

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

2023

Government to
Government
Agency Report

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Introduction

The mission of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) is *pursuing excellence in training and accountability for public safety professionals*.

DPSST certifies/licenses police officers, corrections officers, parole and probation officers, regulatory specialists (OLCC), telecommunicators (9-1-1), emergency medical dispatchers, criminal justice instructors, private security providers and entities, private investigators, fire service professionals, and polygraph examiners in the State of Oregon. DPSST works with Oregon's public and private safety agencies by providing basic, leadership, and specialized training at the 237-acre Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem and regionally throughout the state. The agency is also responsible for determining candidates' eligibility to run for the office of Sheriff, authorizing federal officers to make arrests pursuant to ORS 133.245, and providing staffing for the Public Safety Memorial Fund and Governor's Commission for the Law Enforcement Medal of Honor.

DPSST strives to provide the resources public safety providers and public safety agencies need to maintain the highest skills and provide excellent service to Oregon's communities and citizens.

Tribal Relations

Deputy Director Brian Henson currently serves as the primary agency representative on the Government-to-Government Public Safety and Enforcement Cluster Group. Over the last year, DPSST participated as a member of the Government-to-Government Public Safety and Enforcement Cluster Group.

DPSST uses the information gathered at these meetings to ensure agency-sought statutory or administrative rule changes that could impact members of the public safety community, including tribal law enforcement, corrections, and fire service agencies, are always constructed and informed to recognize the sovereignty of the tribes. Information from national associations and federal public safety agencies that is of potential interest to cluster group participants is also provided on an ongoing basis.

Senate Bill 412 (2011), Authorized Tribal Police Officers, and DPSST (Ongoing)

Senate Bill 412 was approved during the 2011 legislative session and gave participating tribal law enforcement agencies and authorized tribal police officers the same police powers as the city, county, and state law enforcement officers. DPSST works with tribal law enforcement agencies to maintain the documentation required for agencies to exercise the authorities granted to an authorized tribal police officer under SB 412.

There are currently eight tribal law enforcement agencies, all of which are in compliance with the requirements of SB 412 and may utilize authorized tribal police officers. Those agencies and the dates they achieved recognition include:

- Klamath Tribal Department of Public Safety – Oct. 12, 2011
- Coos, Lower Umpqua, & Siuslaw Tribal Police Department – Dec. 21, 2011
- Umatilla Tribal Police Department – Jan. 6, 2012
- Warm Springs Tribal Police Department - April 9, 2012
- Grande Ronde Tribal Police Department - May 30, 2012
- Columbia River Inter-Tribal Police Department – Sept. 21, 2012
- Coquille Indian Tribal Police Department – Dec. 21, 2012
- Cow Creek Tribal Police Department – Dec. 7, 2020

In order for a tribal law enforcement agency to use these powers, the tribal police officer must be a DPSST-certified police officer. To date, there are 85 police officers employed by these tribal police departments who are subject to the same certification maintenance requirements, including maintaining minimum moral fitness standards, as defined by Oregon Administrative Rule.

Senate Bill 731 (2021 Regular Session) amended the original provisions of SB 412 by removing the requirement for tribal governments to be in compliance with requirements of ORS 181A.355 to 181A.689 applicable to a law enforcement unit. The intent of SB 731 was to recognize and maintain the sovereignty of the tribes and ensure the recent state police reform bills did not end up indirectly regulating tribal law enforcement agencies and officers on tribal lands. SB 731 maintained the requirements for tribal governments to continue to report separations of employment for authorized tribal police officers and follow the rules and regulations related to age, background checks, psychological examinations, and physical, intellectual, emotional, and moral fitness requirements adopted under ORS 181A.410 for all authorized tribal police officers. SB 731 was effective Jan. 1, 2022.

Police Officer Training Relating to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons

During the 2022 Legislative Session, DPSST was directed to submit a proposal outlining an operational plan for the provision of training for police officers concerning the investigation and reporting of cases involving missing or murdered Indigenous persons. The Center for Policing Excellence (CPE) within the training division at DPSST developed this plan and submitted it to the Legislative Assembly in October 2022.

During the plan development, the CPE conducted an assessment to determine the most effective, efficient, and equitable means to develop and deliver this training. Among other steps, the assessment included an examination of federal guidelines (Savanna's Act), discussions with the Oregon

Department of Justice Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Coordinator, discussions with the Oregon Tribal Chiefs of Police, and collaboration with the United States Attorney's Office Tribal Liaison.

Although the House Bill did not make it through the session, DPSST recognized the importance of the training and implemented training into course curriculum at the Oregon Public Safety Academy. Three hours of the 640-hour Basic Police training were reallocated to provide training on Criminal Jurisdiction Related to Tribal Lands and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons to all new police officers in the state.

Additionally, existing academy courses on Missing Persons Investigations and Domestic Violence Investigations were updated to include guidelines for responding to MMIP cases and the addition of the Full Faith and Credit Clause (Article IV, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution). These curriculum changes were approved by the DPSST Board in October 2022 and implemented in the Basic Police course at the academy in February 2023.

DPSST collaborates with the US Attorney's Office on an Agency Loan agreement to secure qualified legal instructors to deliver the Criminal Jurisdiction Related to Tribal Lands course. The Tribal Chiefs of Police have been asked to take part in the training delivery as well.

Additional Public Safety Outreach

DPSST continues to provide information on training opportunities for tribal public safety agencies, including leadership training for managers and executives. DPSST hosts a variety of training sessions for public safety executives and field training officers (including tribal public safety agencies). Training class topics have included active shooter, implicit bias, dealing with people in crisis, stress first aid, leadership, investigative techniques, and many others. These training opportunities were provided free of charge at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem and at locations around Oregon through DPSST's regional training network. All of Oregon's tribal police agencies actively participate in DPSST training opportunities.

In 2020, DPSST received recognition that the 16-week Basic Police Course delivered at the Oregon Public Safety Academy and the mandatory Police Field Training Manual completed after the Academy meets and exceeds the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) standards and is recognized as equivalent training by the USDOJ/BIA.

DPSST invites tribal law enforcement personnel to participate in workgroups formed for the purposes of updating training curriculum and certification standards.

DPSST shares information with tribal fire-rescue agencies on federal grants provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which provide funds, on a competitive basis, to fire agencies around the nation, including tribal structural firefighting agencies, for equipment, apparatus, training, safety gear, staffing, prevention, and several other areas.

Conclusion

DPSST continues its commitment to providing the best training possible and search for innovative and progressive ways to carry out its mission. The agency realizes that support from its constituents, including its tribal partners, is critical to this endeavor and understands that only by working together can the ever-changing needs of Oregon's residents be addressed. DPSST remains committed to the Government-to-Government process and looks forward to continuing its efforts in 2024 and beyond.