



Pennsylvania
**Commission on Crime
and Delinquency**

Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board

2024 Annual Report



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Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board

2024 Annual Report

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A Message from the Chair

This report, which provides details on activities pertaining to the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board (SDSETB) during calendar year 2024, serves as a review of the SDSETB's accomplishments and future goals. It is my pleasure to present this report to you on the 40th anniversary of the Training Program.

In February 1984, the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board was established by Act 2 of 1984, the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Act, to train and certify deputy sheriffs employed by the Commonwealth's 67 county sheriffs' offices. In September 2014, Act 114 amended the original legislation, renaming the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board to the SDSETB. The updated legislation included requirements for the training of sheriffs and provided provisions for certification revocations. Operating under the oversight and staff support of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the SDSETB has continued to implement and improve training and certification processes as delineated by the Act.

The SDSETB remains committed to evolving with the changing needs of the Commonwealth's sheriffs as well as their role in the criminal justice system, shaped by legislative mandates and the courts. Since its inception in 1984, the SDSETB has trained and certified over 7,640 deputy sheriffs, while the training population has tripled in size. The training program curriculum has expanded from 160 to 760 hours and now offers year-round classes leading to certification. Several new subjects were developed, and revisions have been made to the existing curriculum. In addition, the SDSETB has instituted a series of supervisory trainings along with several optional skills, web-based online, and instructor development courses. Students seeking certification are now required to complete a portion of their coursework through online instruction.

During 2024, the SDSETB made significant strides to enhance the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Training and Certification Programs. The SDSETB continues to address fiscal challenges, but with the passage of Act 134 of 2020, increased surcharge collections have allowed the SDSETB to begin reimbursements to counties.

Given the goals achieved during the past 40 years, the SDSETB will continue to meet the training needs of the Commonwealth's sheriffs and their deputies and continue moving forward with the development of new and innovative training programs.

Jody L. Smith

Jody Smith, Chair



2024 Board Membership

Eric Weaknecht, Former Chair
Sheriff, Berks County

Jody Smith, Chair (current)
Sheriff, Cumberland County

Angelinel Brown
Lieutenant
Philadelphia County

Barry Howe*
First Deputy Chief
Office of the Attorney General

Honorable Michael Koury, Jr.
Court of Common Pleas
Northampton County

David Glass
County Commissioner
Clearfield County

Stephanie Jirard
Professor of Criminal Justice
Shippensburg University

Honorable Brandon Neuman
Court of Common Pleas
Washington County

Jason Tarap
Deputy Sheriff
Allegheny County

Edward Walker
Deputy Sheriff
Montgomery County

* Representing Attorney General Michelle A. Henry

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

Austin A. Davis
Lieutenant Governor
Chair, PCCD

Michael Pennington
Executive Director
PCCD

Bureau of Training Services

John Pfau
Manager

Donald Numer
Training Supervisor

Douglas Hummel
Specialist

Board Organization

The SDSETB was originally established as the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board under Act 2 of 1984, the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Act, to serve as an advisory body to PCCD. In 2014, Act 114 expanded the Board's responsibilities to include training for sheriffs, prompting the renaming to its current title.

The SDSETB consists of 10 members: two judges from the Court of Common Pleas, two sheriffs, three current or former deputy sheriffs, one educator, one county commissioner, and the Pennsylvania Attorney General.

Under 44 Pa.C.S. Chapter 74 (relating to sheriffs and deputy sheriffs), the SDSETB is required to establish, implement, and administer a program of basic and continuing education training for sheriffs and deputy sheriffs. The statute requires all newly hired deputy sheriffs attend basic training to be certified as a deputy sheriff. Sheriffs (in general) are also required to obtain certification within their first term of office. Additionally, all sheriffs and deputies are required to maintain their certification through biennial continuing education.

The SDSETB is authorized to establish rules and regulations governing all aspects of the training program, including the certification of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs. The SDSETB operates under the oversight of the PCCD, which provides the administrative structure and staff support to carry out its responsibilities.

The activities of the SDSETB and its program staff, along with related training programs, are supported independently of PCCD's General Governmental Operations budget. This is accomplished by the assessment of a surcharge on all legal papers served by sheriffs' offices. After remaining unchanged for 20 years, the fee was increased under Act 134 of 2020.

PCCD is responsible for disbursing funds from the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Account, a restricted receipts account maintained by the Office of State Treasurer, for the costs of the training program, its administration, and the expenses of the SDSETB. The Act also authorizes reimbursement to each county for costs associated with the training of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, including tuition and allowable living and travel expenses during training, and their salary while they attend training.

In 2013, the SDSETB's expenditures exceeded its revenues. This, along with transfers by previous administrations from the training account to the State's General Fund, depleted the SDSETB's resources. To address this issue, the SDSETB took prudent cost-saving measures and reduced or cancelled training where appropriate. In 2017, the SDSETB and Commission made the decision to suspend reimbursements to counties for salary and travel.

During 2024, the SDSETB continued to revise and update the curriculum, as well as explore the use of web-based training to better meet the needs of the sheriffs and deputy sheriffs and produce cost savings. Further, with the passage of Act 134, which increased surcharge collections for the Training Account, the SDSETB resumed paying reimbursements owed to counties.

Financial Report

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
SHERIFF AND DEPUTY SHERIFF EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACCOUNT
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES AND PROGRAM BALANCE
for Calendar Year 2023 - January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

REVENUE:

Fee Collections	\$5,788,276.24
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EXPENDITURES:

Administrative	\$673,833.47
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Education

Basic Training	\$2,555,719.93
Continuing Education	\$0.00
Curriculum Development	<u>\$77,897.02</u>
Curriculum Manager	<u>\$75,345.15</u>

Total Education Expenditures	\$2,708,962.10
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Reimbursements to Counties	<u>\$1,839,772.25</u>
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Total Expenditures	<u>\$5,222,567.82</u>
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Revenue Over Expenditures and Other Uses	\$565,708.42
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PROGRAM BALANCE

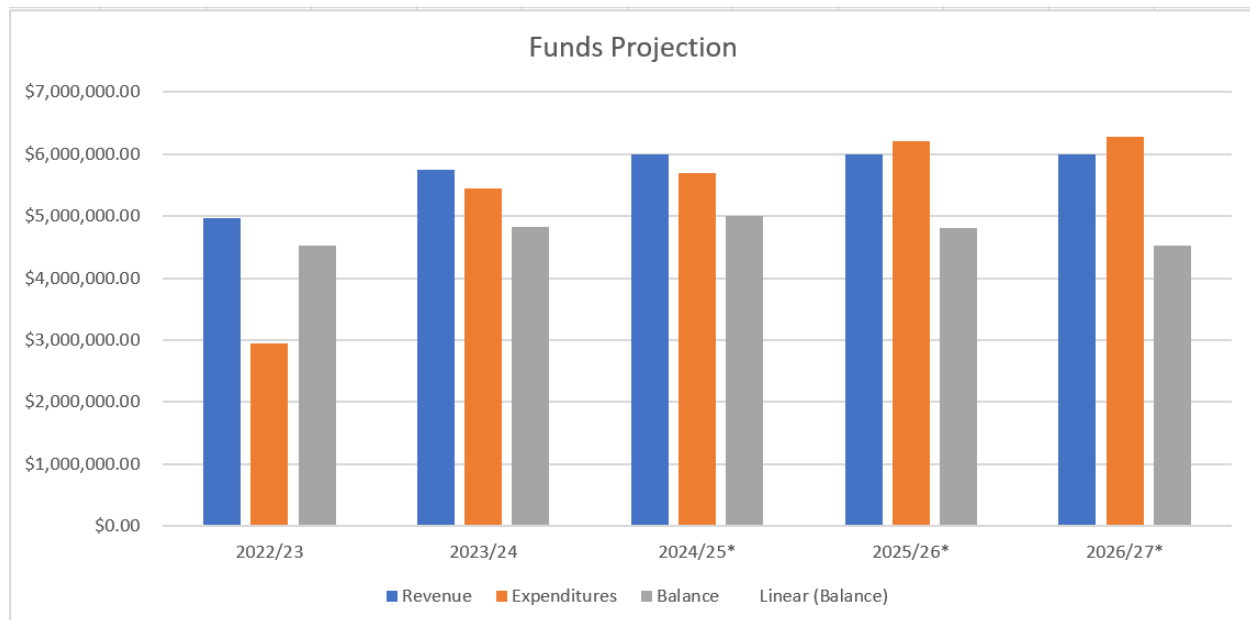
Cash balance at December 31, 2023	<u>\$4,854,167.02</u>
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Cash balance at December 31, 2024	\$5,419,875.44
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Commitments at December 31, 2024	-\$8,148,669.54
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Program Balance at December 31, 2024	<u><u>-\$2,728,794.10</u></u>
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Fiscal Projections



These figures are based on Fiscal Years (July 1 – June 30); as a result, there is a six-month difference from the Financial Report on page 7.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Balance</u>
2022/23	\$4,973,291.00	\$2,951,601.00	\$4,523,320.00
2023/24	\$5,750,259.00	\$5,445,404.00	\$4,828,174.00
2024/25*	\$6,000,000.00	\$5,700,000.00	\$5,003,175.00
2025/26*	\$6,000,000.00	\$6,200,000.00	\$4,803,175.00
2026/27*	\$6,000,000.00	\$6,274,000.00	\$4,529,175.00

*Projections based on current and historical data.

2024: The Year in Review

Since its establishment, the SDSETB has trained and certified 7,640 sheriffs and deputy sheriffs through basic training and has renewed their certifications through an annual continuing education program. 2024 marks the 40th year of sheriff and deputy sheriff training administered by the SDSETB and the PCCD, in accordance with the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Act (44 Pa.C.S. Chapter 74). The amendments to the law now require all sheriffs to obtain and maintain training certification. It also gives authority to the SDSETB to revoke certification in cases involving certain types of misconduct or lack of fitness for duty. Additionally, the changes restrict the use of the Training Account, limiting expenses primarily to training activities that directly support sheriffs and deputy sheriffs.

In 1999 and 2000, the SDSETB and its training development contractor, Temple University's Department of Criminal Justice, developed a comprehensive 560-hour core curriculum for basic training. The first pilot program was launched in July 2000 by the SDSETB's basic training delivery contractor, Pennsylvania State University's (PSU) Justice and Safety Institute. PSU-Eberly Campus, incorporated feedback, then refined and enhanced the curriculum. Additionally, during this time, the SDSETB reviewed and revised its regulations, policies, and procedures, which support the training programs and provide direction to staff, sheriffs' offices, and deputy sheriffs on issues related to training and certification.

On December 12, 2002, the Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved updated regulations of the SDSETB, which included the expansion of the Deputy Sheriffs' Basic Training Program from 560 hours to 760 hours. The increased hours included the topics of Patrol Procedures and Operations, Motor Vehicle Code/Accident Investigation, Driving Under the Influence Enforcement, Criminal Investigation, and Drug-Related Investigations. The first 760-hour (19-week) basic training was launched in August 2003.

While maintaining its focus on cost-saving measures, the SDSETB continues to enhance both the curriculum and certification process by integrating innovative online training solutions. The SDSETB remains committed to adapting its programs to meet the evolving needs of today's sheriffs and deputy sheriffs. In addition, Act 134 of 2020 increased the training surcharge collection from \$10, as follows:

2021	\$16
2022	\$18
2023 (and beyond)	\$20

As of July 1, 2017, the SDSETB, with the approval of the Commission, suspended reimbursements to counties until the training fund can support both training and reimbursements. As of the end of 2024, with the payment of approximately \$1.5 million, the SDSETB has an outstanding balance of \$7,971,824.64 owed to counties in reimbursements. With the increase in surcharge collections, the SDSETB authorized payment of up to \$2.5 million to counties, as funding allows, and will periodically review the training fund for additional payment opportunities.

Training Status of Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Per County

CERTIFIED VS. GRANDFATHERED

COUNTY	CERTIFIED	GRAND-FATHERED*	TOTAL	COUNTY	CERTIFIED	GRAND-FATHERED*	TOTAL
Adams	14	0	14	Juniata	5	0	5
Allegheny	167	0	167	Lackawanna	79	1	80
Armstrong	10	0	10	Lancaster	57	0	57
Beaver	47	0	47	Lawrence	15	0	15
Bedford	18	0	18	Lebanon	27	0	27
Berks	77	0	77	Lehigh	91	0	91
Blair	24	0	24	Luzerne	35	0	35
Bradford	14	0	14	Lycoming	26	0	26
Bucks	76	0	76	McKean	13	0	13
Butler	34	0	34	Mercer	19	0	19
Cambria	29	0	29	Mifflin	9	0	9
Cameron	7	0	7	Monroe	19	0	19
Carbon	21	0	21	Montgomery	101	0	101
Centre	32	0	32	Montour	8	0	8
Chester	45	0	45	Northampton	63	0	63
Clarion	10	0	10	Northumberland	8	0	8
Clearfield	10	0	10	Perry	13	0	13
Clinton	11	0	11	Philadelphia	267	0	267
Columbia	16	0	16	Pike	21	0	21
Crawford	12	0	12	Potter	5	0	5
Cumberland	38	0	38	Schuylkill	20	0	20
Dauphin	38	0	38	Snyder	13	0	13
Delaware	53	1	54	Somerset	12	0	12
Elk	10	0	10	Sullivan	5	0	5
Erie	39	0	39	Susquehanna	8	0	8
Fayette	8	0	8	Tioga	8	0	8
Forest	4	0	4	Union	12	0	12
Franklin	28	0	28	Venango	13	0	13
Fulton	6	0	6	Warren	13	0	13
Greene	13	0	13	Washington	43	0	43
Huntingdon	18	0	18	Wayne	10	0	10
Indiana	19	0	19	Westmoreland	67	0	67
Jefferson	7	0	7	Wyoming	8	0	8
				York	108	0	108
				TOTAL	2176	2*	2178

* Deputies employed prior to 1980 were grandfathered and not required to attend certification training.

Training and Certification Programs

Basic Training

By the end of 2024, the SDSETB, in conjunction with PCCD, completed its 40th year of providing initial certification to sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, as authorized under 44 Pa.C.S. Chapter 74. Since the program's inception in 1985, the SDSETB has conducted a total of 98 basic training classes and 118 waiver classes, resulting in the certification of 7,640 sheriffs and deputy sheriffs across the Commonwealth.

From 1985 to 1999, deputy sheriffs completed 160 hours of training over four weeks, covering core topics such as law, court security, prisoner transport, crisis intervention, self-defense, first aid, and firearms. In 2000, the SDSETB expanded the program to 560 hours, adding depth and new subjects to the basic training. By 2003, it grew to its current 19-week, 760-hour format, and in 2005, minimum physical fitness standards were introduced. Additionally, students are also required to complete several online courses to supplement classroom and practical instruction.

Waivers of basic training are granted to a limited group of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs who possess prior Pennsylvania-based law enforcement experience and training. Prior to 2000, eligible deputies were required to complete a 40-hour, one-week waiver course that focused on civil law and procedure, court security, and prisoner transport. In 2000, the SDSETB implemented an expanded 101-hour waiver course to align with the broader basic training curriculum. However, after conducting several waiver classes, it became evident that participants—due to their prior training and experience—could assimilate the material in less time. Consequently, in 2001, the SDSETB approved a reduction in the waiver course to 80 hours, while maintaining the full scope of instructional content.

Between 1985 and 1999, the SDSETB's basic training delivery contractor, the Dickinson School of Law, provided two four-week basic training courses and two one-week waiver training courses annually. Currently, Penn PSU delivers two 19-week basic training classes and three two-week waiver classes annually. Each waiver class includes one week of online instruction followed by one week of residential training, offered on a year-round basis.

During 2024, 165 sheriffs and deputies successfully completed training: 78 in basic training and 87 in the waiver courses. Utilizing PSU as the basic training delivery contractor has expanded the capabilities of the SDSETB's Basic Training Academy. This partnership provides access to state-of-the-art fitness facilities and experienced instructors, as well as enhanced firearms ranges, all of which contribute to a high-quality training experience for sheriffs and deputy sheriffs. Additionally, a Simulations Complex, including lock-up, vehicle sally port, apartment, offices, and courtroom were created for use in various scenario-based trainings.

Additionally, to enhance the professionalism and educational opportunities of Pennsylvania's sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, the SDSETB collaborated with PSU to establish college credits for the completion of basic training. Following a curriculum review, PSU approved the awarding of 16.5 specific academic credits to each graduate of the basic training program. These credits can be applied toward a degree at PSU or transferred to other accredited educational institutions. The SDSETB also partnered with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of

Veterans/Military Education, to obtain recognition as an educational program under Title 38, United States Code, Section 3676 (GI Bill of Rights). This approval enables eligible sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, who are also veterans, dependents, or National Guard and Reserve members, to receive educational benefits for attendance at the SDSETB's expanded basic or waiver training programs. Eligible sheriffs and deputies could qualify for tax-free benefits of approximately \$1,500 per month.

Continuing Education

To maintain certification under 44 Pa.C.S. Chapter 74, sheriffs and deputy sheriffs are required to complete continuing education every two years. In support of this mandate, the SDSETB revised its training format to offer 10 hours of virtual continuing education annually. In 2024, 1,825 sheriffs and deputies successfully completed the required continuing education courses.

The SDSETB's continuing education training delivery contractor, Temple University's Department of Criminal Justice, provides the annual online training. The 2024 training cycle began in January 2024. The training included the following subjects: Legal Updates, Judicial Security, and Preparation for Service.

Supervisory Training

The SDSETB has suspended its supervisory training due to budget constraints; however, the Board is currently developing a new basic supervisors' course.

Merit Courses

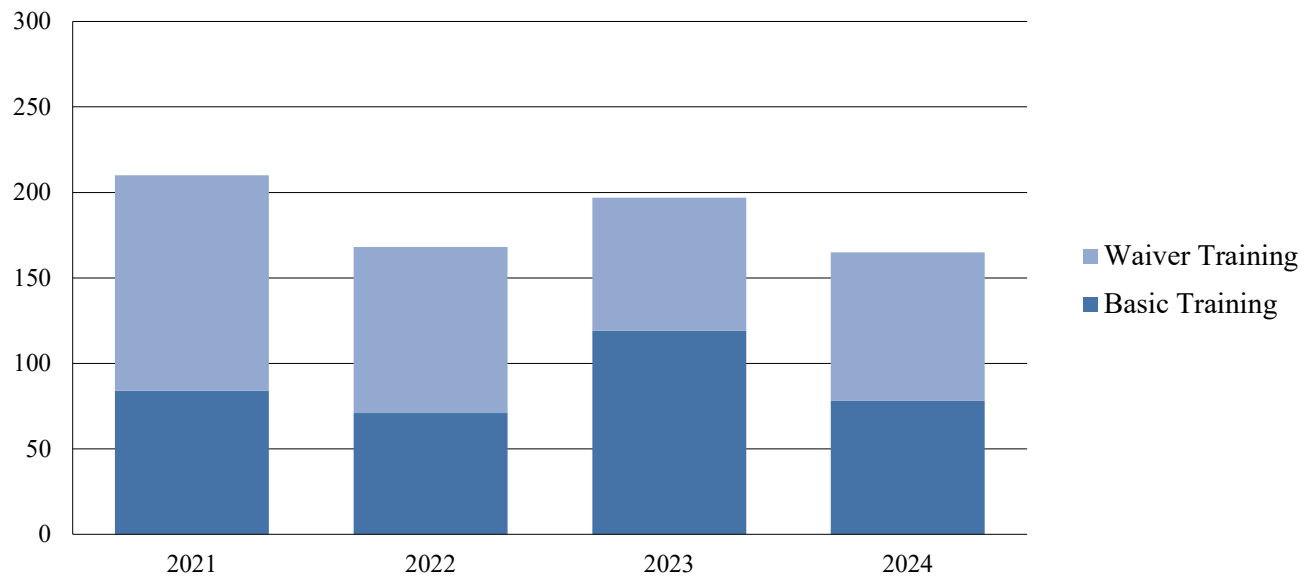
In addition to the training required by 44 Pa.C.S. Chapter 74, the SDSETB identified several specialized training needs by sheriffs' offices. To address the need, the SDSETB developed a series of merit courses to provide instruction on specific topics. The SDSETB utilized several delivery methods, including online and residential trainings.

Temple University offered Legal Updates, Judicial Security, Preparation for Service, Cultural Diversity, Waiver Pre-requisites, and All Hazards to 2,067 sheriffs and deputies in an online format.

The SDSETB also developed a Train-The-Trainer Program to assist sheriffs in establishing internal training capabilities. In 2024, certification and recertification trainings were offered for basic firearms and patrol rifle instructors.

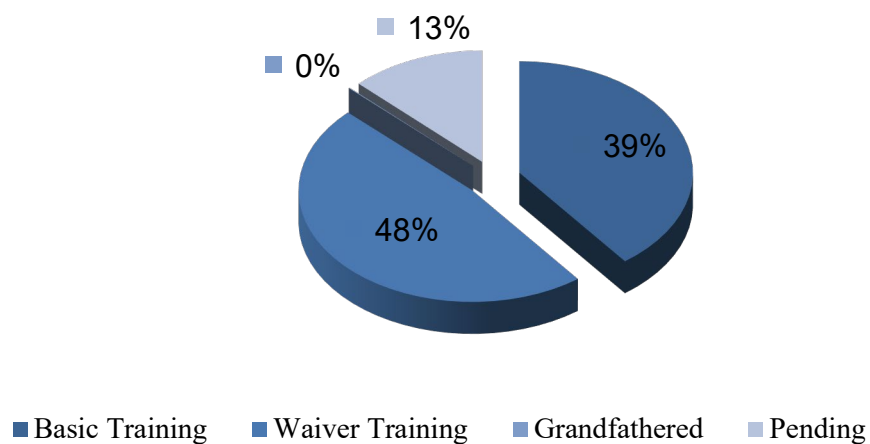
Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Certifications

Number of Certifications



Status of Currently Employed Sheriffs/Deputies

Method of Certification





Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Training Bulletins

During 2024, the SDSETB continued publishing its periodical newsletter, the [Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Training Bulletin](#), which serves as a key communication channel between the SDSETB and sheriffs' offices regarding the training programs and activities. Additionally, information and forms related to the sheriff and deputy sheriff training programs of the SDSETB are available on PCCD's website at www.pccd.pa.gov.

[Number 178, January 2024](#): This bulletin announced the 2024 continuing education cycle.

[Number 179, February 2024](#): This bulletin announced the Train the Trainer schedule.

[Number 180, July 2024](#): This bulletin announced the 2025 Basic Training schedule.