



SOLANO COUNTY GRAND JURY
2014 - 2015

**Art Koch Range
&
Training Center**

Art Koch Range & Training Center

2014-2015 Solano County Grand Jury

I. SUMMARY

Owned and operated by the City of Fairfield at 1717 Rex Clift Lane, Fairfield, CA, 94533, there is a firearms range and training center for law enforcement agencies only called the Art Koch Range and Training Center. On November 20, 2014, the Solano County Grand Jury toured the Center. The Grand Jury was met by very courteous and professional staff from the Fairfield Police Department, and given the history and operational information of the facility. We toured the entire Center and Grand Jury members participated in some of the methods used in training police officers. The Center is purported to be state of the art in technology and simulators, allowing officers to master proper police techniques in as near to real life situations as possible.

The Center is well maintained and functionally designed to allow for training in both armed and unarmed procedures. The surrounding paved lot is large enough to accommodate training in certain patrol-style driving techniques.

The Center is so well designed and equipped that law enforcement personnel from several city, state and federal agencies use it to enhance their performance.

II. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The training center is named for fallen Sgt. Art Koch, the only officer in Fairfield's history to have died in the line of duty. Sgt. Koch died on July 29th, 1984, a day after being shot.

The Center was completed in 2008, and integrated some of the most advanced technology of any police training facility in the nation. The training facility sits on 4.63-acres. Within the 39,000 square foot shooting facility the shooting range space alone encompasses approximately 12,000 square feet. The remaining space contains class rooms, training rooms and use-of-force and driving simulators. The final cost of the training center was \$12 million.

III. METHODOLOGY

- Toured the Art Koch Training Center
- Interviewed staff of the Center
- Reviewed various newspaper articles
- Reviewed the Fairfield Police Department web page

IV. STATEMENT OF FACTS

The Center is large enough to accommodate:

- Six 100 yard rifle/pistol ranges
- Twenty 25 yard pistol ranges
- 3200 square-foot room for weaponless defense training or classroom that seats 72 students
- A separate training classroom that seats 32 students is available
- Simulator Training Room with three Driving Simulators and one Force-Options Simulator
- Conference room that seats 20 people
- All training rooms are equipped with smart classroom technology

The Center was built to allow patrol cars to be brought into the ranges to enhance the training with “real life” equipment.

The Center is certified as a training facility as designated by Police Officer Standard Training. Training includes:

- Five-Day Handgun Course
- Five-Day Shotgun Course
- Five-Day Rifle Course

The Center charges fees for agencies other than the Fairfield Police Department, and anticipates enough outside agency usage to defray the costs of operations and maintenance of the facility. The training staff and the facility have the flexibility to accommodate the training needs of individual law enforcement agencies. The Center is fast approaching a cost-neutral situation where fees help defray maintenance and operational costs that will allow for future additions and refinements.

The Grand Jury was informed by Center staff there are plans to enlarge the surrounding patrol car training area.

The simulator area houses a laser shooting platform for near-to-life scenarios, and has three 3-dimensional driving equipment simulators. The driving simulators are designed to replicate current cars in use by the Fairfield police department. Other car and SUV models are planned for when budget allows. The shooting platform simulator library of scenarios and simulator equipment will also be upgraded.

IV. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding - 1

The Grand Jury found the facility meets the training needs of the Fairfield Police Department and other law enforcement agencies.

Recommendation- 1

Continue current standards of training.

Finding – 2

The facility has the capability to expand its training programs as more revenue is received from training outside agencies.

Recommendation – 2

Continue to increase marketing efforts to attract additional outside law enforcement agency usage.

V. COMMENTS

The decision by the City of Fairfield to build a police training facility has proven to be a prudent use of public funds.

Continue to provide the current outstanding level of training and develop additional training programs as needed.

VI. REQUIRED RESPONSES

Mayor, City of Fairfield
Fairfield Chief of Police

VII. COURTESY COPIES

Clerk of the Board, Solano County Board of Supervisors