

Law Enforcement Driving Task Force: Facilitated Discussion, April 6, 2012

What Issues Does the Task Force Need to Examine as It Considers Its Charge

- Focus is on changing employee behavior
- It's an issue of ethics/public trust
- Need to examine the root cause of the statistics
- Examine ways to train to prevent crashes and bad conduct
- There is a need for additional driving training facilities
- We need to ensure we don't inhibit the ability of officers to do their jobs
- Must identify best practices
- Examine the length of service compared to number of crashes (basic v. post-basic training needs/issues)
- There needs to be a public education component of the Task Force efforts
- Focus on ethical decision-making at in-service level and weaving of ethical behavior into field training officer programs
- Distinction between aggressive and assertive driving practices
- As we look at mandatory retraining, should examine specific requirements, including provision of classroom training
- Must ensure agency accountability and ownership
- Should review age and demographics of law enforcement personnel involved in crashes
- An appropriate accreditation standard may force an agency to have a policy and address these issues
- Must distinguish between officer-involved crashes and errant driving behavior
- Can we develop warning signs of officers with driving difficulties?

Current Statewide Training Requirements of Law Enforcement Personnel

- Basic Law Enforcement training focuses on skills, decision-making (including ethics), and policy
- 48 hours of driving curriculum in the Basic Law Enforcement Academy
- Highest speed on basic course is 45 mph (although in practice, instructors may allow students to push upwards of 65 mph)
- For future Task Force discussion: Is there a need for a post-basic training driving supplement?
- For future Task Force discussion: Can we develop increased scenario-based training focused on driving?
- For future Task Force discussion: Are driving simulators a practical approach?
- For future Task Force discussion: How do we best emphasize safe driving behaviors/practices in our personnel
- For future Task Force discussion: Can we, from a statewide perspective, develop a layered approach to training which includes computer-based, classroom, and applied training components?

Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation

- No current standards specifically are applicable to this issue. Current standards relating to traffic issues address traffic violations and traffic crash investigations
- May fit under Standard 22.01 relating to traffic violations
- Currently, the standard on pursuit requires the agency to have a policy; some elements of these issues may fit there as well

Questions Arising from Data Analysis Presentation

- How events are recorded (e.g., “other”)
- Impact of an aging vehicular fleet
- Distraction of officers by equipment/technology
- Usage of seat belts
- Development of an early warning system
- Comparison of law enforcement driving behavior leading to crashes compared to that of the general population

Core Focus of Charge

- Distinguish between the two issues: officer-involved crashes and errant driving behaviors
- Detailed statistical analysis
- Leadership responsibility
- Linkage between policy and practices
- Public awareness and education

Other Issues to Be Discussed During Task Force Meetings

- Need to immediately share information about the activities of this Task Force: What it's doing now; how the Task Force is approaching the problem; the distinction between officer-involved traffic crashes and errant driving behaviors
- Possible hindrances:
 - Clarification of scope of the problem
 - Time
 - Budget
 - Adoptability
 - Staffing (especially driving instructors)
 - Facilities
 - Lengthy process to mandate policies or training

Action Steps to Be Taken as a Result of This Meeting

1. Development of a Public Statement concerning the activities of this Task Force (Lead: Colonel Brierton)
2. Expanded data analysis (Chief Carrick)
3. Expanded training review and recommendations, including policy impact, gaps in training, and best practices (Lead: Major Moffatt)
4. Development of Policy/Practices recommendations (Lead to be named)
5. Leadership responsibilities and action, including ownership of the issue and accountability (Full Task Force)
6. Public Awareness and Education Campaign (Full Task Force)