

Training Outline

Training Date: _____

Title:	Decision-Making Training: Taser Training
Instructor(s):	
Objective(s): (At the end of this block of instruction, each participant will be able to achieve the following objectives in accordance with information received during the instructional period:)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Articulate the legal authority to use force and explain the reasons for use of force, if deployed. 2. Demonstrate basic tactical principles of contact and cover. 3. Demonstrate effective communication between officers. 4. Demonstrate de-escalation tactics, both verbal and non-verbal.
Hour(s):	30 – 60 minutes
Materials Needed: (List any equipment or items needed by attendees in order to complete the training.)	<p>Issued Equipment for officers. Simunition Training Firearm, Secureblank® Ammunition, Taser Training Suit, and Training Knife.</p> <p>NO Firearms in the training area.</p>
Course Content: (Brief description of what the training will cover and an overview of the subject matter.)	<p>Two officers are dispatched to serve an involuntary commitment order. The person named in the order is armed with an edged weapon at a set distance. Officers are required to maintain officer safety, communicate with one another, utilize de-escalation tactics, and deploy the Taser.</p> <p>The exercise is completed, followed by a short debrief. Officers switch roles and complete the exercise again.</p>
Assessment: (List any tests administered to measure attendees' performance. Attach tests to this lesson plan if needed.)	Grading Matrix
Source: (List any resources used or other informational materials cited in your training.)	See Source Material
Approved By:	
Approved Date:	

Training roster or a list of attendees shall be attached to this lesson plan.

Instructor Notes

1. Purpose of Exercise
 1. This exercise is intended to encourage learners to maintain officer safety, communicate with officers, de-escalate, and deploy less lethal force.
2. Conditions of the Exercise
 1. This exercise takes place in a room that allows the learners and the subject to be 20 feet from one another. Variations can allow the subject to be at a minimum of 15 feet.
 2. Each officer shall run the exercise twice in order to assume the role as Contact and Cover.
 3. See attached diagram: Room Layout.
 4. If force is not deployed within 2 minutes of a knife detection, the subject should begin to slowly step towards the officers while yelling, "Shoot me!"
3. Personnel and Equipment
 1. One instructor can facilitate this exercise.
 2. Two [2] officers. Each officer will need a training handgun. (Preferred Simunition gun with Secureblank® ammo. No more than four? [4] rounds per Simunition handgun.)
 3. Issued Taser and radio.
 4. One [1] role player in an Axon Taser training suit.
4. Procedures for Conducting the Exercise
 1. Have both officers in the training area and assign one officer as primary and the other as backup.

Provide the following information:

You are in possession of a legal involuntary commitment order [IVC]. The order is signed by a doctor and has documented the person as a danger to self and others. Upon entering the home, the reporting party's family member explains their brother grabbed them around the neck. You observe red marks consistent with assault. A second person steps out from the far doorway with his right hand concealed. The reporting party tells you that's his brother, the one who assaulted him. This is the same person named in the IVC.

(For training purposes, you do not have to concern yourself with the reporting party. This person will not present a danger to you, but refuses to move if told to leave.)

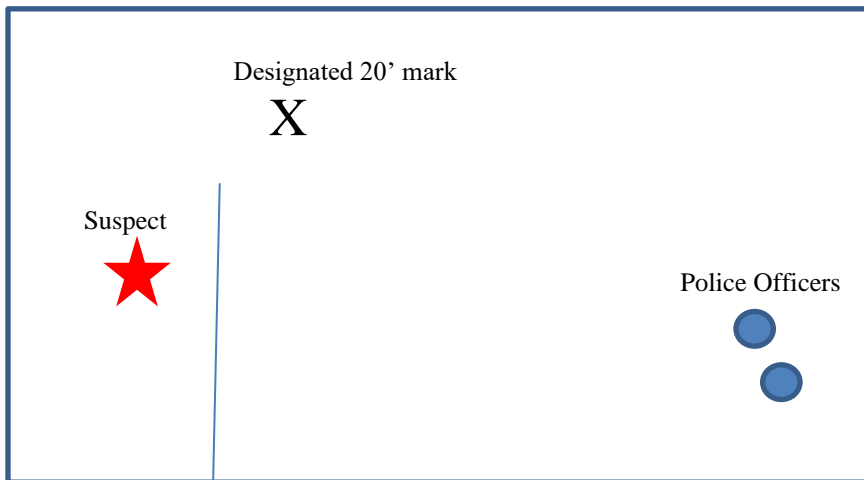
2. Instruct the role player to only stand at the designated area. They are not to move in any direction. The knife is held blade down in their right hand. DO NOT stand in a fighting stance. Once they are at the designated area, they are to move the knife from behind their back next to their side in full view of the officers. This movement is to take place at a normal speed. The only verbal response that can be given is: "NO!" and/or "Shoot me!" The role player will not drop the knife until force is used. Once force is used, the role player is to go to the ground while dropping the knife within reaching distance. Once force is used, the role player will comply with all commands.
3. Once the knife is secured, the exercise will be stopped.
4. See attachment: Exercise Directions

5. Directions for Feedback

1. Articulate the legal authority to use force.
2. Discuss the actions of the primary officer and backup officer. Did they adhere to the Contact & Cover principles?
3. Discuss the type of commands given. Were they direct and simple and once there was no compliance did the communication style change to address the threat severity?
4. See attachment: Source Material

Room Layout

Preferred Layout: Any indoor room that permits the officers and the suspect to be 20 feet apart. The room should have a doorway for the officers to come in and a means of concealing the suspect until he or she steps to the designated area [X] that marks the 20-foot distance.



Optional Room Layout: The officers can be told to face away from where the suspect will be and then told to turn around once they have been given the information about the call. The goal is to present the suspect in a manner that is consistent with a sudden appearance knowing he make have just assaulted his brother while his right hand is concealed briefly, then present the weapon.

Exercise Directions

Read to Officers

[Use current date & time.]

You are both dispatched to serve an involuntary commitment order [IVC]. The homeowner / family member of the person taking out the IVC welcomes you into the home. As you step inside the house, the family member begins to tell you the person named in the IVC "John" grabbed him around the neck. You observe red marks that are consistent with an assault. While the family member is telling you this, the person named in the order steps into the room. The family member tells you that is who assaulted him.

For training purposes: The IVC is legal and valid. The doctor, who signed off on the order, documented that the person is a danger to self and others. You do not have to concern yourself with the reporting party.

Objectives:

- Interact with the person named in the IVC and secure them.
- Maintain officer safety and use only reasonable and necessary force to serve the order.
- Engage in Contact & Cover tactics.
- Communicate in an optimal fashion with each other, Communications, and the subject named in the IVC.

Notes: Suspect Role Player

Background: You have attempted to commit suicide, and your family has obtained an IVC order. Just before the police arrived, you attempted to choke a family member at home with you. When the police arrive, you want them to shoot you, so you get your knife.

Stand at the designed area. Do NOT stand in a fighting or aggressive stance. Stand in a normal, non-threatening manner. Do not move in any direction.

Your right hand is kept behind your back, holding a training knife, blade pointed downward. Once at the designed area, bring your right hand out for the officers to see. Do this at a normal speed. Always keep the knife by your thigh.

The only verbal response you have is: "NO!" / "Shoot Me!" Do not give any body language that is threatening. The verbal response of "NO" and "Shoot Me" should be yelled or screamed while staring intently at the officers.

You will not drop the knife until force is used. Once force is used, you go to the ground, dropping the knife, with hands out. Do not conceal your hands.

The knife is to be dropped, but it needs to be within reaching distance.

Once force is used, you will comply with all commands.

Notes: Instructor

Once officers have secured the knife, stop the practical exercise.

Ask, "What caused you to use force?" Be sure they give specific reasons. You can ask, "What did you see that caused you to use force?" "What did you hear?" "Was there anything the reporting party told you that may have influenced you to use force?"

Ask, "Who was Contact and who was Cover?" Discuss the expectations of each role.

Discuss the use of force and how it was used and who used it. Have the officers point out a pro and con with their decision-making.

Source Material

The following information is to be used by the instructor as he or she deems necessary to gain a better understanding of evidence-based police tactics.

A. Communication

1. There is verbal confirmation of a weapon present. For example, officer(s) verbalize "Knife!" This can be covert or overt.
2. Contact officer gives commands. Alpha commands are "defined as a command in which a [movement] or verbal response is appropriate and feasible." Alpha commands have a higher rate of compliance than beta commands which are vague or indirect (Houlihan et al., 2008). For example, "Drop the knife, now!" is an alpha command. "Drop it!" is a beta command.
3. Cover officer works the radio. Ex. Notifies Comms of unfolding events, description of subject, request Fire/EMS, request any additional resources. Ex. CIT, less lethal tools, more units.
4. Contact officer engages in verbal de-escalation once alpha commands are confirmed they are not accomplishing the desired goal.
5. Communicate with each other a plan of action, including one officer transitioning to Taser while one officer maintains lethal coverage. Consider, for example, who will secure the knife and who will secure the subject?
6. Verbal confirmation of Taser about to be deployed., such as, . "Taser, taser, taser."
7. Verbal confirmation of officer securing knife.

B. Force

1. Both officers, or a minimum one officer, should have their handgun(s) out once they see the knife. Both officers going lethal at the start is optimal. To transition between handgun and taser takes between 2.5 and 5 sec (Taylor et al., 2023).
2. Once officers determine the subject is not dropping the knife and is not advancing, one officer should transition to Taser.
3. Taser is deployed with two probes striking subject.
4. A person can cover 20 feet in 1.3 sec (Dysterheft et al., 2013). Taking into consideration arm reach, this time could be reduced slightly.
5. This leads to the fact that if the subject decides to charge, officers will have an estimated 0.9 - 0.7 seconds to deploy a tactic to stop the threat. Reactionary time of an officer has been found to be between .39 sec (Blair et al., 2011) and .56 sec (Lewinski et al., 2014).
6. Weapon Movement Times: Aiming 0.5 sec. High Ready (Chest level) 0.5 sec. Low Ready (Belt level) 0.6 sec. Aiming had the highest false positive error with low ready having the lowest (Taylor, 2021).
7. Force is required and must be reasonable and necessary to reduce the immediate threat. See Estate of Cory Hill v. Mirale, 6th Circuit. Courts applied the Graham Factors to a medical emergency.

C. De-escalation

1. Direct communication at first, including. Drop the knife now!
2. Recognize this is a person in crisis. Recognize this may be a mental health issue and/or suicide by cop (Mohandie & Meloy, 2000).
3. Direct communication is not optimal with a person in crisis. Officers should engage in crisis communication (*Force Science Realistic De-Escalation Instructor Course*, 2021) by, for example, using the individual's first name, telling the person you are here to help, asking, "What is causing you to do this?", and engaging in emotional labeling (e.g., "It looks like you are scared." "It seems like you want to hurt yourself") (Crews, 2021)

4. Verbal de-escalation should only last long enough to reasonably determine a connection cannot be made. This will be evident by the subject only responding with “No” or “Shoot Me” (Woods & Polizzi, 2008).
5. Tactical de-escalation should be utilized at this time, such as. deployment of Taser.

SOURCE MATERIAL

- Blair, J. P., Pollock, J., Montague, D., Nichols, T., Curnutt, J., & Burns, D. (2011). Reasonableness and Reaction Time. *Police Quarterly*, 14(4), 323–343. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10986111111423737>.
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- Mohandie, K., & Meloy, J. R. (2000). Clinical and Forensic Indicators of “Suicide by Cop.” *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 45(2), 14690J. <https://doi.org/10.1520/JFS14690J>.
- North Carolina General Statute. Dangerous to Self and Others. NCGS 122C-3(11).
- North Carolina Justice Academy [NCJA]. (2022) Subject Control Arrest Techniques. BLET 10AB.
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- Taylor, P. L., Sipe, P., & Bartel, L. (2023). Lost in transition: The effects of transitioning between firearms and electronic control devices (ECDs) on perception-response times (PRTs). *The Police Journal: Theory, Practice and Principles*, 96(1), 103–116. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0032258X211044135>.
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