

Use of Force Committee Meeting 13 January, 2016

Prepared by: Jason Williams, Training Coordinator

Members Present: Sheriff Donald Keeler, Captain Drew Bloom, Sergeant George Crowe, Sergeant Matthew Murano, Wade Johnson, Warden Russell Shopland, Corporal Randy Lopes, Captain Michael Henry, Corporal Michael Akerlind

Other persons present: None

Academy Representatives: Director of Training Cynthia Taylor-Patch, Training Coordinator Jason Williams

Members Absent: Chief Lianne Tuomey, Officer Scott Fisher, Sergeant Eugene Duplissis

Meeting called to order: 10:04

Old Business

ISSUE 1: Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes

- TC Williams asked the Committee to vote to accept or reject the previous meeting's minutes from 14 October, 2015. Copies of the minutes were passed around the table for members to review.

Sergeant Crowe entered a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as written.

Motion seconded by Captain Bloom.

Motion passed unanimously



ISSUE 2: Appointment of Corporal Lopes to the Use of Force Committee

- Corporal Raymond Lopes of the Burlington Police Department has been officially appointed by the Executive Director to the Use of Force Committee.

Informational; no formal action taken.

ISSUE 3: Tiered certification process for firearms end users through Master Instructor

- T.C. Williams presented a third draft of a tiered certification process for identifying different levels of law enforcement firearms end users and instructors. This issue was addressed at two previous committee meetings with a first and second draft. A lengthy discussion ensued on this matter. The first matter that was addressed by the Committee was whether the process for becoming a Firearms Instructor should include a provision which would allow an agency in a dire, articulable need of a firearms instructor to be allowed to send a person from their agency to an outside school for a provisional Council certification until that person could attend the VCJTC Firearms Instructor Course.

Warden Shopland entered a motion to amend the instructor certification procedure recommendation to include language to address this provisional matter.

Motion seconded by Sergeant Crowe.

Motion passed with 7 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstention

- The discussion on this matter continued on other issues within the document, specifically within the language that lists criteria and responsibilities for Firearms Instructor Trainers and Master Firearms Instructors. A discussion ensued on prerequisite requirements for obtaining these certification levels. A suggestion was made that a prospective Instructor Trainer would be required to submit a resume to the Use of Force Committee which documents their continued education and experience for consideration, and that Instructor Trainers would be recommended by Master Instructors to the Committee with final review of an appointment to the Instructor Trainer group being reserved for the Committee.

Captain Bloom entered a motion to accept what has been presented for Firearms Instructor Trainer and Master Firearms Instructor level certification in the draft which has been submitted, with the inclusion of a resume to be included with an application for Instructor Trainer certification to the Master

Instructor group for first vetting. Successful applicants will be recommended to the Use of Force Committee by the Master Instructor Group for final appointment of Firearms Instructor Trainer status.

Captain Henry seconded the motion.

Motion passed with 1 abstention.

ISSUE 4: Annual Patrol Rifle Qualification Course

- T.C. Williams requested the appointment of a subcommittee to assist with a restructure of the annual patrol rifle course for resubmission to the Council for approval. T.C. Williams also notified the Committee that many members had contacted him since the last meeting who had reconsidered their position discussed at the previous meeting regarding whether an instructor would need to be a certified Patrol Rifle Instructor to conduct and report patrol rifle qualifications. All who had contacted him had changed their mind in favor of Patrol Rifle Instructors being the only persons authorized to qualify and report patrol rifle qualifications. In addition to that, the Executive Director had also submitted input in favor of same.

The subcommittee appointees were Sergeant Duplissis, Corporal Lopes, and Sergeant Travis Buttle of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Informational, no formal action taken

New Business

ISSUE 1: Update to Vermont Police Academy Firearms and Deadly Force Student Manual

- T.C. Williams submitted an updated and revised version of the Academy's Firearms and Deadly Force Student Manual for review. The Committee was notified that there were still a few photographs to be updated which would be completed soon.

Corporal Lopes entered a motion to accept the updated manual as presented.

Captain Henry seconded the motion.

Motion passed with 3 abstentions.

ISSUE 2: Firearms Instructor entrance standards and recertifications

- T.C. Williams asked the Committee to consider increasing the standards for firearms instructor school entrance proficiency testing and for firearms instructor recertification. Currently Firearms Instructor candidates are only required to pass at the same proficiency standards as a Level III basic training recruit. The Committee indicated that they would be willing to consider such a proposal if submitted. T.C. Williams will work with Corporal Lopes in the coming weeks to see if a reasonable higher standard could be implemented for both entrance testing as well as recertifications for 2017.

Informational, no formal action taken.

ISSUE 3: Announcement of 2016 Firearms Instructor entrance testing dates

- T.C. Williams has selected the 16th and 17th of August, 2016 for entrance testing dates for the 2016 Firearms Instructor School. T.C. Williams asked that at least some of the Committee membership reserve some time during one of these two days to come to the testing to observe and assist.

Informational, no formal action taken.

ISSUE 4: Meeting date change request

- It was brought to the attention of the membership that Sergeant Duplissis has a conflict with every scheduled meeting day for the Committee in 2016 due to his obligations to the Vermont State Police. Meeting dates will be moved one day to Tuesdays rather than Wednesdays for 2016.

Informational, no formal action taken.

ISSUE 5: Vermont Chief's Association seat vacancy

- Sheriff Keeler is still working on ascertaining who will be assuming the vacant seat reserved for the Vermont Chief's Association on the Committee.

Informational, no formal action taken.

ISSUE 6: Reopening discussion into Issue 3

- Captain Bloom opened discussion into Issue 3 by asking Wade Johnson if there was an unresolved issue from the previous meeting which he wanted to discuss. Mr. Johnson stated that it was his wishes to have Correctional Officers included in the list of those eligible to apply for Firearms Instructor Trainer certification.

Mr. Johnson entered a motion to amend the Firearms Instructor Training eligibility requirements to include Correctional Officers

Sergeant Crowe seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued on this matter, and most members elected to solicit the opinion of the Executive Director before rendering a vote. Mr. Johnson withdraw his motion.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:55

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Williams
Training Coordinator
Vermont Police Academy