



HRCJTA TB 2021-3

DATE: February 16, 2021
TO: Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy Member Agencies
FROM: Scott Barlow, Executive Director
SUBJECT: HRCJTA Training Bulletin 2021-3(Training Philosophy vs. Technique)

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The HRCJTA is a regional police academy, servicing many different jurisdictions. Trainers have always discussed (argued) techniques. This is healthy and makes for better, more versatile instructors. Understanding this, it is important to note that training techniques can differ...but overall training philosophy should not.

The more complex we make our training, the less likely it is that our new officers/deputies will remember what they were taught. It is far more likely that they will remember concept as opposed to a specific technique for every scenario they may encounter. The more often we teach by concept and problem solving philosophy, the better trained our officers will be.

There are many examples of this and these next several training bulletin will cover a few of them. These T.B.'s are not intended to be a complete lesson plan for L.E. topics but a general philosophy for "training by concept".

Firearms: When to draw your firearm during a high risk encounter is covered by the officers/deputies training, experience, and agency policy. When the decision to draw the firearm, as a preparatory response, is made officers/deputies should use a low ready or a high ready stance with the finger **off the trigger**.

The “laser rule” or “safety circle” should always be utilized to ensure safety of all officers/deputies, and citizens. Both these concepts are critical for officer safety, and ensures that the likelihood of an accidental discharge is minimal, and if an accidental discharge occurs, no citizens or officers are in the line of fire.

Instructors can become far more specific with appropriate stances and movements as long as these basic concepts are not violated.

Emergency Response Driving: There are numerous driving techniques for steering, cornering, and breaking during emergency response driving. When to drive in the emergency response mode is determined by the officer/deputies training, experience, and agency policy. Again, instructors can argue about the best techniques for emergency response driving, but the number one cause of accidents is the driver having divided attention with the radio, cell phone, MDC or other device.

The course of instruction should provide specific guidance on focusing on driving at a speed within the officers/deputies abilities, and based on the conditions on the roadway and your specific location & jurisdiction.

Slowing down whenever unsure of conditions or upcoming roadways, and a complete, or close to complete, stop at intersections is critical and must be stressed as well.

Avoid the dreaded “EGO” and call off pursuits when unsafe.