Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) ensures "Professionalism through Training" of all Idaho law enforcement professionals including patrol officers; emergency communications officers; adult correction, detention, probation and parole officers; along with juvenile corrections, detention and probation officers. All Idaho peace officers are certified through POST, numbering approximately 1,800 each year. The POST Academy was established in 1970 and is now located in Meridian, Idaho.

Organizationaly, POST operates at the direction of the Governor-appointed POST Council and is organized and funded as a Division of the Idaho State Police. POST relies on dedicated funds and federal grant programs to operate.

POST’s Standards mission is founded on the POST Council’s Code of Ethics, ensuring those possessing POST certification adhere to the highest standards of personal and professional conduct. We are driven to be the standard by which all other professional organizations are judged and as we prepare to celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2020, our vision remains as relevant and important as it was in 1970: to develop skilled law enforcement professionals who are committed to serving and protecting the people in Idaho.
In 1969, through a combination of surplus state liquor funds and the General Fund, the legislature established the Idaho Law Enforcement Planning Commission, or LEPC, and authorized a POST program in Idaho through Senate Bill #1265.

The goal was to create an organization that would provide basic and in-service training for police officers in the State of Idaho, along with a mechanism to reimburse agencies for salaries and living expenses incurred while attending basic training.

It was a very modest beginning, with a staff of 3 and an operating budget of about $50K. A modest but crucial beginning, as they took that initial investment and rolled out the first Basic Academy in January, 1970 with an enrollment of 32 law enforcement officers from around the state.

Fast forward to today, and POST now provides basic training and certification for nine law enforcement disciplines, delivering 19 basic training academy classes a year, and operates on an annual budget of $4.5M with a staff of 31.

Our vision remains as relevant and important as ever: to develop skilled law enforcement professionals who are committed to serving and protecting the people in Idaho. We achieve that by following our core values of Accountability, Collaboration, Innovation, Integrity, Customer Service, and Safety.

Now, as we recognize and honor our past, and where it has brought us, we dedicate ourselves to continue our evolution; to address new challenges in the pursuit of excellence. We must constantly rethink our strategies, tools, and systems. We must be wary of providing old answers to new problems and embody strong leadership and new and innovative solutions. We must seize the windows of opportunity that frequently open only once. Above all, we must be the standard by which all other professional organizations are judged, as we relentlessly pursue our overarching goal: to be the best, most respected and innovative POST certification and training program in the country.

**BHAG (Big Hairy Audacious Goal):**

To be the best, most respected and innovative POST certification and training organization in the country by 2025.

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**POST METRICS**

**FY 2020**

**Certifications**

POST awarded 768 basic certifications and 1,448 total certifications across all disciplines

- **All Disciplines**
  - Basic: 577 (40%)
  - Intermediate: 200 (14%)
  - Advanced: 90 (6%)
  - Supervisor: 55 (4%)
  - Master: 29 (2%)
  - Management: 110 (7%)
  - Executive: 39 (2%)
  - Instructor: 2 (0%)

- **Basic Certifications**
  - Patrol: 135 (22%)
  - Detention: 115 (19%)
  - Prosecution: 105 (18%)
  - Probation: 67 (12%)
  - Emergency Communications: 105 (18%)
  - Correction: 36 (6%)
  - Misdemeanor Probation: 105 (18%)
  - Probation & Parole: 8 (1%)
  - Juvenile Direct Care: 15 (3%)
  - Juvenile Detention: 15 (3%)
  - Juvenile Probation: 15 (3%)

**Office of Professional Responsibility**

- Investigations: 53
- Revocations: 43
- Public Records: 375

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**CERTIFICATION**

...no person shall act as a peace officer...in Idaho unless they are certified to do so by POST.
Academy Training Bureau

During this fiscal year, a total of 415 students completed 3,396 hours of training during the conduct of 14 basic training academies across 8 law enforcement disciplines.

Of course, no annual report would be complete without addressing the challenges we faced here at POST (along with the rest of Idaho’s citizens) with the spread of the pandemic. In spite of the many precautions that were implemented, we had a student in a basic academy session test positive for the virus. We then made the difficult decision to halt all training activity at POST’s Meridian campus. This resulted in the immediate suspension of MPO #13 and Patrol #197. Shortly thereafter, the Governor issued a Stay-Home order and nearly all POST employees began telecommuting from home. This led to the cancellation of seven scheduled basic academies affecting every discipline through the end of FY 2020. Eventually the State entered into Stage 4 of the Governor’s Idaho Rebounds plan and all state employees returned to the workplace. Through a combination of online instruction and a shortened week of in-person training, both suspended Academy sessions completed their curriculum with MPO #13 graduating on June 19th and Patrol #197 graduating in July.

As we continue to navigate the challenges that this pandemic has placed before us, moving backward and forward in the various stages of recovery as the virus spreads and recedes, there are global sentiments that drive everyone here at POST: a strong feeling of pride, resiliency and hope that guides us on our Vision to ensure that Idaho law enforcement professionals model the highest levels of integrity and service through excellence in standards and training.
POST celebrated our golden anniversary, having opened our doors to the first Patrol Academy in 1970.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

POST NEWS

We’ve been busy at POST updating and improving curriculum, facilities and new technology:

- Acquisition and integration of a new Use of Force simulator from Ti Training
- Complete rewrite, consolidation and legislative adoption of POST’s IDAPA rule.
- Modernization of POST’s website.
- Transition to a completely new distance learning platform with the Idaho Digital Learning Alliance (IDLIA) and roll out of POST’s first ever online basic academy curriculum for Emergency Communications Officers
- Installation of a new A/V system in the Multi-Purpose Room in Building 3 including a new projector and large screen.
- Full refinish of the room’s floor and new wall paint reflecting the thin blue line of law enforcement, as well as new paint and carpet in the weight and cardio exercise rooms.
- New carpeting throughout the administrative offices in Building 3 and new chairs in all POST classrooms.
- POST Council approval of a five-year Strategic Plan along with a complete update of POST’s Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).
- Development and distribution of the Agency Guide to POST for stakeholder agencies.
- Complete replacement of the front entry door system in Building 3
- Redesign of the POST administrative offices and installation of new workstations.

In 2020, POST celebrated 50 years of outstanding service to law enforcement and the citizens of Idaho. A proclamation signing event was held Tuesday, January 7th at which Governor Brad Little announced January 7th, as Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Day and recognized the valuable contribution POST has made to public safety in Idaho. Since it was established in 1969, POST has: provided basic academy training to over 14,000 law enforcement officers from around the state; expanded from providing basic training to police officers, to providing basic and/or in-service training to a total of nine law enforcement disciplines; and expanded from three basic academy sessions per year in 1970 to a total of 19 basic academy sessions across all disciplines.