



HRCJTA TB 2021-4

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TO: Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy Member Agencies
FROM: Scott Barlow, Executive Director
SUBJECT: HRCJTA Training Bulletin 2021-4(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 plans for L.E. topics but a general philosophy for "training by concept".

Arrests Techniques: Is one of the most hotly argued areas in the police training world. In actuality it should be quite simple if the below concepts are adhered to:

- ✓ High risk arrests, officers/deputies should, whenever possible, bring the suspect out of hiding to a safe spot for enhanced control (handcuffing) with verbal commands.
 - Distance is critical as it gives the officers/deputies **time**. When the officers/deputies do not have time..... poor decisions are made.

- ✓ All resisting subjects should be placed on the ground.
- ✓ Standing handcuffing techniques should be simple and only used for totally compliant subjects.
- ✓ Arrest of non-compliant subjects should be done with multiple officers whenever possible. This is unarguable, so we should spend significant time on how to make an arrest with multiple officers.
- ✓ Taking the subject to the ground, with minimal or no injury to officers and the subject is a good takedown! It is never pretty, and a real world arrest does not look like an arrest on the mats!
- ✓ Weapons defense is a Last resort always! Again, distance gives the officers/deputies **time**.
 - Knife defense involves movement and distance, never close the gap until verbal control has been established. Never intentionally go to the ground with a subject with a knife, you now have no ability to create distance. If you must attempt disarming trap the wrist holding the knife, and utilize personal weapons.
 - Distance and cover is critical with a subject armed with a firearm. Never close the gap until verbal control has been established. If you must attempt disarming, trap the firearm or the wrist holding the firearm, keep the muzzle pointing away from you, and utilize personal weapons.
 - The number and type of techniques for weapon disarming is endless, if any of these techniques violate basic principles they are poor ones.

Key Concept One: Awareness, Obstacles, Distance (AOD) provide **Time**.

Key Concept Two: Cover and/or Concealment provide **Time**.

Key Concept Three: Having a plan, sharing your plan, good verbalization skills provide **Time**.

Key Concept Four: Good training equals confidence and provides **Time**.

Time provides **better decision making!**