

# **P.O.S.T. Update**

The Georgia POST Council has issued the following information.

## **Curriculum Change for Radar Recertification**

Effective March 10, 2011, the curriculum for the Radar Recertification course (course code UTT02R) is changed to *remove the examination* at the end of this course. Agencies can teach the radar recertification course. Instructors must obtain the course materials from either a POST certified academy or POST Council. Once a course is taught, the instructor can send the Course Completion Report (C12) to POST to obtain the radar recertification cards for the students completing the training course. If it is taught at an academy, the academy will provide the recertification cards and enter the training for the officers completing the course. POST certified speed detection instructors will be able to sign the C12 to get POST credit for the radar recertification course as a student since there is no longer an examination requirement.

## **Proposed Rule Changes**

See attached proposal. Open hearings will be scheduled on these proposed changes within the next couple of months. Please watch the website at [www.gapost.org](http://www.gapost.org) for the notification of these open hearings. A summary of the changes are:

- The appeal process will be a one-step process with thirty (30) days to complete the step.
- Employing agencies and arresting agencies will be required to notify POST Council within Fifteen (15) days of any arrest of a certified officer.
- Officers certified after January 1, 2012 will be required to apply for recertification every four (4) years from the initial date of certification.
- The voluntary certification for chaplains is being discontinued.

## **New POST Records Software**

The software design is nearing completion as “punch items” are being addressed during the in-house testing. Academies will be trained on the software in the coming weeks, and once academies have tested aspects of the software, training for agencies will begin. Please watch the POST website for notices of training on the software within the next few months.

Agencies will be receiving notifications regarding officers that are identified that may not have completed the process for certification (i.e. not submitting fingerprint results to complete their application) or ones that have not completed any annual training requirements/obtained the required training waivers. It is important that agencies and officers respond promptly to get these issues resolved prior to the conversion to the new software. Such unresolved issues could get delayed responses during the launch phases of the new software if they are not addressed promptly upon notification.

## **Falsification of POST Documentation**

In the past couple of weeks, felony warrants have been sought for two individuals that have provided false information in their applications for certification. During the past year, one department's training officer has been charged with falsifying an officer's training records.

**APPEALS:**

First was the consolidation of the two-step appeal process. The current fifteen (15) day window for two separate steps was put into one thirty (30) day process. I had found that the two-step process was somewhat confusing. The new process will be posted on the POST web site at [www.gapost.org](http://www.gapost.org).

**RECERTIFICATION:**

Council also voted on going forward with the process of recertification of basic certifications. Recertification for practical purposes will require that officers who graduate from the academy after January 1, 2012 will have to be re-certified every four (4) years, so it really *takes effect in 2016*. The process will consist of a POST Council review of the officer's fingerprint results (GCIC/NCIC), driver's history, training history, and completion of a themed POST training requirement during the certification period. Officers will have to complete such themed topics as Eyewitness ID, Elder Abuse, Domestic Violence, etc. during the certification period (not annually). *The current annual training requirement of twenty hours including Firearms Recertification & Use of Deadly Force for peace officers will not change.*

To this point, I have talked with over 200 Georgia law enforcement officers, and to a person, they were in favor of the recertification process. Why recertification? Well, as you know as LE officers, you are required to self report any violation of the law, with the exception of the minor traffic violation. However, POST is discovering that most officers do not self report, and even though there was no requirement, agencies don't report officer arrests unless they are terminating the officer. It is sad to say, but there are times that agencies don't know of these arrests either.

That said, recertification will, in our opinion, reduce both agency and officer liability. In court, the officer will be able to hold up his/her recertification document in front of judges and defense lawyers when asked, "When were you certified?" The officer can then reply. "I was certified in such and such a year and recertified recently."

Will there be a fee associated with recertification? Yes, it will be minimal to cover the costs of staffing and materials to conduct the reviews. The details on other logistics and applications to be used in the recertification process will be forthcoming as this new rule is implemented. Finally, POST has spent the last three (3) years constructing a certification exam. This exam will be in addition to the exams taken in the basic mandate academy. This certification exam will focus on the application of the law, rather than memorization of the law.

The exam currently consists of 200 questions randomly drawn from a test bank of over 900 questions. The questions cover materials taught in the current basic curriculum. While the logistics of the exam have not been decided, I will publish more on the process as it moves forward. While there were other POST processes covered in the meeting, I wanted to highlight these areas. In closing, let me say that POST is honored to be able to serve the fine men and women in Georgia's law enforcement community, and may the Good Lord Bless You in what you do and keep you safe!

Sincerely,

**Ken Vance – Executive Director**