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# BASIC COURSE INSTRUCTOR UNIT GUIDE

23

CRIMES-IN-PROGRESS

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THE COMMISSION  
ON PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

The curricula contained in this document is designed as a *guideline* for the delivery of performance-based law enforcement training. It is part of the POST Basic Course guidelines system developed by California law enforcement trainers and criminal justice educators in cooperation with the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

The training specifications referenced herein express the required minimum content of this domain.

**UNIT GUIDE 23**

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Crimes-in-Progress**

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**Supporting Materials and References**

## SEARCHING A BUILDING FOR A SUSPECT

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following steps involved in searching the inside of a building for a suspect or suspects.

- A. Establish a perimeter and plan the search
- B. Search outside of building for point of entry
- C. Attempt to contact the owner for a key and information about the building
- D. Use a loud speaker to communicate with suspects from outside the building
- E. When searching a building at nighttime, turn on the interior lights, if practical
- F. Use a canine unit, if one is available
- G. Inform other units before entering the building
- H. Search with at least two officers, one supplying cover
- I. Use only one entrance
- J. Check behind all doors and search any area large enough to conceal a suspect
- K. Close doors after each room has been thoroughly searched
- L. Search multi-story buildings one floor at a time, from top to bottom
- M. Do not abandon search until all areas have been searched

Performance Objective 8.16.1

## CURRICULUM

### A. Building Searches

#### 1. Interior search

- a. Make certain perimeter is established.
- b. It may be necessary to re-deploy units before entry into building.
  - (1) Units positioned to reduce hazard of crossfire.
  - (2) Spotlights can be used to illuminate interior.
- c. When all units are in position, suspects should be told by loud voice or loud speaker to come out.
- d. If available, consider utilizing canine.
- e. Entering the building
  - (1) Owner should be called to respond.
  - (2) Owner can provide information on interior plans, location of lights, and keys to open doors.

- (3) Do not let the owner approach building or unlock the door and place himself/herself in danger.
- f. It is better to wait a few minutes to unlock a door than to climb through broken windows, holes in the roof, etc.
- g. Advise other officers that police are entering the building.
- h. After door is open, position yourself by side of entry and listen.
- i. Enter quickly, keeping body low.
- j. Move quickly away from entrance.
  - (1) Use objects for cover.
- k. Do not silhouette yourself.
- l. Allow eyes to adjust if interior is dark.
- m. Make proper use of available light.
  - (1) Flashlight
  - (2) Room lights
  - (3) Spotlights/headlights
- n. Handgun should be ready
- o. Searching interior should be conducted by at least two officers (one searches, one covers). The number of personnel will be determined by the type and size of building, and the arrangement of furniture, display counters, partitions, or stacks of merchandise.
- p. Only one opening should be used to enter. Officers entering from several directions can result in one mistaking another for a burglar.
- q. Push doors open fully to wall to preclude suspect(s) hiding behind doors. If door will not open fully, look between hinge edge of door and the door jamb before entering.
- r. All places large enough to conceal a suspect should be checked.
- s. Make sure each room is searched thoroughly before searching another. Close doors of rooms already searched.
- t. Be aware of crossfire situations.

- u. In multi-story buildings, the search should be confined to one floor at a time. (Searching from the top down when possible)
  - v. The search of a multi-story building requires enough manpower to provide one officer for each stairway.
    - (1) Chances of escape will improve if suspects were permitted to move to a floor already searched.
    - (2) Elevators should be taken out of service on the ground floor.
  - w. All possible exterior exits should be guarded until interior is completely searched.
  - x. Do not abandon search just because several suspects are found.
8. Apprehension of suspects
- a. When suspect is observed
    - (1) Control and secure suspect
    - (2) Remove from location when possible
    - (3) Complete search for other suspects
  - b. Questioning regarding additional suspects/weapons
    - (1) Emergency situation
    - (2) Assume suspect knows desired information
    - (3) Frame questions positively
9. Secure building
- (a) Owner, manager, employee
  - (b) Patrol checks
10. Search Patterns

Many buildings and their exteriors differ from area to area. There are some basic types of search patterns that can be effective for exterior searches and for large commercial buildings for suspects and evidence.

(a) Type of searches.

- (1) Zone search - divide the room or open space on the exterior of the building into sections.
- (2) Spiral Search - The searchers follow each other in the path of a spiral beginning on the outside and spiraling in toward the center. Not used very often.
- (2) Strip search - Area is blocked out in the form of a rectangle.

Special attention should be paid to this type search. This type of search is desirable for exterior searches. Interiors of most buildings do not lend themselves to this type of search due to partitioning of the building, furniture, hallways, and machinery. However, large stores are ideal for this method.

## SEARCHING AN OPEN AREA FOR A SUSPECT

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following steps involved in an outdoor search for a suspect or suspects.

- A. Estimate the size of the area to be searched
- B. Request additional assistance, if needed
- C. Establish a perimeter if feasible
- D. Develop a flexible search plan

Performance Objective 8.16.2

## CURRICULUM

- A. Search of the scene
  - 1. Officer should move quickly and quietly
    - a. Keys should be placed in pocket
    - b. Avoid walking on noisy surfaces (i.e., gravel, dry leaves)
    - c. Stop, listen, and watch for activity, e.g., barking dogs
  - 2. Position and search
    - a. Look for footprints or signs of attempted entry.
    - b. Search should be slow and cautious.
    - c. Walk in shadows.
    - d. Officer should avoid silhouetting self.
    - e. Use proper flashlight techniques.
    - f. Use flashlight on grass (if wet with dew) from an oblique angle.
      - (1) May reveal footprints—show path of suspect
      - (2) May reveal exit or hiding place
      - (3) May verify existence of suspect
    - g. Watch for clotheslines, garbage cans, and dogs.
    - h. Carefully examine trees and shrubs.

- i. Check vehicles in area for warm engines.
  - j. Note things out of place.
  - k. Look for signs of attempted burglary or evidence of sexual psychopath.
3. After yard search is completed, the backup or second officer should search neighborhood and surrounding area for possible suspect.
4. Interviewing complainant
- a. Obtain description and direction of flight, then radio description.
  - b. Officer should advise complainant that the residence will be checked as much as possible during the remainder of the shift, and the officer should drive by occasionally and shine the spotlight on the residence.
  - c. If unfounded, the officer should not ridicule the complainant.
  - d. Warn complainant if careless with curtains or shades.
  - e. Advise complainant what to do in the event the prowler returns.
    - (1) Prowler should not be alerted that the person is aware of his/her presence.
    - (2) Lights should be left on.
    - (3) Telephone law enforcement agency (out of view, if possible).
    - (4) Be certain to clearly repeat address, etc.

## METHODS OF RESPONDING TO CRIMES-IN-PROGRESS

Given a word picture depicting a crime-in-progress, the student will identify which of the following methods would be the most appropriate way to respond.

- A. Proceed directly to the crime scene as quickly and silently as possible
- B. Proceed directly to the crime scene using emergency procedures
- C. Proceed to the crime scene using a route where fleeing suspects are most likely to be intercepted

Performance Objective 8.21.1

## CURRICULUM

- A. Crimes in progress response
  - 1. Regular beat car is normally used as the primary or first unit for in-progress calls.
    - a. Responsible for call unless relieved by ranking officer.
    - b. Other units should be assigned or station themselves in positions where they might intercept fleeing suspects.
  - 2. Units closer to the scene should advise the dispatcher and be substituted for primary unit.

Originally assigned primary unit should then be used as back-up for search.
  - 3. The objective is to arrive as quickly as possible, consistent with safety.
  - 4. The decision to use siren and flashing lights must be made on the basis of the following factors:
    - a. Distance from scene.
    - b. Amount of traffic.
    - c. Adequacy of horn and an occasional red light to clear immediate route.
    - d. Need to halt on-going physical assault by warning assailant of police approach.
    - e. Consistent with agency policy.



### CRITERIA FOR SELECTING A RESPONSE METHOD

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following factors as those to be considered when determining the method to be used in responding to crimes-in-progress:

- A. Distance to location of crime
- B. Availability of assisting units
- C. Nature of crime
- D. Time lag
- E. Geographic environment (street configuration, freeway ramps, etc.)
- F. Agency policy

Performance Objective 8.21.2

### CURRICULUM

- A. Response route
  - 1. In choosing the method of responding, the following items should be considered:
    - a. How far officer is from the scene--distance in time.
    - b. Assisting units available--how far they are from the scene.
    - c. Type of crime responding to.
    - d. Time lag--time elapsed since crime occurred.
    - e. Geographic environment--street configuration, freeway ramps, etc.
    - f. Agency policy regarding authorized emergency vehicles.



### CRITERIA FOR SELECTING A RESPONSE ROUTE

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following criteria upon which an officer should base the selection of a response route to a crime-in-progress call:

- A. Distance to location of crime
- B. Traffic situation
- C. Time of day
- D. Condition of route
- E. Best direction from which to approach
- F. Criticality of situation

Performance Objective 8.21.3

### CURRICULUM

- A. The following criteria should be used in selection of response route:
  - 1. Distance to be traveled
    - a. Surface street
    - b. Freeways, highways, etc.
  - 2. Traffic situation in the area
  - 3. Time of day
  - 4. Condition of route to be taken
  - 5. Best approach direction
  - 6. Criticality of situation



### RESPONDING TO A BURGLARY-IN-PROGRESS CALL

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following steps involved in responding to a burglary-in-progress call.

- A. Use a quick, silent approach
- B. Contain the scene
- C. Search the exterior of the building
- D. Search the interior of the building
- E. Apprehend the suspect(s)
- F. Secure the scene

Performance Objective 8.22.1

### CURRICULUM

- A. Approaching the location
  - 1. Develop a plan of operation.
    - a. Must be flexible (plan ahead while patrolling beat).
    - b. Provide coordination between partners and other units.
  - 2. Officer should get to the scene quickly, quietly, and safely.
    - a. Do not use red lights or siren near location.
    - b. Turn off headlights before final approach (when safe).
    - c. Slow speed on final approach to eliminate tire squeal and engine noise.
    - d. Turn radio volume down.
    - e. Don't rattle car keys or loose objects.
    - f. Don't slam doors - close them quietly.
    - g. Dome or other interior light should not function when doors are opened.
    - h. Don't leave keys in patrol car ignition.
  - 3. First officer at scene should take a position to best observe and control the scene.
    - a. Should advise the officer has arrived, and give specific location.

- b. Most important for officers to communicate and coordinate their response to contain suspects and prevent escape.
4. Exterior search of area
- a. Vehicles parked at or near location (warm engine)
  - b. Boxes, trash bins, stockpiles
  - c. Trees, hedges, shrubbery
  - d. All places of possible concealment (Don't forget to look up)
5. Search for point of entry
- a. Use caution
    - (1) Do not walk or stand in front of windows.
    - (2) Be careful not to silhouette yourself or your partner.
    - (3) One officer covers, the other searches.
    - (4) Use wall for protection when looking into window or trying the door.
    - (5) After checking the interior from the window, cross under the window and check from the other side.
    - (6) Use flashlight properly and cautiously.
    - (7) If point of entry is located, notify dispatcher and other units.
    - (8) Be aware of and preserve physical evidence.
  - b. Doors, transoms, windows, and roofs.
    - (1) Pry marks
    - (2) Glass cut or broken
    - (3) Dust disturbed on window ledge
    - (4) Cobwebs
  - c. Tunnel job
6. Search of roof
- a. Access to roof sometimes difficult

- (1) May need ladder--if none available consider calling fire department
- (2) Air support
- b. Cover officers ascending roof
- c. Notify other personnel regarding the officers on roof.
- d. Searching officer should check:
  - (1) Adjacent roof
  - (2) Sign boards
  - (3) Air vents
  - (4) Any other place of concealment
- e. Advise officers on ground of conditions.
- f. Use extreme caution and make use of natural cover.
- g. If entry hole is discovered, it should not be approached.
  - (1) Advise other officers and watch hole from vantage spot.



## RESPONDING TO A ROBBERY-IN-PROGRESS CALL

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following steps involved in responding to a robbery-in-progress call.

- A. Determine an appropriate response method
- B. Attempt to intercept fleeing suspects while enroute
- C. Park out of view and walk to the scene using good cover
- D. Establish a perimeter
- E. Plan for deployment
- F. Contain the scene (do not enter the building while the suspect is inside)
- G. Initiate a crime broadcast
- H. Apprehend suspect(s)
- I. Watch for additional suspects

Performance Objective 8.23.1

## CURRICULUM

- A. Approaching the location
  1. Develop a plan of operation.
    - a. Must be flexible (plan ahead while patrolling beat).
    - b. Provide coordination between partners and other units.
  2. Officer should get to the scene quickly, quietly, and safely.
    - a. Do not use red lights or siren near location.
    - b. Turn off headlights before final approach (when safe).
    - c. Slow speed on final approach to eliminate tire squeal and engine noise.
    - d. Turn radio volume down
    - e. Don't rattle car keys or loose objects.
    - f. Don't slam doors - close them quietly.
    - g. Dome or other interior light should not function when doors are opened.
    - h. Don't leave keys in patrol car ignition.
  3. First officer at scene should take a position to best observe and control the scene.

- a. Should advise the officer has arrived, and give specific location.
  - b. Most important for officers to communicate and coordinate their response to contain suspects and prevent escape.
- B. Arrival at the scene
1. Officers should utilize invisible deployment techniques, making maximum use of cover and concealment without being detected by persons inside.
    - a. Be observant for look-outs, get-away drivers and other accomplices.
    - b. Avoid causing a hostage situation.
  2. Determine if robbery is in progress
    - a. Wait and observe
    - b. Initiate a phone call to the location
- C. If Robbery is in Progress
1. Maintain invisible deployment
  2. Communicate actions observed
  3. Avoid entry
  4. Wait for suspects to exit
  5. Treat everyone that exits location as a suspect until determined otherwise.
- D. Apprehension of Suspect(s)
1. Allow suspect to exit far enough to prevent re-entry
  2. Control and secure suspect(s)
  3. Question suspect regarding additional suspects/weapons.
- E. If suspect(s) has (have) fled prior to officer's arrival, only primary officer should be at crime scene while other officers cover escape routes
- F. Primary officer should protect crime scene and obtain necessary information for quick initial or supplemental broadcasts.
- G. Area Search For Suspects Who Have Left The Scene in a Vehicle

1. Officers looking for the suspects in peripheral area should estimate the distance they might be able to travel in a given time after the crime occurred.
  - a. Suspects in vehicles will travel the same distance from the scene that you will drive towards the scene.
  - b. Rough rule of thumb -- suspects can drive a mile per minute -- i.e. 5 minutes since crime occurred, the suspects could be within a five mile radius from the scene.
2. Units should station themselves in position where they might intercept fleeing suspects.
  - a. Some departments require other units remain in assigned beats while units close to the scene respond directly.
    - (1) These units should figure out where the most strategic location in their beat is for possible intercept of suspects.
  - b. Intersections, major traffic arteries, alleys, parking lots, etc. should be placed under observation -- if suspect might use them in escape.
3. Until the building has been completely searched, it is impossible to determine if all the suspects have left, or are trapped inside.
  - a. Natural tendency for everyone to rush to the scene.
  - b. Equally important to support the units at the scene by watching for suspects trying to evade arrest.



## RESPONDING TO A PROWLER CALL

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following steps involved in responding to a prowler call.

- A. Coordinate responding units
- B. Use a quick, silent approach
- C. Contain the area
- D. Contact with the informant to verify complaint and obtain additional information
- E. Search the contained area
- F. Look and listen for tell-tale signs (e.g., footprints, barking dogs, warm vehicles, etc.)
- G. Apprehend suspect(s)

Performance Objective 8.24.1

## CURRICULUM

- A. Prowler Calls - Introduction
  - I. Prowler calls are among those most commonly received
    - a. Because percent of prowler calls resulting in arrests is small, officers must guard against complacency
    - b. Reporting parties usually extremely frightened and will sometimes arm themselves
    - c. Suspect may be burglar, sexual psychopath, peeping tom, drunk relieving self, jealous suitor, ex-husband, petty-theft suspect, neighborhood boy taking shortcut, animal, tree limb rubbing against side of residence, etc.
- B. Handling Prowler Calls
  1. Vehicular response to prowler calls
    - a. Good knowledge of the area is of value
      - (1) Allow officer to approach at right angles to residence of caller
      - (2) By turning at last intersection nearest scene, the officer can largely avoid signaling their approach to prowler
      - (3) Knowledge of area permits quiet, also possible "blacked out" approach (car lights off, if safe)

- b. When necessary, check house number:
  - (1) Check numbers on opposite side of street (use flashlight)
  - (2) Check for curb numbers--light less conspicuous
  - (3) Numbers on other blocks may be in same relative position and help give clues to location of victim's address (can use parallel street to find block number and also approximate location of address).
- c. Nearing scene, the officer should
  - (1) Reduce speeds to eliminate tire squeal and motor noise
  - (2) Coast to a stop
  - (3) Avoid manhole covers
  - (4) Turn radio down--avoid excessive noise
  - (5) Avoid overshooting address
- d. If officer overshoots address, he should roll past--should not back up.
- e. Interior lights should be switched off at night--not function when door is opened.
- f. Car doors should be opened and closed quietly.
- g. Other responding units should be advised of officer's location, then coordinate their deployment.
  - (1) Backup units should be deployed to cut off natural escape routes.
  - (2) Deploy backup to rear of area.
- h. Containment of the area is important.

### TACTICAL STEPS FOR REACTING TO SNIPER FIRE

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following tactical steps to be immediately undertaken in sniper fire situations while on foot:

- A. Take cover and/or concealment
- B. Locate the suspect
- C. Assess situation
- D. Warn bystanders
- E. Call for assistance

Performance Objective 8.37.2

### CURRICULUM

- A. Under sniper fire when on foot
  - 1. Take cover and/or concealment.
  - 2. Look for the suspect's location.
  - 3. Assess situation.
  - 4. Warn bystanders.
  - 5. Call for assistance.
  - 6. Isolate and clear the area.

NOTE: The situation will determine sequence of action.



### DRIVER TACTICS FOR REACTING TO SNIPER FIRE

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following tactics which can be used by the driver of a vehicle that comes under sniper attack:

- A. Acceleration through "kill zone"
- B. Turning vehicle right or left into the nearest available cover
- C. Abandonment of target vehicle
- D. Reversal of vehicle

Performance Objective 8.37.3

### CURRICULUM

- A. Under sniper fire when in a vehicle
  - 1. Accelerate through "kill zone".
  - 2. Turn vehicle to left or right into the nearest available cover.
  - 3. Abandon target vehicle.
  - 4. Reverse vehicle to escape.



### **DRIVER TACTICS FOR REACTING TO A FIREBOMB**

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following tactics which can be utilized by an officer whose police vehicle has been hit with a firebomb:

- A. Acceleration from the area
- B. Roll up windows
- C. If vehicle is incapable of acceleration, abandonment after initial flame burst

Performance Objective 8.37.4

### **CURRICULUM**

- A. When vehicle is hit by firebomb:
  - 1. Accelerate from the area.
  - 2. Roll up windows.
  - 3. Abandon after initial flame burst if it is inoperable.



### REACTING TO A NON-FATAL WOUND

Given a direct question, the student will identify the appropriate action to be taken after receiving a non-fatal wound including:

- A. Self-administered first aid
- B. Cover and concealment
- C. Escape routes
- D. Weapons retention
- E. Suspect apprehension

Performance Objective 8.37.7

### CURRICULUM

- A. Response to a Non-Fatal Injury
  - 1. The will to live
  - 2. Emergency self-administered first aid, i.e., arterial pressure, recognition of the symptoms of shock, etc.
  - 3. Cover, concealment
  - 4. Consider tactical retreat
  - 5. Weapons retention
  - 6. Suspect apprehension



### HANDLING SUSPECTS WHO ARE INTOXICATED

Given a direct question, the student will identify safety and tactical considerations when dealing with suspects under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs including:

- A. Limitations of traditional weaponless defense methods
- B. Use of specialized weapon to subdue suspects, i.e., tasers, capture net, and chemical agents
- C. Need for additional officer assistance

Performance Objective 8.37.9

### CURRICULUM

- A. Handling violent individuals under influence of drugs/ alcohol/emotionally unstable.
  - 1. Realize traditional weaponless defense (hand control) methods may not work.
  - 2. Consider use of specialized equipment to subdue suspect i.e., taser capture net, chemical agents, etc.
  - 3. Call for additional officers
  - 4. Be aware of potential weapons in immediate areas. (When dealing with individuals)
  - 5. Consider use of carotid restraint
  - 6. Consider use of impact weapon (baton etc.) injuring force.



### TACTICS FOR HANDLING A BARRICADED SUSPECT

Given a word picture depicting a suspect holding a hostage or a barricaded suspect, the student will identify a course of action consistent with the following principles.

- A. Approach calmly and quietly using cover and concealment
- B. Contain the scene
- C. Request appropriate assistance (SWAT, negotiator)
- D. Evacuate the area, if necessary
- E. Communicate with the suspect, if possible
- F. Do not make any promises or agreements with the suspect or hostage-taker, but assert that others enroute have negotiating authority

Performance Objective 8.46.1

### CURRICULUM

- A. The responsibilities of the responding officer to the scene of a hostage or barricaded suspect situation are containment of the scene and protection of life (primary) and apprehension of the suspect (secondary).
  - 1. Safe approach
    - a. If the responding officer is aware of the type of call, caution should be used during the approach to maintain cover, contain the scene, evaluate circumstances, and provide information to other responding officers, communications, and supervisors.
  - 2. Containment
    - a. Identify the location of the suspects/hostages.
    - b. Once the scene and notifications have been made, all efforts should be made to safely contain the scene. This would include keeping all foot and vehicular traffic out of the area.
    - c. For the immediate safety of responding officers, identify a perimeter and assign other officers temporary posts until a superior arrives.
  - 3. Requesting the appropriate assistance
    - a. A SWAT Team and hostage negotiator should be called as soon as it is determined that a hostage or barricaded suspect situation is occurring.

- b. Normally the request for assistance would come from a supervisor.
4. Evacuation
- a. In the event an evacuation must be made, the safety of officers and citizens is of paramount concern. Evacuations should be systematically conducted as safely as possible.
5. Communication/negotiation with the suspect(s)
- a. Negotiation with the suspect(s) should be done by a qualified negotiator if possible.
  - b. Any contact made with the suspect(s) should be as non-threatening to the suspect(s) as possible.
  - c. Policy considerations
    - (1) Does department have a hostage team?
    - (2) Does department have a written policy?
    - (3) Can third party negotiators be used?
    - (4) What promises can be made?
    - (5) Are there non-negotiable demands?
    - (6) Should a psychiatrist or psychologist be employed for this type of incident?
    - (7) How to deal with the media.
  - d. Techniques of hostage negotiation
    - (1) Establishing communications
    - (2) Identify the type of subject
    - (3) Use suggestibility
    - (4) Evaluate the subjects motives and demands
    - (5) Keep subject in a decision-making status
    - (6) Keep a detached viewpoint
    - (7) Buy time
    - (8) Never trust subject or hostages

(9) Keep the subject talking

(10) Be a good listener

B. Types of Hostage-Takers

1. Discussion of the following types of hostage-takers

- a. Criminal
- b. Mentally disturbed
  - (1) Personality disorders
  - (a) Anti-social
  - (b) Inadequate
- c. Prison uprising
- d. Terrorists

C. Profiles of Hostage-Takers

1. Four major types

- a. Political terrorists
  - (1) Attempting to produce social change
- b. Criminals
  - (1) Trapped during the commission of the crime
- c. Prisoners who are revolting
- d. Mentally disturbed persons
  - (1) Paranoid schizophrenic
  - (2) Manic depressive

D. Type of Hostage Situations

- 1. Political terrorism
- 2. Hostage taking during criminal act
  - a. Robbery, rape, etc.
- 3. Domestic dispute

4. Mentally disturbed situation
  - a. Take a hostage to right a wrong

E. Psychological "Laws"

1. The Stockholm Syndrome
  - a. Hostages begin to have positive feelings toward their captors
  - b. Hostages begin to have negative feelings toward authorities

## CHARACTERISTICS OF BODY ARMOR

Given a direct question, the student will identify the level of protection provided by body armor against firearms, knives, and other penetrating weapons.

Performance Objective 8.48.1

### CURRICULUM

#### A. Characteristics

1. Caliber resistance
2. Non-firearm penetration
3. Fitting panels properly
  - a. Insure proper fit and sizing of vest
  - b. Proper wearing of vest (if non removal of panels, overlapping of front/back panels, etc.)
4. Movement and body flexibility
5. Care and maintenance
6. False security syndrome



### RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PRIMARY OFFICER

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following responsibilities of a primary (contact) officer:

- A. Designating primary/cover officers
- B. Maintaining communications with cover officer
- C. Maintaining position relative to cover officer
- D. Delegating responsibilities to cover officer

Performance Objective 8.49.1

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF A COVER OFFICER

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following responsibilities of a cover officer:

- A. Maintaining communications with primary officer
- B. Maintaining position relative to primary officer
- C. Perform assignments directed by primary officer
- D. Maintaining awareness of surroundings

Performance Objective 8.49.2

### CURRICULUM

- A. Contact Officer
  - 1. The contact officer is responsible for conducting the business of the contact. This officer records necessary suspect or incident information, performs pat-downs and searches, recovers evidence, writes traffic or misdemeanor citations, and handles radio communications.
  - 2. The contact officer will usually initiate the action.
- B. Cover officer
  - 1. The "Cover Officer" assures the thoroughness of the investigation and the integrity of the chain of custody or evidence.
  - 2. The "Cover Officer" is responsible for surveillance and control of all suspects, both to neutralize the possibility of assault, escape or destruction of evidence and to free the "Contact Officer" to perform a more thorough investigation. While the "Contact Officer" does not rely solely on the "Cover Officer" for protection or suspect security, that is the "Cover Officer's" primary function.

C. Designation

1. In some instances, an officer's expertise in a specific field may influence the designation of roles, and officers may agree to exchange duties. If, for example, a complicated evidence-retrieval situation exists, and one officer is a Field Evidence Technician, the two may decide to reverse roles. Another example might be where the possession or use of narcotics is suspected and one officer has developed specialized expertise in the field. In such exchanges, the officer assuming the role of Cover Officer should be in position and fully prepared to respond to any sudden action by the suspect(s) before the original Cover Officer relinquishes that duty.
2. Some major crime scenes, or disturbances involving several suspects may require multiple Contact or Cover Officers. This is particularly true when two or more suspects must be separated and other witnesses individually questioned, or when a potentially hostile crowd may interfere. In such cases, contact and cover duties should be assigned as appropriate by either the primary Contact Officer or a Supervisor.

In any case, those assignments should be absolutely clear, and as specific as the situation permits.

D. Communication

1. Officers requesting a cover unit and those responding to cover calls should each assure that the other is briefed as thoroughly as possible.
2. Upon arrival, the Contact Officer should advise the Cover Officer of:
  - a. The reason for the contact and suspected criminal activity.
  - b. Observations made or evidence obtained.
  - c. The Contact Officer's immediate plans.
  - d. Any previous knowledge of the suspect(s) and/or an appraisal of their potential for violence.
  - e. Whether or not a pat-down has been conducted.
  - f. Any other suspicious persons or activity in the area.
3. The Cover Officer should receive this information and then brief the Contact Officer on:
  - a. Previous knowledge of suspect(s)

- b. Observations made while approaching the scene.
- c. Any significant radio traffic the Contact Officer may have missed since calling for cover.
- d. Acknowledgement of their role as Cover Officer.

4. Two-Officer Units

- a. Personnel assigned to two-officer units should agree upon their roles in advance of each contact whenever possible. Whether agreement is reached that one will function as Contact Officer, the other as Cover Officer for an entire shift, or whether such assignment is made on a contact-by-contact basis, the agreement should be clearly understood and verbally acknowledged. Any additional officers responding will be assigned their contact or cover duties by the primary contact officer.

5. One-Officer Units

- a. For personnel assigned to single officer units, the Contact Officer will normally be the one who initiated the activity. Additional personnel, whether responding to a call for cover, or simply stopping at the scene, should automatically assume the role of Cover Officer unless otherwise instructed.

6. "Assistance only" Contacts

If the officer initiating the contact believes there is no need for a Cover Officer, but does need help with the business of the contact, he or she should inform any responding officer(s) that they need assistance, but not "cover". If the situation changes, then the Contact Officer needs only to ask the other officer(s) to assume the role of "cover".

E. Responsibilities

- 1. Although the Contact Officer conducts the essential business required, the Cover Officer's two-fold role is paramount. First, the Cover Officer discourages hostile acts, assaults or escape by devoting complete attention to security. Second, the Cover Officer must intervene with force to protect the Contact Officer if a suspect reacts violently. The Cover Officer should not be distracted by the business of the contact, recover evidence, pat-down suspects, or engage in unnecessary conversation with either suspects or bystanders. If, for example, the Cover Officer observes anything of possible evidentiary value, such as an object dropped by a suspect, the Cover Officer should not retrieve it, but simply advise the Contact Officer.

F. Positioning

1. The ideal position for a Cover Officer provides a clear and unobstructed view of the suspect(s) as well as the best peripheral view of the surrounding areas; the safest possible background behind both the suspect(s) and officer in the event of gunfire; and a position controlling the likeliest route of escape.
2. The Cover officer assures control of the suspect(s), and when necessary, directs their movements. The Contact Officer should avoid moving between the Cover Officer and suspect(s) or into a position of vulnerability, but it is the Cover Officer's responsibility to warn him or her if their actions might place them in jeopardy.
3. The most hazardous moment of the majority of contacts occurs during a pat-down or handcuffing. Definition of roles is most important at this point. Adjusting their positions accordingly, the Contact Officer conducts the search or cuffing while the Cover Officer acts as security. If physical resistance to this process occurs in a situation with multiple suspects, the Cover Officer retains responsibility for preventing the others from joining the fight. Only if the Contact Officer requests help should the Cover Officer reintervene in a one-on-one struggle when other suspects are present.
4. Should the Contact Officer be unable to control a suspect's physical resistance in this situation, he or she may elect to jump back and break contact. Both officers will then be in a position to deal with any threat, particularly if the suspect(s) pull weapons. Once additional "cover" has arrived, two officers can confront and control the suspect, leaving a Cover Officer free to deal with the other suspects.
5. In a one-on-one struggle between the Contact Officer and a suspect when no other suspects or bystanders are present, the Cover Officer's role remains essentially unchanged. Unless requested to join in the struggle by the Contact Officer, the Cover Officer maintains a position of observation. Should the suspect gain control of the Contact Officer's weapon, the Contact Officer should shout a warning and if appropriate, GET OUT OF THE COVER OFFICER'S LINE OF FIRE. The Cover Officer will then be in the most advantageous position to deal with the now armed suspect.

G. Release of the "Cover Officer"

1. In most instances, a Cover Officer can be released to go back into service or to assist with any remaining business once suspects have been handcuffed and secured in the back of a police vehicle. However, circumstances such as hostile bystanders or the continued presence of the suspect(s) companions, may dictate that the Cover Officer maintain a posture of vigilance until all of

the business of the contact is completed. The determination of when the Cover Officer is released from his or her responsibility rests with the Contact Officer.

**EXERCISES**



### **BODY ARMOR USE**

The student will wear body armor at least once during each of the following activities:

- A. Weaponless defense and baton
- B. Firearms range exercise (both handgun and shotgun)
- C. POST physical agility (work samples test) or its approved equivalent

Performance Objective 8.48.2

### **CURRICULUM**



**SCENARIOS**



### HANDLING CRIMES-IN-PROGRESS CALLS

Given exercise(s), the student will safely and effectively respond to and handle the following crimes-in-progress calls:

- A. Prowler
- B. Burglary-in-progress
- C. Robbery-in-progress
- D. Building/area search

Performance Objective 8.25.1



**OFFICER SAFETY - AMBUSH/SNIPER**

Given an exercise simulating an ambush or sniper situation, the student will demonstrate procedures which maximize officer safety.

Performance Objective 8.37.5



**ACT AS COVER OFFICER**

Given a practical exercise requiring multiple officers and at least one unsecured suspect, the student will demonstrate safe and effective tactics while acting in the capacity of the cover officer.

Performance Objective 8.49.3

**SUPPORTING MATERIAL**

**AND**

**REFERENCES**

This section is set up as reference information for use by training institutions. These materials can be used for instruction, remediation, additional reading, viewing, or for planning local blocks of instruction. This list is not an endorsement of any author, publisher, producer, or presentation. Each training institution should establish its own list of reference materials.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

None included