**Maine Drug Recognition Expert School**

Applicant Summary

Name(Last, First) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone#: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Maine Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program has received national acclaim for its success in identifying the drug-impaired driver. Officers trained as Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) or commonly referred to as Drug Recognition Technicians (DRT) are frequently called upon to differentiate between drug influence and medical and/or mental disorders. The certified DRE is an extremely valuable tool in combating the adverse impact of drug and alcohol impaired driving in our communities.

Due to class size, needs of the State and budget constraints, not all applicants are selected. Further, if the applicant is selected, it should be noted that the DRE School is academically demanding. On average, 20% of students on the National level do not successfully pass the certification process. To receive certification as a DRE, two phases of training must be completed. The following summarizes each phase:

**ACADEMIC TRAINING:** This phase is typically conducted over nine days (72 hours). It includes courses in physiology, vital signs, standardized field sobriety testing (SFST), and extensive material on each of the seven categories of the drugs of abuse. The training includes three written examinations, an SFST proficiency examination and five written quizzes. Students must achieve a minimum of 80% on the three examinations, and must demonstrate proficiency in administering SFST's in order to progress to the certification phase.

**CERTIFICATION PHASE:** After successfully completing the academic portion, the students return to their department assignment. With assistance from the Academy and senior DRE Instructors, it is the candidate’s responsibility to complete the certification requirements within three months following the DRE School. These requirements include: conducting a minimum of 12 drug influence evaluations while under the supervision of a DRE instructor; identifying subjects under the influence of three of the seven drug categories; and attaining a 75% toxicological confirmation rate. In addition, the student must maintain a progress log, rolling log and submit a quality resume. Finally, the student must pass a comprehensive final knowledge examination, and obtain the written endorsement of two certified DRE instructors.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Maine Criminal Justice Academy are the regulating and certifying organizations for the DEC Program. DRE Certification is valid for two years. In order to maintain certification, DRE's must conduct a minimum of four evaluations every two years, submit an updated rolling log, an updated resume, and attend 8-hours of re-certification training.

**To be considered for DRE training, the applicant must meet the following required criteria:**

* Must be a full time Law Enforcement Officer certified by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.
* Must complete a standardized field sobriety testing course (SFST) as approved by the Director of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, and have been deemed proficient in SFST.

A review committee will assist in the selection of quality candidates for the Maine DEC Program and the DRE training. Each applicant will meet with our review committee for an interview. Please provide the following information to allow the review committee the opportunity to adequately prepare for your interview during the selection process.

Years of Full Time Law Enforcement experience: \_\_\_ Date of SFST training (Date): \_\_\_\_

Number of OUI arrests in the last 4 years: how many convictions .

Number of Possession of a Controlled Substance arrests in the past 4 years:

Summarize your prior assignments related to, or of interest to, the DEC Program:

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Summarize your formal education, work or practical experience, and training that may be related to, or may be of interest to, the DEC Program (EMT training, college, etc.):

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How do you expect DRE training to benefit you and your Agency?

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Is there anything else you think the DRE Selection Committee should know about your interest to be a DRE?

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**Please attach your Curriculum Vitae and copies of your two most recent OUI arrest reports.**

Letters of recommendation are encouraged from:

* A current or formerly certified Drug Recognition Expert.
* A District Attorney or Assistant District Attorney outlining your ability to prepare a case and testify as a witness (Many DRE’s have been deemed an expert witness by the court)
* A supervisor from your agency outlining your skill as an investigator, your report writing abilities and your overall attitude towards impaired driving enforcement.
* Other letters or documents that you feel would assist the interview panel in choosing you as a candidate for this school.

In order for the DRE to be successful in this program they must have the support of their agency. Although some of the costs are covered through the Bureau of Highway Safety, the student will be responsible for a pre course assignment, flexibility in scheduling after the class to complete their 12 evaluations in three months, (Travel throughout Maine and out of state at agency expense may be required to obtain evaluations), DRE’s must meet recertification requirements which include mandatory training and a minimum of 4 evaluations each 2 year cycle, and DRE’s are encouraged to conduct evaluations for neighboring agencies if it does not create a financial hardship for their agency.

During the DRE school, students are frequently tested on knowledge and skills based on the IACP curriculum and program standards. The DRE Candidate must pass the pre-school and post school exams with a minimum score of 80%. Students must also perform the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests to the satisfaction of an instructor. **Students not meeting these standards will be excused from the program.**

I have read the listed requirements, pledge that our agency can logistically support the DRE program and recommend this officer for DRE training.

Supervisor’s name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

Receipt of this application by MCJA does not guarantee the candidate a seat in this class. A review committee will interview all applicants for the DRE school and make recommendations for candidacy to the Commissioner of Public Safety per Title 29-A 2526-2.

Please e-mail completed application packets to edwin.d.finnegan@maine.gov.