

## NHACoP Discussion Forum- Rules & Protocols

### Purpose-

- The Forum was established by the Association's Web Manager to provide a vehicle for Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs, Directors, Commanders and other approved members of the NHACoP to exchange information, seek opinion and foster communication among the members. By using the Forum members can send to a large group, using a single e-mail address, thereby saving time and maintaining the security of the members individual e-addresses.

### Rules of Enrollment-

- Members can join the Forum by either logging in through the Yahoo © group website, by invitation from a Moderator, or direct enrollment by a Moderator.
- No member shall be enrolled unless they are the head of a NH Law Enforcement Agency, a Division Director of a State Law Enforcement Agency, other Agency official eligible for membership in the Association, or by special directive from the President of the Association.
- The Web Manager shall serve as the Forum Moderator. The Moderator shall appoint another Association member to serve as Co-Moderator.

### Protocol for Use of the Forum

- The Forum is to be used to exchange information among the members. Topics considered appropriate for Forum discussion include, but are not limited to: requests for advice and information; investigative assistance; sharing ideas on policy development; discussion of current legislation; seeking & offering training opportunities; current issues before the Association; mentoring of new Chiefs; and exchanging/bartering official equipment.
- The following discussions are strictly prohibited from publication on the Forum: sales of personal property; degrading or demeaning other law enforcement agencies or personnel; personal attacks directed towards other Association members; and discussion of confidential investigative or personnel matters.
- Replies to individual members should be taken off line and sent directly to the member's personal e-mail unless the information being sent may be of benefit to the membership as a group.
  - While politeness and professionalism is encouraged, using the group forum to reply "thank you" to each member who contributes to a request is not a proper use of the forum.
- Should a violation of these protocols be noted, one of the Moderators shall contact the originating member to describe what the violation was, and to remind the member to be more cautious with their postings.
  - Any Forum member has the ability and authority to notify a Moderator if they believe a violation of the Protocols has occurred.
- If a second violation is noted, of either a similar or different nature, a Moderator shall notify the Association President in writing. The President shall make a determination if the notice is valid. If deemed valid, the President may-
  - Direct the writer to temper his/her comments

- Instruct the Moderator to change the posting status of the member to Approved Messages Only, where the Moderator reviews the posting and authorizes the publication if the message is appropriate
  - Remove the member from the Forum.
- If a member is removed from the Forum, s/he may request reinstatement to the Forum from the Officers & Moderator six months after removal.
- These rules and protocols shall only apply to messages sent via the NHACoP Discussion Forum. E-mails sent directly to one or a group of people from outside the Yahoo Group/Discussion Forum are not subject to these rules and procedures.

Original version 10/01/08