

Los Angeles Police Department
Airborne Operations: Ground Officers Training 4 hours
1850-21850

Instructional Goal: Introduce up-to-date information regarding the tactics used by suspects attempting to avoid apprehension by both air and ground personnel. Review the tactics and procedures of perimeter containment.

Performance Objectives: Using lecture, video, group discussions, and perimeter debriefs the students will:

- Become familiar with the suspect tactics trends being used
- Identify the proper containment procedures for video scenarios
- Utilize the skills learned to apprehend suspects during foot pursuits that result in perimeters

I. SUSPECT TACTICS

(120 min)

A. Overview

1. Video Presentation
2. Discuss the desperation involved with many suspects
3. Law enforcement tactics and techniques are constantly changing in order to be more effective and efficient. It is very important to recognize that as we move forward, suspects are doing the same. Suspects are learning from successes and failures just as we do, and they share these experiences with each other in a jail setting.
4. Overview of suspect tactics trends changing since the 1980's
 - a) Gang activity was at its peak
 - b) Numerous perimeters every night
 - c) Many suspects were apprehended in the first three yards
 - d) Today most suspects are located in the last yard of the last block of containment
 - e) Today many suspects attempt to exit containment

B. Foot Pursuits

1. Suspect's route of travel
2. Path of least resistance
3. Straight through the block
4. Double-back has become a popular tactic
5. Run until confronted as opposed to going to ground
6. Alley

C. Foot pursuits with an air unit overhead

1. Stop and go, not a steady run
2. Abrupt change of direction
3. Moving on the back side of the orbit
4. Use of tree cover
5. Running between buildings

D. Video Presentation

1. Show video
2. Discuss the tactics viewed during the video
 - a) Stop and go
 - b) Abrupt change of direction
 - c) Moving on back side of orbit

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- d) Use of buildings for cover
 - e) Use of tree cover
 - f) Change of clothing
- E. Perimeter established
- 1. Hiding locations
 - a) Inside and under vehicles
 - b) Under houses
 - c) Trash cans and bins
 - d) Bushes and other landscaping
 - e) Rooftops with tree cover
 - f) Up in trees
 - g) Sheds, garages, and other out buildings
 - h) Water heater closets Inside dog houses
 - i) Jacuzzi with cover
 - j) Under items leaning against walls and fences
 - k) Between buildings that are very close together
 - l) Inside a residence
 - ~ Forced entry
 - ~ Granted entry by resident
 - ~ Bribery (common with bank robbery suspects)
- F. Tactics to exit containment
- 1. Change of appearance
 - a) layers of clothing
 - b) stealing clothing from wash line or laundry room
 - c) Run out perimeter slide
 - 2. Leave perimeter in a vehicle
 - a) steal vehicle from within perimeter
 - b) Car jack a vehicle
 - c) Hide in a vehicle leaving the perimeter
 - d) Call a taxi into the perimeter for pick up e. Suspect's use of cell phones (slide 22)
 - e) Call in false tip or "help call" to 9-1-1
 - f) Call friend to pick them up
 - 3. Moving inside of the perimeter
 - a) Suspects are not intimidated by air unit overhead
 - b) Suspects are aware of the FLIR
 - c) Move on back side of orbit
If I can't see the helicopter, they can't see me
 - d) Use of buildings and tree cover to conceal movement
 - e) Suspects often move slowly so as not to draw attention to themselves
 - f) Yard switching during a K-9 search (slide 26,27)
 - g) Suspects moves from the yard he is hiding in as the search team enters the yard
 - h) Suspect returns to the after the search team exits
 - 4. Current trends to avoid apprehension (slide 28)

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- a) Suspects are crossing freeways (slide **29**)
- b) Entering shopping malls to blend in and hide to conceal self and property (slide 30)
- b) Entering shopping malls to blend in and hide to conceal self and property (slide 30)
- c) Escaping through drainage pipe & exiting a different location through access cover (slide 31)

II. PERIMETER CONTAINMENT (slide 32) (90 min)

A. Overview

1. Definition of perimeter
2. Webster: Outside line around an enclosed area. For purposes of law enforcement, this is a containment of an area, large or small, by placing ground officers in a position which affords a clear view of all sides of the area. Inner and outer perimeters can be used on the same incident.
3. Foot pursuits under an air crew (**slide 34,35,36**)
 - a. Be prepared to set a perimeter around the entire block when you lose sight of the suspect
 - b. . Direct units ahead of suspect to cut off route of travel
 - c. During darkness, keep the night sun beam wide
 - d. Avoid using binoculars or FLIP until containment is established (slide 37,38)
 - e. Calm communications with ground units
 - f. Avoid tunnel vision
4. Air crew arrival after officers lost sight of suspect (slide 39)
 - a. Learn as many facts as possible prior to arrival
 - b. Location, Location, Location (slide 40,41)
 - c. Direction of travel
 - d. Basic description of suspect
 - e. What is the suspect wanted for?
 - f. If the ground units are struggling with the streets, you can set the perimeter prior to arrival
5. Upon arrival at scene (slide 42)
 - a. Are all officers accounted for?
 - b. Set the perimeter as soon as possible
 - c. Contact the officer who last observed the suspect
 - d. At night have the officer use his or her flashlight
 - e. During daylight hours, have the officer describe their position and wave
 - f. Determine the size of the perimeter based on all the facts available
 - g. You can always decrease the size of the perimeter
 - h. For serious crimes, make the perimeter large
 - i. All four corners must be set first, then mid-block (slide 43)
 - j. . Avoid setting half block perimeters (slide 44,45)
6. After the perimeter is set (slide 46)

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- a. Control ingress and egress of all pedestrians and vehicles
 - b. Check all trunks of vehicles leaving the containment
 - c. Radio discipline is essential for a safe and successful conclusion
 - d. Remember the suspect tactics used to exit perimeters
 - e. Remind ground units to report any significant observations
 - f. Motion lights illuminating
 - g. Noise
 - h. Witness statements
 - i. Conduct a systematic FLIP search of the area
 - j. Assist ground units in selection of command post location
 - k. Should be outside of kill zone
 - l. Request supervisor & make appropriate notifications
(ConsDec#56,68)
 - m. Assist ground units with any requests they may have: K9 ,SWAT,
Additional Units
 - n. Do not assume that a suspect is in a specific location without solid
facts to support it. (slide 47)
- B. Perimeter Containment Debriefs
- 1. Officer Down Scenarios (slide 48)
 - 2. Died in Line of Duty (slide 49)
 - a. Officer Chuck Helm, Hollywood Division (slide 50)
 - b. Facts of the case (slide 51-56)
 - c. Officers made assumptions
 - d. • Person is in a location
 - e. Assumptions occur because of adrenaline & tunnel vision
 - 3. Size of perimeter was incorrect for situation (slide 57,58)
 - a. • What was it? 1 block
 - b. • What should it have been? Much larger
 - c. • Why? Suspects are most desperate & take
chances to get away
 - d. b. CHP Officer Rafael Casillas, Devonshire Division
(slide 59-63)
 - e. 1) Facts of the case
 - f. 2) Officers made assumptions
 - g. • Person is in a location
 - h. • Assumptions occur because of adrenaline &
tunnel vision
 - i. 3) Size of perimeter was incorrect for situation
 - j. • What was it? 1 block
 - k. • What should it have been? Much larger
 - l. • Why? Suspects are most desperate & take
chances to get away
 - 4. Emphasis on large containment areas for the most serious
situations
 - a. Officer down
 - b. Serial criminals
 - c. Murder and rape
 - 5. Video: Preselected FLIP videos (slide 64)

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- a. Show FLIP video #1 (The FLIP videos all show suspects using different tactics to avoid apprehension. Utilize topical clips.
- b. Ask the students
- c. • What containment tactics are appropriate for each scenario?
- d. • What things went right?
- e. • What could be done better in each scenario based on the tactics learned?
- f. Expected responses from students' should cover:
- g. • Size of perimeters
- h. • Delay in setting perimeters
- i. • Tunnel vision by officers
- j. • Communication
- k. Repeat same for FLIP video #2

III. CLOSING

(30 min)

A. Exam

1. Show FLIP Video #3
2. Break class into small working groups or partners
3. Ask class to identify:
What containment tactics are appropriate for each scenario?
What went right?
What could be done better in each scenario based on tactics learned
4. Expected responses from students' should cover:
 - a. Size of perimeters
 - b. Delay in setting perimeters
 - c. Tunnel vision by officers
 - d. Communication

B. Reinforce key learning points (slide 65)

1. Being familiar with suspect tactics help you make sound tactical decisions for each situation.
2. Use of proper containment techniques increase chances of apprehending the suspect.
3. The size of the perimeter is very important in critical situations.

C. Final Question and Answer (slide 66)