



HRCJTA TB 2021-5

DATE: February 16, 2021
TO: Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy Member Agencies
FROM: Scott Barlow, Executive Director
SUBJECT: HRCJTA Training Bulletin 2021-5(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 bulletins 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".

Clearing a building is another area with a vast number of techniques. We are discussing patrol officers, not SWAT or Narcotics entries. If you are involved with these type high risk entries, high levels of entry training and specialized equipment should be used. There are some very basic principles when officers/deputies are clearing buildings:

- ✓ Never clear a building alone.
- ✓ Extra officers are beneficial, even to use for outside perimeter.

- ✓ Contact key holder to facilitate your entry and collect information.
- ✓ If have any reason to believe building has a suspect hiding, call your K-9.
- ✓ Announce prior to entry to allow anyone inside to acknowledge your presence.
- ✓ One officer moves while the second officer covers. Do not become separated.
- ✓ If a suspect is located, establish a point of cover and have them come to you do not enter where they are.
- ✓ If you choose to have firearm in hand, use low ready and finger off the trigger.
- ✓ Once the search is completed, it is very possible you have missed a suspect. Particularly, if multiple alarms.

A felony/high risk stop is another area with a vast number of techniques. We are discussing patrol officers, not SWAT or Narcotics officers. If you are involved with vehicle assaults and armed and dangerous subject vehicle takedowns, these type stops require high levels of training and specialized equipment. There are some very basic principles when officers/deputies conduct a high risk vehicle stop:

- ✓ Never attempt a high risk stop alone. Hold the vehicle, with verbal commands, and wait for backup to arrive.
- ✓ Announce who you are and reason for stop. A scripted memorized set of commands is unrealistic and does not happen in the real world.
- ✓ Use your vehicle for cover, and give verbal commands bring one suspect at a time back to a safe place for hand-cuffing and searching.
- ✓ Ask first suspect for information on who else may be in the vehicle, where the keys are, are there any weapons?
- ✓ Once you are confident vehicle is empty, using contact and cover clear the vehicle.