

The Washington State Patrol has completed the interviews for the investigation of the compromised testing process the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. The investigators reached the preliminary conclusion that although members of class 694 violated an academy rule about sharing study guides between classes, none of them engaged in acts that rise to the level of cheating or dishonesty. As a result, members of class 694 will receive written reprimands for that specific rule violation but will be allowed to graduate as scheduled on November 13, 2013. Each recruit's employing agency will receive a copy of the reprimand and will determine whether or not to take additional action.

The investigation will be finalized over the next two weeks and will include results from class 695.

Director Sue Rahr has been briefed about the following preliminary conclusions of the investigation:

- All recruits in class 694 cooperated fully with the investigation
- It is clear that the questions and answers found in the study guides were legitimately obtained by recruits when training officers conducted overly specific "test review" sessions in the days before tests were administered.
- Although this is not a good training method, and it has since been stopped, investigators determined that many training officers conducted test reviews by going through the actual test questions and answers. Many recruits took verbatim notes on their laptop computers during the test review sessions and added that material to the class study guides that contained an accumulation of material stored by various electronic means, including thumb drives.
- Over time, these study guides grew to include the questions and answers to most written tests.
- It appears that study guides were handed down from class to class, which is a violation of academy rules.
- It also appears this practice of overly specific test reviews and the compilation of test questions and answers being included in study guides - has been going on for a number of years.

The following steps have been taken:

- All written tests have been re-written.
- A newly constructed final written exam will be administered before graduation to all recruits that had access to compromised study guides. They must pass the test in order to graduate. (Note – All members of class 694 passed this comprehensive exam yesterday.)
- Future tests will not use the same questions and answers over time. The academy will use a software program that randomly selects from a master list of questions and creates a new test for each class.
- Instructors will no longer conduct test reviews using actual test questions.
- Tighter oversight and monitoring has been implemented for all basic academy testing processes.