

## Use of Force Committee Meeting 13 April, 2016

Prepared by: Jason Williams, Training Coordinator

**Members Present:** Sergeant George Crowe, Sergeant Matthew Murano, Wade Johnson, Corporal Randy Lopes, Captain Michael Henry, Corporal Michael Akerlind, Officer Scott Fisher

**Other persons present:** None

**Academy Representatives:** Training Coordinator Jason Williams

**Members Absent:** Chief Lianne Tuomey, Sergeant Eugene Duplissis, Warden Specialist Russell Shopland, Sheriff Donald Keeler, Captain Drew Bloom,

**Meeting called to order:** 10:01

**Special note:** Due to the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Chair's duties and responsibilities were assumed by the senior Committee member present, Officer Scott Fisher.

### 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 13 January, 2016. 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 Henry.

**Motion passed unanimously**

## **ISSUE 2: Tiered certification process**

- T.C. Williams notified the Committee membership that the tiered certification process for firearms end users through Master Instructors was not addressed by the Council at their last meeting because of other pressing matters. The document should have resolution at the next meeting.

**Informational; no formal action taken.**

## **ISSUE 3: Firearms Instructor School 2016**

- T.C. Williams presented several matters before the Committee that related to the upcoming 2016 firearms instructor course.

Item 1: T.C. Williams submitted a new entrance exam for firearms instructor candidates to the Committee for adoption.

Wade Johnson entered a motion to adopt the new test.

Motion seconded by Captain Henry.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Item 2: T.C. Williams asked the Committee to consider reducing the minimum pass times for proficiency standards for firearms instructor candidates. T.C. Williams submitted average times that, through researching past range scores, a basic training recruit can complete the proficiency standards in.

Corporal Lopes entered a motion that the times for the one round draw from the holster, the reload standard, the immediate action drill standard and the failure standard all be reduced to have a minimum pass time of one half second less than the standard for a basic training recruit, and that the upcoming 2016 firearms instructor course candidates could conduct some research into what future reasonable times may be for entrance standards.

Motion seconded by Sergeant Crowe.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Item 3: T.C. Williams asked the Committee to consider changing the 50 round marksmanship course from being completed on a B27 target to the standard qualification scoring area for Rule 13 qualification.

Sergeant Crowe entered a motion to have firearms instructor candidates complete the 50 round marksmanship course on the current Rule 13 scoring area that is in effect at the time that the candidate completes the course.

Motion seconded by Corporal Lopes.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **ISSUE 4: 2016 meeting dates**

- Due to some scheduling conflicts for some members of the Committee for the remaining 2016 meeting dates, T.C. Williams will identify some alternate dates that the Committee could meet for the remaining two meetings and will submit those dates to the membership for review.

**Informational; no formal action taken.**

#### **ISSUE 5: Shotgun slug qualification course scoring ratio**

- Corporal Lopes submitted that, having almost 100 officers in his agency that he must qualify with a shotgun, it becomes financially and time consuming to require an officer to shoot an entire slug qualification course over if the shooter does not meet the 100% scoring ratio. Corporal Lopes submitted that the same objective could be met by keeping the 100% scoring ratio but allowing a shooter to shoot just the string that they did not complete successfully instead of shooting the whole course over again.

Corporal Lopes entered a motion to recommend that the Council modify the shotgun slug qualification course to allow a shooter to reshoot a failed string over, while still maintaining the 100% scoring ratio overall.

Motion seconded by Sergeant Crowe.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **ISSUE 6: Update on the patrol rifle qualification course**

- T.C. Williams notified the Committee that some progress has been made on the patrol rifle qualification course, and that a draft has been put together that the subcommittee members will take to the range soon and shoot. Sergeant Murano asked if a copy of the draft could be forwarded to the Committee.

**Informational; no formal action taken.**

## **New Business**

### **ISSUE 1: Recommendation of a new member**

- T.C. Williams told the Committee he had recently learned that Chief Robbie Blish of the Woodstock Police Department will soon be taking over as President of the Vermont Chief's Association. This seat on the Committee has been vacant since the departure of Chief Brickell.

Corporal Akerlind entered a motion to recommend the appointment of Chief Blish to the Executive Director for the vacant Committee seat reserved for the President of the Vermont Chief's Association.

Captain Henry seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### **ISSUE 2: AR15 "pistol" qualifications.**

- T.C. Williams was contacted by a member of the St. Johnsbury Police Department for guidance on whether the AR15 pistol currently in their department inventory should be shot on the pistol qualification course or the rifle qualification course. The firearm is an AR15 upper and lower receiver with a seven-inch barrel and no fixed shoulder stock. It was the opinion of the Committee that the manner in which the firearm is to be deployed should dictate whether the pistol qualification course or the rifle qualification course is used.

**Informational, no formal action taken.**

### **ISSUE 3: Anticipated retirement of Captain Henry**

- Captain Henry notified the Committee that he anticipates his retirement from the Vermont State Police, and thus the Committee, before the end of 2016.

Captain Henry entered a motion to recommend the appointment of Lieutenant Walter Smith to the Executive Director as his successor on the Committee.

Corporal Akerlind seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Meeting Adjourned: 11:20**

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Williams  
Training Coordinator  
Vermont Police Academy

Dear Use of Force Committee Members,

14 January, 2016

At the conclusion of the 13 January, 2016 Use of Force Committee meeting, the Director of Training had the opportunity to meet with the Executive Director and discuss some of the matters that his input had been requested on during the meeting. These matters are addressed below:

On the matter of provisional firearms instructor certifications, the Executive Director has decided that language within that section of the certification procedure is unnecessary. The waiver that was granted was done so under exigent circumstances, and on the very rare occasions that an agency may find themselves in a situation such as the Vermont State Police did with Sergeant Duplissis, similar decisions could be rendered and waivers be granted by the Executive Director as they arise.

On the matter of eligibility for certification as a Firearms Instructor Trainer, the Executive Director has decided that the language within that section should remain as written that a Firearms Instructor Trainer must be a Level III Vermont certified law enforcement officer in order to be granted the Firearms Instructor Trainer level of certification.

Please see the attached final draft of the certification procedures, which will be submitted to the Council at their next meeting for approval.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jason H. Williams  
Training Coordinator  
Vermont Police Academy