

MPOETC 2014 MIST Program - Course Descriptions

Legal Updates - 14-201

Three-Hour Required Course

This is a three-hour Mandatory In-Service Training (MIST) Program course. The block of training is a staple in the MPOETC MIST Program and will cover important legal issues affecting and important to municipal police officers throughout the Commonwealth.

This training program will cover topics such as:

- Changes and updates to the Crimes Code
- Changes and updates to the Vehicle Code
- Changes and updates to the Rules of Criminal Procedure
- Changes to other statutes related to law enforcement

This course will also examine, review and explain significant court cases that are relevant to police officers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The overall goal of the curriculum will be to demonstrate how these cases have a direct impact on how police officers perform their duties. Other goals of this course are to improve officer safety, increase convictions, and reduce civil liability.

This module will also address any other unique legal issues that might develop in 2013.



Invisible Wounds: Traumatic Brain Injury & Post- Traumatic Stress – 14-337

3-hour Course

In the fall of 2012, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed a law that required the Commission, in cooperation with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Department of Health, and other agencies with expertise in the field of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), to assess the training needs of police officers in recognizing and interacting with veterans and other individuals suffering from TBI or PTSD. The legislation also stipulated that if the Commission determined that training was needed in this area, the Commission would develop a training program to be available to all police officers in Pennsylvania. This training course is the result of that legislative initiative.

This three hour course will provide instruction on the nature, prevalence, and indicators of traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, and offer preferred ways to respond to such individuals.



Crimes against the Elderly: Transient Criminal Groups – 14-421

Three-Hour course

Every week we see cases where senior citizens and other vulnerable people are victimized. Many of these crimes are committed by transient criminals who specifically target vulnerable victims. The crimes may take the form of an elderly person being “scammed” on home repairs, driveway work or chimney repairs. Many times while the transient criminal is scamming the victim on the repairs, they also keep them occupied while an unseen accomplice slips into the house and steals the victim’s jewelry and life savings. In other cases, the crime starts with a knock on the door and the victim answers to see someone who appears to be a utility worker. This “worker” may have a hard hat on, a safety vest and even some sort of ID card attached to his clothing. The “worker” tells the victim that he works for the water company and that there is a “leak down the street” and he needs to test his/her water to make sure it hasn’t become contaminated. The victim allows the “worker” into the house and then follows him into the basement. Once in the basement the “worker” has the victim turning the water faucet off and on while he talks on a phone or radio. What the “worker” is doing is telling his accomplice that he left the door unlocked and that he has the victim occupied in the basement. The accomplice then enters and steals their valuables.

These crimes have a devastating effect on senior citizens. Some have lost their life savings in this manner and jewelry that they accumulated over a lifetime. Even more devastating than the economic loss is the loss of their sense of security. No longer do they feel safe in their own homes and they fear the loss of their independence. They don’t understand how they could have been “so stupid” and all too often this initiates a downward spiral that ends with their demise.

This course will identify the victims and perpetrators of these crimes, how to identify and investigate these crimes, and resources that patrol officers and detectives can use in their investigations.



Technology Update: Introduction to Social Media - 14-422

Three-hour Course

This 2014 course will address many of the topics that were requested in our 2012 Training Needs Survey as well as those suggested during our discussion at the MPOETC Training Committee meeting on December 5, 2012. This Technology Update will address Internet Crimes, Online Investigations for Patrol Officers, Social Networking, and Facebook and Twitter Investigations. It will look at the positive influence of using Social Networking as a law enforcement tool.

The evolution in consumer electronics has caused an exponential growth in the amount of mobile digital data storage devices such as cell phones, digital cameras, iPods, BlackBerrys, and GPS units. The intentional or inadvertent recording and storage of digital data can be the subject of forensic investigation. This course is not designed to instruct patrol officers and investigators in the recovery of such data but rather provide them with information as to what data may exist on a variety of devices and the techniques designed to preserve this information. This class will address technology, crime trends, terminology, and applicable Pennsylvania and Federal statutes and cases. It will also address search and seizure issues related to the seizure of and the retrieval of information contained within these devices.