

Use of Force Considerations and Less Than Lethal Force

What is our mission?

- To protect, in this order:
 - Innocent Persons
 - Hostages
 - Police officers/other emergency personnel
 - The Suspect
 - Property & Evidence

- To Serve:
 - The Community
 - The subject and his/her family
 - Mental health partners

Life Safety priorities

- **Regardless of the situation, state of negotiations or other activity to take a suspect into custody, these priorities never change.**
 - Whenever possible, the life of a suspect will be a serious consideration, however the life of a suspect will never take priority over the life of a hostage, innocent person or police officer.
- **Police officers are expected to take calculated risks, not stupid or unnecessary ones.**

Florida Death

- Okaloosa County Sheriffs Deputy Anthony Forgione, 33 yrs old with 3 yrs of service, was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a suspect who had escaped custody at the hospital on a mental hold.
- The suspect had barricaded himself in a home and refused to speak with negotiators.
- The Sheriffs SRT Team made an entry and the suspect opened fire killing Deputy Forgione. The suspect was killed by other deputies. Deputy Forgione is survived by his wife and 2 young daughters.
- If he was alone, did they need to enter???

First Responders

■ Containment – Negotiate you must have this

- Use cover / concealment and proper officer safety tactics consider what weapons could be used against you - don't assume anything.
- Assign roles before entering.

Roles To Consider

- Contact
- Less Lethal Cover
 - Taser
 - Beanbag
 - 40 mm
 - K9
- Lethal Cover
 - Pistol
 - Shotgun
 - Rifle
- Take-down Team
 - May be the contact person and one other.
- Consider Staging Paramedics

Behavioral Assessment

- Critical to determine the proper management strategy.
- Three general types of behavior, three different incident management strategies;
 - Instrumental** - Negotiate
 - Expressive** - Crisis Intervention
 - High Risk** - Tactical Options

Instrumental Behavior

- The actions are a means to and end - they seek fulfillment of a goal.
- “If, until, unless” statements – “If I don’t get my job back, I will kill him/her.”
- Intimidation may be used versus threat.
- Liberty is of value to subject.
- Hostages are viewed as bargaining chips - they only have value if alive.
 - Does not mean they won’t be harmed or killed to make a point, particularly if they have more than one
 - Robberies or other crimes gone bad, acts of terrorism, hijackings etc.

Expressive Behavior

- Subject is using the event as a display of power, significance, victimization, anger or despair.
- The behavior is an end to itself and is display directed.
- Threat is more common than intimidation; “I’m going to kill her.”
- Hostages are more likely to be known to subject, often are the perceived cause of his problems.
- The jilted lover (or fired postal worker).

High Risk Behavior

- Subject is neither goal or display directed.
- Subject may simply be a criminal who doesn't want to be arrested.
- Act appears to be senseless, in that there is no obvious benefit for the subject.
- Motives can include pre-meditated murder, murder/suicide, sex crimes.
- Columbine & Sandy Hook, spree killings are good examples of High Risk Events.

Expectations

- CIT will not eliminate violent encounters with people in crisis.
- This has to be reinforced through all of the stakeholders.
- A mentally ill person who is an active and immediate threat may not be a de-escalation candidate.

Incident Management Strategies

Instrumental events

- Negotiate—the subject wants something.
- Display police advantage and superiority, not force.
- Convince subject he cannot win.
- Wear down his will to succeed.
- The Iron Fist in a Velvet Glove.

Expressive Events

- Crisis Intervention.
- Help subject regain balance, rational thought and coping skills.
- Displays of police force are usually met with greater defense and fortification.
- Give him a “warm fuzzy blanket” to come out to.

High Risk Events

- Tactical Options

Tips and Clues

■ Greater Risk of Violence by Subject exists if:

- Actions are deliberate and planned rather than impulsive.
- Subject has assaulted or killed significant other.
- Barricade is self-initiated and refuses to negotiate.
- Sets deadlines for police.
- Told others of intent.
- Has learned of life threatening illness.
- Under multiple stressors.
- Subject is without family or social support.
- Has violent criminal history.
- Subject has no future oriented statements or concerns.
- Wraps up loose ends.
- Demands to surrender to high police (or other) official.

More Tips and Clues

- **Lesser Risk of Violence by Subject exists if:**
 - Starts a surrender ritual or behavior (having a smoke.)
 - Requests a “deal” with police.
 - Wants to “clean up” first.
 - Demands meeting or communication with known person (not police.)
 - Wants guarantees about personal safety or arrest.
 - Wants information about legal issues or consequences.
 - *These are NOT certain!!*

The Best Tips and Clues

- Human behavior is unpredictable, especially under stress.
- The best predictor of future behavior is past behavior - what has he already done or threatened to do.*
- Subject's attitudes and behavior can be influenced by events and other external factors.
- Events and plans should be considered fluid, dynamic and constantly changing.

Tactical Options

- ALWAYS TRY TO GET THE SUBJECT TO COME TO YOU, AVOID GOING TO THEM!

ENVIRONMENTAL DISRUPTION,

- Cut power, heat, phone.
- Keep subject awake with external lights & noise.
- Chemical Agents (Gas or OC doesn't always work in open areas/takes time).

LESS LETHAL

- TASERS (Range restrictions).
- 40 MM, Bean Bag Or Other LTL Munitions
- HAVE A LETHAL FORCE OPTION IN PLACE.

SNIPER OPTIONS

- Requires a clear shot & justification for the use of deadly force.

ENTRY

- **Last resort,**
- May be forced by the subject,
- Stealth entry MAY be safer, if done properly.

Tactical Options

- There must be clear criteria established early as to when tactical options will be deployed.
- Will you wait for shots to be fired or a hostage killed before you act?
- What are your rules of engagement; What is your “go” criteria?
- Always be *prepared* to execute a tactical option - Hope or wishful thinking is not a strategy.

Jumpers

- Most police and fire services have little or no special equipment (air cushions etc.)
- Establish perimeter and safe zone around and under jumper, (impact of a jumper can kill or cripple people below.)
- **DO NOT GRAB OR ATTACH YOURSELF TO THEM** - get them to come to a position of safety for them and you.
- Do not try to catch them.
- Assume they are armed.
- Less lethal options are rarely helpful since you can't control which way they are going to fall.

Prime Directives for Dealing with Emotionally / Psychology Disturbed Persons

- Don't make the situation worse.
- Everyone's safety is important.
- Realize that mentally disturbed persons are unpredictable. (Be prepared)
- Recognize that a disturbed person may not see the world as you do.

Common Safety Errors to Avoid When Dealing with the Mentally Ill in Crisis

- Missing danger signs.
- Failing to get the needed help.
- Making dangerous assumptions.
- Failing to watch the hands.
- Inadequate searches & poor cuffing techniques.
- Poor approach or positioning.
- Relaxing before the threat has passed.
- Being apathetic, careless or complacent.
- Rushing when the situation doesn't require speed.
- Bad habits or taking safety shortcuts.

Safety Guidelines for Handling the Mentally Ill in Crisis

- Gather as much information as possible **before** making contact.
- Make no assumptions about the danger potential.
- Try to never handle this person alone, get as much help as necessary.
- Be as non-threatening and truthful as possible.
- Maintain a “reactionary gap” at all times.
- Practice excellent weapon retention.
- Be aware of “suicide by cop” dangers.
- Always leave yourself a retreat route.
- Use physical barriers (furniture, etc,) to aid in staying safe.
- For Everyone’s safety; handcuff and search anyone you take into custody.

Anger Melt downs

- Know your goal.
- Avoid provocation.
- Listen.
- Acknowledge his/her right to be angry.
- Do not explain.
- Ask what he/she wants you to do.
- Offer limited choices.

We all have triggers



Know yourself

- Your personal experiences may make you the best or worst choice.
- Assign roles based on this knowledge.



Worry about two Things



Questions?

Thank You !