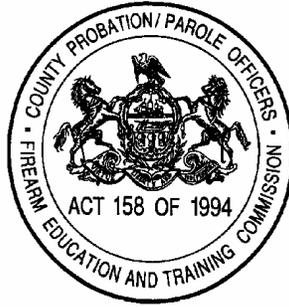


Members:

Larry J. Straitiff, Chairman
Robert Billingsley
Hon. Lawrence F. Clark Jr.
Marshall R. Davis
William R. Erickson Jr.
Lieut. David Howells
R. Scott Schlechter
Keith B. Snyder
Hon. William F. Ward



Chester A. Kope
Executive Director
1101 S. Front Street, Suite 5600
Harrisburg, PA 17104-2522
(717) 783-4692
Fax (877) 871-4469,,0401

September 19, 2000

A meeting of the County Probation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education and Training Commission convened at 9:00 AM on September 19, 2000 at the Holiday Inn, Grantville, PA. The following Commission members and guests were present:

Larry J. Straitiff, Chairman
Robert Billingsley
Marshall R. Davis
Hon. Lawrence F. Clark, Jr.
Lt. David Howells, Jr.
R. Scott Schlechter
Keith B. Snyder

Linda Laub, Acting Legal Advisor
Gary Scicchitano (PBPP)
Ron Copenhaver, Administrative Advisor
Jon E. Clark, Temple University
Keith Gebler, Temple University
Donald Zettlemoyer, PA State Univ.
Robin Walker (Commission Secretary)

I. Chairman Larry Straitiff called the meeting to order. He requested that a motion be made to accept the minutes from the May 16, 2000 meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Davis to accept the minutes of May 16, 2000. Commissioner Billingsley seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commission.

II. SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTER

Mr. Straitiff began with introducing the guest speaker Mr. Jon E. Clark from Temple University. Temple University has been awarded a service purchase contract to provide Firearm In-Service Training to County Probation and Parole Officers throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. Clark then introduced Mr. Donald Zettlemoyer from Pennsylvania State University. He will be working with Temple University on the contract. PSU will be handling instruction on the Western side of the state and Temple Univ. will be handling instruction on the Eastern side of the state. Next Mr. Clark introduced Mr. Keith Gebler of Temple University, Assistant Director of Criminal Justice Training Programs there. Mr. Clark will use their Deputy Sheriff's Continuing Education Training Program, which is headed by Mr. Gebler, as a resource when conducting future trainings for the Commission. Mr. Clark continued to give more references of Temple's accreditations. Mr. Clark then allowed Mr. Zettlemoyer to take the floor to introduce himself and his role in working with Temple University on the RFP.

Mr. Clark requested to make a presentation to the Commission to show what type of training techniques they have available. Mr. Clark's presentation began with giving handouts titled "Temple's In-Service Firearms Training, *Instructor Guide* and *Officer Study Guide*". Mr. Clark then put on a Power Point presentation, giving examples of what they use to teach their basic training.

Mr. Clark then asked the Commission if there were any questions regarding what they are doing or where they are going with the program presented or if they have any recommendations for them. Commissioner Clark questioned if they plan on getting valid feed back from students and instructors about their training. Mr. Clark answered by saying that because it is outlined in the RFP, they have every intention of taking their comments into consideration to improve future trainings.

Chairman Straitiff asked Mr. Clark if he could come back for the November Commission meeting in State College, PA to present their finalized curriculum for an In-Service training program. Mr. Clark said that he would call a member of the Commission around the 3rd week in October to give an idea of how far they have progressed with it.

III. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Mr. Straitiff reported that on August 22, 2000, Commissioner Snyder, Commissioner Davis and himself conducted second interviews for the Administrative Officer 1 position that the Commission is recruiting for. His comment was that they also concluded that none of the interviewees met their qualifications appropriate to what they were looking for. A copy of the civil service announcement for the position was posted and distributed to every adult and juvenile county of Pennsylvania encouraging all qualified applicants to apply. Commissioner Clark suggested sending it through MPOCET newsletter and also through the CLEAN system at PA State Police. Mr. Scicchitano gave Commissioner Clark the information to be able do so.

Commissioner Clark informed the Commission that Dauphin County's Juvenile Probation Officer Greg Young attended the NRA Firearms Range Development Training. Mr. Young will be holding a training seminar with the information he learned. Commissioner Straitiff asked the Commission Secretary to draft a short note asking the participants who attended the NRA Training to give feed back on their experience of the training.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

CURRICULUM

Commissioner Schlechter handed out a list of changes the Committee made to the current Qualification Course of Fire. He stated that they changed the course of fire but kept it at 60 rounds. The following changes were made to the current course of fire:

- **25-yard line:** - officers would only shoot from the strong side of the barricade, 6 rounds standing and 6 rounds kneeling, and the time would be reduced from 55 seconds to 45 seconds. Total of 12 rounds.
- **15-yard line:** - would remain the same. Total of 12 rounds.

- **7-yard line:** - a second drill was added. On command officers would drop to a kneeling position and shoot 6 rounds in 10 seconds. Total of 18 rounds.
- **3-yard line:** - the first drill stayed the same and the second drill was eliminated. Total of 12 rounds.
- **2-yard line:** - would remain the same. Total of 12 rounds.

In addition, he said that the committee also discussed using a 30 round course of fire. Officers shooting the 30 round course of fire would need to score a 100% so that every round is accounted for by requiring the officer to put every round in the target silhouette. In order to determine if the 30 round course of fire would work, Commissioner Schlechter stated he would have his officers shoot the course of fire in Lehigh County and Erik Christensen in Eire County. Rusty Duncan in Westmoreland would also have their officer shoot the 30 round course of fire.

Commissioner Clark asked if they are going to keep statistical records of the outcome of the changes to the Qualification Course of Fire. There was a lengthy discussion on the 100% Course of Fire concept. Commissioner Schlechter also talked about the committee changing the Penalty Points in a future meeting, the goal being completion for training year January 2001.

POLICY

Chairman Straitiff suggested making a change in the Request to Conduct Range Qualification Course of Fire requirements.

MOTION: Commissioner Clark made a motion that beginning in calendar 2001 counties be permitted to use a single Commission Certified Firearms Instructor, removing the oversight of the Range Master, to conduct the Range Requalification Course of Fire and that they be limited to no more than five officers per instructor at a time. If there are more than five officers requalifying, the instructor will have to do those examinations at a separate time, this pertaining only to requalifications. Commissioner Schlechter seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commission.

FINANCE

Commissioner Straitiff discussed the Financial Report. There is an available balance of \$626,954.50. Chairman Straitiff asked Mr. Scicchitano if there is anything anticipated, such as the Request For Proposal, to come out of the available balance. The answer was no and Mr. Scicchitano said that funds for the RFP was already encumbered, not affecting the available balance.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Student evaluations were handed out from the 15th and 16th Basic Firearms Range Training. Mr. Straitiff commented that the overall ratings are high and positive. Mr. Scicchitano noted that the comments regarding the quality of the law video and the “Making Firearms Safe” video were poor and asked if that was something that can be fixed. Commissioner Clark said that we should use Real Time to do the video portions of the training. Chairman Straitiff suggested that the Commission update and professionalize the tapes. Mr. Scicchitano said Media Services could be contracted, commenting that they are very expensive but that they do high quality work. Commissioner Snyder suggested looking around to compare prices. Mr. Scicchitano suggested going to local high schools or colleges as was done in the past. Chairman Straitiff directed the Executive Director to explore the possibilities of updating and enhancing the videos used during Basic Firearms Training classes.

There were three Commission Certified Firearm Instructor’s applications to be approved. They are James D. Lombardo, Lawrence County; Kevin R. Hood, Westmoreland County; and Eric R. Leydig, Westmoreland County. The Commission had a short discussion about approving instructors and the instructor application lacking documentation that specifies the number of the training hours the Commission requires.

MOTION: Commissioner Clark made a motion to send the applicants conditional approval upon providing the Commission with reasonable documentation of the 12 hours of instruction and require them to go through a future Train the Trainer class. Commissioner Schlechter seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commission.

V. LEGAL ISSUES

After a lengthy off record discussion for the purpose of receiving legal counsel in our executive session, a motion was entertained to honor Ms. Lisa Salak’s request to shoot the Qualification Course of Fire solely right handed and grant permission of reloading utilizing her holster.

MOTION: Commissioner Clark made a motion to grant Ms. Lisa Salak waiver of the weak-hand portion of the training. Also granted is the method by which she reloads by using her holster to manipulate the slide but is not allowed to use the heel of her shoe nor any other method that would cause the barrel of the weapon to be extended backward beyond the line of fire thereby endangering any other person. A letter will be sent to Ms. Salak informing her of the provisions granted. At the onset of the training program she will be required to demonstrate to the Range Master and any Commission member that may be appropriate that the safe handling of the weapon is consistent with the accommodations that have been made. This will be done in a discreet manner. Commissioner Schlechter seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commission.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Scicchitano said that the Commission secretary has accepted another position within the Board and will be leaving soon. The Clerk Typist 2 position has been posted and he is hoping to hire someone for the present Commission secretary to train for a smooth transition.

Commissioner Davis asked the Commission how many applicants weren't able to get into this year's Basic Firearms Training classes. The Commission Secretary said there were approximately 4 applicants that took the classroom portion of the basic training but opted to take the range portion of the basic training in 2001 and a total of approximately 6 that would have to wait until 2001 Basic Training Academy.

VIII. ADJOURN MEETING

Commissioner Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Billingsley seconded the motion.