

**STAFF SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SSAC)
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON PROBATION (COP)**

**MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2012
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS (AOC)
1501 W. WASHINGTON
CONFERENCE ROOMS 345A&B**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Heather Boyer
Charles Counts
Brenda Flynn
Amber Freed
Steve Hardy
Clay Hildahl
Katie Howard
Shawn Hughes
Henry Meraz
Jim Meyer

Steve Nesky
Lance Nickell
George Owens
Alan Palomino
David F. Sanders, Chair
Saul Schoon
Tim Schouten
Dan Tomlinson
Art Waterman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kendall Rhyne, Vice Chair
Mark Smalley

Jon Thompson
Therese Wagner

GUESTS:

Casey Camacho

Bill Castaneda

STAFF:

Kevin Jeffries

Lorraine Lerma

CALL TO ORDER

David Sanders called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., welcomed the committee members and guests, and asked everyone to introduce themselves. There are seven new members since the last meeting and they are: Heather Boyer, Gila County Adult/Juvenile; Amber Freed, Mohave County Adult/Juvenile; Clay Hildahl, Yavapai County Adult; Katie Howard, Coconino County Adult; Shawn Hughes, Maricopa County Juvenile; Kendall Rhyne, Gila County Adult/Juvenile; and Therese Wagner, Maricopa County Adult.

I. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 23, 2010, MINUTES

Minor changes to the minutes were made to agenda item **II. SSAC OFFICER DUTIES**: “Kevin Jeffries first thanked the subcommittee that helped craft the document...”; and to agenda item **III. LEOSA (LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S SAFETY ACT)**: “The AG did not feel we met one piece of the criteria...”. No other changes, modifications or deletions were made.

MOTION: Steve Hardy made a motion to approve the April 23, 2010, meeting minutes with those two changes. George Owens seconded the motion. Motion passed with 19 votes, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. SSAC 12-01

II. THIGH HOLSTERS PROPOSAL

This request is from Maricopa County warrants officers, through Chief Barbara Broderick, to approve thigh holsters for officers in their Fugitive Apprehension Unit (FAU) (handout attached). Lance Nickell demonstrated the use and the main benefit is to get the gun lower from the belt line.

Fourteen members are leaning toward eliminating the provision that it be readily concealable and just defer to county discretion.

After various discussions took place the following motion was made.

MOTION: Lance Nickell made a motion that SSAC recommends to COP to amend AO 2006-63 by deleting point #1 that a holster be readily concealable. Art Waterman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. SSAC 12-02.

III. .223 CALIBER RIFLES FOR WARRANTS OFFICERS

With more frequency than ever, probation officers are being injured and police officers, more often, are being killed when they engage either probationers or parolees or accompanying probation. Casey Camacho and Art Waterman are from Pima County Adult warrants team and these officers are not similarly equipped as the officers that they

work with. Casey Camacho presented (handout attached). The .223 rifle would give them the ability to have standoff distance, but are still able to maintain control of the situation safely.

In the last three years, the number of law enforcement officers that have been feloniously killed in the line of duty or assaulted has increased steadily every year: 2009 over 57,000 assaults and 48 officers killed; 2010 the assaults went down to about 53,500, but 56 officers killed; and 2011 over 59,000 assaulted and 173 officers killed.

The following are some concerns:

- Officers transitioning back to standard caseloads, regular duty weapon and having the mindset from offense to defense in terms of use of force.
- Moving the officers with rifles entering situations first as a lead and police be secondary, cannot go hands on and just assuring it does not have the tendency to do more high risk behavior.
- AOC is responsible for firearms (FA) training standards; local departments should not take that on. (Kevin Jeffries, Lance Nickell and David Chaison are NRA Tactical FA and Rifle Law Enforcement Instructors.)
- Making a lot of concessions for just warrants teams.
- In taking people to prison, the perception of the defendants is that all probation officers are armed. What will the perception be from the community?
- Not having the appropriate tools to enhance officer safety.

ACTION ITEM: David Sanders will brief COP at their April 27, 2012, meeting summarizing the discussions that took place today.

IV. SAFETY TIPS

The Committee reviewed the safety tips from Pima and Yavapai Counties (handouts attached). After discussing what they would like to have added and deleted, it was decided to continue discussing and demonstrating safety tips during officer training. Everything in the proposed handout is already incorporated in existing safety training. This will not move on to COP.

V. DEFENSIVE TACTICS PROGRAM/PHYSICAL STANDARDS

SSAC reviewed/commented on two documents: 1) Community Corrections Institute, LLC and 2) Concentra (handouts attached).

ACTION ITEM: David Sanders to inform COP at their April 27, 2012, meeting that SSAC has raised some questions for Concentra, that SSAC unanimously endorses physical standards that seem reasonable for incoming recruits, and before buying the service from Concentra, what the cost will be and recommends a demonstration.

VI. BODY ARMOR STANDARDS AND CARE

At the request of COP, SSAC has been asked to look into the minimum standards for body armor and care.

- The minimum standard is Level 2A.
- Departments should not have anything less, but they can have more.
- The highest level without a ballistic panel trauma plate is 3A.
- Manufacturer will not stand behind the product after 5 years.
- Cost is \$500 to \$600 per year.

ACTION ITEM: David Sanders will update COP at their April 27, 2012, meeting and provide them with the document Body Armor (handout attached).

AGENDA ITEM TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

VIII. ACJA CODE 6-113: FIREARMS STANDARD

Handout attached. Discussions took place on why people get behind on firearms training or lose their ability to carry: temporary medical conditions, military service, gun turned in voluntarily, and people terminate employment and later return. The discussion of amending the code was discussed, but the inference is there of leaving it to the discretion of the chief probation officer or director of juvenile court services; therefore, the code will not be amended.

VII. NEW OFFICER SAFETY TRAINING ORIENTATION

Within the next short months, the train-the-trainer will be replaced with an updated more inclusive curriculum. It is no longer necessary for instructors to be certified to teach new officer orientation due to the defensive tactics instructors, firearms instructors and all the officer safety training and knowledge there are statewide. Those departments that also have training coordinators could also be utilized, giving departments the discretion to choose the most appropriate person.

IX. NON AGENDA ITEMS

Kevin Jeffries and Lance Nickell put forward two curriculums for the Committee on Probation Education (COPE) that were approved and will be rolled out at the DT Academy the week of March 12, or March 19, 2012. Kevin will be sending the power point and lesson plan to the DT instructors to include in their DT curriculum: 1) "Think First" is the mental side of safety and 2) Basic Building Search, which is basically how to make sure a building is cleared and safe.

The departments can contact Kevin for training.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Steve Hardy made a motion to adjourn. Charles Counts seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. SSAC 12-03.

David Sanders thanked everyone for making the trip and to be careful driving home.

The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.