

EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE

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TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Objectives

1. Each student will understand the roles and responsibilities of the Crisis Response Team (CRT) members.
2. Each student will identify some tactics and resources specific to the CRT.
3. Understand the limitations of the tactics and force options during the first 15 minutes of a Critical Incident.

Members of the Critical Response Team will work together to bring a coordinated response utilizing all available resources to ensure a swift response and safe resolution to police contacts or spontaneous events involving people in a crisis with the potential risk of injury or death.

II. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Identify role

- Incident Commander
- CRT Leader
- Contact/Negotiations Officer
- Cover/Deadly Force Officer
- Control/Arrest Officer
- Less Lethal Officer

B. Responsibilities and tactics associated

1. Incident Commander

Ideally the Incident Commander will be responsible for the overall command of the incident. This might be a senior officer or sergeant, until relieved by a Superior Officer. Due to the spontaneity of a given incident, it is difficult to identify the incident commander during the first 15 minutes. As the incident begins to unfold an Incident Commander should be identified.

The Incident Commander will ensure there is an inner and outer perimeter. If possible, attempt to confine the subject to an area that creates a tactical advantage for CRT personnel.

The Incident Commander should provide the safest environment for the CRT to operate. Clear the immediate area of persons who may be harmed by the subject and those not needed to safely resolve the situation.

Request additional resources if needed. This will include but is not limited to:

- Paramedics
- Fire
- Commanding Officer and/or Chief
- Watch Commander
- SWAT
- Relief for personnel
- Peer Support
- PERT
- Legal
- PIO
- POA
- Command Van

Assess the need for a command post (CP).

- Far enough away from incident to ensure the safety of personnel assigned
- Staff the CP

2. CRT Leader

This role is vital and should be identified immediately upon arrival to an incident. Delegate roles to members of the CRT. A Sergeant or senior officer should fill this role. The CRT Leader identifies the roles of the CRT members as the incident begins.

Considerations:

- Develop a plan and ensure each of the members of the CRT understand it. Whenever possible a second plan (backup) should be in place.
- If time permits, obtain approval of the plan(s) from the Incident Commander.
- Execute the plan and oversee it through a safe resolution.
- Contingencies should be considered- if the subject is struck with less lethal or deadly force. If an officer is wounded, or if the CRT leader is wounded. If the suspect barricades himself revert to SOP.
- Broadcast vital information only on the radio.
- Determine threat level of subject- what type of weapon etc.
- Keep Incident Commander updated on situation.
- Keep field of fire clear of any obstruction.
- Avenues of escape-vehicle
- Know where each of the CRT members are physically located at all times during the incident.

Always maintain a tactical advantage for the CRT. These types of incidents require the utmost discipline from all the CRT members. It is the CRT Leader's responsibility to keep the team focused on safety **FIRST**, apprehension of the suspect second.

3. Contact Officer/Negotiating Officer

This officer is directed by the CRT leader to initiate contact with the subject. The direction should only be given when all CRT members are in place. The only time contact is initiated prior to all team members being in place is when the subject poses an immediate threat to citizens. This would require any responding officers to engage the subject where there are exigent circumstances.

At the direction of the CRT Leader, this officer will take up a safe position. This should be behind cover or concealment. Whenever possible this position should be at a distance that allows the CRT to operate safely and effectively. Consider the weapons and capabilities the suspect presents.

Considerations:

- Be flexible
- Prepare to go hands-on if necessary
- Communicate with CRT Leader
- Use the extensive training given in this course to effectively negotiate with the subject.

4. Cover Officer/Deadly Force

At the direction of the CRT leader you will provide the deadly force option to the situation. Ultimately this officer is providing cover for the entire CRT. Position yourself in order to maintain a tactical advantage, in close proximity to the CRT. If deadly force is no longer a reasonable force option (suspect is no longer an immediate threat that warrants deadly force), be prepared to go hands-on. The remaining CRT members will be tasked with going hands-on when directed by the CRT leader.

Have a clear understanding of the plan and what less lethal options will be deployed. Stay focused on the threat and be ready to stop it if required. Be familiar with terminology used by those deploying less lethal options.

Considerations:

- Select appropriate weapon
 1. Handgun
 2. Shotgun
 3. Carbine 9 mm
- Background of suspect's location
- Lighting conditions
- Availability of additional deadly force
- Suspect's weapon capabilities
- CRT member's location
- Injury to suspect
- Immediacy of threat

5. Control Officer

At the direction of the CRT leader this officer is responsible for controlling the subject when applicable. This might involve applying handcuffs and/or other department-approved methods. Be prepared to physically intervene.

Considerations:

- Subject's condition
- Subject might rapidly turn from compliant to violent
- If Taser was used, be aware of probes, wires, and/or blood exposure
- Stay updated on all available methods of defensive tactics

6. Less Lethal Officer

Under the direction of the CRT Leader this officer will be responsible for deploying less lethal force when appropriate. Because there are a few less lethal force options, the CRT Leader may designate more than one. In addition, the CRT may be working with a canine handler, or perhaps a SWAT officer to provide adequate less lethal force options.

Considerations:

- Use proper positioning when working with other CRT members.
- Have an understanding of the plan developed by the CRT Leader.
- Be proficient in the use of all available less lethal force options.
- Ensure you are a safe distance from the subject, but within effective range of the less lethal force option.
- When appropriate, safely and effectively deploy less lethal option.
- Be prepared for a malfunction, and reload if applicable.
- Do not become dependent on the force option you have, and be

prepared in case you do not get the desired response from the suspect.

- When feasible, give verbal warning before deploying less lethal.

III. TEAM CONCEPTS AND TACTICS

A. Flexibility

- Each member of the CRT should be proficient in each of the above listed roles.
- Discipline is critical during an incident where the CRT is required.
- Not all crisis situations are the same; it may require that you modify your role depending on the situation.
- The CRT leader will be giving the members direction as the situation unfolds, be flexible in your role. There may only be three CRT members present so all must be flexible.
- The direction given by either the CRT Leader and/or Incident Commander may not be the best in your opinion, but require you to carry out orders to the best of your ability.

1. Short of being unsafe, illegal, against policy or negligent, orders should be carried out swiftly and safely.
2. *If time permits*, share your ideas with the CRT Leader or Incident Commander.
3. The first few minutes are critical; the CRT leader is making quick decisions that impact the outcome of the crisis situation. He/She is doing this with very little information.

B. Communication

- Keep everyone updated on vital information.
- The Incident Commander can deal with information that is pertinent, but not vital, perhaps on an alternate frequency.
- Negotiate with a purpose.

IV. REVIEW

- A. Objectives
- B. Roles and Responsibilities
 - Incident Commander
 - CRT Leader
 - Contact/Negotiations Officer
 - Cover/Deadly Force Officer
 - Control/Arrest Officer
 - Less Lethal Officer
- C. Team Concepts
- D. Communications

V. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS