

BLET REVISION COMMITTEE MEETING
Johnston Community College
Smithfield, NC
April 17, 2009

Bob Yow called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held at Johnston Community College, Smithfield, NC. Bob thanked Jason Godwin for hosting the meeting. Carolyn Holland called the roll.

Members Present:

Nancy Bennett
Kathryn Bryan
Jason Godwin
Richard Hammett
Wrenn Johnson
Wayne Lamm
Sammy Turner
Steve Warren
Jon Worthington

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Mark Dearry, Criminal Justice Standards Division
Joy Strickland, NC Dept. of Justice

Staff Present:

Bob Yow, NC Justice Academy
Carolyn Holland, NC Justice Academy
Pam Pope, Criminal Justice Standards Division

Visitors Present:

John Combs, NC Justice Academy
Stacy Holloman, NC Justice Academy
Coy Poole, NC Justice Academy
Mark Strickland, NC Justice Academy

Bob asked for approval or amendment of the October 31, 2008 meeting minutes. Jon Worthington made the motion to approve the minutes. Sammy Turner seconded. The motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob reviewed the memo that was sent to committee members concerning new/revised training objectives in BLET. These revisions are a result of the recent task analysis report.

Arrest, Search and Seizure/Constitutional Law

Add a new objective to read: “Explain the jurisdictional powers of law enforcement officers in North Carolina.” The consultant recommended an objective be added in this area and he also recommended the addition of content on interagency and mutual aid agreements. This information has been added to the lesson plan.

Add a new objective to read: “Explain an officer’s role in requesting an issuance of criminal process.” Based on the consultant’s recommendation, language was added to the lesson plan regarding the officer’s appearance before a magistrate and how that process unfolds.

Add a new objective to read: “Explain specific rules involving the search of motor vehicles.” The content is already in the lesson plan; however, no objective was written for the information.

Wayne Lamm made a motion to make the revisions in the Arrest, Search and Seizure/Constitutional Law lesson plan to reflect these changes. Jon Worthington seconded. The motion was approved.

Crowd Management

Add a new objective to read: “Identify the tactics used to counter the social and psychological influences of crowd behavior.” The content for this objective was already in the outline, but an objective was needed.

Sammy Turner made a motion to make the revision to the Crowd Management lesson plan to reflect this change. Jon Worthington seconded. The motion was approved.

Motor Vehicle Law

Revise existing objective number one to read: “Recognize violations regarding: a) Drivers license provisions, b) Registration and vehicle plate requirements, c) Equipment safety inspection provisions, d) Passenger restraint laws, e) Vehicle operation, f) Driving while impaired.” This objective did not include passenger restraint laws, however, content was in the lesson plan. The consultant recommended adding this to the objective.

Add a new objective to read: “Identify basic practices and procedures related to obtaining blood or chemical tests.” The material is already in the current lesson plan.

Kathryn Bryan made a motion to make the revision to the Motor Vehicle Law lesson plan to reflect these changes. Jon Worthington seconded.

Jason Godwin recommended changing the word “recognize” in objective number one to “identify.” Therefore the objective would read: “Identify violations regarding: . . .”

Kathryn amended her motion to include changing the word to “identify.” Jon amended his second. The motion was approved.

Patrol Techniques

Add an additional item to the list of various patrol situations in existing objective number three to read: “Persons needing assistance.” This objective change will address new content which has been added to the lesson plan to cover this situation.

Add an additional item to the list of patrol events in existing objective number four to read: “School violence.” The current lesson plan contains this content already and this objective change covers that content.

Add a new objective to read: “Identify signs and symbols of street gang activity.” New content has been added to the lesson plan covering last year’s gang reduction legislation as well as a handout of numerous gang signs and symbols.

Jon Worthington made a motion to make the revision to the Patrol Techniques lesson plan to reflect these changes. Steve Warren seconded.

Bob reported that with these changes, the task analysis recommendations will be complete other than a few items. Pursuit driving and POPAT are being reviewed by separate subcommittees. Both the Commissions have requested that the Civil Process lesson plan be reviewed and Bob is forming a subcommittee of experts to look at this topic.

Criminal Investigation

Bob explained that at the last meeting, Jason mentioned the contraction in language in surveillance techniques in the Criminal Investigation and the Controlled Substances lesson plans. Therefore, objective number 17 of the Criminal Investigation block will be revised to read: “List the objectives of conducting surveillance.”

Wayne Lamm made a motion to make this revision to the Criminal Investigation lesson plan to reflect the change in the objective. Sammy Turner seconded. The motion was approved.

Bob will present these changes at the next E & T meeting in May.

Rapid Deployment – Columbine Video

Bob stated that during the process of becoming accredited, two new BLET schools have experienced difficulty in obtaining videos that are on the required list and are no longer available. One of these videos is *What Really Happened at Columbine*, produced by CBS. At the last BLET Revision Committee meeting, Bob was asked by members to contact CBS for copyright permission for the Justice Academy to copy and distribute the video. CBS did not approve the request and further stated that anyone wishing to show the video should contact CBS to purchase the video and the license to show it.

Bob recommended that the video be removed from the required video list and that schools be notified to contact CBS for a license if they wished to continue showing it. Before taking action, Bob requested Coy Poole, the Rapid Deployment instructor at the Justice Academy, to report.

Coy recommended removing the *Columbine* video as required and use the NCJA video which was used in the 2008 Rapid Deployment In-Service lesson plan. The title of the video is *Close to Home* and it was well received during the training sessions. Coy plans to add information to the video about the recent Carthage incident and the final product should be about the same length as the *Columbine* video.

When asked if committee members would be able to view the new video, Bob stated yes, members would view the video and then vote on it before it becomes required.

Kathryn Bryan made a motion to remove the video, *What Really Happened at Columbine*, from the required video list and notify schools of the removal. Jon Worthington seconded. The motion was approved.

Bob indicated he would notify schools of this decision.

Bob also stated that he, Sammy Turner and Richmond Community College will continue to work on the video list and Bob will report further findings to the committee.

First Responder

Bob reported that this lesson plan will become effective July 1, 2009. He thanked the pilot delivery sites for all their help.

Jason asked if any equipment changes have occurred. Steve indicated no, only that the AED be demonstrated.

Bob stated the instructor note for the new lesson plan was revised to say that it is recommended that testing be done on a manikin sufficient to adequately determine the student's ability to administer CPR. No commercially-produced text will be required; however, schools may use them to supplement the lesson plan.

PBL Pilots

Bob stated that PBL pilots are still occurring and going well. The BLET Revision Committee was to make a recommendation on this topic to E & T in July. However, based on E & T's decision to form a subcommittee to review the instructor certification requirements, Bob and other Department of Justice staff suggest delaying the recommendation concerning PBL until this subcommittee finalizes its work on what kinds of instruction can be used for reaccreditation purposes.

Both Wrenn Johnson and Pam Pope serve on the subcommittee and they both indicated a lot of work will be involved.

POPAT

John Combs reported that his committee met in February. One of the committee members, Glenn Jones, has suggested some steps to be taken in the revalidation process for POPAT. His outline of the process includes:

1. What tasks are critical to the job being done (this has already been done through the task analysis).
2. Assemble a group of subject matter experts (this has also been done).
3. Design a course that will simulate the tasks.
4. Develop a test and cut-offs determined (testing of a random sample of 5 to 10 departments).
5. Statistical information gathered and analyzed.

John stated that a decision would need to be made as to whether to use the current POPAT design with modifications or design a completely new course, perhaps a portable one which could be used indoors or outdoors.

After considerable discussion, committee members decided to recommend using the current POPAT course and make modifications as needed.

John stated the entire process would probably take about 5 months. He asked for a motion from the committee concerning using the current POPAT with modifications or completely re-designing the POPAT course.

Jason Godwin made the motion to use the current POPAT course and make modifications accordingly. Kathryn Bryan seconded. The motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Techniques of Traffic Investigation (Grading Sheets)

Bob stated a suggestion came from a BLET school to revise the grading sheets for known and unknown risks. The current format of the forms created some confusion and the instructor felt some clarification should be made.

As a result of this suggestion, Bob changed the grading sheets to have 4 separate sheets: Known Risk (Day), Known Risk (Night), Unknown Risk (Day), and Unknown Risk (Night).

Steve Warren made a motion to use the revised grading sheets. Nancy Bennett seconded. The motion was approved.

Rapid Deployment

Bob stated that Coy Poole recommends changing the “diamond” formation to a “rolling t” formation. The “rolling t” was taught in the in-service training and this change would make the BLET lesson plan consistent with in-service. Coy stated that the video would be revised appropriately to agree with the lesson plan.

Jon Worthington made a motion to revise the Rapid Deployment lesson plan to change from the “diamond” formation to a “rolling t” formation. Sammy Turner seconded.

Joy Strickland suggested changing the language on page 17. It now reads: “The three officers on-line (the point and both wings) should be prepared to take appropriate action, i.e., arrest, use deadly force.” She recommended changing it to read: “. . . up to and including deadly force.” She also suggested changing the word “resistant” on page 24 to “resistance.”

Jon amended his motion to include Joy’s changes. Sammy also amended his second. The motion was approved.

Preparing for Court

Bob reported that this revision was suggested by Malea Drew, Agency Legal Specialist at the Justice Academy. Malea commented that it is difficult for students to testify and for instructors to process imaginary facts. She suggested at some point, in a previous block of BLET (Patrol Techniques, Techniques of Traffic Law Enforcement), that students actually prepare, during a scenario, a citation. That citation would be used in this block of instruction as indicated in the Instructor Notes.

If approved, school directors will be alerted that they will have to coordinate with other instructors, prior to this block, that as a part of a scenario, students will prepare a citation that subsequently will be used in the Preparing for Court block.

Kathryn Bryan made a motion to make the changes as noted. Steve Warren seconded. The motion was approved.

Subject Control/Arrest Techniques

John Combs presented his SC/AT committee’s recommendation to add information on punches as an elaboration on the stunning techniques in this lesson plan. John stated there has been questions concerning whether the closed fist strike to the face/head area is deadly force. He stated that both he and his committee feels that it is not deadly force. It is a viable, appropriate stunning technique. It is an instinctive move and his committee felt students should be taught how to do it properly. Punches will be taught as a stunning technique and the techniques are simple to teach.

Kathryn asked if SCAT instructors would need updates on this technique. John indicated no it was not necessary. Kathryn also suggested testing on the techniques. John stated that could be done and the check-off sheet could be revised.

Steve Warren made a motion to revise the Subject Control/Arrest Techniques lesson plan to include this information and the check-off will also be revised to include punches. Wayne Lamm seconded.

Jason suggested adding information that would explain the target area. He also suggested adding material to explain “overhands” since the other punches were explained.

Steve amended his motion to include Jason’s recommendations. Wayne also amended his second. The motion was approved.

Certification Exam Question Development

Mark Dearry reported that the development team met in March to develop questions for the new exam process. They developed 4 questions per objective, which came to about 900+ questions. They are scenario related questions. The 900+ questions have been reviewed and edited and now total 600+ questions. They will now be piloted. The exam will consist of questions on critical tasks of the task analysis.

In the first phase of the testing, the contractor suggested giving the test to 60 non law enforcement participants. Mark requested volunteers from the committee if they had a class of 20 non law enforcement students that would agree to take this test. Students will be allotted 2 hours to take the exam. Mark requested members to notify him by the following Wednesday if they could assist.

If a percentage of these non law enforcement test participants correctly answer some of the questions, then those questions will be reviewed and either revised or removed. The contractor will then do the first validation based on the test being given to non law enforcement. Then the BLET pilot testing phase will begin. Another validation is done after this phase. The exam will probably contain 150-200 questions. The four-hour testing time will remain the same.

Legal Counsel’s Report

Joy had nothing to report.

Sheriffs’ Standards Division Report

Bob indicated Autumn Hanna had nothing to report.

Criminal Justice Standards Division Report

Mark Dearry reported that both his Division and Sheriffs’ Standards Division are in the process of IT conversion. They are moving from using social security numbers to assigning everyone a unique identification number. The School Directors’ Conferences are scheduled for August 6 at Pitt Community College and August 14 at Western Piedmont Community College. One of the workshops will be on how to develop scenario based questions.

Other New Business

Bob reminded all members that the Patrol Techniques lesson plan effective July 1, 2009 will reflect the additional 6 hours approved by E & T. The Juvenile Law block will reflect an additional 2 hours.

Coy Poole proposed that the Rapid Deployment block of instruction be revised to require instructors have completed the Rapid Deployment Instructor Training course offered by the North Carolina Justice Academy. He recommended this change so that instructors will be consistent in teaching the block.

Bob explained that Coy is requesting the committee to recommend to E & T that there be a requirement that persons instructing or assisting in Rapid Deployment have attended the Justice Academy's Rapid Deployment Instructor course.

Wrenn Johnson agreed that instructors should be required to have completed the Academy's instructor course.

Kathryn asked if instructors who have already attended the course could be grandfathered. Bob indicated yes and that an implementation date could be included in the recommendation to E & T.

Pam Pope stated that their division could not possibly check to see if instructors had taken the Academy's Rapid Deployment Instructor course. It would be the school director's responsibility to verify and the school director would be held liable if problems occur. She said that their Field Representatives could check this during audits of schools.

Richard Hammett asked Coy if there was a student/instructor ratio. Coy indicated no, and did not see a need for one to be established.

More discussion followed concerning adequate number of instructors across the state, conducting the instructor course across the state, and possibly tabling the issue until the next meeting. Wrenn stated she thought it critical to implement the requirement.

Steve Warren made a motion to recommend to E & T that those who either instruct or assist in the Rapid Deployment block of instruction must have successfully completed the North Carolina Justice Academy's Rapid Deployment Instructor Training course. Jon Worthington seconded.

Coy stated the instructor course requires that students hold a General Instructor Certification and CPR.

Bob stated unless a date was included in the motion, then E & T will probably set an implementation date.

The motion was approved.

Bob will present the recommendation to E & T at their May 28th meeting.

Next Meeting Date/Location

The next meeting will be held October 9th or 16th. The location will be determined at a later time.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.