



South Dakota 2020
ANNUAL REPORT

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS STANDARDS
AND TRAINING COMMISSION



Mission



To promote excellence in public safety through development of professional standards, delivery of high-quality training programs, and embracing the community policing philosophy, thereby producing a highly trained and ethical professional who will respectfully serve the citizens of South Dakota.

Values



Partnership

Work in a continuous spirit of cooperation and collaboration to address areas of common concern to all of those who serve in the profession of public safety.

Respect

Create an environment where all people are treated with respect.

Integrity

Always maintain a high standard of conduct. Never compromise your word.

Dedicated Service

Our customers are the public safety community and the citizens of South Dakota, and we will be respectful and responsive to their needs.

Ethics

Maintain a high ethical standard in our daily conduct.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



The Honorable Kristi Noem, Governor
Members of the South Dakota Legislature

I respectfully submit the Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report of the Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Training Commission.

This marks the fifteenth year in which Law Enforcement Training is operating from the George S. Mickelson Criminal Justice Center. Law Enforcement Training is continuing to improve and expand its programs in order to better serve the needs of local law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

The continuing support of the Commission, Governor, and members of the legislature is very gratifying and will result in improved law enforcement service throughout the state of South Dakota.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David V. Natvig", is written over a light blue circular stamp. The stamp contains the text "DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION" around the perimeter and "SOUTH DAKOTA" at the bottom.

David Natvig
Director, Division of Criminal Investigation
Chairman, Law Enforcement Officers
Standards and Training Commission



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Vision



To be the leading organization in the state for establishing professional standards for public safety.

Provide research and resource information and encourage exchange of ideas which promote professionalism.

To provide a foundation of skill and knowledge for students attending the Basic Certification Course, upon which they will continue to build and enhance their job performance.

Deliver the highest quality training possible to all those we serve so they may perform their jobs safely and successfully.

Increase the overall effectiveness of public safety by assuring an attitude of professional excellence based on high ethical standards and achieved through quality training.



The South Dakota Law Enforcement Standards and Training Commission would like to express sincere thanks to all law enforcement agencies, officers, and telecommunicators who have assisted in making the law enforcement training program successful.

If it had not been for the hours of dedicated service supplied by various law enforcement agencies, officers, and telecommunicators, the training program would not have been a success.

The Commission is also grateful for the confidence given them by the Governor's Office and the South Dakota Legislature.



COMMISSION MEMBERS

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

David Natvig
Director
Division of Criminal Investigation
Pierre

Jason R. Ravensborg
Attorney General
Pierre

Robert Perry
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Rapid City

Chad Mosteller
Executive Secretary
Law Enforcement Training
Pierre

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Rick Miller
Superintendent
SD Highway Patrol
Pierre

Jo Vitek
Lake Area Technical Institute
Higher Education
Watertown

Andy Howe
Sheriff
South Dakota Sheriff's Association
Pierre

Randall Rosenau
Lawrence County
County Commissioners' Association
Spearfish

Tom Wollman
Attorney
SD Bar Association
Canton

Matt Burns
Chief of Police
Municipal Police
Sioux Falls

Steve Allender
Mayor
SD Municipal League
Rapid City

Gary Gaikowski
Chief of Police
Enrolled Tribal Member
Sisseton-Wahpeton



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Chad Mosteller
Training Administrator
Law Enforcement Training
Pierre

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Sam Clark
Law Enforcement Training
Pierre

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kristy Foster
Law Enforcement Training
Pierre

TRAINING COORDINATOR

Lesley Farmen
Law Enforcement Training
Pierre

D.A.R.E. COORDINATOR

Waylon Eckert
Law Enforcement Training
Pierre

9-1-1 COORDINATOR

Diana Tibbs-Leiseth
Law Enforcement Training
Pierre

ASSISTANT TRAINING ADMINISTRATOR

Kim Knecht
Law Enforcement Training
Pierre

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Taunya O'Conner
Law Enforcement Training
Pierre

ADVANCED TRAINING COORDINATOR

Greg Williams
Law Enforcement Training
Pierre

ADVANCED TRAINING COORDINATOR

Art Aplan
Law Enforcement Training
Pierre

TRAINING COORDINATOR

Janelle Keller
Law Enforcement Training
Pierre

TRAINING COORDINATOR

David Harris
Law Enforcement Training
Pierre

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Guy Di Benedetto
Law Enforcement Training
Pierre



OVERVIEW

In FY 2020, Law Enforcement Training (LET) was filled with several changes and challenges. LET, as well as the rest of the world, was confronted with the “unknown” as a result of COVID-19 in March of 2020. After the 1st week of the March basic class was completed, LET sent the class home for precautionary and safety reasons. The staff at LET began to convert existing traditional classroom presentations into online training. Within one week, the LET staff started delivering online training to our 48 students around the state. Online classes were developed and administered to the basic students until the end of May. On June 1st, we brought the students back to Pierre to complete the hands-on instruction and evaluations we could not complete using an online format. On July 1st, we graduated the 173 basic training academy. LET would like to thank Dakota State University for their partnership and assistance with our online delivery. We could not have achieved this level of success without their help.

With the lessons learned in the 173rd, LET will begin a hybrid format of the basic academy beginning August of 2020. We plan on delivering five weeks of online training with the remaining eight weeks of training to be completed in Pierre. The in-person training will be hands-on type training as well as high liability classes. This new format will significantly reduce travel expenses incurred by agencies and it will reduce the time new officers have to spend away from family and friends. The total length and hours of the new academy will remain unchanged.

In FY 2020, the Basic Academy has been filled to capacity, which can be a challenge with limited resources and manpower; however, we stay committed to our vision to provide a foundation of skill and knowledge for students with which they will continue to build and enhance their job performance.

Three Basic Certification sessions were held in FY 2020. We had 128 officers graduate from the Basic Academy. There were four academic dismissals, one skills failure, one resigned from their employing agency while attending the academy, two withdrew from the session, two were dismissed for misconduct, two were dismissed for disciplinary reasons, one was military deployed, and three are incomplete.

LET continues to dedicate three days per phase of the academy devoted to scenario training and testing. In the three days, students experience training scenarios that cover aspects of classes during that phase.

- Phase I of the academy is the Non-Emergency Phase. During this time students respond to and learn how to handle the more “routine” calls for service that they will experience as an officer. For example, students respond to shoplifting complaints, unwanted persons, loud noise, and unknown risk traffic stops.
- Phase II is the Emergency Phase. During this phase students participate in use of force scenarios, domestic violence calls, people in crisis, and known risk stops.
- Phase III is the Investigative Phase. During this phase the students respond to reports of drug use, accidents, and other calls requiring their problem-solving skills.

We have partnered with Lake Area Tech and Western Dakota Tech to provide students as role players. This opportunity allows the students to gain valuable knowledge while at LET. We have a core group of scenario evaluators but are fortunate to have agencies from around the state consistently offer their officers as trainers and evaluators which only adds to the knowledge base and exposure of techniques, networking, and learning opportunities for our students. We would like to formally thank those agencies that send officers to teach and evaluate our students. We could not do this without their support.

LET finalized a partnership agreement to allow officers to have full access to Police One’s vast online training library at no cost to the agencies. To date, 78 agencies have subscribed, 1,243 officers have signed up, with a total of 3,879 courses completed. These online hours are a significant increase from FY 19. Throughout the spring of 2020, LET had to cancel or postpone several advanced



training opportunities because of COVID-19. We anticipate holding a full slate of advanced training throughout the fall of 2021.

Due to the continuing need for mental illness training, we have expanded opportunities to departments to apply for funding for local mental illness training. Also, LET continues to partner with Minnesota CIT in the development of on-line mental illness training which gives officers the option to complete 24 hours of Crisis Intervention training on-line to apply toward their continuing education requirement. The officer may also complete the 24-hour on-line training and an additional 16-hours of in person role playing crisis situations allowing officers to become certified in Crisis Intervention training. Progress on this project has been hampered by COVID-19 throughout the spring of 2020.

This year was a challenging year for the South Dakota Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE). DARE Officers and their agencies worked side by side with our state educators to continue their training remotely, with family assistance and participation, zoom classrooms and weekly assignments handed out with the student's normal schoolwork. Although every DARE Officers would have rather had that time in the classroom, great efforts were made to ensure the students stayed engaged and received each lesson. Officers even went as far as arranging drive by or online graduations for their class. LET was scheduled to train 30 new DARE officers during the DARE Officers training in June 2020 and certify one South Dakota DARE mentor during that training. Unfortunately, this training had to be cancelled and was delayed until next summer due to the challenges of COVID-19. Preston Crissey, our new state mentor, was able to be scheduled to attend another state's DARE Officer Training so he can still be certified on schedule and can be used as a mentor and educator for our state this year. Officer Crissey will join the South Dakota DARE Mentor team this year after completing the last step in this training. Officer Crissey has been a DARE Officer and School Resource Officer in Yankton since 2011. He will continue to train, educate and assist the state training facility and certified DARE Officers in this region. 2021 looks like it will be another very successful year as requests for more officers and programs continue to be forwarded to the training team.

In FY 2020, LET conducted on-site audits of our three technical colleges (Lake Area Technical Institute/Southeast Tech/Western Dakota Tech). LET reviewed each accredited program as well as their curriculum. Each program provided students to be interviewed by LET. At the conclusion, LET provided each program with feedback to areas that need to be changed as well as recommendations for improvement.

As the result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Training Commission (LEOSTC) acted on emergency rules and statutory and administrative suspension rules as it was anticipated that law enforcement agencies may not be able to comply with current statutory requirements in SDCL 23-3-41 and 34-45-24. LEOSTC conducted hearings and acted on law enforcement officers' certifications. The commission revoked two law enforcement officers' certifications. Three officers voluntarily signed over their certificates to the commission.

LET offered two Basic 911 Telecommunicator courses with a total of 33 telecommunicators receiving certification. One Basic course was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Basic 911 course continues to use a great deal of hands-on training and students are required to pass a practical exam on the simulators, which helps prepare them for success when they return home to their respective agencies.

As we close the books on FY 2020, LET will continue to focus on our mission, "To promote excellence in public safety through development of professional standards, delivery of high-quality training programs, and embracing the community policing philosophy, thereby producing a highly trained and ethical professional who will respectfully serve the citizens of South Dakota."

We wish you a safe and healthy year and look forward to serving all our customers in the years to come. The following pages contain a summary of FY 2020 for your review.



ADMINISTRATION



EXPENDITURES

Total expenditures for fiscal year 2020 were \$2,610,161.10. This includes all academy training, field training, in-state and out-of-state training. The money for the South Dakota Law Enforcement Training Program is derived from a portion of the fines paid by violators of the law. The amount of money derived from fines is allocated to the individual program by statute and made available through legislative appropriation.

ACTIVE OFFICERS



STATE - COUNTY - MUNICIPALITIES - TRIBAL

All full-time and part-time law enforcement officers are required to be certified within their first year of employment, including elected officials.

As of June 30, 2020, there are 2,081 active full-time and part-time law enforcement officers in South Dakota. Of the 2,081 law enforcement officers, 1,951 officers are certified. The 130 officers who are not yet certified are within their first year of employment.



DISPATCH/TELECOMMUNICATOR

There are 394 active certified 911 telecommunicators in South Dakota, 372 full-time telecommunicators, and 22 part-time telecommunicators. There are 3,127 active terminal operators.



CANINE TEAMS

54 canine teams have met their certification or re-certification requirements for 2020.



Sheriff's Office
Narcotics Teams - 8
Police Department
Narcotics Teams - 10
Highway Patrol
Narcotics Teams - 9
Tribal
Narcotics - Teams 5



DCI
Arson Team - 1



Sheriff's Office
Patrol/Drug Teams - 2
Police Department
Patrol/Drug Teams - 9
Highway Patrol
Patrol/Drug Teams - 3



Police Department
Explosive Team - 1
Highway Patrol
Explosive Team - 1



Corrections
Service Dogs - 5

RESERVE UNITS



There are 24 reserve units in South Dakota
Sheriff's Office - 10 units
Police Department - 13 units
Sheriff's Office and Police Department - 1 joint unit
There is a total of 129 reserve officers, 86 officers have received their reserve certification.



BASIC TRAINING

COLER ~ WILLIAMS



MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is given in memory of Agents Coler and Williams who made the ultimate sacrifice ... their lives. The award is based on academics, leadership, ability, and general conduct during the Basic Certification Course. It is the most distinguished award given at the academy.

Recipient Austin Thompson
Watertown Police Department
Attorney General Marty Jason Ravensborg
Peace Officers' Association President Trevor Swanson
171st Session
August. 19 - November 15, 2019



Recipient Kari Smith
Pennington County Sheriff's Office
Peace Officers' Association President Trevor Swanson
172nd Session
November 17, 2019 - February 28, 2020

Recipient Leah Stroschein
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office
Attorney General Marty Jason Ravensborg
Peace Officers' Association President Trevor Swanson
173rd Session
March 8 - July 1, 2020





WILLIAM DAVIS TOP



GUN MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is given by the family of William 'Bill' Davis in memory of Deputy William P. Davis, Moody County Sheriff's Office, who made the ultimate sacrifice on November 3, 2003, while serving the people of his community. Deputy Davis was killed by a passing motorist while he was making an arrest at an accident scene. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who carry on his proud tradition.



Recipient Klay Min
Huron Police Department
Attorney General Marty Jackley
171st Session
August. 19 – November 15, 2019

Recipient Jeffrey Doerken
Rapid City Police Department
DCI Director David Natvig
172nd Session
November 17, 2019 - February 28, 2020



Recipient Joseph Hayes
Sioux Falls Police Department
Attorney General Jason
Ravnsborg
173rd
Session



BASIC TRAINING

INSPIRATION



AWARD

This class member has exemplified direction in creating an inspiring atmosphere moving others toward professional and personal achievement. Additional attributes include maintaining morale, encouragement, respect, and class service throughout the session.

Recipient Barry Rodgers
Deadwood Police Department
Attorney General Jason Ravensborg
171st Session
August 18, 2019 - November 15, 2019



Recipient Jeffrey Doerken
Rapid City Police Department
DCI Director David Natvig
172nd Session
November 17, 2019 - February 28, 2020

Recipient Daniel Fraser
SD Game, Fish & Parks
Attorney General Jason Ravensborg
173rd Session
March 8 - July 1, 2020





OUTSTANDING



STUDENT AWARD

The Outstanding Student award, sponsored by the South Dakota Peace Officer's Association, is based on academics, leadership ability, and general conduct during the Basic Certification Course.



Recipient Shelby Hattum
Central South Dakota Communications
Attorney General Jason R. Ravensborg
62nd Session
September 23 - October 4,
2019



Recipient Suzanne Comrie
Pennington County ESCC
Attorney General Jason R.
Ravnsborg
63rd Session
February 24 - March 6, 2020



BASIC TRAINING

CERTIFICATION



SESSIONS

There were 144 officers enrolled in the three Basic Certification sessions held in FY 20. 128 officers graduated from the Basic Academy. There were five academic dismissals, one military deployed, one resigned from employing agency, two withdrew from the session, two were dismissed for misconduct, one was dismissed for excessive absenteeism, one dismissed for rule violation, and three are incomplete.



171st Session
August 18 – November 15, 2019



172nd Session
November 17, 2019 - February 28, 2020



173rd Session
March 8 - June 5, 2020



CERTIFICATION



SESSIONS

There were 37 telecommunicators enrolled in the Two-Week Basic Telecommunicator training sessions in FY20. 33 telecommunicators graduated from the training session. There were three academic dismissals and one withdrawal from the sessions.



62nd Session
September 23 - October 4, 2019
62 - 17 enrolled 1 fail



63rd Session
February 24 - March 6, 2020
63 - 17 grad 2 dismiss 1
withdrew

Due to COVID-19
the June 1 - 12,
2020, scheduled
session was
cancelled



TRAINING COURSES

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The Standards and Training Commission approved grants to three agencies resulting in 256 individuals attending the grant training sessions.

TOTAL ADVANCED TRAINING ATTENDANCE 1,513



Thank you for your dedication and service.

In spite of all the restrictions put on law enforcement, you still put on your uniform, go out every day to every call and put your life on the line to protect our families and communities.

Our society would not survive without your service.

Please stay safe and watch over your Brothers and Sisters,
Prayers are said daily for your safety.





Our family wishes to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for
your dedication and service.

In spite of all the restrictions put on law enforcement you still put
on your uniform and go out every day to every call and put your
life on the line to protect our families and communities.
Our society would not survive without your service.

Please stay safe and watch over your Brothers and Sisters.
We pray daily for your safety.
God Bless You!