



# **Iowa Law Enforcement Academy**

**Supplemental Information  
For Appropriations Subcommittee FY 2015**

**Arlen Ciechanowski  
Director**

# Iowa Law Enforcement Academy

## PROFESSIONALISM THROUGH TRAINING

### *A history of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy*

The Iowa Law Enforcement Academy was created by an act of the Iowa legislature in 1967 with the purpose to improve law enforcement to professional status. The specific goals were to maximize training opportunities for law enforcement officers, to coordinate training and to set standards for the law enforcement services. The Academy establishes minimum standards for Iowa peace officers and grants officers certification. The Academy has the responsibility to decertify or to suspend an officer's peace officer certification when necessary. Furthermore, the Academy is responsible for providing basic and in-service or specialty training for all county and city jailers, as well as telecommunication personnel. Finally, the Academy is also tasked with establishing standards and training requirements for reserve peace officers.



After ten years of work, in 1967, the legislature passed what is now known as Iowa Code Chapter 80B, which created the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council. Specifically, this code sets forth that the Academy must set standards, regulate law enforcement, grant officer certification for those persons successfully completing training, as noted above. In the first three years, the Academy was under the auspices of the Department of Public Safety. However, in 1970, the legislature made the Academy an autonomous department and placed it under the Office of the Governor, who appoints the Director. Since its inception, the Academy has been served by five directors: John F. Callaghan, 1968-1983; Ben Yarrington, 1983-1993; Gene W. Shepard, 1993-2002; E. A. "Penny" Westfall, 2002-2011; and Arlen Ciechanowski, 2011-present. The Governor's Office also appoints members of the Academy Council for four-year terms.

The first Academy building - what is known as the administrative building - was built on Camp Dodge property on nine acres designated to it from an Act of the U.S. Congress in 1969. The addition, which now houses the rest of the Academy, was built in 1974. Various remodels and updates have occurred over the years, but the building remains remarkably intact and functioning.



Current day, located within Camp Dodge, in Johnston, Iowa, the Academy provides residential training sessions varying in length from the current 14-week peace officer basic training to specialty and advanced or in-service seminars. The Academy can provide housing for

# Iowa Law Enforcement Academy

## PROFESSIONALISM THROUGH TRAINING



### *A Year in Review: the Academy in Fiscal 2013*

Approximately 6,000 peace officers in Iowa are currently certified, as well as about 1,250 reserve officers. Jailers (some of whom are certified peace officers, while some are civilian correctional officers) and about 1,300 telecommunicators in the state are also mandated by the Iowa Administrative Code, Section 501, to be trained at various levels. In FY 2013, the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy trained 181 officers for their basic certification, and oversaw two intermediate and three regional academies, who in sum trained 83 officers. Eight officers became certified peace officers through examination in FY 2013, and 222 reserve officers underwent training via online learning modules. A total of 1,055 jailers and 164 telecommunicators obtained basic and specialty training in FY 2013. Additionally, 1,195 peace officers completed specialty, instructor, or recertification of instructor qualifications in FY 2013. Furthermore, 47 command staff members from jails, telecommunications, or law enforcement received leadership instruction. In sum, in addition to the five basic law enforcement courses, the Academy held, at various locations around the state or at the Academy, a total of 80 law enforcement training events for instructor certification/recertification and specialty training events, four basic jail training events and 33 specialty events, and one leadership training opportunity. A total of 3,256 were trained in FY13.

The Academy remains committed to bringing cutting edge programming to law enforcement, jailers, and telecommunicators across Iowa, as evidenced by partnerships with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Secret Service, the Midwest Counterdrug Training Center, Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety, and many others. The Academy is looking forward to growing its presence within the law enforcement community as the "go-to" resource by also serving as a bulletin board for training around the state.

112 persons at any time; often, while a basic peace officer academy is in session, others attending jailer or telecommunicator training events may be in residence as well. The Academy building itself consists of dormitory rooms, classrooms, a cafeteria providing three meals per day, a physical fitness room, photography and video production studio, and a library with computers, printers, and Internet access, as well as administrative offices. The Academy shares firearms ranges and tactical facilities with the Iowa National Guard on Camp Dodge. Additionally, the Academy has partnered with the Des Moines Area Community College to utilize its driving track in Ankeny for basic driving and skid car training, and travels to Newton's Speedway for additional skill courses.

**Governor's Recommendations**

**FY 2015:** The Governor is recommending no change for FY 2015 compared to estimated FY 2014.

**General Fund Recommendations**

	<u>Estimated FY 2014</u> (1)	<u>Dept. Request FY 2015</u> (2)	<u>Gov Rec FY 2015</u> (3)	<u>Gov Rec vs Est. FY 2014</u> (4)
<b><u>Iowa Law Enforcement Academy</u></b>				
<b>Iowa Law Enforcement Academy</b>				
Law Enforcement Academy	\$ 1,003,214	\$ 1,003,214	\$ 1,003,214	\$ 0
<b>Total Iowa Law Enforcement Academy</b>	<u>\$ 1,003,214</u>	<u>\$ 1,003,214</u>	<u>\$ 1,003,214</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>