

Understanding Veteran Culture for Law Enforcement

Course Description:

This two-hour in-service training course provides Virginia law enforcement officers with a comprehensive introduction to the unique cultural experiences, values, and challenges of U.S. military veterans. Designed to meet the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services' cultural diversity training requirement, the course explores the diverse backgrounds of veterans, the impact of military service on identity and behavior, and the transition from military to civilian life.

Through interactive discussions, case studies, and real-world scenarios, participants will gain insight into:

- The structure and ethos of military culture
- Common mental health considerations, including PTSD and moral injury
- Communication styles and expectations shaped by military experience
- The intersection of veteran identity with race, gender, and other cultural factors
- Best practices for respectful and effective engagement with veterans in law enforcement contexts

By the end of the course, officers will be better equipped to recognize and respond to the needs of veterans in their communities, fostering trust, de-escalation, and culturally competent policing.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify key elements of military and veteran culture
- Understand how military service influences behavior and communication
- Recognize signs of service-related trauma and stress
- Apply culturally informed strategies when interacting with veterans

Target Audience: Sworn law enforcement officers in Virginia seeking to fulfill the 2-hour cultural diversity in-service training requirement.

Location: Virginia Highlands Community College, 160 Opportunity Lane, Abingdon, VA. OTC Building, Room 112

Time: 10/23/25 from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m.

Training Fee: Free

Course Registration: Complete the highlighted areas on the attached form and forward to the academy.