

Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP)

Crime Scene Response Section Crimes Against Persons Division



February 20, 2007

Crime Scene Response Section Responsibilities

Overall responsibility is to investigate crime scenes.

- Detectives investigate persons crimes.
- Non-Sworn Technicians investigate property crimes.

CSRS Staffing

This is a 24-hour operation divided into three 8-hour shifts, each commanded by a lieutenant to provide citywide coverage.

Sworn Personnel:

24 call answering positions

5 AFIS positions – (process prints & arrestees for identification)

Non-Sworn Personnel:

24 call answering positions

Crime Scene Response Activity - 2006

- Crime Scene Technicians answered 13,597 property crime scene calls.
 - Average - 577 calls/tech
- Crime Scene Detectives answered 6,565 persons crime scene calls.
 - Average – 274 calls/tech

There are two dynamics that caused the necessity of a written program that documents training and competency procedures of personnel:

Science

&

Law



SCIENCE



Science technology has evolved and now requires crime scene investigators to have sufficient training to identify potential sources of scientific evidence.

Law



Daubert v. Merrell Dow
(92-102) 509 U.S. 579 (1993)

Kumho Tire v. Carmichael
119 S. Ct. 1167 (1999)

These cases established the criteria used by the courts to evaluate potential evidence and to qualify witnesses as experts for the purpose of providing courtroom testimony.

Criteria requires existence and maintenance of standards. These standards are:

- Structured Training Program
- Training Updates
- Proficiency Standards
- Proficiency Testing
- Certification
- Membership/affiliation with professional groups or organizations, such as the International Association for Identification and Forensic Quality Services International



Development of Field Training and Evaluation Program

Reorganization Committee established from all levels of sworn and non-sworn staff.

Committee recommendations disseminated within the Crime Scene Section for review and recommendations. Final version approved by Division and Bureau Commanders.

Utilizes the same model used to train all Dallas officers.

Two programs that our forensics training is based on are the Las Vegas Metropolitan Crime Scene Unit and the Mississippi State Crime Lab.

Overview of Field Training & Evaluation Program

- In-house training ...80 hours (1st Phase)
- Field training ...4 weeks - non-sworn; 10 weeks - sworn
- In-house training ...80 hours (2nd Phase)
- Released from training at certification Level 1 (probationary)
- Complete additional specialized forensic training/forensic test
- Quarterly proficiency tests for evaluating competency
- Every two years employee must pass a mandatory comprehensive proficiency test to evaluate competency and to advance the certification level of the employee

Section Training Officer

- Full time sworn training officer coordinates the Field Training and Evaluation Program. This position also instructs mandated or advanced forensic crime scene instruction.
- Field training officers are selected from within the unit based on level of training/proficiency they have reached (highest level is desired), recommendations of supervisors, and results of interview panel.

Benefits of Field Training & Evaluation Program

- Provides documentation that can be used in conjunction with performance evaluations
- Provides job enrichment by advancing education and training experience
- Provides consistency among all personnel
- Enhances the Department's reputation within the forensic community

Results - 2006

- 10,807 calls resulted in fingerprints being lifted.
- 7% of calls answered resulted in the identification of a suspect due to fingerprints alone— industry average is 4. %
- 2,984 AFIS identifications made out of 9,321 submitted - (32%)
- 137,000 photos of crime scenes processed

Questions?

