

# THE BRIEFING

A Publication of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement

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## MyTCOLE 2.0

We have collaborated with Nuvola Networks to bring a fresh and updated interface to your online accounts! We are very excited to bring MyTCOLE 2.0 to everyone. The new site became operative at the end of October. Since then, several of you have logged in and started to navigate it. We have heard some great feedback and are working on your suggestions. Inside this newsletter you will find some tips to assist you with the new site, highlights of the system, and what to expect in the future.



## Other Upcoming Events

### Quarterly Commission Meetings:

March 2, 2017

June 8, 2017

September 7, 2017

December 7, 2017

## Commission Meeting Highlights

The latest Commission meeting was held at the J.J. Pickle Research Campus on Thursday, December 1, 2016. Here are a few highlights from the meeting:

### 2017 Commission Meeting Dates:

- March 2, 2017
- June 8, 2017
- September 7, 2017
- December 7, 2017

Executive Director's Report: We have had some employee changes since the last meeting. Thurman Felder has accepted a position at Texas Municipal League. Thurman was with TCOLE for 61/2 years. Nikki Johnson has transferred from Public Information Coordinator to the Special Services Division to assist with testing, forms, and help desk among other duties. Nazareth Munoz transferred from Background Specialist to our new Public Information Coordinator. Nazareth's transfer leaves the F.A.S.T. returns and racial profile reporting position open.

740 participants registered for the training coordinators conference this year.



Amount raised for the Peace Officer Flag Fund at the conference was \$8,805.00! The following is a breakdown of where the funds came from: Fun Run \$1,688.00, Silent and Live Auctions \$4,800.00, Donations \$317.00, Dodge City of McKinney \$2,000.00.

In 2016, 126 flags were provided to next of kin for retired officers or those killed in the line of duty.

Each year TCOLE accepts nominations for the annual Law Enforcement Achievement Awards for the categories of Professional Achievement, Public Service, and Valor.

Nominations must be submitted by an elected official of the state, an elected official of a political subdivision, an administrator of a law enforcement agency, or a person holding a current license issued by TCOLE.

Deadline for nominations is December 31, 2016.

Nomination forms are available on the TCOLE website under Who we are <Recognition <State of Texas Achievement Awards Nomination.

## For more information

Meeting Minutes: Other items, including line of duty deaths, waiver requests, proceedings for revocation, suspension, and other disciplinary actions, and previous meeting minutes, can be found under the Who We Are/The Commission section on our website at: [www.tcole.texas.gov](http://www.tcole.texas.gov).

Live Recordings: Live and archived video recordings of the meetings can be found on our website on the Who We Are/The Commission page at: [www.tcole.texas.gov](http://www.tcole.texas.gov).

Public Comment: Anyone wishing to make a public comment may do so at the following email address: [public\\_comment@tcole.texas.gov](mailto:public_comment@tcole.texas.gov).

## Commission Meeting Highlights

### Operations Director's Report:

The training deadline for the 4 year cycle and 2 year unit is August 31, 2017. This is the first year Telecommunicators have a training requirement. We will begin reporting non-compliance at the next commission meeting. Non-compliance notices will be sent April, early May, and end of June with a final notice being sent 30 days after the September 1 deadline.

### Government Relations Director's Report:

The Legislative session begins January 10th! Mental health training, school marshals, and ID cards are just some of the items being looked at.



Rules: Seven rule amendments were proposed. One rule amendment was tabled. It will be revisited again at the next commission meeting.

Two were voted against. Four were approved, with changes to the original proposal. The proposed rules are listed in more detail on page 13.

Academic Alternative Program: Concerns over the viability of the Academic Alternative program have been raised. The program's future will be discussed further in the coming meetings.

## Special Services Division

Racial Profiling: Racial Profiling reports are due soon! The window for reporting is January 1—March 31, 2017. Chief Administrators MUST have a MyTCOLE account in order to access DRS to report Racial Profiling. If you have not signed up for a MyTCOLE account please do so.



## Special Services Division, Continued

### MyTCOLE 2.0

By Jessica Teseny

If you've logged into your MyTCOLE account recently you probably noticed some dramatic changes. MyTCOLE 2.0 launched on October 27, 2016, and offers a fresh new look as well as new features. The new MyTCOLE site, created by [Nuvola Networks](#), actually serves as a management platform for a number of other exciting new additions we plan on making in the near future.

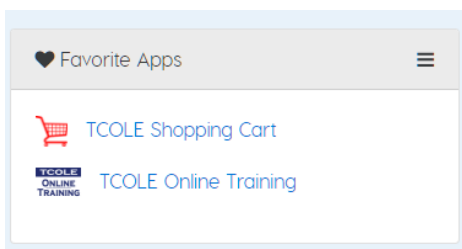
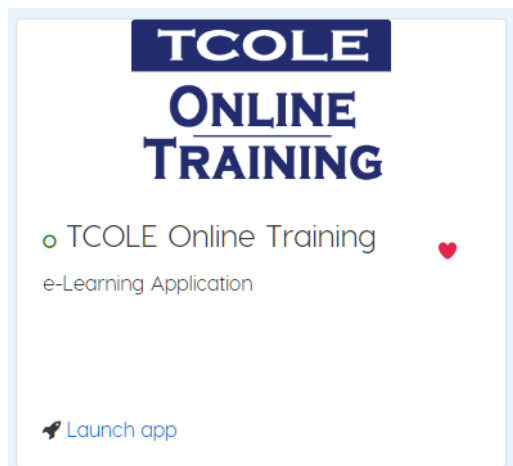
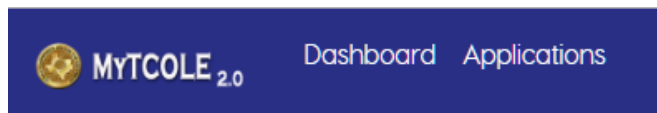
#### New URL

Aside from the different look and feel, you may have noticed a different website address. The new address is: <https://tcole.nuvolanet.io/>

Another new website address you may have noticed is the one for our new TCOLE Online Training site. You can reach our free online training site through your MyTCOLE account, or by going to: <https://tcole.nuvolaacademy.com/>

#### Favorite Apps

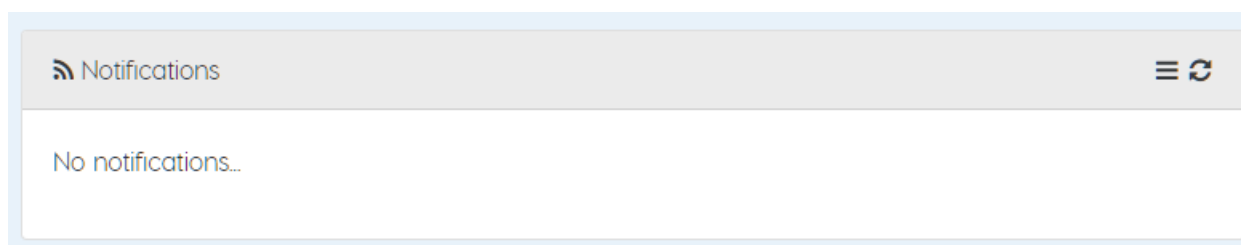
MyTCOLE 2.0 acts as a hub, allowing you to connect to additional applications like DRS, TCLEDDS, and the new TCOLE Online Training site, another Nuvola Networks creation. To take full advantage of this feature, log into your account and click on Applications along the top toolbar. Then "favorite" the applications you think you'll use most by clicking the little heart next to each one. This will place all of your favorite applications in one easy to access "Favorites" section. This new feature positions us to add more useful apps, so be sure to check back periodically for the latest handy shortcuts.



## Special Services Division, Continued

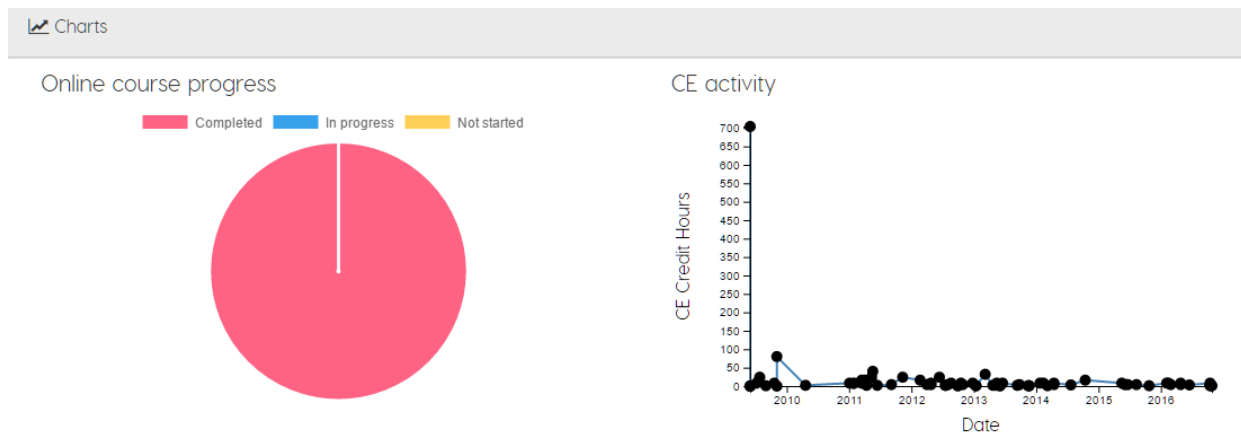
### Notifications

Nuvola Networks built a notification system into MyTCOLE 2.0, so we are able to distribute important messages to users who have a MyTCOLE account. Be sure to keep your email address current, so you will be notified when a message comes your way!



### Charts

The new Charts section at the top of the page contains two new charts. One shows your TCOLE Online Training course progress and the other shows a comparison on your overall training taken each year. As we continue to add new features we'll add more charts. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to visually see how close you are to meeting your 40 hour training requirement every 2 years?

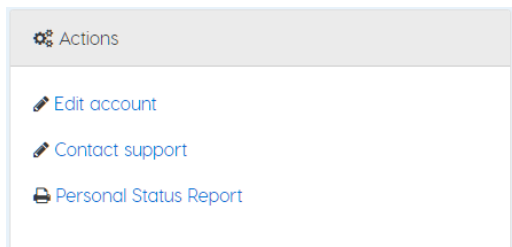


### Actions

The new Actions section allows you to edit your account settings, contact TCOLE support, or view your personal status report. The account settings allow you to manage things like your email address, username, and password. The new “contact support” link lets you send questions, comments and feedback to TCOLE. If you are wondering about a certificate or training requirement or have questions about an online training class you're struggling with just send in a contact form and someone from TCOLE support will help you out. The final item in the Actions section is your per-

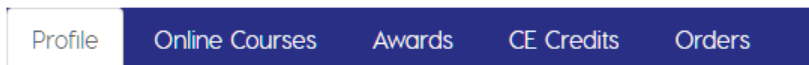
## Special Services Division, Continued

sonal status report, which got a make-over as well. Your personal status report is a printable snapshot of your award and service history, licenses and training.



### Tabbed Section

The tabbed section along the bottom of your account contains your profile, TCOLE online courses, award information, continuing education credit history, and order history. The profile contains your mailing address, contact information, and description. The Online Courses tab links you to free courses offered by TCOLE online training, and shows you the course status of those you have enrolled in, started, or finished. The Awards tab shows certificates and licenses that have been awarded to you. Just link in the old MyTCOLE account, this is where you can add a certificate or photo ID to you shopping cart. The continuing education credits tab, or “CE Credits” tab, lets you see a complete history of all classes you have taken in the past. Finally, the orders tab shows a history of purchase you’ve made through TCOLE.



### Password Recovery

Forgot your password? Don’t worry. MyTCOLE 2.0 has a very easy to use password recovery system. Right below the green “Log in” button, you’ll find a link that says “click here if you forgot your password”. You’ll be asked to enter either your PID, email address, or username; whichever you can remember. An email will be sent to the email address we have on record for you with instructions on how to reset your password. If your email address has changed, send us a contact form and one of our support staff will get your email updated for you. There is a link to the contact form on the “forgot password” page.

## Special Services Division, Continued

### New Training Providers

Three contract training provider applications have been approved since the last commission meeting:

Washington County Sheriff's Office  
Georgetown Police Department  
Texarkana Police Department

To view the full listing of training providers on our website, go to Training, Training Providers.



### Curriculum

We are often asked about curriculum here at TCOLE. There is a link on our website with available resources. The course materials can be found under the Training/Course Curriculum Materials and Updates section on our website: [www.tcole.texas.gov](http://www.tcole.texas.gov)

While there, you can also check out the resource for Course 1030 Special Forces Veterans. This is a newer licensing course for those with special forces experience wanting to become a licensed Texas peace officer. If you or someone you know with Special Forces experience is interested in a career in law enforcement, we encourage them to contact our Credentialing division for more information about that process.



## Credentialing Services Division

### TRAINING

By Lisa Landry

Please remember the training cycle will end August 31, 2017!!! Have you completed your training?

#### PEACE OFFICERS –

Basic Certificate or no certificate

40 hours of training to include the following

3184 – State and Federal Law Update

3232 – Special Investigative Topics

3843 – CIT Update

3939 – Cultural Diversity

Intermediate Certificate or higher

40 hours of training to include

3184 – State and Federal Law Update

#### DEPUTY CONSTABLE –

As part of the 40 hours, you will need to complete a 20 hour Civil Process course.

#### JAILERS –

Cultural Diversity

If you have an ACTIVE Peace Officer license and have an Intermediate Peace Officer certificate or higher, you will not have to complete Cultural Diversity.

#### TELECOMMUNICATORS –

20 hours of training – no specific coursework is needed.

**IF YOU ARE NOT COMMISSIONED AS A LICENSED INDIVIDUAL**, all training will have to be completed through an academy or training provider. If you have any questions, please contact our division. Here is a link to those providers: <http://www.tcole.texas.gov/content/training-and-instruction>



## Credentialing Services Division, Continued

### Human Trafficking

Were you licensed on or after January 1, 2011? Have you completed your Human Trafficking requirement within a year of licensure? If not, please log into your MyTCOLE ACCOUNT and complete the course ASAP. **If you have not completed the course within a year of licensure, you are non-compliant.** Also, should you move to another department without that course being completed, the L1 will not be processed until the course has been completed and reported to your record.



### FAQ

**Q.** I have a jailer license and I am also a Peace Officer with a Master Certificate. Am I required to complete Cultural Diversity?

**A.** No, you are not.

**Q.** Do Telecommunicators have any mandated coursework that they must complete before 8/31/17?

**A.** No, Telecommunicators do not have mandated courses. The 20 hours can be training of their choice, completed through a TCOLE provider.

**Q.** I am a Peace Officer and Telecommunicator. Am I required to complete 20 hours on top of the 40 for my PO license?

**A.** No, the 40 hours for the PO license will count for the required training for the Telecommunicator license.

**Q.** Can I take any training on the MyTCOLE Account or is it license specific?

**A.** No, the training is not license specific. You may take any of the coursework for credit.

**Q.** I am a Deputy Constable but do not serve papers, am I required to complete Civil Process?

**A.** No, your Constable will submit a civil process exemption to us to be added to your record.

**Q.** I am not commissioned by a department. Where can I complete my training?

**A.** You may go to an academy or training provider in your area or you may go through your MyTCOLE Account.

## Field Services Division

### Retired State Officers, DPS Special Rangers, and Special Texas Rangers

By Kenny Merchant

Just when you think you have all of the Rules and Statutes regarding Training Mandates and License Reactivation figured out, you run across a very brief (16 lines) sub-chapter of the Occupations Code (OC) that throws everything on its ear! OC 1701.356 lays out special training and reactivation circumstances that apply only to Retired State Officers (RSO), Honorably Retired Officers of TxDPS commissioned as Special Rangers under Government Code (GC) 411.023, and retired Texas Rangers commissioned as Special Texas Rangers under GC 411.024.

First off, let's define what an RSO is- according to the OC, this is an officer who had a license issued before January 1, 1981, and that license was still active on January 1, 1995. That person must also be a retired state employee. Persons who were licensed before 1981 are beginning to be more of a rarity in Texas law enforcement, so the numbers here are dwindling. A Special Ranger is an honorably retired member of the TxDPS who is commissioned as such, after retirement. A Special Texas Ranger is an honorably retired Texas Ranger, commissioned as such after retirement. Note that these 3 definitions are not mutually exclusive- a licensee can be an RSO at the same time they are either a Special Ranger or a Special Texas Ranger.

OC 1701.356 says that the licenses of Special Rangers and RSOs shall never go Inactive, so they shall never have to go through a Reactivation process (barring any disciplinary action). It does not apply to Special Texas Rangers.

OC 1701.356 also makes the following training exemptions:

**RSOs**- exempt from 40hr/Training Unit requirement, exempt from Legislative Update requirement, exempt from Crisis Intervention Training.

**Special Ranger**- exempt from 40hr/Training Unit requirement, exempt from Legislative Update requirement, exempt from Crisis Intervention Training, exempt from Cultural Diversity, exempt from Special Investigative Topics.

**Special Texas Ranger**- exempt from Crisis Intervention Training. NOT exempt from 40hr/Training Unit and Legislative Update, unless they are also an RSO.

Since most RSOs and Special Rangers have reached at least Intermediate Certification, that means these two groups are exempt from most, but not all, of the Training Unit/Cycle requirements. They can, however, still have mandated training based on their particular appointment. For example, an RSO who is now a Constable must compete Constable's Continuing Education. Also be aware that an appointing agency may require ANY type of training as a condition of employment, even if it is not mandated by statute.

Lastly, if you have an appointee who qualifies as an RSO, be sure to check the RSO box on the L1 Application (or go back and make that correction, now). This will reduce the likelihood of them getting a "nastygram" from TCOLE saying they are out-of-compliance, when they are, in fact, not.

## Special Conference Event Conclusion

### It's a Dog's Life – A Story of Rags to Riches

By TCOLE Staff

Life began harshly for a small black lab mixed breed puppy born as a stray. Being born in Corpus Christi during the heat of the summer presents many challenges to a puppy. The sidewalk along the seawall provides little shelter from the relentless heat. Bicycles, skateboards, and cars provide even more hazards to a friendly puppy looking for a home. This is that puppy's story.

I search all along the boulevard for a human friend to love, when suddenly the wayward bicycle and I make impact. I heard the crack and felt the pain of the broken leg. Now I must lay and beg for food and drink, or hobble on three legs as best I can. Some people provide scraps or morsels of food, and others provide fresh water, usually poured out into a cupped hand or on the sidewalk. It is barely enough to keep me alive, but it does.

Weeks go by until finally I can walk with a limp. I find a human that looks friendly and follow along with them as if we are friends until they leave the area or enter a building where I am not allowed or until I give out from exhaustion. Then one day a group of police officers came to town. They held what they call a "fun run." Surely with this many kind people in one place I can find a friend. I put on my most friendly face, wag my tail a lot, and even let them pet me. As the group waits along the finish line of the race, a beautiful lady takes special note of me. Her name is Kaye Wilson and she works for TCOLE. She is very nice, and she even feeds me and pets me for a long time.

The police officers go back into the big Omni Hotel after they finish their race. I decide to follow them. Maybe there is good food, water, and maybe someone will pet me in there. The hotel staff sees me and takes me in. They give me a blanket to sleep on, water, and food. After a while, Ms. Kaye comes to see me. She scoops me up and carries me off with her. I wonder where we are going. What a surprise, she loads me into a car. I have never traveled before, but since she lets me lay on her lap and I am in an air conditioned car, I simply enjoy the ride. Then I realize what has happened. She has tak-



## Special Conference Event Conclusion, Continued

en me home with her and introduces me to her husband, Larry. For the first time in my life I have a soft bed to sleep in, toys to chew on, good food put in a bowl, all the water I want, and two humans to play with and share my love. And they even gave me a name --- Jake! A good name for a lucky dog that has gone from rags to riches. I am so very thankful that I found two wonderful people to love and who love me back. I love my new life with Kaye and Larry Wilson. Ahhhhhh! This is the life.

## Legal Division

### Legal Statistics

The following proceedings for revocation, suspension and other disciplinary actions took place at the December 2016 Commission Meeting. For a complete listing of these license actions, including names, departments, and case numbers see the meeting agenda found on our website under [Who We Are/The Commission/Meeting Minutes](#) at [www.tcole.texas.gov](http://www.tcole.texas.gov).

Type of Action	Number of Licenses
Default Suspension Orders	10
Agreed Suspension Waiver	1
Agreed Suspension Orders	4
Proposal for Decision Orders	2
Statutory Revocation	8
Statutory Suspension	6
Permanent Surrenders	19
Reprimands for Administrative Violations	6
Reprimands for Failing to Complete Legislatively Required Continuing Education	1

## Legal Division, Continued

### Proposed Rule Amendments

Rules proposed for amendment during the December 2016 meeting are currently open for public comment. Please send your feedback and comments to: [public\\_comment@tcole.texas.gov](mailto:public_comment@tcole.texas.gov)

- Proposed Amendment 4 Rule §217.7  
Reporting Appointment and Separation of a Licensee (amend)
- Proposed Amendment 5 Rule §223.15  
License Suspension (amend)
- Proposed Amendment 6 Rule §223.18  
Suspension Following Felony Arrest (amend)
- Proposed Amendment 7 Rule §215.10  
Instructor (new)

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*Assistant Presiding Officer*

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James Oakley  
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### Contact Information

**Mailing Address:**

Texas Commission on Law  
Enforcement

6330 E Highway 290, Ste.  
200  
Austin, TX 78723-1035

**Phone:** 512-936-7700

**Fax:** 512-936-7714

**Website:**

[www.tcole.texas.gov](http://www.tcole.texas.gov)

**The Briefing Editor:**

**Nikki Johnson**

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