



DoD Pilot Conservation Law Enforcement Program Course

07-379

Background:

The Sikes Acts states that the Secretary of each military department shall ensure that professionally trained natural resources management and conservation law enforcement personnel are assigned responsibility to protect and manage the natural resources found on DoD installations, including the implementation of integrated natural resources management plans (INRMP).

DoD Conservation Law Enforcement Officers (CLEO) are tasked to do so, however there is no comprehensive conservation law enforcement program (CLEP) course that offers the initial training specific to DoD policy and guidance.

Objective:

The purpose of the CLEP “pilot” course is to educate CLEOs, managers, and senior law enforcement officers on the following topics, then engage them in a series of practical exercises and scenarios to demonstrate and apply knowledge of:

- Principles of Federal Law Enforcement
- Authority and Jurisdiction for DoD CLEOs
- DoD Law Enforcement Policy and Instructions
- Tort and Liability on military installations
- Federal Criminal Laws and Enforcement
- Use of Force
- Managing Critical Incidents and related stress
- Investigations and working with sister Federal enforcement agencies
- Law Enforcement Planning
- Threatened and endangered species, marine mammal, migratory bird and cultural resource laws enforced on military lands for sustained land use.

This is the “go to” course that DoD CLEOs and managers need to properly enforce federal conservation laws on military lands, safely and without liability to installation commanders, while providing resource protection.

Summary of Approach:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offers a course for law enforcement managers. The project was designed to audit the BLM course and tailor it to meet DoD CLEP policy and guidance. Course development tasks included:

1. Audit the BLM course in Aug 2007.
2. Modify the course syllabus as required to address DoD policy on law enforcement responsibilities,

authority and jurisdiction, liability, investigations, use of force, law enforcement planning, critical incidents, and federal fish and game laws enforcement.

3. Incorporate OSD Counsel comments for legality and accuracy.
4. Identify subject matter experts from DoD and cooperating Federal agencies to teach the 15 modules.
5. The pilot course was held at the BLM National Training Center in Phoenix, AZ, 15-18 April 2008.
6. Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officers School (CECOS) representatives audited the course in consideration of adding it to their curriculum.
7. The instructors, CECOS reps, and OSD Counsel reviewed the course during the pilot offering, feedback was incorporated and the final course presentations and instructor syllabus were completed and course is ready for future offerings to DoD CLEOs and their Supervisors.

Benefit:

CLEOs received the hands-on training they needed to ensure their human health and safety, to know where their authority and jurisdiction lies on the installation and in relation to adjacent federal lands, use of force policy specific to the DoD, how to enforce criminal laws and handling critical incidents and related stress. CLEOs gained knowledge in collaborative law enforcement, conducting investigations, planning and working with other Federal law enforcement agencies. The CLEO Supervisors learned everything in reciprocal as to what their staff are confronted with on a daily basis and how they can support them in implementing the INRMP, sound stewardship, and supporting sustained military training.

Accomplishments:

A DoD CLEP course is now available to ensure CLEOs and their Supervisors are trained to legally and safely enforce federal fish and game laws on installations and comply with public laws. The CLEP pilot course attendees gave ultimate positive feedback indicating what they learned was invaluable and would like to see continued offerings for DoD leadership and staff to attend.

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