

SUMMARY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE
PROJECT NUMBER 369

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy became a reality in 1965 as a result of legislation passed by the General Assembly in March of that year. The Academy Director was hired by the Commission in August of 1965 and initial training programs were started in September of 1965.

In view of the fact that the Academy did not own any physical plant of its own from which to operate, classes were held in various places around the State. These included State Parks facilities, National Guard facilities, college campuses, and on occasion, hotels and motels. In January, 1968, the Academy occupied facilities at East Camden, Arkansas on a permanent basis. These facilities had formerly been a portion of a Naval Supply Station.

Arkansas law enforcement personnel have eagerly accepted the central Academy concept and the demand for Academy training programs had exceeded both the physical facilities and financial resources which could be supported by the State.

In March, 1968 the Academy Director formulated and presented to the Office of Law Enforcement Assistance, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., a plan which would supplement and assist the Academy in giving training programs similar to, but also in addition to, those already being presented. This plan was approved and went into effect on 1 July, 1968, by the Office of Law Enforcement Assistance and was designated "Police In-Service Supervisory and Operational Training", Project Number 369.

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

The objectives of the project were easily defined and simply stated. As had been outlined in the project request, our objective was to present additional training programs which were in great demand that we would have been unable to present without additional financial assistance.

Specific goals were to train a minimum of 360 Arkansas law enforcement officers in matters pertaining to Police Management, Criminal Investigation, Juvenile Delinquency and Police Community Relations.

It was also our objective to have as many high ranking individuals as possible attend the training programs. It was felt that by exposing as many senior persons to high quality training, additional emphasis may be placed in their agencies and departments on the continuation of training and education for their personnel. Simply stated, the overall objective of the project was to train a minimum of 360 Arkansas law enforcement personnel in areas in which a lack of information was quite evident.

TRAINING PROGRAMS AND METHODS

The project provided for 12 supplemental training programs which could be added to the curriculum already established at the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy during the 18 month period beginning 1 July, 1968, and ending 31 December, 1969.

The training programs were:

Police Management	2 Sessions
Juvenile Delinquency Matters	3 Sessions
Police Community Relations	4 Sessions
Criminal Investigation	3 Sessions

The courses in Police Management were presented as programmed and we were successful in having a high percentage of senior personnel attend these programs. The comments which were received on critique forms and in correspondence from students attending these sessions were highly complementary for the most part and indicated that most of our law enforcement personnel in supervisory positions could and would support training programs which were properly organized, properly managed and well presented. A number of the students attending the Police Management programs were officers who were scheduled to move up the chain of command in the near future. In accepting and programming students for these programs we encouraged supervisory personnel to make an extra effort to enter persons in the programs whose authority would be increased in the near future.¹

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

In planning the sessions for Juvenile Delinquency Matters it was found that a great deal of interest was expressed by nearly all contacted, however, in the initial planning phases, it appeared to be difficult to obtain and to formulate a curriculum which seemed to fulfill the needs of our police officers. It appears that the principle reason was that few departments in our State were large enough or had taken the initiative to the point where

¹ See Table, Page 51, of the Report. (Analysis of Attendance by Grade.)

an officer was designated to be a specialist in juvenile affairs. Of the three Juvenile Matters sessions programmed, only two were presented.²

POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The four training sessions programmed for Police Community Relations were presented as originally planned.

There was a great deal of interest in the subject material and the need for additional training programs throughout the State in this subject became evident.

In view of the large number of law enforcement personnel interested in this subject material and the concentration of a great deal of the law enforcement personnel in the Central portion of our State, one of these training sessions was held in Little Rock. All other sessions were held as originally planned in the Academy facilities, East Camden, Arkansas. East Camden is located in the extreme southern portion of the State, approximately 115 miles South of Little Rock.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Three training programs were presented as originally planned in the project plus one additional program for a total of four covering this subject. As indicated above, the change of one program from Juvenile Delinquency Matters to Criminal Investigation as authorized by O.L.E.A. has been discussed.³

² See discussions of changes to original plan, Page 17 and in the following section of this summary.

³ See the section of Prime Report on Changes to Project.

The Criminal Investigation training programs were the most popular programs presented. As a result of the pilot programs which were made possible by this project, additional training programs in the area of Criminal Investigation have been made a part of the regular curriculum offered at the Academy. Generally speaking, the students attending the Criminal Investigation courses were lower in rank than those attending the other training sessions. This, of course, could be expected since this would blend with the normal structure and duties of officers within a department.

CHANGES MADE DURING COURSE OF PROJECT

The principal change made during the entire project was that one of the three Juvenile Delinquency Matters Courses of instruction was deleted. In place of the training session on Juvenile Matters an additional Criminal Investigation training program was given. The main reason for requesting the change indicated above was that it appeared that we would be unable to develop a curriculum and to program competent qualified persons to instruct in the area of Juvenile Matters.

We were able to provide two excellent programs on Juvenile Matters with highly qualified competent individuals doing the instruction. In looking back at the project results, it is felt by all concerned that the change was justifiable and was in the best interest of the project.

Other minor changes in specific dates for the presentation of various training sessions were made from time to time and were reported on regularly in quarterly reports.

Since it was not possible for all employees to be in place on 1 July, 1968, as originally planned, the project reached its normal conclusion date

31 December, 1969, with a small amount of funds still available. On 16 December, Project Director requested a one month extension of the project with no additional funds required. This extension was granted by Mr. Norval Jespersen, Office of Law Enforcement Assistance, Region V, Dallas, Texas, on December 31, 1969.

TRAINING METHODS AND STUDENT ATTENDANCE

As previously indicated, all of the training sessions with the exception of one in the area of Police Community Relations were held at the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy permanent operational site, East Camden, Arkansas. The sessions were presented by the most experienced and qualified personnel which we could obtain within the means available. Curriculums were devised and schedules formulated by the permanently assigned project personnel keeping in mind balances between lecture, demonstration, field trips, seminars, and student participation.

Prior to each session considerable travel was performed in an effort to give broad coverage as to the intent of the scheduled training programs. Approximately one month prior to each session all chiefs and sheriffs who had expressed an interest in the project were contacted by letter outlining the specific training session in question. Applications were included with the bulletin. It was requested that applications be returned to the project office approximately two weeks prior to the beginning of the session. Students selected to receive the training were notified approximately 10 days prior to the opening day of the training session.

The response was extensive and in many instances all who desired to attend could not be accepted.

The total number of full time students trained during the project exceeded the number originally programmed. 472 full time students were trained. Our original plan stated that we would train at least 360 full time students. Also, 115 part time students were given various degrees of training during many of the sessions. An Academy certificate was awarded to attest the fact that those attending on a full time basis had received a formal course of instruction.

CONCLUSION

It is the opinion of the writer and all closely associated with the activities of Project Number 369 that the major goals and objectives were obtained. Many Arkansas law enforcement personnel were exposed to formal training programs for the first time. They attended training sessions in which they were interested and where an obvious need for additional information existed. In examining statements made both verbally and on critique forms issued each student, it is apparent that most persons are eager to learn and will willingly support good training programs.

The Project Director and all concerned wish to express our gratitude to the O.L.E.A. and everyone having anything to do with the project. The cooperation and general enthusiastic reception of our efforts is very much appreciated.