

Event 9 – Critical Incident
Session 1 – Sit Sim Village Tour - Ambush
LD 23- Crimes in Progress

Date Revised: 11/13/19

Course Goal: To teach recruit officers how to respond to a crime in progress.

Session Goal: To teach recruit officers how to respond to an ambush and the tactical considerations when confronted with an ambush. The students will understand the importance of being both mentally and physically prepared.

Learning Objectives:

- Distinguish between officer safety and officer survival, including: current patterns related to deaths and assaults on peace officers, the concept of “will to survive,” officer actions after being wounded, officer as hostage, officer actions in counter-ambush incidents when on foot, officer actions in counter-ambush incidents when in a patrol vehicle. [23.I.B.1,2,3,4,5,6]
- Demonstrate effective officer actions for the safe and tactical response involving violent suspects. [23.IV.A.2]
- Demonstrate effective officer actions for the safe and tactical response involving officer ambush/sniper attacks. [23.IV.A.4]
- The student will participate in a learning activity that reinforces an understanding of law enforcement response to a variety of high-risk situations, including person with a gun. [23.VI.A.1]
- Effective decision making to enhance tactical readiness. [23.VI.C.2]

Session Time: 2 hours

Resources:

- Classroom with tables
- White board
- Dry erase markers
- Projector with computer connections
- Inert handgun for each recruit
- Blank gun
- 1 radio for emergency notifications
- First aid kit

Session Summary: The students will gather in the Davis Training Facility Village (Sit Sim Village). The students will be issued inert handguns and then an ambush will occur. The students will react. The instructors will demonstrate a proper response to an ambush. The students will then go back to the classroom where a facilitated discussion will take place. The students will later return to the village and demonstrate how to respond to an ambush.

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| Outline | Instructor Notes |
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| <p>I. Definition of an ambush</p> <p>A. An ambush is a surprise attack that contains three basic elements [1]</p> <p>1. Surprise</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. Keeps an officer off balance and confused</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. Keeps the officer guessing what the attackers are going to do next</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">c. Keeps the pressure on the officers resulting in mistakes made by officers</p> <p>2. Mass Firepower</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. Includes auto pistols, semi and automatic weapons, explosive devices, shotguns etc.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. Produces</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">1) Panic</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">2) High rate of casualties</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">3) Equipment destruction</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">4) Situation from which there may be no escape</p> <p>3. Hit and run tactics</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. Destroys officer’s morale</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. Allows smaller number of attackers to succeed in engaging numerically superior forces</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">c. Excels in speed of movement, set up time and escape</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">d. Not reacting to an ambush has been the greatest cause of death to officers</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">e. Not preplanning for ambush situations will leave an officer</p> | <p><i>The class will begin in the village where they all will be issued inert handguns. They will be told that anytime they are in the village they will have an inert handgun. They will form up in classroom formation in front of their break room. They will be told they will be given a tour of sit sim village. At this time they will be ambushed from the top of the break room balcony. The students will react. (Approximately 15min)</i></p> <p><i>(Instructors will demonstrate a proper response to an Ambush before returning to the classroom.)</i></p> <p>Learning Activity 1- Demonstration of response to an Ambush</p> <p><i>After the ambush the instructors will take the students back to the classroom where there will be a facilitated discussion.</i></p> <p>[1] Ask- What is an ambush?</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Planned and executed as a separate operationb. Prior planning, preparation and even possible rehearsalc. Can be carried out by one or more personsd. The fewer number of persons involved makes it easier to execute and escape after contacte. Executed by luring police into a prepared ambush positionf. Suspects need to know exact location of officers such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">g. Command postsh. Congregation of large amounts of officersi. Phony telephone calls bringing the officer's to a staged location <p>3. Spontaneous Ambush [4]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Preplanned surprise attackb. Only executed if the circumstances benefit the attacker<ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Example: Foot pursuit of a robbery suspect. Suspect turns the corner and waits in order to attack the officer as the officer turns the corner. <p>4. Opportunity Ambush</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Unplanned surprise attackb. Normally executed during the commission of a crime<ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Example: Suspects with a planned response to certain routines expected by officers. Officers' conduct vehicle stop on suspects. During the stop officer's commit tactical error's which allow suspects | <p>[4] Ask- What is a Spontaneous Ambush?</p> |
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| <p>3) Do not limit your search of the suspect for weapons only. Other items which can aid in escape, such as handcuff keys should be removed from suspects prior to transportation. (Tampa Bay incident above)</p> <p>10. Maintain your equipment [9] [21.II.A.1,3]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Officers should make sure they have all of their equipment with them prior to beginning patrol functionsb. Officers should make sure their firearms are cleaned and oiled periodicallyc. Officers should make sure that their firearm is loaded prior to beginning patrol functionsd. Officers should ensure that all of their equipment such as handcuffs, leather gear, OC spray, etc. are in good working order <p>11. Maintain proficiency with your firearms and other skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Firearms, grappling, control holds, handcuffing, etc. are all perishable skills [10]b. Officers need to make time in their personal lives to practice the above skillsc. Practicing allows officers to react to their training when confronted with incidents in which force is required <p>12. Stay physically fit [11]</p> | <p>Why is it important to do a thorough search?</p> <p>[9] Ask- Why is it important to maintain your equipment?</p> <p>[10] Ask- What skills in police work are perishable (firearms, grappling, handcuffing, etc.)?</p> |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The best way to survive an ambush is to identify the ambush before it occurs2. Prior to reaching a location, consider staying back approximately one block to observe the area3. Consider using the spotlight. Officers may see the suspects in time to take evasive action4. Routine actions must be reduced to a minimum such as<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Common response routesb. Avoid often used and exposed coffee spots5. Avoid being boxed in your police vehicle in dead ends6. Be alert for possible B/O calls or when a call generated by an officer is determined to be B/O7. Avoid walking down narrow pedestrian passageways, gates or bushes. Avoid walking close together with your partner if possible8. Enter locations one at a time9. Be aware of your surroundings at community meetings or command posts10. Be aware of police actions which may lead to retaliation11. Know the gang hangouts and narco sales locations in the area | <p>[14] Ask- What are some counter ambush techniques?</p> |
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| <p>12. If an officer becomes a hostage from an ambush, an officer should use every tactical tool at his/her disposal to avoid surrendering their weapon. [23.I.B.4] [15]</p> <p>13. Communicate with your partner beginning of watch to come up with a game plan in case there is an officer hostage situation. [15]</p> <p>G. What are some of the ways to survive an ambush? [23.IV.A.4]</p> <p>1. You have approximately two seconds to act after being fired upon. This includes your reaction time of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a second.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Determine the location of the suspect [16]b. Return fire and simultaneously move to coverc. Do not turn your back and rund. Returning fire may be the officer's best defense against the suspect's offense [17]e. Attempt to maintain a visual on the suspect's location. This limits the suspect's ability to move to another position and enables you to prevent responding units from entering the kill zonef. Movements should be deliberate and rapidg. Only consider moving from cover if the position becomes tactically inferiorh. Keep low and move from cover to cover in short sprintsi. Initiate a "Help Call" | <p>[15] Ask- What would you do if your partner became a hostage? (<i>LAPD manual section 1/564 Officers Surrendering Weapon</i>)</p> <p>[16] Ask- How do you survive an ambush?</p> <p>[17] Ask- Why do you not turn your back?</p> <p>Ask- What can be used as cover?</p> |
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| <p>1) It is the ambushed officer's responsibility to obtain assistance</p> <p>2) Broadcast location, suspect description, type of weapon used, etc.</p> <p>3) Do not direct responding units into the kill zone</p> <p>4) If the suspect is using a high powered rifle, advise the air unit [18]</p> <p>H. Vehicle considerations [23.I.B.6]</p> <p>1. If police vehicle is being fired upon, take the first driveway, opening or space that is available in order to drive out of the immediate kill zone [19]</p> <p>a. This action will get officers out of possible secondary ambushes most of the time</p> <p>2. Try to deploy to the same side of the street as the suspect(s)</p> <p>a. This causes suspect(s) to change their position in order to get another shot at officer</p> <p>b. May allow officers to outflank the suspect(s)</p> <p>3. If in a business district without driveways consider</p> <p>a. Driving onto the sidewalk</p> <p>b. Using a doorway</p> <p>c. Breaking a window or glass door in order to get out of the kill zone</p> <p>4. If the suspect(s) has the high ground in an urban environment, drive directly toward the suspect. This tactic will likely cause the suspect(s)</p> | <p>[18] Ask- Why do we want to notify the air unit if the suspect has a rifle?</p> <p>[19] Ask- If police vehicle is being fired upon, what are some tactical options to drive out of the ambush?</p> |
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| <p>to shoot high over a rapidly approaching vehicle</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Reversing or negotiating a U-turn should be discouraged. Slowing down or stopping the police vehicle causes a time delay which allows the suspect(s) to concentrate fire on the vehicle6. Upon reaching cover, communicate with other officers <p>I. What are some post ambush considerations? [20]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Initiate a “Help” call and advise units of appropriate response routes, suspect location and description, types of weapons, etc.2. Officers should attempt to keep eyes on the suspect(s) in order to limit suspect’s movements3. Coordinate a perimeter to contain the suspect(s)4. Request an air unit but not in the immediate area if the suspects are using high powered rifles5. Request Fire Department for officers or citizens down6. Establish a command post but not in the kill zone7. Request a supervisor to respond to the command post8. Request K-9 units and coordinate a search team | <p>[20] Ask- What should the broadcast consist of if you get ambushed?</p> |
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| <p>9. Request SWAT if the situation dictates</p> <p>10. Keep an open line of communication with the units on the perimeter updating the suspect(s) location, description, etc.</p> <p>11. Protect the crime scene</p> <p>12. Evacuate the surrounding area</p> <p>13. Deploy the UPR or SSA if the situation dictates</p> <p>14. If the suspect(s) is in custody, maintain a perimeter and request the appropriate detectives and S.I.D. Protect the crime scene</p> | <p>End hour 2 (Learning activities 2-4 will be utilized during pedestrian stop)</p> |
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Learning Activity 1- Demonstrate effective officer actions for the safe and tactical response involving Officer ambush/sniper attacks. [23.IV.A.4, 23.IV.A.2]

Purpose: The instructors will demonstrate the proper response when reacting to an ambush.

Description: Two instructors will work as partners walking through the cul-de-sac of sit sim village towards the two-story residence. One instructor will act as the suspect and will emerge from the second story balcony of the two-story residence. The suspect will ambush the officers from the balcony of the residence. The suspect (instructor) will fire a blank weapon with the blank ammunition at the officers.

The two instructors (officers) will demonstrate the proper reaction to the ambush. The officers will identify where the threat is and return fire while moving to cover. The officers will not turn their back while moving to cover. Once they have reached cover and there is a break in the action, the officers will request help and coordinate responding unit's arrival while maintaining a view of the suspect's location.

Suspect behavior:

- Aggressive
- Deadly

Resources needed:

- Inert handgun for the instructors
- Blank gun for the suspect

Key learning points:

- Identify the threat
- Return fire
- Move to cover
- Don't turn you back!
- Request help

Time required: 10 minutes

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Learning Activity 2 – Practical Application- Ambush [23.VI.A.1, 23.VI.C.2]

Purpose: The students will demonstrate the proper reaction to an ambush.

Description: After being issued inert handguns, the students will gather in the cul-de-sac of sit sim village to do a review of Pedestrian Stop tactics. An instructor, acting as an ambush suspect will hide in the second story room of the hotel. After the review has begun, the suspect will emerge from the room and onto the balcony and fire at the students using the blank gun. Students should react to the ambush as taught during the facilitated discussion in the classroom.

Suspect behavior:

- Aggressive
- Deadly

Resources needed:

- Inert handgun for each recruit
- Blank handgun

Key learning points:

- Identify the threat
- Return fire
- Move to cover
- Don't turn you back!
- Request help

Time required: 10 minutes

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Learning Activity 3- Practical Application- Ambush [23.VI.A.1]

Purpose: The students will demonstrate the proper reaction to an ambush.

Description: After returning from a break the students will gather in front of the brown building (bar) located in sit sim village. An instructor posing as a suspect will hide on the top of the “Georgia Street Balcony.” As an instructor begins to speak to the class, the suspect will emerge from cover and fire blank ammunition at the students. The students should react as taught during the facilitated discussion in the classroom.

Suspect behavior:

- Aggressive
- Deadly

Resources needed:

- Inert handgun for each recruit
- Blank handgun

Key learning points:

- Identify the threat
- Return fire
- Move to cover
- Don’t turn you back!
- Request help

Time required: 10 minutes

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Learning Activity 4- Practical Application-Ambush [23.VI.A.1]

Purpose: The students will demonstrate the proper reaction to an ambush.

Description: The students will gather on the island by the bus stop in sit sim village. The instructor will begin a UOF/UODF review. An instructor posing as a suspect will be hiding on the patio area adjacent to the lunch room. As an instructor begins to speak to the class, the suspect will emerge from cover and fire blank ammunition at the students. The students should react as taught during the facilitated discussion in the classroom.

Suspect behavior:

- Aggressive
- Deadly

Resources needed:

- Inert handgun for each recruit
- Blank handgun

Key learning points:

- Identify the threat
- Return fire
- Move to cover
- Don't turn you back!
- Request help

Time required: 10 minutes