



CHAIRMAN'S MEMORANDUM

NO. 6-2005

May 10, 2005

**TO: SHERIFFS, JAIL ADMINISTRATORS, COMMISSIONERS OF CORRECTION
& TRAINING COORDINATORS**

RE: Basic Course for Correction Officers/Basic Course for Peace Officers with Firearms Certification

As you know, appointment of an individual as a correction officer simultaneously confers the status of a peace officer. In order to maintain this dual status, the officer must pass both the MPTC Basic Course for Peace Officers with Firearms training and the Commission's Basic Course for Correction Officers within the time frames set forth - six months from date of hire for firearms, and one year to successfully complete the Basic Course for Correction Officers /Basic Course for Peace Officers. The statutory requirement to train correction officers as peace officers requires them to be trained on firearms, regardless of the facility policy concerning their carrying weapons as part of their duties.

Over the last few years, working in conjunction with the Division of Criminal Justice Services, Office of Public Safety (OPS), Commission staff have modified the Basic Course for Correction Officers to include all of the classroom material needed for Basic Course for Peace Officers with Firearms certification. As of January 1, 2005 OPS has not approved the Basic Course for Peace Officers without the inclusion of the initial firearms component.

As of July 1, 2005 the Commission will require that the firearms portion be included as part of its Basic Course for Correction Officers in order to become a certified correction officer. **Absent firearms training, peace officer training certification will not be issued. Individuals without peace officer status cannot serve as correction officers and shall not perform any of the functions of a correction officer** such as detention or supervision of an inmate, transportation of an inmate, or using any authorized physical force to maintain control of an inmate and the security of the facility.

Enclosed please find a memo from DCJS's Deputy Commissioner James DeLapp outlining the position of DCJS-OPS concerning the status of peace officers as conferred on correction officers. Also, a new form for applying for a Basic Course for Correction Officers is enclosed. These forms will be used to provide the Commission and OPS with the required information relative to the combined courses- once all information concerning the completion of the Basic Course for Correction Officers/Basic Course for Peace Officers with Firearms is completed, the officer will receive his diploma as a Correction Officer from the Commission, and OPS will issue a peace officer certificate. This new form will soon be made available on the Commission's website in a downloadable format.

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Alan J. Croce, Chairman/Commissioner

Frederick C. Lamy, Commissioner
Frances T. Sullivan, Commissioner

Individuals failing to complete all aspects of the above required training (including firearms) will not be certified as a Correction Officer after one year has elapsed from being hired, and shall result in their removal from the jail as a correction officer. Any continued assignment of non-certified staff could have significant legal implications.

Alan J. Croce, Chairman/Commissioner

Enclosures