

Subject: Press Release
North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission
North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission

The death of Mr. George Floyd in Minnesota has left many citizens with questions about the training and standards of law enforcement officers across our country. Quality training and standards of our law enforcement officers in North Carolina is and has long been a top priority. In furtherance of this goal, the citizens of North Carolina are served by two Commissions, the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission and the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. These Commissions develop the minimum employment, training and retention standards for our law enforcement officers, and work closely with the NC Justice Academy (NCJA) to provide basic, intermediate and advanced training for these officers.

Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET)

One of the many responsibilities of the Commissions is to develop the standards for the state's Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program. BLET curriculum is designed to prepare entry-level individuals with the cognitive and physical skills needed to become certified law enforcement officers in North Carolina. BLET is a mandated 640 hour course that takes approximately 16 weeks to complete, though many programs across the state exceed 640 hours. This course is comprised of 36 separate blocks of instruction to include topics such as: (1) Ethics for Professional Law Enforcement, (2) Communication Skills for Law Enforcement Officers, (3) Subject Control Arrest Techniques and (4) Responding to Victims and the Public. To promote and facilitate law enforcement professionalism, ethical dilemmas are presented to BLET students in each instructional topic. This provides opportunities for students to understand how to apply the information learned in training, and instills the need to apply discretion in their actions. The Commissions recently completed a job task analysis review of our BLET, which is currently undergoing an extensive revision by the NCJA. We intend to seek citizen input once the revisions are complete. The content of the revised BLET will focus on procedural justice, ethics, and police legitimacy. These concepts will be reinforced throughout the training program via practical skill scenarios and focused group discussion. The mission of the training is to provide basic law enforcement skills, as well as sound decision-making skills that promote community partnership.

Mandatory In-Service Training (MIST)

The training for our law enforcement officers in North Carolina never ends. All active certified law enforcement officers must complete 24 credits (similar to hours) of Mandatory In-Service Training each and every year throughout their career. Some of the most recent topics covered by this training consist of: (1) Situational Awareness/Subject Control, (2) Leadership Through Community Partnership, (3) Strategies to Improve Law Enforcement Interactions and Relationships with Minority Youth, (4) Equality in Policing, and (5) Improving Decision Making Skills. Although the minimum standard is 24 credits, many of our law enforcement agencies surpass this minimum.

Taking Action Against Officers for Misconduct

The Commissions investigate alleged rule violations pertaining to the conduct of our law enforcement officers. These investigations help to ensure the quality and integrity of the North Carolina Criminal Justice System. In 2019, 344 investigations were conducted. Once an investigation is completed and it is determined that there is evidence of a possible rules violation, the officer will go before the Probable Cause Committee of the appropriate Commission, and a determination is made on whether there is probable cause to have the officer's certification suspended or revoked for a Commission rule violation.

National Efforts to Keep Bad Officers Out of the Profession

The Commissions also participate in the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST) National Decertification Index (NDI). The purpose of the NDI is to serve as a national registry of certificate or license revocation actions relating to officer misconduct. The Commissions participate in the NDI because they do not want an officer who has had his or her certification revoked to transfer to another state, without that state being aware of the certification revocation.

North Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation Program

As the Commissions continue to look for ways to improve the professionalism of our agencies and officers, we are in the process of developing the North Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. This program will be designed to help law enforcement agencies establish and maintain standards that represent current professional law enforcement practices, thus increasing the effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of law enforcement services at a departmental level. This accreditation will acknowledge those agencies who reach and maintain this professional achievement.

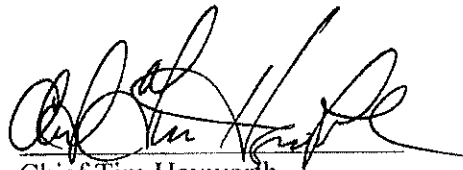
North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows Program

The Commissions also played an integral role in the development of the North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows Program. The mission of the North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows Program is to recruit talented, public-spirited high school senior graduates into the criminal justice profession. Thanks to funding from the North Carolina General Assembly, this program will fund community college fellowships each year for high school senior graduates who have exhibited high academic achievement, a history of service to the school and community, and a desire to serve the state of North Carolina in a field within the criminal justice profession for at least four years.

The Commissions strive to ensure North Carolina has the highest quality of law enforcement and we welcome public input as we continue to improve the professional education and training already provided to our State and local law enforcement and criminal justice officers.



Sheriff Alan Cloninger
Chairman, North Carolina
Sheriffs' Education and Training
Standards Commission



Chief Tim Hayworth
Chairman, North Carolina
Criminal Justice Education and
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