

THE BRIEFING

A Publication of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement

Inside this issue:

Commission Meeting Highlights 2

The 2014 Training Coordinators' Conference 3

Commissioner Changes 4

Government Relations Division 5

Special Services Division 6

Enforcement Division 6

Field Services Division 7

Credentialing Services Division 8

Legal Division 10

2014 Racial Profiling Reporting

Reminder, Law Enforcement Agency's Racial Profile Reports are due to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) by March 1, 2015. Agencies may begin reporting on January 1, 2015. Agency chief administrators will be able to submit racial profile reports through their [Department Reporting System \(DRS\) account](#).

Agencies that do not have access to DRS, or who are not sure how to log in, should contact TCOLE for assistance. New agency administrators must send a letter, notifying TCOLE of the new administrator appointment and any changes to the department address, phone number or email address. The letter must be signed by the Agency Administrator or City Manager, County Judge, Dean College President, etc... on letterhead.

Information about reporting options as well as past racial profiling reporting statistics can be found on our [website under the Help and Resources tab](#).

If you have any questions and/or need assistance, please contact Nazareth Munoz at 512-936-7721 or via email at nazareth.munoz@tcole.texas.gov

By Nazareth Munoz

Upcoming Events

2015 Commission Meetings:

- March 5
- June 11
- September 10
- December 3

Commission Meeting Highlights

The latest Commission meeting was held at the J.J. Pickle Research Campus on Thursday, December 4, 2014. Here are a few highlights from the meeting:

2015 Commission Meeting Dates: All 2015 Commission Meetings will be held at the J.J. Pickle Research Campus on March 5, June 11, September 10, and December 3.

New Commissioner: Commissioner Johnny Lovejoy resigned and was replaced with Commissioner Patricia Garza. The position of Secretary of the Commission has been filled by Commissioner Jason Hester.

Executive Director Report: TCOLE has a new Government Relations director, Gretchen Grigsby. The Deadline for submitting nominations for the 2014 Achievement Awards is December 31, 2014. The 2014 Training Coordinators Conference grew to 669 attendees which is the largest turn out to date.

Follow-up Items From Previous Meetings: Discussion around an expedited process for Class B Misdemeanor Waivers resulted in a decision to leave the process as is for all license types including telecommunicators.

Proposed Orders of Amendment: Rules proposed for amendment were approved to be posted with the Texas Register and are now open for public comment. These are not finalized rules.

211.3 (c)(2) Public Information

- Removes former website domain name (tcleose.state.tx.us)

221.43 Special Weapons and Tactics Proficiency Certificate, 221.45 School Resource Officer Proficiency Certificate, and 221.47 Canine Officer Proficiency Certificate

- These new rules allow for a proficiency certification in specialized areas. The rule specifies a 2 year expiration and update courses, as well as certification from the appointing Chief Administrator.

For more information

Meeting Minutes: Other items, including line of duty deaths, waiver requests, proceedings for revocation, suspension, and other disciplinary actions, and previous meeting minutes, can be found under the Who We Are/The Commission section on our website at: www.tcole.texas.gov.

Live Recordings: Video recordings of the meetings can be found on our website on the Who We Are/The Commission page at: www.tcole.texas.gov.

Public Comment: Anyone wishing to make a public comment may do so at the following email address: public_comment@tcole.texas.gov.

2014 Training Coordinators Conference

This year's Training Coordinators Conference was held at the Omni Bayfront Hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas on October 20-23, 2014. There were a total of 669 attendees, punctuating the fact that this conference has grown rapidly over the last few years. Despite the growing numbers and crowded seating, feedback about the speakers, events and general format of the conference was very positive.

A copy of the 2014 Question and Answer session will be available on our website soon!

Each year, Executive Director Kim Vickers and Director of Agency Operations John Helenberg provide the opportunity for coordinators to text in questions and comments, which are addressed during the TCOLE Speaks portion of the conference. This Q and A session is beneficial to new and well seasoned coordinators, as it provides clarity on rules and procedures that are relevant to training coordinators today.

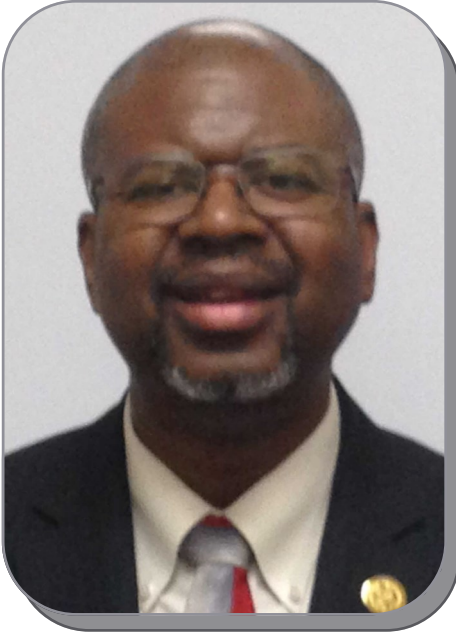
After attending the fantastic line-up of expert speakers, coordinators were provided with networking opportunities during after hours events featuring karaoke and a talent show. The conference also serves to raise money for the Peace Officers' Memorial by hosting a Fun Run, as well as live and silent auctions. The conference raised over \$10,000 this year!

You can look forward to next year's conference, which will also be held at the favored Omni Bayfront Hotel, on October 19-22, 2015. If you'd like to stay at the host hotel be sure to make your reservations early!



Speaker Randy Means closes out the conference on the topic of "Managing for Organizational Integrity"

Changes Within The Commission



Commissioner Johnny E. Lovejoy, II

Commissioner Johnny E. Lovejoy, II has resigned from the commission. Lovejoy was appointed as Commissioner on January 12, 2009, to fulfill the unexpired term for former Commissioner Ada Brown. He was reappointed to the Commission on September 4, 2013. Commissioner Lovejoy was elected as Secretary to the Commission on March 4, 2010, and reelected on September 5, 2013.

Gov. Rick Perry has appointed Patricia Garza of Olmito, Texas to fulfill Commissioner Lovejoy's unexpired term. Commissioner Garza's term is set to expire Aug. 30, 2019. The commission ensures Texans are served by highly trained and ethical law enforcement and corrections personnel through screening, developing and monitoring resources, and setting standards.



Commissioner Patricia Garza

Garza is an attorney in private practice and a past Assistant District Attorney for the Cameron County District Attorney's Office. She is a member of the State Bar of Texas and New Mexico, and the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. She is a member and past co-chair of the Cameron County Bar Association-Women's Bar Section, and past president of the Cameron County Young Lawyers Association. She is also board chair of the Tropical Texas Behavioral Health Board of Trustees and a member of the Texas Council of Community Centers' Board of Directors.

Garza received a bachelor's degree in biology and a Master of Business Administration from The University of Texas-Pan American, and a law degree from the Oklahoma City University School of Law.

source: <http://governor.state.tx.us/news/appointment/20302/>

Government Relations Division

2015 Legislative Session

The new Government Relations Division is preparing for the upcoming 84th Texas legislative session, which begins January 13, 2015. Check our website's [What's New](#) section to keep up with the bills that TCOLE is tracking and those that impact the law enforcement community.



New Way to Follow TCOLE

If you aren't already following TCOLE on Twitter, you can find us under the name [TCOLE_Ops](#). Follow us for the latest TCOLE news, including upcoming events, new curriculum, and other updates as they happen.

The 2014 Nominations for the State of Texas Law Enforcement Achievement Awards; Deadline is December 31, 2014

One area in law enforcement that sometimes is neglected is to give outstanding officers rightful praise when they truly go beyond the call of duty, for taking those extra steps to protect and serve the community, and to enhance law enforcement. The State of Texas Achievement Awards is one way to accomplish this as well as bring your agency recognition. The TCOLE nomination form is easy to fill-out, along with supporting documents, and requires only a short amount of time and effort. Nominations can be submitted after the event has occurred, but has a deadline of December 31st for the current year. Let us praise the good work that our officers do and don't let these unsung heroes be failed the honor that they deserve at the State's level.

Check our website under [Who We Are > Honoring Our Law Enforcement Officials](#) after the March 2015 Commission Meeting for the approved new recipients who will receive their award in June 2015.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Le Blanc, Custodian of Records/Public Information at 512-936-7763 or email at laura.leblanc@tcole.texas.gov.

Special Services Division

Curriculum Updates

There were no updates made to the course curriculum materials between September—December 2014. However, the webpage where the curriculum currently resides will be receiving a significant overhaul. Curriculum materials will be categorized and easier to find on our site in the near future. The course materials can be found under the Training/Course Curriculum Materials and Updates section on our website: www.tcole.texas.gov.

Pass Rates

The 2014 pass rates for academy providers offering basic licensing courses have been posted under [Help and Resources > Publications](#) on our website at www.tcole.texas.gov.

New Agencies

Since Sept 2014, the following new agencies have been established:

- Hamilton Police Department
- Zapata County ISD Police Department
- Melissa ISD Police Department
- Mabank ISD Police Department
- Marshal ISD Police Department
- Carrizo Springs Police Department

Enforcement Division

Non-Compliance Cases

Investigators in the Enforcement Division are finally beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel when it comes to non-compliance of the 2013 unit. In October and November, they closed out approximately 165 cases, including non-compliance, criminal and administrative cases.

As we gear up for last stretch of this current unit, The Enforcement Division would like to remind everyone to go into their MyTCOLE account and update their contact information. Having your most current address, phone number, and email address on file will help us reach out to you before the unit ends, so you can avoid becoming another non-compliance case.

Field Services Division

By Richard Gutierrez

MyTCOLE Account

Attention Training Coordinators and Chief Administrators: Tired of having to look up Personal Status Reports (sometimes repeatedly) for fellow officers who can't remember what continuing education courses they are supposed to take? Still trying to help a telecommunicator update his or her address by mail or fax? Attempting to locate training for peace officers or jailers working the "graveyard" shift? Looking for that elusive Cultural Diversity mandate? Trying to avert a license suspension for one of your officers? Fret no more – we've got the solution!

Help your officers, jailers and telecommunicators help themselves by teaching them how to open a MyTCOLE account. Then just sit back, relax and enjoy the many benefits! The more co-workers you assist with this task, the simpler and happier your life will be. This free, user friendly tool provides 24-hour access to the licensee's complete training and education history, certification listing, personal account information and training conference and seminar registration.

To help them get started, just follow the link on the home page of the TCOLE website, or click here:

<https://tcleose.texas.gov/myTCLEOSEAccount/index.cfm>

MyTCOLE Account Benefits

Link to online training through the new and improved "TCOLE Learning" site

Pre-register for upcoming meetings, conferences, and seminars

View and access license information for all Licenses held

View college education credit information

View and track personal training history

Update or correct personal address

Purchase proficiency certificates

Purchase a new photo ID card

Print personal status report

Access service time

Credentialing Services Division

By Lisa Fontenot

Telecommunicator Examinations

We all know that telecommunicators need 3 courses to get licensed: 1013, 1305 and 2120. But in what order are those courses supposed to be taken?

Here is a timeline of a telecommunicator that may help clarify some of the common confusion. Keep in mind that these scenarios are geared toward brand new telecommunicators, and not to telecommunicators that went through the conversion process in January 2014, and that there are a number of other scenarios that can take place.

Telecommunicator Starts Working On A 1 year Temporary License	Non-Temps	Temp Expires Before License Upgrade
<p>Applicant completes L2/L3 and pre-licensing requirements*</p> <p>L1-T is submitted to TCOLE to start a temporary license (good for 1 year)</p> <p>Temporary Telecommunicator takes 1013 and 1305</p> <p>The Telecommunicator is now eligible to take the state exam</p> <p>Before the temp license will upgrade to a full license, the telecommunicator must take 2120. This can be taken before or after the exam, but must be taken within the 1 year temporary period**</p> <p>If the temp telecommunicator has taken 1013, 1305, 2120, state exam, still holds an active appointment, and is still within the limit of the 1 year temp period, the license will be upgraded</p>	<p>Applicant completes L2/L3 and pre-licensing requirements*</p> <p>Some agencies choose to send telecommunicators through 1013, 1305, 2120 and the exam before the telecommunicator begins dispatch work</p> <p>Once courses are complete, the agency sends an L1-T</p> <p>In this case, there is no temporary license. A full license will be issued upon processing of the L1-T</p>	<p>If the telecommunicator does not become fully licensed by the time the temporary license expires, the department must send an F5 and the telecommunicator must cease dispatch duties</p> <p>The telecommunicator must complete 1013, 1305, the exam and 2120 before they can go back to work</p> <p>So long as these conditions are met within 180 days of the F5 separation date, the department may submit the L1-T without the need for a new L2/L3</p> <p>The telecommunicator will be awarded their full license once the L1-T is approved, and they may return to their dispatch duties</p>

*Pre-licensing documentation includes L2, L3 and all of the items listed on the law enforcement agency checklist

**§1701.352. CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS (h)

Roster Amendment Changes

As of November 10, 2014, we have updated our roster amendment procedures. A form is now being emailed to the individual who is requesting the amendment. The form must be completed and signed by the Training Coordinator. The form should be sent back to Claire Colburn, along with all required documents. The roster will be amended and an email will be sent to the department confirming the amendment has been completed. If you have any questions, please email Claire Colburn at Claire.colburn@tcole.texas.gov

Credentialing Services Division (Continued)

Missing and Exploited Children (Course 3275)

Effective January 1, 2015, this course will become mandated to earn the INTERMEDIATE or ADVANCED certificates.

Training Requirements

Police Chiefs – Course 3780 –Chief Continuing Education through Bill Blackwood by August 31, 2015

Peace Officers – 40 hours to include 3183 – State and Federal Law Update by August 31, 2015

Telecommunicators – 20 hours by August 31, 2015

College Request Forms (F7)

TCOLE only accepts colleges that are accredited by a Regionally Accredited Organization. Please refer to Rule §211.1(a)(3) –Accredited college or university--An institution of higher education that is accredited or authorized by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, or an international college or university evaluated and accepted by a United States accredited college or university.

FAQ's concerning an F7

Q: If I have a Bachelor degree from a non-accredited university, but working on a Master degree from an accredited university, can I still receive credit for my Bachelor degree?

A: Due to the fact that the accredited university accepted the Bachelor degree, **once you have obtained** the Master degree, you will be able to receive credit for both degrees.

Q: I am not working for a department. Can I send in my college information for credit?

A: Yes, you can. On our website under [Forms and Applications](#), you will find the F7 form. You will need to submit the form, official transcripts and a \$35 fee.

Q: How can I check to see if my education has been updated?

A: You can log into your MyTCOLE Account > My Records > Formal Education.

Q: Will my college credits count towards the 40 hour training requirement for the unit?

A: No, college credits cannot be used towards the 40 hours of training that is required for the unit. You must still complete the 40 hours and any mandated coursework for the unit.



Legal Division

Proposed Rule Amendments

Rules proposed for amendment during the December 2014 meeting, including the addition of three new proficiency certificates, are currently open for public comment. Please send your feedback and comments to: public_comment@tcole.texas.gov

- Proposed Amendment 1
§ 211.3 (c)(2) Public Information (amendment)
- Proposed Amendment 2
§ 221.43 Special Weapons and Tactics Proficiency Certificate (new)
- Proposed Amendment 3
§ 221.45 School Resource Officer Proficiency Certificate (new)
- Proposed Amendment 4
§ 221.43 Canine Officer Proficiency Certificate (new)

To see the proposed amendment rule summaries, visit the Commission page of our website found under [Who We Are > The Commission](#) at www.tcole.texas.gov.

Legal Statistics

The following proceedings for revocation, suspension and other disciplinary actions took place at the December 2014 Commission Meeting. For a complete listing of these license actions, including names, departments, and case numbers see the meeting agenda found on our website under [Who We Are > The Commission > Meeting Minutes](#) at www.tcole.texas.gov.

Type of Action	Number of Licenses
Default Suspension Orders	12
Agreed Suspension Waivers	1
Agreed Suspension Orders	1
Default Revocation Orders	1
Proposal for Decision Orders	4
Statutory Revocation	2
Statutory Suspension	1
Permanent Surrenders	15
Suspensions for Failing to Complete Legislatively Required Continuing Education	45
Reprimands for Failing to Complete Legislatively Required Continuing Education	134
Reprimands for Administrative Violations	2

Commissioners

Sheriff Joel W. Richardson
Presiding Officer

Patt Scheckel-
Hollingsworth
Assistant Presiding Officer

Major Jason D. Hester
Secretary

Patricia Garza
Constable Ron E. Hood
Rob Kyker
James Oakley
Sr. Police Officer Joseph
Pennington
Chief Ruben Villescascas



Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Texas Commission on Law
Enforcement

6330 E Highway 290, Ste.
200

Austin, TX 78723-1035

Phone: 512-936-7700

Fax: 512-936-7714

Website:

www.tcole.texas.gov

The Briefing Editor:

[Jessica Teseny](#)

Notice

In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, the publications of the Commission are available by request in alternative formats. To request an accessible format, please contact our ADA Compliance Officer at the address or phone number listed above, or through RELAY Texas at (800) 735-2989.

The Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate in providing services or employment.