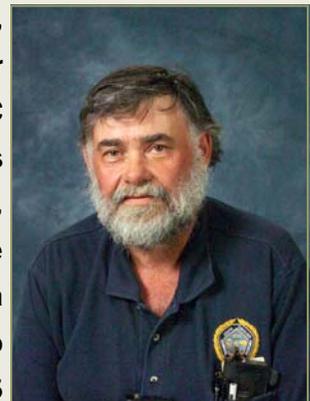
“Simmons gave us the courage and strength to endure the training and helped us overcome our fears of failing,” said classmate Anthony Perez of Spartanburg County Detention Center. “He was an example that proved to us that age is never a factor in accomplishing your goals.” At the age of 69, Simmons is the oldest graduating member of the Basic Jail class and the first Courage Award recipient for the Basic Jail training program.



Major John Yarborough (left), Malachi Simmons Sr. (right)

CONGRATULATIONS VERNON ON YOUR RETIREMENT!

Claude “Vernon” Counts , an Associate Engineer in Facilities Management, has retired after 15 years of service with the Academy. Vernon was our Master Electrician who also had great skills and experience with HVAC systems. In this 42 year old facility, Vernon’s skills were frequently tested as repairs became increasingly more frequent. Fortunately for the Academy, Vernon had worked with the electrical contracting company that wired the Academy during construction. Vernon has elected to retire and pursue a position in his field in the private sector. His expertise, abilities and can do attitude are already missed. We wish him the best and thank him for his 15 years of service.



Welcome Our New Employees



Tiandra Best
Media Support Unit



Jennifer Coaxum
Police Science Instructor



Chris Kendall
Traffic Safety Instructor



Nancy Roland
Registration



Karen Stewart
Finance