

# Montana Law Enforcement Academy

# MLEA



# Class One 1959



# 1959

- Montana was the first state to set training standards for law enforcement by legislative action
- Class 1 had 38 students
- 2-week academy
- One academy per year
- Hosted at Montana State University

# History

- October 1996 dedication of the new MLEA location in Helena
- Much of this campus was built in the late 1920's
- 1997 the first academy is hosted at the current MLEA campus
- 1998 MLEA graduates 45 law enforcement cadets

# Stats

1998

45 Law Enforcement students-6 staff instructors

Two academies

2009

144 Law Enforcement students-6 staff instructors

Three academies

2023

192 Law Enforcement students-7 staff instructors

Three academies

# Stats Continued

1998

13 Total staff members

2009

15 Total staff members

2023

14 Total staff members and 1 contract

These totals include 1 Director, 1 facilities manager, 1 professional programs manager, 7 training officers, 2 maintenance, 1 janitorial and 1 support staff.

# Academy Capacity

- The campus has a total of 130 residential units
- About 30 of these are seasonal due to HVAC and building inefficiencies
- These residential spaces are shared between Corrections Basic, Public Safety Communicator Basic, Law Enforcement Basic and other Professional programs

# Limiting Factors

- MLEA does not own and operate their own firearms range and driving track
- Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, and South Dakota all have ranges and driving courses.
- The ranges we rent are often full due to the number of agencies and trainings booked into the Helena area
- Police Vehicle Operations Course (PVOC) is done off-site (Availability and efficiency issues)
- Residential capacity becomes an issue with all the core courses and the professional development courses that MLEA is required to host.
- There is a strong need for additional and appropriate infrastructure to support the mission of MLEA
- MHP advanced academy was moved off-site to Boulder, MT to help with housing capacity



# Wait List

- Ineffective wait list tracking system that existed
- Named VS. Future Hire
- Agencies booking multiple future hire spots
- Agencies success in delivering the number of cadets
- Agencies who have requested spots, but they are not ready
- We are taking steps to actively address these issues and are changing the system that has caused some of the delay
- Currently there are less than 20 named persons on the wait list and those will be resolved in the next 12 months
- We are moving to a method that will ensure that named, actually employed persons should be in attendance of the academy in less 12 months of hire
- We have increased capacity by 10 percent in 2023

# Costs

## Consumables

- Food \$119 per student per week
- Consumables to include fuel for vehicles, ammo, and course materials. \$1000 per student per course
- Approximately \$2500 per student
- One Academy costs about \$165,000 for 66 students

## Revenue

- Currently we can collect money for food and housing. \$125 per student per week or \$1500 for the 12-week course
- \$99,000 billed to stakeholder agencies per 66 student academy
- Cost for the academy have only increased \$15 per week in the last 10 years=deferred maintenance

# Change

- Updated curriculum-this is not the MLEA of a year ago
- Evaluation of process- updating of application and student tracking
- Budget assessment and auditing
- Instructor and student interaction and accountability

# MLEA Commitment

MLEA Staff is committed to producing the highest quality law enforcement professionals to be delivered to the stakeholders of Montana. These stakeholders are the citizens, the agencies and visitors to this state. MLEA believes by using industry standards, appropriate infrastructure, and tools we can fulfil this commitment. We welcome and invite you to tour our facilities and observe the sometimes-harsh environments we ask those who protect us to learn in.

