Inventory of the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training Records

Processed by Jessica Knox
California State Archives
1020 "O" Street
Sacramento, California 95814
Phone: (916) 653-2246
Fax: (916) 653-7363
Email: ArchivesWeb@sos.ca.gov
URL: http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/
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Inventory of the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training Records

Collection number: R192

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Jessica Knox

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training Records


Collection number: R192

Creator: Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training

Collection Size: 7 cubic feet of textual and audiovisual records

Repository: California State Archives
Sacramento, California

Abstract: The records of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission consist of seven cubic feet of textual and audiovisual records spanning the period from 1970-1992, which reflect the activities of the Commission as it worked to raise the level of effectiveness of state law enforcement through improved selection and training standards.

Physical location: California State Archives

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
While the majority of the records are open for research, any access restrictions are noted in the record series descriptions.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training Records, R192.[Series Number], [box and folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

Acquisition and Custodial History
The California State Archives acquired the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training Records according to state law.

Administrative History
In July 1959, Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown signed legislation creating the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training within the California Department of Justice (Chapter 1823, Statutes of 1959). The Commission was the first such organization in the United States, created to function as a special fund agency to develop and administer selection and training standards for state law enforcement.

The Commission consists of peace officers from city police departments and county sheriff's offices and elected officials from cities and counties. Charged with enhancing the professionalism of California law enforcement, the primary duties of the Commission include assuring that sufficient resources are available to law enforcement to meet training and standards needs; developing standards and guidelines for hiring peace officers; improving the quality and availability of training for...
peace officers; and streamlining administrative procedures to reduce costs and increase the efficiency of operations at the local and state level. The Commission also develops and certifies course curriculum and peace officer training courses, which are provided through local community colleges, four-year colleges and universities, police academies, private trainers and training centers.

Since its inception, programs administered by the Commission have been voluntary and incentive-based. Participating agencies that abide by Commission rules and standards receive revenue and grants to and to cover the costs of administration and to fund peace officer training. The Commission receives operating funds from the Peace Officer's Training Fund, which in turn is supported by the State Penalty Assessment Fund. Therefore, the Commission is not supported by tax dollars, but by penalty assessments on criminal and traffic fines.

Scope and Content
The records of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission consist of seven cubic feet of textual and audiovisual records spanning the period from 1970-1992, which reflect the activities of the Commission as it worked to raise the level of effectiveness of state law enforcement through improved selection and training standards. The record group is organized into four series: Bill Files, Correspondence, Subject Files, and Training Program Files.

The bulk of the records pertain to developing and improving training programs for California peace officers. The majority of the legislative measures present in the Bill Files series, for example, sought increased funding for peace officer training and proposed new programs in the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. The Training Program Files focus solely on training program development, and include material related to the creation of courses in narcotics investigation, traffic accident investigation, and bailiff and civil process training. The Subject Files will also be of help to researchers interested in peace officer training program development. For example, the Commission created the Shooting Simulator Advisory Committee to oversee the production of a "Shoot/Don't Shoot" training simulator to test "shooting judgment," or when to hold fire. Files regarding shooting judgment contain a wide variety of materials including videocassettes, photographs, and publications.

Also present in the collection are the records of the Center for Police Management, an organization established within the Commission in 1973 to streamline the administrative functions of local and state law enforcement. The Center for Police Management records are organized into three series: Bill Files, Subject Files, and Research Study Files.

The majority of the material produced by the Center for Police Management demonstrates its role within the Commission as a resource for effective law enforcement management strategies. Within the files are studies, research projects, correspondence and reports used by the Center for Police Management to provide local law enforcement agencies with managerial support and solutions to administrative problems. For example, the Subject Files contain information on a 1978 'training needs assessment' of local governments affected by Proposition 13, which reduced funding for city and county law enforcement agencies.

Accruals
Further accruals are expected.

Related Collections at the California State Archives
California Council on Criminal Justice Records

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
California. Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training
Peace officers
Police training
Series 1 Bill Files 1975-1990

Physical Description: 42 file folders

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by legislative session, then numerically by bill number.

Scope and Content Note
Bill files consist of analyses, correspondence, notes, reports, newspaper clippings and background material regarding state legislation that affected issues within the scope of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission, as well as legislation that affected the funding, composition and scope of the Commission. Topics include peace officer licensing, concealed firearms, the use of stun guns, procedures for interviewing minors, and the use of electronic surveillance equipment. Also of interest is material related to the development of peace officer training curriculum through legislation, regarding the handling instances of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. For example, in response to a number of incidents in which peace officers confused Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) with child abuse and parental negligence, SB1067 of 1989 proposed the development of a course to train peace officers in recognizing SIDS.

1975-1976: AB2866-AB4249 (2ff) Box 1/1-Box 1/2.
1979-1980: AB332-AB3296, ACR112 (4ff) Box 1/12-Box 1/14.
1983-1984: AB5-AB4022, AB41X, AB41XX (3ff) Box 1/20-Box 2/1.
1983-1984: SB147-SB1536, SCR75 (2ff) Box 2/2-Box 2/3.
1985-1986: AB49-AB4062, ACR34 (4ff) Box 2/4-Box 2/7.
1989-1990: AB670-AB2505, ACR5B-ACR89 (1ff) Box 2/19.

Series 2 Correspondence 1975-1986

Physical Description: 13 file folders

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by year.

Scope and Content Note
Correspondence from POST consists of letters, memoranda, and other material related to the functions of the Commission. The majority of the correspondence is composed of inquiries from prospective peace officers, which the Commission responded to with information about policies and procedures in place in California governing the selection and training of peace officers. Many prospective applicants, for example, requested information about aural and visual acuity requirements. The Commission also responded to numerous research requests from other states regarding peace officer training programs. Other topics present in the correspondence include the development of police academy courses and testing material, information about workshops, conferences and meetings attended by members of the Commission, and peace officer certification.
Series 3 Subject Files 1976-1992

Physical Description: 29 file folders

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

Access Information
Access to audiovisual materials requires the production of use copies.

Scope and Content Note
Subject files typically consist of correspondence, notes, news clippings, publications, reports and background material. General subjects include confidentiality, citizenship requirements for peace officers, domestic violence, legislation related to law enforcement, meeting minutes, agency organizational charts and information about the Commission's history. Also of interest are textual and audiovisual materials related to "shooting judgment" or "Shoot/Don't Shoot" training. The Commission was greatly interested in developing a shooting simulator, to be used by police departments to train officers when to discharge their weapons and when to hold fire. For this purpose they created the Shooting Simulator Advisory Committee, which contracted with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department to produce a prototype shooting judgment simulator. Audiovisual materials have been separated to a cold-storage vault for preservation purposes and separation sheets are in the files to alert the researcher to the existence of these items.

ID R192.004, Box 4/17-Box 4/25
Series 4 Training Program Files 1975-1987

Physical Description: 13 file folders

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

Scope and Content Note
Training Program Files consist of correspondence, notes, news clippings, reports and background material related to peace officer training program development. Many of the files pertain to the creation of specific training courses such as those covering the investigation of advanced traffic accidents, child abuse, and narcotics. Other courses include bailiff and civil process training, drug and alcohol recognition training, and instruction in juvenile procedures. This series also contains budget change proposals and material related to the funding of community college-based police academies.

Records of the Center for Police Management 1970-1979

Scope and Content
The Center for Police Management was established within the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission on June 1, 1973 in order to provide organization policies, procedures and practices to effectively coordinate police activities in the State of California. The Center for Police Management was active in researching common problems in law enforcement relating to police management and reviewing professional literature and research projects. In addition, the Center for Police Management also provided a resource library for law enforcement managers and responded to inquiries from law enforcement administrators. Funded by the California Council on Criminal Justice, the Center for Police Management was initially authorized to function for one year. Due to its success the Center for Police Management was extended until 1982.
Series 1 Correspondence 1970-1979

Physical Description: 9 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by year.
Scope and Content
Correspondence from the Center for Police Management primarily consists of responses to inquiries from law enforcement administrators and researchers interested in law enforcement policies and procedures. Also included are internal memoranda regarding the function and responsibilities of the Center for Police Management. Topics of interest include the development of the Center for Police Management, project priorities, funding, and problems and issues related to police management and administration.

Series 2 Subject Files 1973-1978

Physical Description: 7 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by subject heading.
Scope and Content
The Subject Files span a wide variety of topics relevant to the Center for Police Management. The Center collected material from California law enforcement organizations, such as the Association of Police Planning and Research Officers, the California Association of Police Training Officers, and the California State Sheriff’s Association. Also included are progress reports chronicling the activities of the Center for Police Management. Of particular interest is a 'training needs assessment' of local governments conducted in 1978 following the passage of Proposition 13. The Commission and the Center for Police Management sought to offset funding reductions experienced by many city and county governments by providing reimbursements for law enforcement training.

Series 3 Research Study Files 1985-2000

Physical Description: 6 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by subject heading.
Scope and Content
This series consists of various studies and research projects conducted by the Commission or consultants working for the Commission, kept by the Center for Police Management for research purposes. The majority of the studies are career oriented, including "Career Ladder and Job Restructuring," "Physical Performance Examination for Law Enforcement Officers," and "Selection Standards Project." Also of interest is the "Police Vehicle Accident Study," compiled by the Commission, which analyzes the factors contributing to vehicular accidents involving peace officers.