

## Crater Criminal Justice Training Academy 2025 Training Symposium findings

When we did a member agency survey in 2022, we did so digitally. For the 2025 survey, we invited the chief/sheriff/superintendent and training officer from each of our member agencies to attend the afternoon training symposium in June 2025. We started with a group session, facilitated by Dr. Jeff Green, who talked about the importance of the information to be gleaned from the afternoon's discussions. The group, made up of 13 chiefs/sheriffs/superintendents and 17 training officers from 18 different agencies, and 3 jails, was then broken up into 3 groups and assigned to 3 different rooms. Each room had a CCJTA staff member to facilitate discussion and the same list of questions to get through, while the CCJTA staff member took notes on flipchart paper. After about an hour of discussion, the group was gathered back together and the CCJTA staff member from each room gave the group a briefing of their room's discussion. Dr. Green then found and discussed commonalities among them. Compiled below are the responses to the questions asked by the CCJTA staff to each group, presented here as they were written, in our brainstorming sessions, in no particular order. Recurring requests and themes have helped to shape the 2026 calendar and will inform 2027 and 2028, as well.

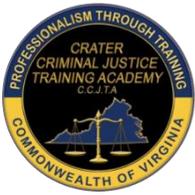
### **1. What topics are most valuable or in highest need?**

- DT refresher/open mat time
- Crime prevention specialist
- CIT
- Peer Support
- Cybercrimes/computer fraud/scams
- Undercover school
- ALERRT
- Advanced evidence collection/preservation/processing
- Gang/organized crimes
- First aid/CPR/AED & instructor
- IPMBA
- Reid Interview & Interrogation
- Report writing
- Courtroom testimony refresher
- Use of force continuum (decision making)
- Hands-on with red man
- Cell extraction
- Multi-generational communication
- De-escalation
- Diver certification
- First line supervisor
- Mental health

### **2. Regarding the Basic Recruit class,**

#### **a. What are graduates very well qualified to do upon graduation?**

To learn



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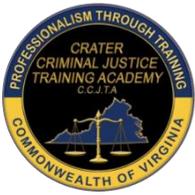
Officer safety  
Report writing  
Presentation  
Legal

### **b. What are graduates unprepared for when they enter field training?**

To leave training environment- maybe weeklong ridealongs during basic  
Controversy/adversarial encounters  
Communication: radio, public, etc.  
1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment encounters/challenges  
Interaction with commonwealth attorney  
Interdiction training (street cops)  
Officer safety  
Stance- interview  
Awareness  
Physical activities  
Apply the legal  
Knowing what to do on a call when first contacting  
Interviewing/speaking to people (not just interrogation)  
Reading/understanding DMV/NCIC/VCIN paperwork  
Patrol rifle

### **3. If budget was no object, what training would you want offered at the academy?**

Range expansion for more availability  
Advanced leadership training  
Dive team training  
VirTra/sim training  
Takeaways from current events/incidents  
Constitutional law training  
Range improvements  
Cell extraction  
Physical skills training/martial arts  
ILEEDA trilogy  
Basic forensic (photos/prints)  
Combat pistol (realistic OIS shooting situations)  
ALERRT/Active shooter  
Virtual opportunities or taping courses (ex. De-escalation)



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### **4. Are there any other topics that you have seen elsewhere that you would like to see at Crater?**

- Higher levels of ICS & emergency management
- In-service for dispatchers
- In-services for SROs
- Spanish
- Red dot & rifles
- Red dot instructor
- ARIDE
- FOIA
- Drones, bomb dogs, AI
- Sovereign citizens/moorish nation
- Advanced crash investigation
- Armorer
- Tactical medic
- In-service legal update
- More supervisor training
- Background investigator
- Technology investigation (social media)
- Digital forensics
- Digital search warrant data
- 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment audits
- Expand general district testimony practice

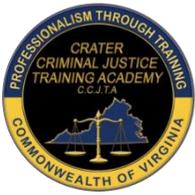
### **5. What is going well in your agency? In what way, if any, has the training helped in what is going well?**

- Red dots improve firearms scores
- Customer service trainings have improved interactions

### **6. What do you see as the real strengths of your Agency? In what way, if any, has training helped with that?**

- Community events/engagement- crime prevention specialist
- More training opportunities help with morale

### **7. What are the challenges you have in your Agency? Is there anything that Training does (in a negative way) to those challenges?**



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Availability to attend & send instructors, due to staffing/emergency events/session

**8. Many Agencies have a mission statement that includes professionalism, or well-trained Officers...do you feel your Agency is taking full advantage of all the training offered?**

Desire to attend more, staffing challenges to doing so

**9. How do you consume information, training offered, what method(s) work best?**

Desire for more in-person, convenience for online  
Topics drive interest in-person  
Learn more in-person through discussion  
TRACER/training grid  
Like new class emails & low enrollment alerts  
Webpage/calendar

**10. Did you know about some training that Crater has offered:**

- a. Duty to Intervene
- b. Chaplain Training
- c. Dispatcher In-service Training
- d. Financial Planning
- e. Peer Support

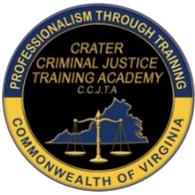
Mixed response to these categories, some were known, some not

**11. Regarding our online program, are there any changes you would like to see with that?**

All topics available each year  
Online training follow fiscal year instead of calendar year  
Additional online training other than TRN?

**12. Regarding 'training for the future', do you think training in the uses of AI, or augmented reality would be interesting?**

Yes



## **Crater Criminal Justice Training Academy**

### **2025 Training Symposium findings**

#### **13. Regarding how training is delivered**

- a. Do you like the 'levels' of training, for Officers and Supervisors are effective?**

Yes, for supervisor

- b. Do you like 'modules' as we have done the last year or two, where we have 'core' training with then 'add on' days, vs a 40-hr. block?**

One-shot for all hours

#### **14. Would you like to see 'skills' days back in In-Service?**

Yes

#### **15. Other thoughts/comments?**

Firearms: mag retention, turning targets

Email training officers with issues with all recruits, not just those from their own agency

Add CIT to basic schools