



South Carolina Police Accreditation Coalition

SC PAC Training Conference

Columbia, SC (Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 10:00a.m.)

The South Carolina Police Accreditation Coalition (SC PAC) hosted its annual fall training conference Wednesday through Friday, October 11-13, 2017. The conference was held at the Embassy Suites at Greystone in Columbia, South Carolina and was attended by over 80 law enforcement professionals.

The annual conference provided an opportunity for law enforcement agencies involved in the accreditation process to take advantage of lessons learned from other state and national agencies.

“This year’s conference was a huge success”, stated John Tucker, the group’s president. “We provided training sessions on eight major topics currently affecting law enforcement and held a CEO roundtable discussion manned by top law enforcement executives.”

Lt. Douglas Goerke, a 17 year veteran with the Orlando Police Department, gave an overview of the Pulse Nightclub shooting which resulted in the death of 49 individuals on June 12, 2016. The incident was the deadliest violence against LGBT people in U.S. history and, based on the shooter’s convictions, the deadliest terror attack in the U.S. since September 11, 2001.

Spartanburg Sergeant Brandon Letterman provided an in-depth recap of the 2016 missing person case that led to the arrest of Todd Kohlhepp, the South Carolina real estate agent who murdered Anderson resident Charlie Carver and kept Carver’s wife, Kala Brown, chained for two months in a storage building on his property. Kohlhepp also admitted to the unsolved Superbike Killings, which occurred in Chesnee in November 2003 and the killing of a transient couple, Meagan and Johnny Coxie, in December 2015.

Master Deputy Michael Ackerman, with the Charleston County Sheriff’s Office, discussed the ways he and his fellow first responders dealt with recovery and stress management following a September 2014 critical incident that led to the shooting death of his partner. Ackerman was also shot during the incident and faced the life-changing, unwanted decision to end the perpetrator’s life.

A presentation by Major Frank O'Neal with SLED covered the drug addiction problems that stem from so-called medical marijuana and the damaging effect of the present opioid crisis within South Carolina and the nation.

SLED Senior Agent Paul LaRosa, one of only 25 active criminal profilers in the United States, reviewed threat recognition and provided an overview of the behavioral indicators of people who threaten violence.

Dr. Robert Breen, with the SC Department of Mental Health, discussed the challenges persons with mental illness face in responding to public safety officers and the challenges officers face when encountering persons with mental illness. Dr. Breen provided information regarding the most effective ways to communicate with someone who is acutely mentally ill.

Investigator Brian Zwolak with Lexington County Sheriff's Office and Sergeant Brent Carter with the Lexington Police Department, provided law enforcement personnel with an overview of gang documentation requirements for the NCIC Gang File and the South Carolina equivalent database - SC GangNET.

Captain Jim McClary of SLED spoke about the dynamics of deadly force encounters involving vehicles and discussed viable options to reduce the number of lethal incidents.

Paul "Reid" Davis, Assistant Special Agent in Charge at the FBI's Columbia Field Office, presented his ideas on taking a collaborative approach to law enforcement and the importance of partnering with local and state authorities and other federal agencies to combat crime.

Accreditation Manager training was provided by Assistant Chief John Grainger with the Goose Creek Police Department and assessor training was provided by Deputy Chief Stan Gragg with the Mt. Pleasant Police Department.

A roundtable discussion, led by SLED Public Information Officer Thom Berry, also gave attendees the opportunity to present questions to a distinguished panel of law enforcement executives who shared their experience and expertise on employee recruitment, retention, retirement and the importance of agency relationships. "This was a great conference", stated President Tucker. "A lot of important information was shared, including some of law enforcement's best practices. We're already planning and looking forward to next year's conference."

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