



Ottawa Police Service

Suspect Apprehension Pursuit Training Review

January 10, 2010

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Background:

In 1999, the Police Services Act was updated to include Regulation 546/99 regarding Suspect Apprehension Pursuits (SAP). Police services were directed to provide specific accredited training to all police officers, dispatchers, communications supervisors and road supervisors. The OPS responded by developing the 2-day SAP training currently being delivered to the above members. All new recruits attending OPC now receive this training.

The legislation requires re-certification for every officer every two years. The OPS re-certification course consists of a classroom refresher and test for two hours and an on-road practical for four hours. An on-line registration system was developed to allow members to register themselves for the re-certification training.

Issue:

Is there a more efficient and effective way to deliver this training within the provincial guidelines?

Research:

All recruits are provided with the introductory SAP training at OPC. Re-certification is the responsibility of each police service.

A best practices review was conducted, consulting numerous police services across the province. It was found that a range of services was being delivered across the province:

- Several services provided no SAP training or re-certification
- Block training by PowerPoint presentation
- Online only (via CPKN - 2 hours)
- Blended delivery (online via CPKN + 2 hour lecture)
- Classroom + On-road Practical (Frontline Members) and Online via CPKN training (Non-Frontline Members)



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A review was conducted of our current SAP courses, delivery methods and staffing. Currently, three constables are assigned to deliver the SAP training. A minimum of two are required to deliver the practical component, often three are used when training recruits. There are four vehicles designated for the training. We must also look at the students' time away from their regular positions.

The CPKN on-line course was evaluated. The province has determined that it meets legislated requirements. It is the only one of its kind that meets requirements. The course was found to be easy to follow and the site was user-friendly. CPKN representatives were consulted regarding costs, course tracking and reporting. All CPKN courses are tracked and participating agencies have access to the data base of their own members. Costs of courses range depending on length of course, number of participants and size of participating agency.

CPKN has a specific schedule of graduated costing and based on training 1273 sworn members and dispatchers, it would cost OPS \$27,000 over two years.

Options:

1. Continue to deliver the SAP training as we are, averaging six students each session for six hours.
2. Use the CPKN Course to re-certify all sworn members and dispatchers on a bi-annual basis. Cost would be approximately \$13,500 per year. The three SAP trainer constables would not be required in this capacity and could be re-assigned to supplement the Use of Force training unit. With block training looming, these three positions will be essential to meeting the scheduling needs. The two-hour on-line course could be accommodated in the block training cycle and would use the computer classroom space already in place at PDC. The three marked vehicles could be re-deployed into the fleet.
3. Continue to deliver the SAP training as we are to front line members and deliver the CPKN Course to non-front line members. The three instructors would still be required but would have a significantly lighter workload with only half as many members to teach. The vehicles would still be required. Cost of CPKN to non-front line members would be approximately \$9,200 per year based on 650 members trained. This would be more cumbersome to track given the movement of officers into and out of front line positions.

Recommendation:

There are a number of factors which support moving entirely to the CPKN training. Many non-front line members find they do not benefit from the on-road training as they will not be in a position to pursue anyway. They also find it difficult to schedule around court and other commitments. Front line members and their supervisors find it difficult to schedule the training on-duty while balancing operational demands, court appearances and staffing shortages. Adding the two-hour course into the



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block training cycle would alleviate this problem. Those not in the block training cycle could access the training site from any computer, at their convenience.

Eliminating the three SAP instructor positions and re-allocating them to Use of Force will help to meet the scheduling needs of that unit with the increased needs from block training. Given the demands for Use of Force training, this would ease some of that strain and provide better, more flexible service to our members.

In reviewing the SAP training it is necessary to weigh the benefits of “hands on” practical refresher training with the costs and efficiencies of the way we do business. Is there an increased risk to the organization or the public by eliminating the practical component? Peel Police are the only other police agency still delivering this component. I was unable to find any information that would suggest that there is an increased risk to officers or members of the public if the practical component is eliminated. We stress that front line officers should be aware of their driving strategies everyday on the road, not just when on a six-hour refresher course every other year.

The CPKN course meets legislated requirements, it is efficient and easy to access and complete. It can be accessed at the participant’s leisure, to fit within their schedule. Participants are tracked and training records are generated within the system. The computer classroom is already in place at PDC. It would fit easily into the block training cycle. The cost is minimal compared to the current salaries, vehicles, classroom time, participants’ time and value of the training. This is not to say that the current training has no value, its value is subjective depending on the participant, ie. front line vs. non-front line.

The CPKN course delivered to all of our sworn members and dispatchers would certainly meet our needs.

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Costing considerations:

- 3 marked vehicles, maintenance, fuel
- 3 full-time constable instructors \$216,000 per year
- 6 hours of student time x 1273 students 7,638 hours (\$275,349 based on 1st class Cst)