

# DEFENSIVE TACTICS BUILDING SEARCHES

## Course Outline

- I. Introduction and Registration
  - A. Course Overview
  - B. Introductions
    - 1. Instructor
    - 2. Student
      - a. Background
      - b. Reasons for attending
      - c. Experience
- II. Performance During Building Searches
  - A. Mindset
    - 1. Tactics
    - 2. Physical Fitness
    - 3. Mental Attitude
    - 4. Mental Rehearsals
      - a. It's not a question of IS it going to happen, but WHEN is it going to happen.
  - B. Approach to the Target
    - 1. Safe Tactics When Parking
    - 2. Prior to Approach
      - a. Communicate with partner
      - b. Safe route of approach
    - 3. Cover and Concealment prior to moving
    - 4. Unusual Circumstances
      - a. Pry marks around window
      - b. Screens off windows
    - 5. Area awareness of lookout vehicles
    - 6. Emergency Procedures in the event shots are fired
      - a. Abort
      - b. Egress

- C. Noise Discipline
  - 1. Hand Held Radios
    - a. Pro's and con's of turning radio off completely
    - b. Ear wire for radio
  - 2. Secure Equipment (Jump Test)
  - 3. Foot Placement
    - a. Demonstrate heel to toe
  
- D. Stop, Look, Listen
  - 1. Moving to Point of Entry
    - a. Pause
    - b. Survey entry point from cover
  - 2. Formulate Tactical Plan
    - a. Stacking at door
    - b. Staging at door
  - 3. Evaluate Scene
  - 4. Perimeter Containment Positions
    - a. Front 5, back 5 method
    - b. Total containment
    - c. Time and distance issues
  - 5. Define Perimeter Containment
  
- E. Staging at the Entry Point
  - 1. Two Ways of Positioning at Entry Point
    - a. Staging
    - b. Stacking
  - 2. Determine Primary Searcher and Cover
  - 3. Prior To Entry
    - a. Determine type of entry
    - b. Stop, look, and listen
  - 4. Communicate Using Hand Signals if Possible

F. Types of Entries

1. Stealth Entry
  - a. Slow, quiet, methodical
  - b. Evaluate and prioritize threats prior to moving from one location to another
  - c. Discuss abort issues
  - d. Identify abort locations within target
  - e. Utilize blocking tactic during movement
  - f. Think, prioritize, evaluate threats, and communicate
  - g. Leapfrog movement
2. Cross (High/Low)
3. Button Hook
4. Running the Wall (Commonly used by L.A.S.O. and L.A.P.D.)

G. Communication Between Partners

1. Ongoing Communication is Critical to Safe and Successful Resolution
2. Operate as a Team and Move Only When Plan is Understood
3. Maintain Eyes on Threat When Communicating
  - a. Don't make eye contact with your partner
  - b. Use hand signals if possible

- H. Searching Deputy/Officer Responsibilities
  - 1. Primary and Secondary Searches
  - 2. During Stealth Entry, Search Thoroughly Prior to Moving to Next Threat
  - 3. Searcher Sets Pace
  - 4. Searcher Will Assume Team Leader Position if T/L Has Not Been Identified
  - 5. Searching Responsibilities Can Be Relinquished At Any Time To Another Deputy/Officer Due To Fatigue
  
- I. Cover Deputy/Officer Responsibilities
  - 1. Responsible For Safety Of Searcher
  - 2. Must Be Disciplined and Focused on Threat
  - 3. Maintain Security, Not To Search
  - 4. Must Have Good Noise and Weapon Discipline
  
- J. Communicate Prior to Moving to the Next Threat Area
  - 1. Hand Signals
  - 2. Whisper into the ear of your Partner if Hand signals are not effective
  
- K. Equipment Considerations
  - 1. Lighting
    - a. Dedicated Weapon Light
    - b. Flashlight
  - 2. Ear Wire
  - 3. Mirrors
  - 4. Nylon vs. Leather

- L. Lighting Tactics
  - 1. Strobe tactic
  - 2. Constant White Light
  - 3. Techniques While Employing Handheld Flashlight
    - a. Harries
    - b. FBI
    - c. Chapman
    - d. Marine Corps

- III. Tactical Scenario Training
  - A. Safety Briefing
  - B. Team Assignments
  - C. Safety Equipment Issue
  - D. Tactical Scenario Venues

- IV. Clean-up and Debrief