

#### AMBUSH SURVIVAL & CONTEMPORARY STREET TACTICS WWW.sf-TRAINING.COM

"Foresight is the Shield of the Prudent; Blindness is the Downfall of the Foolish"
Thus, Preparation Today Prevents Pain Tomorrow!

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This class will cover safety considerations for Avoiding an ambush, Responding to an ambush, and critical planning for survival for such encounters.





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#### **SYNOPSIS**

An ambush attack can happen anywhere, any time, and to any officer or group of officers. We are targeted in restaurants, in our cars, while on foot patrol, when responding to calls for service, and while protecting large scale events.

Mental training for success "The body can't go where the mind hasn't been"



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"Surviving a deadly encounter is partly chance but is largely due to choices we make. Generally, there is an optimum way to prepare, to equip, to train, to execute. Each time you choose less than the optimum, you degrade your ability to survive"



We will discuss some options today, but the choice is, and will always be, yours! It is up to you, and if you fail to prepare....

Prepare to FAIL!!

#### **STATISTICS**

- Line of Duty Deaths in 2016----171
  - Due to gunfire---66
  - 48% increase from 2015

#1 cause of death to Police Officers

- •Over 1,400 Officer involved shootings in 2016
  - Over 950 resulting in death
  - Ambush deaths up 167%

#### **STATISTICS**

- Line of Duty Deaths in 2017----156
  - Due to gunfire---46

The #1 cause of death to Police Officers

- Over 1,260 Officer involved shootings in 2017
  - Over 987 resulting in death

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#### **STATISTICS**

- Line of Duty Deaths in 2018----167
- Due to gunfire---52 represented the #1 cause of death to Police Officers

FATALITY STATISTICS YEAR 2018

Total 137 5% ↑
Gunfire 49 14% ↑
Auto 45 2% ↑

#### **STATISTICS**

- Line of Duty Deaths in 2019----134
- Due to gunfire---47 (double next leading cause) represented the #1 cause of death to Police Officers

#### **STATISTICS**

- Line of Duty Deaths in 2020----424
- Due to gunfire---46
- Represented the #1 cause of death to Police Officers

No Victims Here

#### **STATISTICS**

- Line of Duty Deaths in 2021----171
- Due to gunfire---63
- Represented the #1 cause of death to Police Officers

No Victims Here

#### **STATISTICS**

- Line of Duty Deaths in 2022----180
- Due to gunfire---63
- Represented the #1 cause of death to Police Officers

No Victims Here

#### **STATISTICS**

- Line of Duty Deaths in 2023----168
- Due to gunfire---48
- Represented the #1 cause of death to Police Officers (vehicle crash 23)

No Victims Here

#### **STATISTICS**

- Line of Duty Deaths in 2024----167
- Due to gunfire---49
- Represents the #1 cause of death to Police Officers (vehicle crash 20)

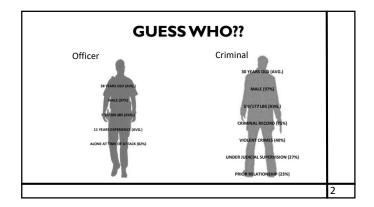
#### **STATISTICS**

- Line of Duty Deaths in 2025----72 so far
- Due to gunfire---35 so far
- Represents the #1 cause of death to Police Officers (vehicle crash 7)

#### **STATISTICS**

In the last 3 years there have been over 3,400 Officer Involved Shootings. Out of those; 132 Officers were killed by gunfire.

"David had success in all his undertakings, for the LORD was with him."  $1\,\mathrm{Samuel}\,18{:}14$ 



BE SAFE??
• What does this mean to you?
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OUR WORST ENEMY?	
•Denial!!  No Victims Here	
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#### **OUR WORST ENEMY?**

### FALSE BELIEFS FALSE CONFIDENCE ARROGANCE

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#### WHO AREYOU???



#### There's No "I" in Denial



#### **PRE-ASSAULT CUES**

#### Overt Threats

- This seems obvious, but too often when a suspect says, "I'm gonna kick your ass!" or, "I'm not going back to jail!" he's dismissed as "just runnin' his mouth." This is a time you should seriously consider what a suspect is telling you.
- Similarly, beware the offender who urges you to use force against him, daring you, for example, to, "go ahead and shoot me" when you have your gun pointed at him. This may be a <u>suicide-by-cop</u> situation or just an irrational determination to fight against all odds.

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#### Non-Compliance

- Failing to obey repeated direct commands from you;
- Repeating back simple questions that you ask ("What's my name?" "You want me to sit down?")
- Being argumentative or trying to bargain with you.
- These all can indicate stalling for time to formulate a plan of attack or escape.

#### **PRE-ASSAULT CUES**

#### Removing Clothing

- Subjects who are peeling off clothing or are stark naked are sometimes regarded as amusing by officers, but that can be a grievous error. The person may be reacting to a highly elevated body temperature. That's a common symptom of excited delirium, a psychological meltdown also associated with enhanced strength, paranoia, and assaults on authority figures.
- Other suspects may take off jackets, remove jewelry, or set aside clothing they
  especially value —"like a \$200 cowboy hat" as a prelude to mixing it up. They may be
  freeing themselves to move more effectively against you or to protect their personal
  property.

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### **PRE-ASSAULT CUES** Tactical Maneuvering • Be particularly on guard for this when attempting to deal simultaneously with multiple They may triangulate to split your focus, or one may engage you in arguments or conversation as a distraction while others move out of your peripheral vision to flank or circle behind you. In effect, they may use some of the same tactical moves law enforcement officers like to use against them when working with a cover officer or **PRE-ASSAULT CUES** Furtive Communication Another possible tip-off with multiple subjects. This can include hand signals, gestures, or code words you don't understand, possibly talking in a foreign language. • You may be giving clear communication that a subject should be responding to, but he's more focused on communicating with a companion - be careful! **PRE-ASSAULT CUES** Mental Alteration · When subjects are under the influence of drugs, alcohol, and/or have a mental health vities subjects as learned in mindelice of drugs, accords, around have a mental inside, such as being off their meds, they may have a diminished capacity to think clearly and comply with lawful commands

 They may have good core values, but in their altered mental state they may act impulsively without thinking of their behavior and consequences.

You never know what level of desperation someone may have on a DUI stop, for
instance. They may be fearful of losing their license, losing their job, going to jail, being
publicly humiliated – or something you can't even imagine. In their diminished state of
mind, attacking you may seem like a reasonable way out of their situation.

#### **PRE-ASSAULT CUES**

#### **Boiling Point Physiology**

- More than 80% of suspects who attack officers use personal weapons hands feet, head, other body parts. Watch for signs that an angry subject is reaching his boiling point and getting ready to fight or flee.

  - Blading into a boxer's stance;
    Quickened breathing and flared nostrils;
  - · Dilation of pupils from an adrenalin dump;
  - · Clenched fists:
  - Excessive animation, like the flinging of arms;
  - · Profuse sweating.

#### **PRE-ASSAULT CUES**

#### Target Glances

- Is a suspect staring or repeatedly glancing at your gun, your chest, or some other particular part of your body or duty belt? They may be evaluating your weapon for a grab or fixing a target for a physical attack.
- If a subject is obviously looking around or sneaking furtive glances while you're talking to him, he may be checking for an escape route or to see if any witnesses are present. If he's planning to reach for a weapon nearby, chances are he'll look there first and not just blindly grab for it.

#### **PRE-ASSAULT CUES**

#### Thousand Yard Stare

- Suspects sometimes seem to blank out just before they strike!
- They get a vacant 'nobody's home' stare that looks right through you and shows they've disengaged mentally from reality. When they ignore you and don't respond to questions as if you're not even there, it may be indication of a behavioral problem

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#### **PRE-ASSAULT CUES**

#### Violent History

- Intel from your computer may alert you to a subject's violent criminal background, if you don't already know about his fighting proclivities from prior contact. Watch, too, for visible indicators such as gang-type clothing jailhouse tatts, and distinctive shoes issued in some states to inmates who have just been released.
- A subject wearing long sleeves and buttoned up collar in hot weather may be hiding prison tattoos on his arms or neck
- Ask a critical question early on: "Are you on probation or parole?
- If he repeats the question or hesitates at all, you can be pretty sure that the next thing you hear from him could be a lie
- After you ask his date of birth, ask how old he is. If he's trying to deceive you, the numbers may not jive

#### **AMBUSH DEFINED**

Four factors typically define an ambush attack:

- I. An element of surprise
- Assailants who conceal themselves, their weapons or their intents:
- 3. The suddenness of the attack;
- 4. A lack of provocation

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#### TWO TYPES OF AMBUSH

#### Spontaneous

- An attack which occurs without planning often fight or flight traffic stops, disturbance calls, warrant arrests etc.
- Can result from any negative contact with law enforcement

#### Pre-planned

- An attack which has often had a great deal of planning and preparation.
- $\bullet$  Suspect chooses the time, location, and method.
- Often uses a distraction to shift your focus to something else.

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#### **PREVENTATIVE CONSIDERATIONS**

- MIND- Your mental state can help you or kill you
- If a gunshot victim's heart is still beating upon arrival at a hospital, there is a 95 percent chance of survival, Dr. DiMaio said.





### Shot 20 Times With A Rifle In The Driveway



### Shot Through The Chest With .357 Magnum

Sgt. Stacy Lim.

The .357 round entered Stacy's chest, nicked the base of her heart, her diaphragm, liver, intestine, and shattered her spleen before exiting through a tennis ball-size hole in her back.



Even though her heart would stop, Stacy Lim wouldn't.

١.	History-	Those who	have sur	vived	before	us
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- Physical Conditioning- The engine that helps survivor mentality become a reality
- 3. Think Survival- The body follows the head
- 4. Eliminate Emotional Traps-
  - I. Mental Paralysis
- 2. Victim Mentality
- Focused Anger- Controlled anger activates the basic survival instinct that alerts the body's physiology to be prepared.
- **6. Maintain Hope-** Never giving up is essential to successful survivor mentality.
- Training- Keys 1 through 6 are really precursors to the final key: training.

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#### **PREVENTATIVE CONSIDERATIONS**

- MOVEMENT- Unpredictable tactical action can defeat your enemy- 14% to 40%
- The Force Science Institute has documented that an unrestrained subject can move his head sideways 6'' 10'' in as little as 1/10th of a second "faster than a rifle bullet can travel 200 yards and faster than any officer could possibly react."

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#### PREVENTATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

 RECOGNITION ELIMINATES SURPRISE- If you can see the ambush even one second before it initiates you are on the way to defeating your enemy. Time is all about surviving. Your tactical action must happen in split seconds.



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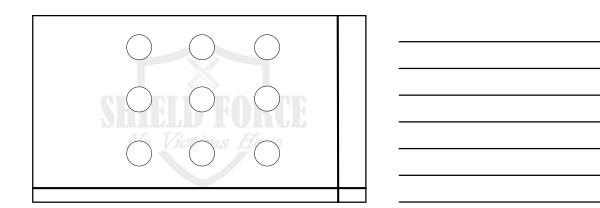
#### **PROPER RESPONSE**

- We see the signs of an ambush
- We recognize those signs
- We MOVE, and MOVE, and MOVE!!
- We decide to fight back as we Move!
- We shoot as we MOVE!
- We Move and look for more enemies
- We fight and shoot and we MOVE

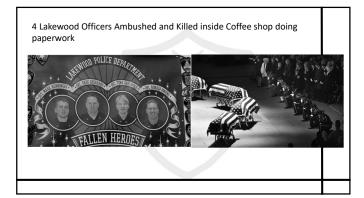
WORST THING YOU CAN DO IS STOP!

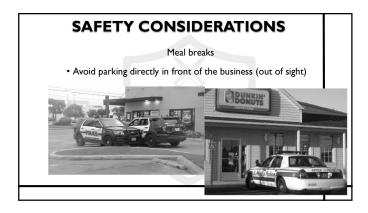
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- Use your instincts when responding to calls (Gift of fear)
- Look at the approach from a strategic perspective as you decide where to park
- Get out of your routine and change it up, don't be predictable
- Begin forming a plan while driving to the scene



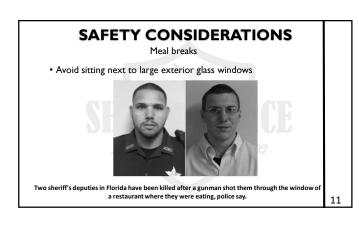






## SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS Meal breaks • Avoid "booths" as you can be trapped within.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS  Meal breaks  Get the "Gun Fighter seat" facing the entrance	
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#### **SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

Meal breaks

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Avoid large groups of Officers eating together at one location.
   Makes a tempting target.



#### **INSIDE PATROL VEHICLE**

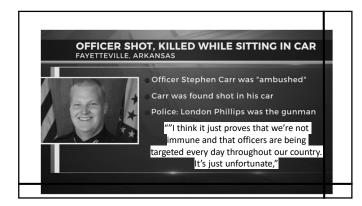


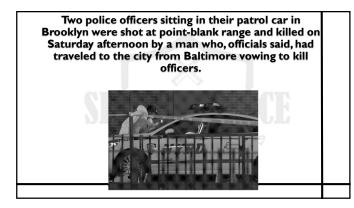
#### **INSIDE PATROL VEHICLE**

- Milwaukee Police Officer Ambushed in his car while colleagues investigated a domestic disturbance call.
- Philadelphia Officer Ambushed by ISIS terrorist inside vehicle











#### **INSIDE PATROL VEHICLE**

- 1. Run the suspect over
- 2. Tactically retreat, getting out of the kill box
- 3. Or get out and fight.

Use the dash for cover. It's better to have an MVA than a bullet in the head.  $\,$ 

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#### INSIDE PATROL VEHICLE



#### **INSIDE PATROL VEHICLE**

- If possible, driving away is the fastest and best option to get out of the danger zone when being attacked inside your vehicle.
- $\bullet$  No shame in retreating, thinking, and re-engaging. Staying alive is First priority.
- Avoid shooting from a moving vehicle. Exit and return fire seeking a cover location.

#### **INSIDE PATROL VEHICLE**

- If ambushed from a distance, especially in the case of a rifle firing from high ground, a rapid exit from the kill zone may be your only chance.
- Backing straight away from a rifle-armed killer makes you an almost stationary target. Turn away and become a difficult, rapidly moving target, if possible.
- Going almost any direction in "drive" will be more controllable than trying to go in "reverse."

## 

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#### **FOOT PATROL**



#### **FOOT PATROL**

- Avoid following each other if under attack and take cover separately if possible.
- Use bound and cover techniques to move and advance.
- Constantly evaluate cover and concealment options and move to them.
- Two-man moving tactics to advance on the shooter.

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#### **UTILIZE COVER**

#### Survival Rate:

- Utilizing cover was 68%
- Those who did not dropped to 39%



## FOOT PATROL RULES OF COVER • Always muzzle + I foot • Don't crowd your cover unless... • The threat is at a higher angle than you are and then it's very important.



# FOOT PATROL • Ambush attack that took the life of Texas Police Ofc. Darren Goforth while refueling his patrol car.

#### **FOOT PATROL**

- It's logical to assume an attack from behind
- Put your head on a swivel and periodically check your six.
- Live in Condition Yellow, maintaining 360-degree awareness.

#### **FOOT PATROL**

- Don't allow for a second crime scene
- A Kansas police officer was kidnapped and sexually assaulted.
- The Johnson County Sheriff's Department released word yesterday a female deputy was abducted late Friday from a parking lot as she headed into work at the detention center in Olathe.



#### **FOOT PATROL**

 Police officer Kevin Quick from Waynesboro, VA was kidnapped and murdered by four black gang members earlier this year. He was taken to several ATMs and forced to withdraw money before being driven to the woods and killed.



#### **PURSUITS**

- One of the most difficult times to recognize ambush warning signs.
- Vitally important to provide exact location to dispatch
- If you sense the suspect is taking you down a dead end or to a "kill zone" hang back and create some distance.

#### **PURSUITS**

- When the vehicle comes to a stop avoid rushing up to the vehicle. Use cover and distance to your advantage.
- Surviving is more important than catching the guy with a warrant.

#### **PURSUITS**

#### If suspect runs on foot....

- 1. Clear the vehicle first
- 2. Never turn your back on what you haven't cleared
- 3. Clear every corner before proceeding past

One of the most dangerous acts we can do as law enforcement and one of the easiest ambush scenarios to plan.

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#### **PURSUITS**

#### If you lose sight of the suspect....

- 1. Take a position of cover and look, listen, and wait.
- 2. Don't wonder around making yourself a target.
- 3. Consider backing away from the location and waiting urtil more help arrives

### EASY

#### "ROUTINE CALL FOR SERVICE"

Officer Enriquez and Officer Kalama of the Honolulu Police Department in Hawaii died on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> after responding to a stabbing call at a home.





#### "ROUTINE CALL FOR SERVICE"

- Suspects are becoming more sophisticated in their planning of attacks. Commonly they will place a "Cold call" which directs the officers to a predictable pattern of travel.
- Look for warning signs like street lights being out, the residence is pitch black etc. The majority of ambush attacks and all assaults on Police take place in low-light conditions. They are using darkness to their advantage.

#### "ROUTINE CALL FOR SERVICE"

- Use your instincts and "Gift of Fear".
- Slow your response. Look and listen before approaching the scene.
- Watch for funnels and choke points
- If entering from an odd location communicate that to dispatch first not when bullets are flying.

nen bullets are llyling.



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#### "ROUTINE CALL FOR SERVICE"

- Respond from different routes and park at different locations, not behind each other.
- Walk to the scene in different paths, don't bunch up.
- Look for cover options as you approach (trees, concrete, vehicles, etc)
- Choose safe location for "debrief". Not in front of the incident location.

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#### TERRORIST AMBUSH



#### **TERRORIST AMBUSH**

- There's always the possibility of explosives at any scene
- If you arrive and quickly determine the "report" isn't accurate or doesn't add up, get out of there!
- Avoid having multiple officers in one small location when nothing is going on. Choose to discuss and debrief at a different site location. (Charlotte police ambush)

#### **SECONDARY RESPONSE**

- Break the habit of driving directly into the ambush
- If possible stop 2-300 yards away from the scene and use scope or binoculars to evaluate the scene first.
- Drive into scene vs walk into scene
- Approach from different angles

#### **SECONDARY RESPONSE**

If at all reasonable, stage and wait for backup units outside of the area and respond together.

Responding I unit at a time can be feeding the suspect victims.



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## PLEASANTON TEXAS Deputy Sheriff Monse Deputy Sheriff Stephenson

#### **SECONDARY RESPONSE**

- Form teams to advance on threat together.
- Utilizing point and rear guard for maximum awareness.
- Ideally 2-3 teams advancing from different angles.
- "The best offense is the best defense"



#### **LARGE SCALE EVENTS**



LARGE SCALE EVENTS



## One or two officers can be killed by a rifle-armed felon on almost any police call, but tallies like the casualties in Dallas can only occur where a number of officers have gathered for some notable event.

#### **LARGE SCALE EVENTS**

- Get out of denial. There are active individuals and groups today who will kill you in numbers if they get the chance.
- Appoint a Safety Officer for all preplanned events. The Safety
  Officer's job is not public safety. Instead, their mission is to
  plan for the safety of the on-scene officers.

It will get worse as copycats try to log higher scores.

#### LARGE SCALE EVENTS

- 3. Build multiple perimeters and "high cover" into your event planning. Anticipate rifle attacks at preplanned events, scout threat locations and secure them inside your perimeter or place your own riflemen where they can observe and, if need be, engage hostiles.
- 4. Put covert intel officers in the crowd alert for anyone who might become an active shooter or act as a scout for a more distant sniper threat.

#### LARGE SCALE EVENTS

- 5. Predesignate all officers into small teams, with a designated team leader. If shots are fired, the officers should cluster into their teams (contact teams similar to rapid deployment/active shooter response protocols).
- $\bf 6. The\ high\ cover\ rifleman\ should\ advance\ to\ support\ the\ attacking\ teams\ with\ more\ precise\ rifle\ fire.$

#### **TEAMS**

#### Forming Teams

- Whenever multiple officers gather, always make sure you have a sentry checking all directions — facing out, away from the focus of the event — alert for an unexpected attack.
- The incident commander can simply point to one officer and give the command "360," with a circular hand signal, meaning their role has now become perimeter safety officer, responsible for situational awareness.

### 2 Wis. police officers thwarted an ambush attack



#### Wisconsin Ambush Attempt

- At 23:32 hours, Sheyboygan Police Dept. Officers were dispatched to a robbery in Profess call at the Union Tap (bar).
- Officers arrived quickly and approached from the side and peeked through a side window.
- Officers received follow up from dispatch advising an open 911 line that revealed, "No one wants to die at the Union Avenue Tap"

#### Wisconsin Ambush Attempt

- The officers moved to the side (east) door just as a man dressed in camouflage began to exit, armed with an M4 carbine with an optical sight and suppressor.
- As the armed robber started to raise his slung carbine, fully loaded with a 90-round drum magazine, the officers fired a total of 13 rounds from their sidearms in 2.6 seconds, landing seven hits on their adversary and more on his weapon.
- Total elapsed time from first radio dispatch to shots fired was 1 minute.
   49 seconds.

#### Wisconsin Ambush Attempt

- His car, parked a half block away, contained more weapons and ammo beyond the 318 rounds of 5.56mm on his person. He also carried a large knife, a TASER and flex cuffs in his chest pouches.
- The attacker was a veteran of the U.S.Army, with a tour of duty in Iraq under his belt. He had been under treatment with Veterans Affairs for PTSD. His wife told them he had previously dressed in full camo and taken his rifle to the woods
- He had made previous statements about killing a lot of police officers.

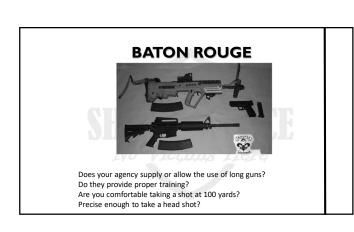
#### **BATON ROUGE**



Marine from Missouri

## BATON ROUGE





#### **DALLAS ARMORED VEHICLE**

- Vehicle equipped with explosives
- Left 4 bags outside the Police Department that contained pipe bomb explosives



#### **DALLAS ARMORED AMBUSH**

A man angry at police for taking away his son opened fire on the Dallas Texas, police headquarters early Saturday morning, firing several rounds into the building and at officers from an armored van.

Bullets pierced the glass in front of the building, struck walls inside and shattered the windshield of squad cars, but miraculously no one was injured. Explosives were found outside the building, and officers narrowly avoided blowing them up.

#### **DOWNED OFFICER RESCUE**



#### **DOWNED OFFICER RESCUE**

- Create a plan before making any attempts
- If at all possible do not attempt a rescue alone. Work in teams so you can have a lethal cover option.
- If injured officer is communicating and able, give directions to move or crawl to a near location to make rescue safer while from a distance you can provide cover fire

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#### **DOWNED OFFICER RESCUE**

- Does your agency have access to......
- SWAT Team?
- Armored Vehicle?
- Smoke?
- Sniper?



#### **DOWNED OFFICER RESCUE**

Does your agency have access to......





DOWNED OFFICER RESCUE	
Does your agency have access to	

DOWNED OFFICER RESCUE	
Does your agency have access to	

## THINK OUTSIDETHE BOX!!!

#### **DOWNED OFFICER RESCUE**

- If using a non armored vehicle consider.....
- Place a bullet resistant vest in the windshield covering the driver, and over the side window. Throw over vests, extra officers on scene, detectives, etc.
- Designate a driver, rescue officer, and cover officer. Have a PLAN.
- Goes without saying but MOVE QUICKLY!

#### **DOWNED OFFICER RESCUE**

- Pick up trucks work well for rescues
- Drag into the backseat of patrol cruiser
- Use what you have available!



#### **DOWNED OFFICER RESCUE**

- 6 P's for tactical success
- **P**rior
- Proper
- Planning
- $\bullet \ \textbf{P} revents$
- Poor
- Performances

Begin talking to other agencies and have this scenario planned for.

SURVIVAL N	MINDS	SET
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- It doesn't matter what hardware you have in your hand...
- It's the **software** in your head and heart that matters!



#### **SURVIVAL MINDSET**

 Managing daily stress is vitally important because we are continuously bombarded with it. Life-and-death, combat incidents are comparatively rare, but when they do occur, managing the emotional, physiological crisis after the event can be even more important.

#### **SURVIVAL MINDSET**

#### **Auto-Pilot**

 Dr.Artwohl's research found that 74% of the officers involved in a deadly force encounter acted on automatic pilot. In other words, the actions of three out of four officers in combat were done without conscious thought.

#### **SURVIVAL MINDSET**

- We can teach warriors to perform a specific action required for survival without conscious thought.
- Whatever is drilled in during training comes out the other end in combat.
- Self-preservation can become secondary to training.

#### **SURVIVAL MINDSET**

• Unconscious Competence:

This is the highest level of mastery. As martial artist Bruce Lee put it, you "Learn it until you forget it." This is what autopilot is all about. This is the goal of warrior training.

#### SURVIVAL MINDSET

- If you are shot, step one is, do not panic.
- The fact you are alive to know you are shot is a good sign.
- Think of it as a very empathetic warning shot. Know that a mission, a goal, can keep you going.
- Okay, you've been hit, so now your immediate goal is to prevent getting hit with another bullet.

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#### **SURVIVAL MINDSET**

- Tactical Breathing to lower your heart rate
- Helps reduce body fatigue and stress, allowing more use of fine motor skills and critical thinking

#### **SURVIVAL MINDSET**

• There is nothing you can do about the bullet that is already in you, but you can stop the next bullet, by shooting him back!



#### **SURVIVAL MINDSET**

One of your primary goals as a warrior is to train and mentally condition yourself to keep going when you have been shot.

You must understand and accept that you might get wounded, and understand deeply and intensely that you will keep fighting until the threat is no longer present.

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We are not called to kill, we are not called to die, but we are all called to serve our civilization in this dark hour. It's about preserving and protecting. It is about serving and sacrificing. It is about doing a dirty, desperate, thankless job, every day of your life, to the utmost of your ability, because you know that if no one did that job our civilization would be doomed.

e utmost of your ability, because you know that id that job our civilization would be doomed.		