



P.O.S.T. Update

March 2016

Ken Vance – Executive Director

Recertification Applications Become Available in 2016

Effective January 1, 2012, officers graduating from peace officer courses were issued a certification that expired in four years from the date of issuance of that certification. Officers that received peace officer certifications in 2012 will begin submitting their recertification applications in 2016. The information on the Recertification application process can be found at web link <https://www.gapost.org/recert.html> . Officers that do not wish to maintain their certification may choose to allow their certification to expire. Officers that do not properly submit their recertification applications and continue to work as peace officers on an expired certification may be subject to POST sanctions and criminal/civil liabilities and penalties.

POST Academy Regulations Update

The Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council approved the update of these regulations effective January 1, 2016. Some noted changes in the regulations update are the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course topic exception has been removed and definitions related to online training have been updated. See update regulations at web link http://www.gapost.org/pdf_file/UAR2016.pdf .

Under the EVOC exception removal, candidates failing either the cognitive test or performance proficiency test of the course topic will no longer be allowed to continue in the basic law enforcement course after failure.

Online courses descriptions and the process for getting officers credit is also defined. Basically, POST certified instructors are responsible for making sure that the online courses and the officers meet the requirements for online law enforcement training.

Additional updates of the academy regulations were approved on March 9, 2016 to reduce the required test score for the Emergency Vehicle Operations topic to 70% to match all other topics and to eliminate the cognitive test for the Judgmental Pistol Shooting topic since the test items are covered in other topics in the course. Both of these topics are in the Basic Law Enforcement course.

Entrance Exam changes coming

The Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) received notice from ACT on June 11, 2015, regarding the phasing out of the ACT Compass program. This notice informed the colleges ACT was planning on phasing out all of its current ACT Compass products by December 31, 2016.

As a result, TCSG has identified a new test product and the minimum scores for this test. The scores are as follows:

ACCUPLACER Test:

Reading Comprehension (Reading) – 55

Sentence Structure (Writing) – 60

Arithmetic (Numerical) – 34 (not required for POST Entrance Exam – POST tracks scores for benchmarking purposes)

TCSG plans a full implementation in September 2016, and some colleges may begin implementation prior to this date.

Pre-Investigative Consent Orders

Effective January 11, 2016, the option of pre-investigative consent orders will be given to officers applying for certifications and officers under POST investigation. Guidelines have been established so that the POST Hearing Officer may coordinate this option to officers that meet the requirements under the guidelines set forth.

Rush Processing Fee Time Period Change

Effective January 1, 2016, the rush processing fee time frame has been reduced from 10 days to 5 business days of the start of the academy or other designated deadline.

Probation Officer Certification Deemed Equivalent for Municipal

Probation Officer certification requirements

Effective January 1, 2016, any individual that possesses a probation officer certification will be deemed equivalent under POST rules and allowed to work under that certification as a Municipal Probation officer.

Professional Management Program Sign-ups

The Georgia Law Enforcement Executive Command College will be on-site at various locations in the State during the months of March and April to recruit, provide information and signup students for the Command College Professional Management Programs. Agency personnel are welcome to apply/sign-up with the approval of their agency heads/administrators and pursuant to admission requirements. Dates are:

Wednesday, March 23

Rockdale County Sheriff's Office 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, April 6

Tifton Police Department 11:30 a.m.

New Certifications Available

Effective January 1, 2016, **Latent Print Examiner** and **SWAT officer** certifications are available for officers to obtain. Details on the required courses are as follows:

Latent Print Examiner:

Intermediate Friction Ridge Analysis I (40 hours): This 40-hour course is designed to be a continuation of the currently offered basic fingerprint courses conducted by the Georgia Police Academy. It will cover the history of friction ridge comparison and the analysis portion of the most predominantly accepted friction ridge identification methodology. Pre-requisite(s): This course requires the completion of the three basic fingerprint courses sponsored by the Georgia Police Academy, or their equivalents. Letter from agency head or designee which states (1) that the applicant will attend all five courses in the annual session and (2) the applicant actively performs latent print comparisons during the course of his or her duty and has performed this duty for at least one year.

Intermediate Friction Ridge Analysis II (40 hours): This 40-hour course will cover topics such as the comparison, evaluation, and verification portions of the most predominantly accepted friction ridge identification methodology. This course will serve as the second course in a series of more advanced latent print courses to be taught at the Georgia Police Academy. The target audience for this course will be those who are already involved in the forensic discipline of latent print identification. These students should not be beginners in the field, but seasoned practitioners who want to develop their skill to a level at which they can take and pass the International Association for Identification's Latent Print Examiner certification test. Pre-requisite(s): Completion of Intermediate Friction Ridge Analysis I

Palm Print Comparisons (40 hours): This 40-hour course is an advanced level course on palm print comparisons that is the third of the five-part series of latent print courses. Topics will include analysis, comparison, evaluation and verification of palm impressions. The target audience for this course will be those who are already involved in the forensic discipline of latent print identification. Students should not be beginners in the field, but seasoned practitioners who want to develop their skill to a level at which they can take and pass the International Association for Identification's Latent Print Examiner certification test. Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Intermediate Friction Ridge Analysis I and II

Advanced Friction Ridge Analysis (40 hours): This 40-hour course is an advanced level course on friction ridge analysis that is the third of the five-part series of latent print courses. Topics will include analysis, comparison, evaluation and verification of palm impressions for problematic latent impressions. The target audience for this course will be those who are already involved in the forensic discipline of latent print identification. Students should not be beginners in the field, but seasoned practitioners who want to develop their skill to a level at which they can take and pass the International Association for Identification's Latent Print Examiner certification test. Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Intermediate Friction Ridge Analysis I and II and Palm Print Comparisons

Latent Print Expert Testimony (40 hours): This 40-hour course is an advanced level course on friction ridge analysis that is fifth in a five part series of latent print courses. Topics will include current case law, Daubert and other challenges, how to prepare and present friction ridge evidence and the construction of demonstrative evidence for court. The target audience for this course will be those who are already involved in the forensic discipline of latent print identification. These students should not be beginners in the field, but seasoned practitioners who want to develop their skill to a level at which they can take and pass the International Association for Identification's Latent Print Examiner certification test. Pre-requisite(s): Completion of Intermediate Friction Ridge Analysis I and II, Palm Print Comparisons, and Advanced Friction Ridge

Completion of this series of courses results in a total of 200 hours of training for this certification.

Certification Testing: Applicants must show proof at the time of certification application that they have successfully completed a third-party competency testing process for latent print examiners, such as those provided by Collaborative Testing Services (CTS).

GPSTC will generate a course for the candidates to provide proof of completion of the 3rd party competency test. By providing this proof to GPSTC as required, the course will be shown as completed and listed on the officer's POST training history. The application button will be next to this course in the training history.

Re-certification Testing: Certified latent print examiner certifications will expire every two years. Certified examiners are required to provide proof that they have successfully completed a third-party competency testing process for latent print examiners, such as those provided by Collaborative Testing Services (CTS), every two years as a recertification requirement. GPSTC will generate a course for the candidates to provide proof of completion of the 3rd party competency test for recertification. By providing this proof to GPSTC as required, the course will be shown as completed and listed on the officer's POST training history. The recertification application button will be next to this course in the training history.

Candidates seeking P.O.S.T. Certification as a Latent Print Examiner must: 1. be employed with a recognized law enforcement agency; and 2. Candidates must complete an Application for Latent Print Examiner Certification.

SWAT Certification

Courses Required for SWAT Officer Certification: The applicant must successfully complete the following courses to be eligible to apply for SWAT certification. (*Note: The courses are not required to be taken in any particular order. If possible it is recommended that SWAT be taken last.*)

Officer Survival (40 hours): This course is designed to provide training in the dynamics of an armed encounter. Students will receive training in combat firearms skills, patrol tactics, vehicle stops, and building searches.

Semi Pistol 2 (32 hours): This course is designed to enhance and expand the weapon handling skills of those officers carrying a double action semi-automatic pistol.

Shotgun Skills (24 hours): This course is designed to improve shooting skills with 12 gauge pump and semiautomatic shotguns. Range exercises and classroom instruction will be provided in mounting, loading, unloading, and shooting drills to increase the officer's effectiveness with this versatile weapon. Officers will also participate in exercises using multiple targets, tactical shooting positions, proper use of cover, and one-hand operation.

Tactical Submachine Gun (24 hours): This course is intended for personnel issued select fire submachine guns and assigned to their departmental tactical team. Topics will include safety and legal issues, as well as operational concerns specific to the user's weapon, mechanical functioning concepts for implementation of shooting fundamentals, loading and immediate action. Practical exercises will include semi-automatic marksmanship, fully automatic burst control, and engagement of moving and steel reactionary targets.

Patrol Rifle (40 hours): This course is designed for uniformed personnel armed with a rifle while on duty, or for Special Response Containment Team officers armed with an open-sighted rifle. The emphasis of the course is to train Riflemen, and will include shooting with a sling, shooting from various positions, effects of weather, moving targets leads, safety, maintenance, and liability. Students will engage single and multiple targets from 50-200 yards, both stationary and moving. Note: this course was previously known as Police Tactical Rifle and should count towards the requirement for this course.

Judgmental Use of Deadly Force (24 hours): This course is designed to use an integrated system of video, laser, and computer technology. Students will interact in simulated scenarios requiring judgment, decision making regarding the drawing of a weapon, accuracy, and the use of deadly force.

Defensive Tactics (40 Hours): This course is designed to provide public safety officers with additional training in control and restraint techniques, use of personal weapons, ground fighting, and handcuffing techniques.

Health and Wellness (24 hours): This course is designed for all public safety personnel who seek improved health and wellness. Topics include the cardiovascular system, strength and flexibility conditioning, nutrition, weight and stress control, and the effects of alcohol/drugs.

Stress Management (16 hours): This course is designed to teach public safety personnel techniques by which they can manage both job related and personal stress. Topics include the nature and sources of stress and stress management strategies.

High Risk Warrant and Arrest Tactics: (40 hours) This course is designed for officers who participate in high risk warrant service and arrests. Key topics include key raid concepts, use of force, lawful entry and search, tactical

equipment, operation planning & briefing, ballistic shields, breaching operations, tactics overview, warrant execution in structures, vehicle assault operations, pedestrian operations, and tactical combat casualty care.

Special Weapons and Tactics :(40 hours) This course is designed for officers who have recently been assigned to a tactical team and have had no prior training in this area. Topics will include: building approach and entry techniques, team movement exercises, room clearance, dynamic/covert entry, use of chemical agents, building rappelling, and tactical assault problems.

Completion of this series of courses results in a total of 344 hours of training for this certification.

Officers applying for the SWAT Certification must have:

1. At least ***three years experience*** as a sworn law enforcement officer.
2. The officer must not have any ***active*** P.O.S.T. investigation(s)
3. Officers must submit a letter from the department head with the application confirming the applicant is ***currently assigned to the department tactical unit.***

(NOTE: Officers will not be required to attend a recertification course to maintain this certification.)

The application for this course will be triggered when the Basic SWAT course (course code ***AFD17F***) is completed and listed on the officer's POST training history. The application button will be next to this course in the training history.