VERMONT

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Office of the Executive Director

Use of Force Committee Meeting
12 April, 2017

Prepared by: Jason Williams, Training Coordinator

Members Present: Sheriff Donald Keeler, Corporal Michael Akerlind, Sergeant Matthew Murano, Corporal Randy Lopes, Sergeant Eugene Duplissis, Officer Scott Fisher, Lieutenant Walter Smith, Wade Johnson, Chief Robbie Blish

Other persons present: None

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

Members Absent: Warden Specialist Russel Shopland

Meeting called to order: 10:05

Old Business

Item 1: Membership

- T.C. Williams notified the Committee that Sergeant Randy Crowe and Chief Lianne Tuomey are no longer members of the Use of Force Committee roster.

  Informational only; no action taken.

Item 2: New VCJTC Policy on Committee Construction

- T.C. Williams distributed copies of and explained the new VCJTC policy on committees.

  Informational only; no action taken

Item 3: Week 9 report and procedures

- T.C. Williams and Corporal Lopes reported back to the Committee that week 9 for the 103rd basic training class had been a success and that almost all of the recruits had completed the training standards by week's end. A few did have to reshoot some training standards the following week, and all but 2 are completed. The 2 recruits who need to complete standards will be offered another opportunity in week 12. T.C. Williams also distributed copies of a new Training Assessment and Resolution policy that has recently been enacted, as well as new training remediation and safety violation documentation cards.

  Informational only; no action taken.

Item 4: UOF and T report for the 103rd

- Director Bloom and Corporal Akerlind reported the success that they had achieved with the 103rd basic training class for Use of Force and Tactics. All but 2 recruits have passed all of the testing standards, and the 2 who have not will be offered another opportunity to test again soon.

  Informational only; no action taken.

Item 5: Ryan Palmer use of force case

- Chief Blish mentioned to the Committee that he had learned the Vermont Attorney General's Office had applied a "reasonable person" standard in the prosecution of Officer Ryan Palmer of the Windsor Police Department in lieu of the "reasonable officer" standard which is articulated in the Supreme Court case Graham v. Connor. Chief Blish asked the Committee if a change in the methods by which objective reasonableness is taught to new officers should be or has a need to be changed. A discussion ensued on this question and it was concluded that an outcome of the case would need to be seen before any major changes were made to the programs.

  Informational only; no action taken

<u>New Business</u>

Item 1: 2017 Firearms Instructor Refreshers

- T.C. Williams presented a draft of the lesson plan created for the four-hour Firearms Instructor Refreshers that will be held this fall. The lesson plan had been previously submitted to the Committee for review by email, and there was little discussion on the matter.

Officer Fisher entered a motion to accept the lesson plan as written.

Chief Blish seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Item 2: Certification Levels

- T.C. Williams notified the Committee that the Council has approved the firearms certification levels from end user through master instructor certification. T.C. Williams is working on proficiency standards for the instructor trainer and master instructor levels, which will be submitted for review at the next regular meeting.

  Informational only; no action taken.

Item 3: Shoulder mounted pistol

- Sheriff Keeler displayed and described a shoulder mounted pistol that his agency had recently purchased for testing as a patrol rifle alternative.

  Informational only; no action taken.

Item 4: PR-24 Instructor's Course

- Director Bloom announced that a PR-24 instructor's course is being held at the Vermont Police Academy next week for currently certified Use of Force and Tactics Instructors.

  Informational only; no action taken.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:16

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Williams
Training Coordinator
Vermont Police Academy