

Archeological Law Enforcement Training

Training is an important tool in efforts to combat the looting and vandalism of archeological resources. Archeological law enforcement training began in earnest with the enactment of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) in 1979. Four important archeological law enforcement training efforts since that time have been classes offered by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), the National Park Service (NPS), the firm of Archaeological Resource Investigations (ARI), and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (VDCJS).

In 1981, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and NPS requested that FLETC develop and teach a national archeological law enforcement class dealing with the investigation and prosecution of archeological violations. The resulting 4½-day FLETC class, entitled the “Archeological Resources Protection Training Program” (ARPTP), was first taught in 1983. FLETC has offered ARPTP over 100 times since. During this time over 3,500 participants have attended the class, roughly two-thirds of whom are law enforcement officers and one-third archeologists.

FLETC has also offered archeological law enforcement training as part of other training classes such as the “Law Enforcement for Land Managers” class that introduces upper level land management agency officials to law enforcement issues. Recently, FLETC changed the emphasis of training in this area by adding a 4-day block of archeological law enforcement instruction to the basic training programs for land management law enforcement officers and announcing that ARPTP would not be taught during fiscal year 2002.

NPS also has played a prominent role in archeological law enforcement training. To meet the need for training agency managers, NPS developed a class entitled “Archeological Protection Training for Cultural Resources and Law Enforcement Managers and Specialists.” Later renamed “Overview of Archeological Protection Programs,” this 1½-day class was taught 29 times between 1988 and 1992 and was attended by 813 participants. In 1992, NPS created a new class designed primarily to familiarize assistant U.S. attorneys and other prosecuting attorneys with ARPA and related statutes and the prosecution of archeological violation cases. This class is entitled “Overview of Archeological Protection Law” and is cosponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). It has been taught annually since 1992 and approximately 240 participants have attended the nine classes presented. Since 1996, NPS and DOJ have offered the “Overview of Heritage Resources Law” class that emphasizes civil enforcement law as well as compliance issues. This class has been taught four times and has been attended by approximately 110 participants. In 2001, NPS’ National Capitol Region designed and offered the first advanced archeological law enforcement class in order to deal with investigation and prosecution issues beyond the scope of the basic classes. Nineteen graduates of basic archeological law enforcement classes who have experience with archeological violations cases attended the

National Park Service archeologist Charles Haecker (left) and Gila River Indian Community archeologist Brenda Randolph measure and record damage in ARI’s Archeological Damage Assessment class. Photo by the author.



advanced class. Based on their favorable reaction, it is likely that there will be future offerings of the advanced class and other versions of it.

Archaeological Resource Investigations (ARI) of Missoula, MT, has specialized in providing archeological law enforcement training for 16 years. ARI currently offers 3- and 4½-day versions of a basic archeological law enforcement class and a specialized 5-day class for archeologists entitled "Archaeological Damage Assessment." The basic classes deal with detection, investigation, and prosecution of archeological violations and are taught by a team that includes a criminal investigator, an archeologist, and a prosecuting attorney. Both the 3- and 4½-day classes include an archeological crime scene practical exercise in which a mock archeological violation is detected and investigated. Targeted participants for ARI's basic archeological law enforcement classes are Federal, tribal, State, and local law enforcement officers, archeologists, and prosecuting attorneys. The Archaeological Damage Assessment class was developed by ARI in conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Regional Office, and the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Utah. In this class, participants are required to conduct damage assessment procedures at a field site, prepare the archeological value and cost of restoration and repair determinations required by ARPA, and write an archeological damage assessment report. These reports are then presented to the class and cri-

tiqued by the archeologist and prosecuting attorney who serve as instructors. Targeted participants for this class are archeologists employed by land management agencies, tribes, and archeological consulting firms.

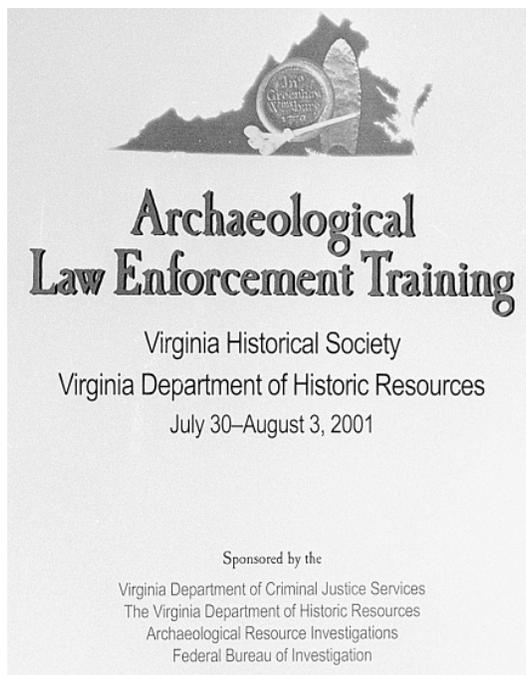
In addition to archeological law enforcement training provided by Federal agencies and ARI, some States also offer classes on this subject. An outstanding example is the Time Crime training program of VDCJS.* Since 1995, VDCJS has taught 4- and 8-hour archeological law enforcement classes for Virginia law enforcement officers and archeologists. Subjects covered in the 4-hour class are an overview of archeological resource crime, the role of the archeologist in crime scene investigation, local archeological resources, State and Federal laws protecting these resources, investigative protocols, and Virginia case studies. The 8-hour class includes an archeological crime scene practical exercise. To date, VDCJS' Time Crime classes have been taught over 100 times with nearly 4,000 participants. In 2001, VDCJS, ARI, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) cooperated to present a 4½-day archeological law enforcement class in Richmond, VA. In addition to FBI and U.S. Customs Service agents and law enforcement officers and archeologists from Federal land management agencies, this class was attended by graduates of VDCJS' Time Crime classes in order to expand their expertise in archeological law enforcement.

These and other archeological law enforcement training efforts during the 22 years since ARPA was enacted have been highly effective in preparing law enforcement officers, archeologists, and prosecuting attorneys to deal with archeological resource crime, but the overall need for training remains unfulfilled. As participants in archeological resource crime become more sophisticated and more challenging legal issues are raised in their defense, there will be an increasing need for archeological law enforcement training efforts to respond with basic classes for new employees, refresher classes for previously trained employees, and new types of training such as ARI's Archaeological Damage Assessment class and NPS' advanced archeological law enforcement class.

* The Virginia program was described in "Time Crime — Anti-Looting Efforts in Virginia," *CRM* 24, no. 2 (2001): 3-5.

Martin E. McAllister, archeologist, heads Archaeological Resource Investigations of Missoula, MT.

Federal and State collaboration in training archeologists and law enforcement officers has resulted in increased surveillance of fragile resources, prosecutions, and public awareness. Photo by Robert D. Hicks.



The poster features a central image of a map of Virginia with a circular seal overlaid on it. Below the image, the text reads: "Archaeological Law Enforcement Training" in a large, bold, serif font. Underneath that, in a smaller serif font, is "Virginia Historical Society" and "Virginia Department of Historic Resources". At the bottom of the poster, it says "July 30–August 3, 2001". At the very bottom, in a small sans-serif font, it lists the sponsors: "Sponsored by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, The Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Archaeological Resource Investigations, Federal Bureau of Investigation".