

Use of Force Committee Meeting 14 January, 2015

Prepared by James Park, Program Services Clerk

Members Present: Sheriff Donald Keeler, Captain Drew Bloom, Corporal Michael Akerlind, Officer Scott Fisher, Sergeant George Crowe, Lieutenant Michael Henry, Lieutenant Robin Hollwedel, Chief Lianne Tuomey

Members Absent: Chief Chris Brickell, Sergeant Matthew Murano, Warden Russell Shopland, Sergeant John Young

Other persons present: Wade Johnson, Vermont Department of Corrections; Lieutenant Dennis Duffy, Burlington Police Department; Trooper Matt Hill Vermont State Police; Corporal Will Ruprecht, Franklin County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Joe Thomas, Saint Albans Police Department.

Academy Representatives: Training Coordinator Jason Williams, Program Services Clerk James Park.

Meeting called to order: 10:04 am

- Sheriff Donald Keeler introduced Matt Hill who is here as Sergeant John Young's Proxy and a nonvoting member.

Old Business

Issue 1: Acceptance of previous meetings minutes

- TC Williams asked the Committee to vote to accept or reject the previous meetings minutes from 15 October, 2014. A copy of the minutes was passed around the table for members to review.
 - Lieutenant Henry entered a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as written.
 - Motion seconded by Corporal Akerlind
 - **Motion passed unanimously**

Issue 2: Patrol Rifle Course Final Review.

- TC Williams presented an updated version of the Patrol Rifle Course to the Committee for their final review.



- Chief Lianne Toumey voiced concerns over the wording in the course synopsis specifically relating to the use of the word “initial”.
- Chief Lianne Toumey raised the question of who could conduct qualifications beyond the initial training, a Patrol Rifle Instructor vs. a Firearms Instructor.
- Sergeant Thomas raised concerns about a non Patrol Rifle Instructor teaching the course; specifically how they would be able to handle and correct student’s deficiencies or techniques if they were not Patrol Rifle Instructors. He was reassured by the Committee that Firearms Instructors would be able to spot incorrect techniques and that individual agencies would handle correcting them through their remediation process.
- Sergeant Thomas and Chief Lianne Toumey raised the question should the course include a multiple targets component. More discussion is needed.
- Trooper Hill raised interest in the possibility of phasing in the course over the next year. This would allow budgets to be adjusted and feedback to be received.
 - Lieutenant Michael Henry entered a motion to have the course phased in for 2016; however agencies that wish to do so many use it now.
 - Motion seconded by Lieutenant Robin Hollwedel.
 - **Motion passed unanimously.**
 - Lieutenant Robin Hollwedel entered a motion to clarify the synopsis reflecting that any Firearms Instructor who has been through the Patrol Rifle Course can teach the Patrol Rifle Course.
 - Motion seconded by Chief Lianne Toumey
 - **Motion passed unanimously.**
 - Chief Lianne Toumey entered a motion to remove any use of “initial training” from the course synopsis.
 - Motion seconded by Officer Scott Fisher
 - **Motion passed unanimously.**

New Business

ISSUE 1: 2015 Refresher

- TC Williams presented to the committee as a reminder that 2015 refresher courses will be coming soon.
- Sheriff Donald Keeler inquired about the F.A.T.S machine; TC Williams informed the committee that the initial bids were too high and that a new round of bids will be starting soon.
- Sheriff Keeler asked members to submit ideas for the next refreshers to T.C. Williams
- Trooper Hill suggested that feedback in regards to the new patrol rifle course could be solicited at the next refreshers, after instructors have had a chance to try it out.



ISSUE 2: New Basic Training Shooting Standards

- TC Williams presented a new Basic Training shooting standard that involved adding in increased distances to the program.
 - Lieutenant Robin Hollwedel presented a motion to add the increased distances into the course.
 - Motion Seconded by Chief Lianne Toumey.
 - **Motion passed unanimously.**

Issue 3: Basic Training PowerPoint Review

- TC Williams brought to the committee's attention that the PowerPoint Presentation used in the Basic Training Program has been updated.
- The content did not change substantially; however they appearance of the PowerPoint did.
 - Corporal Michael Akerlind entered a motion to accept the changes.
 - Motion seconded by Chief Lianne Toumey.
 - **Motion Passed Unanimously**

ISSUE 4: Retired Officers Firearms Course Recommendation

- Lieutenant Robin Hollwedel presented to the Committee a retired officer firearms course for departments to comply with the LEOSA. Current wording in Federal law requires that a retired officer be qualified on the agencies course that the qualifying agency uses for an active member, or a State approved course. He recommended the course that the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife uses for their Off Duty/ Back up Weapons would be a good course for the Committee to recommend to the Council as a state off duty or backup firearm course. The course would not be mandatory; however would be available to qualify under LEOSA as a state approved course.
 - Corporal Michael Akerlind entered a motion to present the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife's Off Duty/Back up Weapons course along with the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council recommended training handout for Firearms Instructors who are qualifying retired law enforcement officers under the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act pamphlet as the Use of Force Committee's recommended course for retired officers.
 - Motion Seconded by Sergeant George Crowe.
 - **Motion Passed Unanimously**

ISSUE 5: Use of Force and Tactics Instructor Videos

- Captain Drew Bloom presented the idea of creating Use of Force and Tactics videos for the instructors to have available as a reference when conducting future classes. He stated that he is concerned with letting just any end user have access



to the files, and would like to have some kind of security attached to the files. Such as putting them on a password protected part of the VCJTC website.

- Lieutenant Michael Henry also expressed interest in having some form of security.
- Trooper Hill brought up the concern that any form of security or restriction on the files would be circumnavigated by the Freedom of Information Act.
 - **More discussion and research is needed to find a solution**

ISSUE 6: Increasing the Full Time Basic Firearms Program instruction time by 4 hours.

- TC Williams brought to the committee's attention that he would like to add 4 hours to the Firearms program that will focus on Deadly Force. TC Williams asked the committee for support on this matter.
 - Corporal Michael Akerlind entered a motion to recommend this increase of 4 hours into the Full Time Basic Firearms Program to the Training Advisory Committee when they conduct their review of this matter.
 - Motion Seconded by Officer Scott Fisher
 - **Motion Passed Unanimously**

ISSUE 6: Less Lethal Munitions Standards

- Sergeant Thomas expressed concern over the Less Lethal Munitions Standards specifically related to 40 millimeter rounds. Will it be an annual recertification or simply a familiarization as per manufacturer's recommendations? Also are training rounds acceptable?
- Sergeant Thomas expressed concern over the targets used in Less Lethal standards, as it stands handgun qualifications are used which are red zone targets for less lethal munitions.
 - **More discussion is needed.**

Meeting Adjourned: 12:01

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Williams
Training Coordinator
Vermont Police Academy

