

# PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

## Constables' Education and Training Board

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## CONSTABLES' TRAINING BULLETIN

NUMBER 53

DECEMBER 2005

### **Constable John Anderson**

**September 19, 1934 - October 31, 2005**

Constable John Anderson passed away October 31, 2005. Constable Anderson was appointed to the Constable Training and Education Board by former Gov. Tom Ridge. Constable Anderson was one of the original Board members in 1995. John was born Sept. 19, 1934 and served as a private first class in the Marine Corps during the Korean War. He received the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal and the United Nations Medal. He was a retired police officer in the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, D.C. He was an elected state constable for Hughestown borough for the last 20 years. He served as the regional director of Region II of Pennsylvania State Constables Association. Constable Anderson's input and insight in helping the Board developing standards was extremely valuable and all will miss him.

### **Associations Information**

The Constables' Training Program is requesting information from all of the various individual unaffiliated constables associations in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Please have one contact person from each association PCCD your association's contact information and key person by Jan 1, 2006:

PCCD  
Constables' Training Program  
P.O. Box 1167  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17108-1167

-OR-

Call:  
(717) 705-3693 ext. 3055

P.O. Box 1167, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1167  
Telephone: (717) 705-3693 – Toll Free (800) 692-7292  
FAX: (717) 783-7140  
[www.pccd.state.pa.us](http://www.pccd.state.pa.us)

## **PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE**

### **Reminder to Renew Your Insurance**

As all constables should be aware, Section 2942(b) of Act 44 makes it mandatory that “Every constable and deputy constable must file with the clerk of courts proof that he has, currently in force, a policy of professional liability insurance covering each individual in the performance of his judicial duties with a minimum coverage of \$250,000 per incident and a minimum aggregate of \$500,000 per year.”

In addition to requiring constables to have professional liability insurance and to file proof of insurance with the clerk of courts, the Act establishes that failure to accomplish those two mandates will result in the certification of the constable being revoked.

Section 2942(c) of Act 44 states: “Any constable or deputy constable who fails, neglects or refuses to maintain a current insurance policy as required by subsection (b) or to file proof thereof with the clerk of courts shall cease automatically to be certified to perform judicial duties upon the expiration of the policy of which proof has been filed with the clerk of courts.”

### **Information Update Regulation Regarding Change To Registration**

Title 37 § 431.11 Registration: A person shall register with the Board for certification by submitting information such as mailing address and telephone number, Social Security number, date of birth and office held or sought. A constable shall set forth the beginning date and expiration date of the term of office held, and provide documentary evidence of election or appointment. A registrant shall inform the Board of a change to registration information within 15 days of the change.

### **2006 ID Cards**

In December 2005, the PCCD will mail new certification cards to all constables who have maintained their certification by successfully completing continuing education during 2005 and by filing current professional liability insurance information with their county clerks of courts. Ample allowance will be made for normal mailing time, so that constables should receive their new cards before the old ones expire on December 31, 2005. To ensure that cards are mailed to the correct address, any constable who has recently changed his address should report that change to the PCCD immediately.

## Act 233

PCCD is developing a process to address **Title 42 § 2949 (f)**. Assisting constables and deputy constables with the costs associated with attending continuing education. Implementation of the Act 233 should begin during 2006.

**42 § 2949 (f) Fund Surplus-** If the account moneys are sufficient to meet the expenses and cost under subsection (a), the commission may allocate any surplus funds in the account to assist constables and deputy constables with the cost associated with attendance at continuing education program under section 2946 (relating to continuing education).

**This year it is extremely important for all constables and deputy constables to update their zip code in anticipation of implementing Act 233. This year you must add the four-digit code at the end of the zip code. This can be done on-line thru the "Constable Personal Information Viewer" on the PCCD web page.**

### **2006 Constables' Training 20-Hour Continuing Education**

Constables and deputy constables must successfully complete the 20-hour continuing education course in order to renew their certifications for 2006. Based upon successful completion of continuing education by November 2006, constables and deputy constables will be issued certification cards in December 2005, which will indicate certification for 2006. There are no waiverable subjects for municipal police officers or deputy sheriffs for 2006.

#### **Continuing Education Subjects for 2006**

**Legal Update: Levies** - At the start of this four-hour block of instruction, the constable will take a Levy Pretest in order to review his or her knowledge of the responsibilities of performing a levy. Constables will be presented with problematic case studies that have occurred across the Commonwealth relative to the performance of levies by constables. They will review and discuss the Rules of Civil Procedure Governing Actions and Proceedings Before Magisterial District Judges applicable to the constable's duties in performing levies. Constables will identify the steps involved in performing levies, based on sample facts and circumstances, and will demonstrate their abilities to properly perform levies through practical, role-playing exercises.

**Defensive Tactics: Assault Defense** - As recent, high-publicity incidents involving constables have shown, the criminal element doesn't care if a constable only serves civil process. Anytime a constable comes between a criminal and his freedom, that constable risks being assaulted. This eight-hour continuing education course examines the three most common ways that a constable may be attacked, and provides the opportunity for each constable to integrate realistic and practical tactics into his defensive arsenal. The course will consist of a one-hour lecture that will include live footage of officer assaults. The remaining seven hours will provide the constable with hands-on practice of defensive skills, culminating with a written exam.

**Prisoner Escape Response** - Upon the conclusion of the delivery of this four-hour training, the constable will thoroughly understand and be able to discuss laws pertaining to the escape of persons in custody of law enforcement officers and be familiar with the Crime Victims Act as it pertains to constables and prisoner escapes. Trainees will learn of escape situations that have actually occurred and learn assessment techniques in order to minimize, if not completely eliminate, the potential for prisoner escapes. Constables will learn what they must do in response to prisoner escape situations, know the constable's responsibilities with regard to victim notification, and understand the constable's secondary and assisting role to the agency of jurisdiction after an escape has occurred.

**Court Security** - This four-hour course will review the legal and ethical responsibilities of the Pennsylvania State Constable with respect to court security and examine the importance of the role of security in the functioning of the courts and in the protection of persons involved. Constables will be taught standard court security principles and practices, and how to develop a court security survey, including the events and/or actions that constitute a threat to court security and the actions and decisions required of constables under such circumstances. Constables will have the opportunity to discuss the handling of different types of court security breaches through two case studies.

## **2006 Constables' Training Optional Training**

Voluntary, optional training is in addition to the mandatory continuing education and basic training. It will not take the place of any part of the mandatory curriculum. Constables can choose to participate in one, two, or all three modules. They will be offered on a first come, first served basis. Because of the hands-on nature of the modules, class sizes will be strictly enforced. Current, valid certification is required before any constable or deputy constable can be enrolled or admitted to any optional class. In order to maintain current, valid certification, a constable must be current with his or her Act 1994-44 Training and have current professional liability insurance on file with the county clerk of courts office. See Title 37 Law, Chapter 431, for standards and procedures relating to the certification of constables and deputy constables.

## Optional Training

**Defensive Tactics: Essential Skills Enhancement** - This four-hour course begins where the 2005 Defensive Tactics course ended. In 2005, constables were given the opportunity to test their skills in a series of scenarios, but were not graded. While that class was beneficial in evaluating the constable on outcome-based solutions, the 2006 class will allow for further refinement of basic defensive tactics skills. Scenarios will consist of Handgun Retention, Actively Resistant Prisoner (attacking), Compliant Handcuffing, and Non-compliant Handcuffing. Constable-supplied training equipment includes duty belt, handcuffs and other restraint items, mouth guard, groin protection, and chest protection for females. No live weapons will be permitted.

**Monadnock Expandable Baton (MEB) Advanced** - This course adds four subject-control techniques to the Monadnock Expandable Baton (MEB) Basic Course and is presented in a four-hour block of instruction. Successful completion of the course will provide the constable with certification from the Monadnock Police Training Council, Inc. Constables will demonstrate their baton carries, blocks, strikes, and retention techniques. They will also demonstrate subject-control techniques, including baton arm locks, escorts, and handcuffing techniques. Constables will be able to discuss use of force issues and the Monadnock Baton Chart.

**Safe Vehicle Operation** - This is an eight-hour block of instruction that includes lecture and a video presentation on safe vehicle operations. The video presentation will require class participants to choose correct courses of action in given situational scenarios. Upon the conclusion of this course, the constable will be able to explain why constable vehicles are not emergency vehicles and cite what applicable motor vehicle law prohibits the use of emergency equipment reserved for other law enforcement officers and public safety officials. Other topics will cover the necessity and legal obligation of being properly insured and explain the necessity of regular vehicle maintenance. Constables will train in the proper securing and positioning of prisoners being transported, and will be able to check their reaction skills utilizing a variety of video scenario driving situations.