



ONESolution™

La Porte (TX) PD Saves Time, Money with SunGard Public Sector's Field Training Online Tool

Just like in any job, training is incredibly important for junior police officers to ensure they are fully-equipped and ready to serve their constituents as they have sworn to do. That said, the traditional paper-based system for training officers is becoming archaic in our digital age. Evaluations are still hand-written each day and placed in a binder, often three to four inches thick. It's an incredibly tedious process, one that requires trainers to spend an average of an hour of overtime each day, either before or after their regular shift, to log field notes from their day with trainees. No doubt certain details get left out, as it's hard to remember after a long day in the field. And trainees have no easy way to see where they stand in their evaluations. That's why SunGard Public Sector is now offering a new, digital solution – SunGard Field Training Online (FTO).

With FTO, sheets of paper have been replaced by iPads allowing field training officers to add detailed notes in real-time, rather than having to wait until the end of the day to write down their observations from the field. At the same time, officers back at the station can log in from a desktop and view the notes as they are inputted from the field – an incredible timesaver providing a marked improvement over standard, paper-based systems. Because it serves as a repository for daily reports, FTO provides tremendous insight and shows trends that weren't available with traditional, paper-based systems. With FTO, training administrators can easily see trainee scores and progress over time, all displayed within the program, giving a more accurate, up-to-date view of current trainees' progress against any number of the core competencies.

FTO is a highly-flexible product allowing an agency to create training programs not only for law enforcement officers – using the San Jose model – but for other, similar uses of the model, such as training communications personnel (dispatchers) or corrections officers. The best part is that FTO works directly with a department's existing Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System (RMS), saving time and money while providing true interoperability.

La Porte, TX Police Department, whose 75 officers serve more than 34,000 constituents, is one of the first customers to use FTO. Lieutenant Matt Daeumer, a veteran of the La Porte PD, is no stranger to the amount of time and effort it takes to log paperwork

Organization Profile La Porte, Texas

Population: 34,654

Square Miles: 20

County: Harris

Products: ONESolution CAD,
RMS, JMS and Mobiles

that supports field training exercises. "FTO is head and shoulders above the old, paper-based system," says Lt. Daeumer. "The officers absolutely love it." With FTO, training officers need not spend a full hour at the beginning or end of a shift to write in evaluations. "That's a lot of time my staff has back for every trainee," Daeumer adds.

An online-based system means program administrators can make changes on the fly; if an officer is sick, a trainee can be quickly and easily re-assigned to a new trainer with the click of a button. Additionally, FTO allows for administrator levels providing the ability to assign editing rights and viewing rights and adjusting to give different levels of information to officers in different roles.

"Trainees have a better idea where they're at and what they need to do to get to where they need to be in a training," Daeumer says, in reference to FTO's capabilities of allowing each user to log in and see data, which can be customized on their individual role. Lastly, administrators can see what reports are approved, waiting on approval, or rejected – a much easier process to manage than rifling through paper reports.