

# PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU

## TRAINING OUTLINE

**Title:** Public Information Officer

**Instructor:** Lt. Cliff Madison

**Instructional Goals:** To make officers familiar with police/media relationships. To review the General Order and Oregon Public Record Laws dealing with public release of information.

**Performance Objectives:**

1. Officers should have basic understanding of police/press relationships. This will include dealing with the conflicts of goals of news versus goals of police.
2. They should know at least three types of information appropriate to release and three types that are inappropriate to release. This information will be reviewed from G.O. 631.35-Appendix A, Portland Police Bureau Press Guidelines.
3. Know with whom responsibility lies for public information and special circumstances when the information is controlled.

**Outline:**

1. History of Office
  - A. Formed 1974 by Chief Bruce Baker
  - B. Reason:
    1. Speed of media coverage at a scene
    2. Watergate- distrust of government
    3. Prior to PIO, no prescribed method of dealing with press
2. Current Policy
  - A. Handout G.O. 631.35
  - B. Handout Oregon Bar Press Guideline

3. Public Record

- A. Most police reports public records
- B. Media reviews arrest logs and runsheets
- C. Media has CAD link-up on dispatched call locations

4. Media review capabilities

- A. Access to reports by case #
- B. Access to information by request
  - 1. Review exceptions-confidential

C. Monitor police radio-CAD link-up

- 1. Key words
  - a. Murder
  - b. Hostage
  - c. Shooting
  - d. Bomb

5. Crime Scene

- A. Murder-make it big area
- B. If general public is allowed, so is press
- C. If they can see it, they can take pictures
- D. Advise them of your need to secure area and the possible dangers

6. Officers contact with media

- A. Positive attitude-they have a job to do, so do you
- B. Honesty-you have nothing to hide
- C. Appearance
- D. Avoid being baited
- E. Chose your words

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