

Cobb County Police Department

Policy 6.02

TRAINING

Effective Date: October 14, 2019	Issued By: Chief C.T. Cox
Rescinds: Policy 6.02 (January 6, 2019)	Page 1 of 6
The words "he, his, him," which may appear in this policy, are used generically for clarity and ease of reading. These terms are not meant to imply gender and relate to all employees of the Department.	

The goal of training is to ensure professional growth of personnel and the Department. Improved efficiency and effectiveness in job performance is brought about by employee's increased level of skill, knowledge, and ability through training.

I. POLICY

The Cobb County Police Department will provide training and professional development opportunities to employees.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Training sessions shall be considered a duty assignment and employees shall attend as scheduled. Employees may be excused from scheduled training by a supervisor in the employee's chain-of-command. The supervisor who excuses the employee from training will promptly notify the DPS Police Training Unit.
- B. The DPS Police Training Unit will be responsible for updating the records of employees following their participation in training programs conducted by the unit or its personnel. Supervisors of non-sworn employees are responsible for updating the records of non-sworn personnel.
- C. Upon completion of training (other than that conducted by the DPS Police Training Unit), all employees must forward a copy of the training certificate and syllabus (if available) to the DPS Police Training Unit so the employee's file can be updated.
- D. All sworn employees who attend training at a location inside the County, are required to have with them, at a minimum, a ballistic vest, portable radio, primary or secondary firearm, handcuffs, an extra magazine, and, if not in one of the Department uniforms, something that can easily identify them as a police officer (badge, police windbreaker, etc.).

III. TRAINING CATEGORIES

A. Introductory Training

1. The Cobb County Human Resources Department is responsible for scheduling all newly hired personnel for the New Employee Orientation Course. During this course new employees receive information regarding:
 - The agency's role, purpose, goals, policies, and procedures;
 - Working conditions and regulations; and
 - Responsibilities and rights of the employee.
2. The DPS Police Training Unit is responsible for providing training to newly hired sworn personnel on the Department's policies, procedures, rules, and regulations. The training may be conducted during mandate/lateral entry training, or as a part of the field training program.
3. Supervisors of newly hired non-sworn employees are responsible for providing training on the Department's policies, procedures, rules, and regulations during on-the-job training.

B. Mandate Basic Training

All sworn personnel are required to complete the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Mandate Basic Training Course for Law Enforcement Officers prior to assignment in any capacity in which the officer is allowed to carry a weapon or is in a position to make an arrest. Sworn personnel generally receive this training at the Cobb County DPS Police Training Unit, even if they have already completed basic mandate training at a different training academy.

C. Field Training

Upon completion of Mandate Basic Training, all newly sworn personnel will be required to participate in a field training program of at least 160 hours for trainees. The curriculum of the field training program will be established by the DPS Police Training Unit and based on the tasks of the most frequent assignments. Failure to satisfactorily complete field training may result in dismissal.

D. Annual Training

1. All sworn personnel are required to attend the minimum training hours/classes required by POST. Failure to do so may result in the suspension of the employee's peace officer certification and removal from an enforcement status. In addition:
 - a. All sworn employees shall receive annual training in the areas of legal updates, vehicle pursuits to include authorized forcible stopping techniques, search and seizure, prisoner transportation, domestic violence/employee, property and evidence, off duty conduct, sexual harassment, selection and hiring, citizen complaints/internal affairs, special operations/SWAT, dealing with the mentally ill or persons with diminished capacity, and ethics.

- b. Sworn officers in supervisory or specialized assignments should receive additional training related to their current assignments.
2. All non-sworn personnel shall receive annual training in the areas of domestic violence/employee, off duty conduct, sexual harassment, citizen complaints/internal affairs, dealing with the mentally ill or persons with diminished capacity, and ethics.

E. Specialized Training

Specialized training enhances skills, knowledge, and abilities beyond a basic level. Specialized training is available to all personnel and is provided by the Cobb County Personnel Department's Training Section, the DPS Police Training Unit, other regional academies, the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, and public/private organizations. The County Personnel Training Unit, DPS Police Training Unit, and other organizations publish advanced training information on a regular basis.

1. Employees who wish to attend specialized training will submit a Training Request Form, through the chain of command, to the DPS Police Training Unit. The DPS Police Training Unit will schedule the requested training and notify the requestor through the chain of command.
2. Specialized training shall be provided for newly promoted employees and employees in selected assignments. Training should be conducted within one year of promotion/assignment. Those areas which are identified as positions requiring specialized training are, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Traffic Enforcement
 - Training/Field Training
 - Public Information
 - Criminal Investigations
 - Tactical/SWAT
 - Crime Prevention and Community Relations
 - Supervision/Management
 - Accreditation
 - Dive Team
 - Bomb Squad
 - Hostage Negotiation
 - Mobile Field Force
 - Narcotics/Vice
 - Homeland Security/Intelligence
 - Crime Analysis
 - Any other assignment that is specialized or highly technical in nature

Seasoned/trained employees will be responsible for providing on-the-job training in addition to any classroom training that personnel receives.

3. Certain non-sworn positions within the Department require pre-service and/or in-service training before personnel may conduct their official tasks. The training will consist of specific procedures and regulations pertaining to the position at hand. Non-sworn positions identified as requiring pre-service and/or in-service training are:
 - AFIS Operators
 - Crime Scene Technicians
 - GCIC Operators
4. Employees in specialized assignments may be required to attend refresher courses as required by the unit supervisor. Any certifications pertinent to the specialized assignment should not be allowed to expire and may require additional training to maintain the certification.

F. Advanced Programs

Advanced programs are available to personnel based upon certain prerequisites. Employees who are interested in attending advanced programs should submit an Advanced Program Informational Form, along with a memorandum on Department letterhead, advising that they would like to be considered. A Training Request Form should not be submitted.

Personnel who attend any of the programs in this section may be required to sign an agreement, committing them to remain with the Department for a minimum of three years after completion of the program.

1. Professional Management Program (PMP)

PMP is approximately 24 months in duration and is conducted through Columbus State University (Columbus, GA) in one-week increments. Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- a. Has been a sworn officer with the Department for 36 months or longer
- b. Can meet all the administrative and academic requirements of the program
- c. No serious disciplinary actions (suspensions or demotions) within the last 24 months

Personnel selected will be given requisite time off and paid their salary while in attendance, and will be authorized the use of a County vehicle (if available) for travel to and from classes. Tuition costs will be paid by the Department, but personnel selected will be responsible for any associated lodging costs; and will not receive per diem for meals.

2. Command College

Command College is approximately 18-24 months in duration and is conducted at Columbus State University (Columbus, GA) in one-week increments. Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- a. Has successfully obtained a bachelor's degree from an accredited college
- b. Has achieved the rank of Sergeant or above
- c. Can meet all the administrative and academic requirements of Command College
- d. No serious disciplinary actions (suspensions or demotions) within the last 24 months

Personnel selected will be given requisite time off and paid their salary while in attendance, and will be authorized the use of a County vehicle (if available) for travel to and from Command College. Tuition costs will be paid by the Department, but personnel selected will be responsible for any associated lodging costs; and will not receive per diem for meals.

3. Northwestern University's Staff and Command Course

Northwestern University's Staff and Command Course is a ten-week resident course taught through Kennesaw University, or as an on-line program that is approximately 20-weeks in duration. Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- a. Has achieved the rank of Lieutenant or above
- b. Can meet all the administrative and academic requirements of the program
- c. No serious disciplinary actions (suspensions or demotions) within the past 24 months

4. FBI National Academy (FBINA)

The FBI National Academy is a residency program of eleven-weeks duration and the National Academy in Quantico Virginia will be your duty station. Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- a. Has achieved the rank of Lieutenant or above
- b. Can meet all the administrative and physical requirements of the FBINA selection process
- c. No serious disciplinary actions (suspensions or demotions) within the past 24 months

5. Other Programs

Any other advanced programs/schools comparable in nature to the ones listed above will be assessed on a case-by-case basis using similar criteria.

G. Training/Travel Expenses

Training/travel that requires funding (e.g., – registration, per diem, lodging, airfare or other transportation costs) will be submitted and reimbursed in accordance with the procedures listed on the Training Request form, and County Policy.

H. Remedial Training

Every employee is required to maintain certain levels of proficiency in areas related to their job function (e.g., firearms, driving, report writing, interpersonal relations, decision making). Whenever an employee displays a lack of knowledge, skill, or ability in a specific area of required activity, it is imperative that corrective action be taken. Such corrective action should involve remedial training.

1. All supervisory personnel and training staff should recognize and utilize the effectiveness of remedial training as a positive corrective measure in the disciplinary process.
2. Whenever remedial training is recommended, the method should be coordinated with the DPS Police Training Unit.
3. Documentation of the remedial training provided will be maintained in the employee's file.
4. A timeframe for the completion of remedial training will be based on the remedial training needed.

The employee's willingness to participate in remedial training is indicative of a positive form of discipline. If the employee is unwilling to participate, then negative sanctions must apply.

I. Roll-Call Training

Roll-Call Training consists of training or informational sessions of short duration administered to employees just prior to, or after, their tour of duty. Training may include, but not be limited to briefings, short lectures, videos, or practical exercises. The goal of this training is to keep employees up-to-date between their formal in-service training sessions.

Both the DPS Police Training Unit and shift supervisors are responsible for the planning, development, and delivery of Roll-Call Training. Other personnel, such as subject matter experts, may also be utilized to present Roll-Call Training.