

The Academy Connection

Where South Carolina Law Enforcement Training is Defined

SOUTH CAROLINA
CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY



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Director's Message Hubert F. Harrell

It's a tough time to be a cop. That is a comment I hear over and over because of recent incidents that have occurred around the country and even here in South Carolina. Everyone is questioning our ethics, our training, our ability to empathize with or relate to the community we serve. Our legislature is struggling with laws to curb the tide of public dismay to what is presumed to be unnecessary police tactics or seemingly unprofessional behavior. Some parts of the country have suffered a great deal of civil unrest resulting in demonstrations, riots in the streets of some cities, removal of several police agency heads and a cry for reform in

the law enforcement community. This type of unfavorable publicity and criticism from those we serve, have given us all reason to reevaluate our mission, and what it will take to accomplish it.

I have been reading the opinions, of noted professors who study law enforcement, of Police Chiefs and Sheriffs, Commissioners, mental health professionals, sociologists and everyone else who has an opinion about law enforcement and what its evolution should be. I have heard the laments of agency heads from our state and other states in the southeast about the lack of qualified candidates and the inability of these agencies to retain good peo-



ple. I think that I might as well add my two cents for what it is worth.

My position allows me to view South Carolina Law Enforcement from an objective viewpoint. I can see the struggle that agency heads are suffering with as they try to find suitable or qualified candidates to join their agencies. It is difficult and costly to hire and train new officers, only to

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Director's Message Continued

have them decide six months to a year later that this job is not for them. We are seeing more and more officers leave their agencies after serving a short period of time, to either leave law enforcement altogether, change agencies because of the promise of a newer car, better equipment or the promise of \$2000 more per year at another agency. There is another group who change agencies because their bad habits catch up to them and they leave before they are terminated. We call them Gypsy Cops, and they are like a cancer in this profession. However, many bail out because of the fear of intense criticism and ridicule from the community they serve because of the mistakes of others. Sometimes they leave because the job has become too dangerous and not worth the risk, due to a shortage of manpower, low pay and quite often the politics that they are not equipped to deal with or even understand. At some point those young men and women decide that selfless dedication and the sense of purpose they ascribe to is just not appreciated by many of the people they serve, so they vote with their feet, and they leave.

We forget that our society, as we know, is evolving. The young people we recruit are products of that society; therefore they too are a part of that evolution. The question would be "How do we transform them from people who are primarily inspired by movies, television, Facebook, video games or cellular technology, to sensitive, communicative, insightful professional law enforcement officers?" I think twelve weeks of training is not enough to accomplish that, but it is a start. At some point, we as leaders must help these younger officers see that evolution and help them to learn to cope with the different cultures that make us who we are as a nation. We must attempt to change the way they see themselves, and how they fit into their communities. They must learn to speak and deal openly and honestly with those they serve, without bias. We are a nation of laws and they must respect the oath they have taken to uphold the law and never shy away from those who would violate it. They don't judge, but bring those accused before justice without malice. They cannot be swayed by politics, race, religion, ethnicity, gender or economic status. They must have a "servant's heart." They are the shepherds of the flock. They are both Guardians and Warriors. They must have the skill and courage of a warrior and the compassion and caring of a guardian. They must inspire respect from those they serve through their courage, integrity, dedication and knowledge. They must love the community they serve and be willing to do whatever it takes to protect it.

That is what we try to instill in our new officers here at your Academy, and most live up to these expectations. Even when we struggle to stay within budget and get these young officers back safely to their agencies, we insist that they leave with a sense of pride in the profession they have become a part of. We want them serve with dignity and honor. I hope their communities can appreciate and respect the sacrifices they and their families have made to make South Carolina a safe place to live. This is your Academy.

JP Strom Award Winners January—March 2016



BLE 642
Kenneth C. Rhoades
Charleston County Sheriff's Office



BLE 643
Hamilton Osborne III
Richland County Sheriff's Office



BLE 644
Sammy S. Stevens
Charleston City Police Department



BLE 645
Amanda L. Matos
Mount Pleasant Police Department

Bert Friday Award Winners January—March 2016



BD 359
Daniel R. Honan
Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center



BD 360
James R. Capps
Pickens County Detention Center

Basic Class Information

Basic Law Classes

B646 January 24—April 15, 2016

B647 February 14—May 6, 2016

B648 March 6—May 27, 2016

B649 March 27—June 17, 2016

B650 April 17—July 15, 2016

B651 May 8—August 5, 2016

B652 May 29—August 26, 2016

B653 June 19—September 16, 2016

Limited Duty May 15—27, 2016

Basic Detention Classes

BD 362 April 10—29, 2016

BD 363 May 8—27, 2016

BD 364 June 5—24, 2016

Basic TCO (formerly E-911)

BTOT 203 April 3—15, 2016

BTOT 204 May 15—27, 2016

BTOT 205 June 5—17, 2016

BASIC LAW SFST DRINKING LAB

With the SFST and Datamaster DMT classes in the 12 week basic training curriculum, it is necessary to ask the field to assist us with volunteer drinkers. This training assists officers in not only DUI detection, but also help officers to recognize when subjects are impaired. This can make a huge difference in what approach an officer will take when handling various situations. We need approximately 250 volunteers per year. I know this sounds like a lot, but that is less than one percent of South Carolina's police population. If you can be of assistance or have any questions please contact Michael Brantley of the Traffic Safety Unit at (803) 896-7791 jmbrantley@sccja.sc.gov or Dale Smith at (803) 896-5556 desmith@sccja.sc.gov.

Below you will find a list of dates we need volunteers. We can provide rooms to any volunteer who will need to travel and stay overnight. Alcohol and meals are provided for all volunteers; however, if they desire to bring their own alcohol that is permitted.

Dates for BLE Drinking Lab 2015-2016

April 6th & 7th 2016

April 27th & 28th 2016

May 18th & 19th 2016

June 8th & 9th 2016

June 29th & 30th 2016



Employee News



Welcome Debbie Bryant Human Resource Manager.



Congratulations to David Bess of our Facilities Management Unit on his recent retirement.



Students receiving instruction in building tactics from Instructor Kevin Smith during week 12 of BLE training.