

Pasadena Police Department Air Operations Section

Foot Pursuit/Containment Training

Class Syllabus

Learning Goals

- Better understanding of containment techniques and options
- Improve communications before, during and after an incident occurs
- Decision making - Improve officer safety tactics through option evaluations
- Increase apprehensions (chase to contain, chase to apprehend, controlled searches)
- Risks verses Gains
- What are the incident objectives

Apprehending Fleeing Suspects

- Introduce book *Apprehending Fleeing Suspects* by LAPD Officer Jack Schonely
- The choice to chase or contain a suspect can be instrumental in the outcome

Foot Pursuit vs. Containment – Decision Factors

- Nature of the crime
- Public safety threats or risks
- Personal safety verses protect the public
- Armed and/or number of suspects
- Location of the foot pursuit – officer and suspects’ familiarity with the area
- Time of day (hours of darkness)
- Factors that might contribute to suspect’s actions (age, criminal history, past contacts)
- Physical fitness of the officer
- Available resources
- Communication and possible limitations
- Analyze and pre-plan singular and multi-officer options and course of action (Ongoing)
- Is the plan viable, strategic, and adaptable to varying situations (What if?)

Decision to Pursue

- Communication is the key to success
- Knowledge of the area
- Know your limitations and vulnerabilities
- Officer safety first – Potential consequences of partners splitting-up
- Decision to pursue/capture verses risk to public and law enforcement

Decision to Contain/Perimeter Considerations

- Timely decision (reassess as incident evolves)
- Systematic approach considering resources, containment area/terrain, and Air Unit's availability and ETA to scene
- Communication considerations for car radio & portable
- Size of containment – should be commensurate with the crime/incident
- Attempt to limit suspect options
- Two officer containments – points to consider – safety considerations
- Line of sight, pursuit, and containments
- Evaluate evolving danger signs

Suspect Tactics

- Two kinds of suspects – “runners” and “hidiers” (from research)
- “Hiders” – any age, typically overweight, poor physical fitness, injured or disabled
- “Hiders” typically run three to seven yards before “going to ground”
- “Runners” – typically young (late teens to early 30's), in good physical condition, familiar with the area, and they utilize known area or rehearsed escape routes
- “Runners” will run until confronted (or perceive they are about to be confronted) and require larger containments

Suspect Trends

- Run until confronted (or the perception of being confronted)
- Often will take path of least resistance (this can vary with fitness of suspect)
- Run straight through the block in an attempt to escape area before containment fully established
- Double backs
- Use of alleys, highways, and embankments
- Parked vehicles (under, inside, or access to car to leave the area)
- Large County drainage pipes (washes)
- (Consider discard areas) May look for discard area for weapons before bedding down

Means to Exit Containments

- Change of appearance
- Blending in with the crowd
- Calling associate to pick them up in previously uninvolved vehicles (Pay attention to vehicles that may be circling the area.)
- Suspect cell phone usage (potential evidence)
- Bolting out from hiding place if there appears to be an opportunity

Common Hiding Places

- Bedding down in shrubbery and trees (Remember to look up!)
- Trash cans

- Under, inside and between houses (listen for barking dogs)
- Anywhere else a suspect can squeeze into – think creatively, like a suspect

Responding Units

- Communication between responding personnel and dispatch
- Coordinate, prioritize actions, and verbalize public safety issues to increase overall awareness, as deemed appropriate
- Drive safely – you can't help anyone if you don't get there
- Know your role
- Get out of vehicles upon arrival and stay engaged
- Use lights tactically
- Consider apprehension tactics
- Use of force options
- Police canine usage

Working With Airborne Units

- Location last seen
- Direction of travel and time delay
- Suspect description
- Tactical decision making
- Updated intelligence
- What to do after the containment is set

Perimeter Management

- Command post locations
- Resource Management
- Staging locations for law enforcement and fire personnel
- Media and public notification options (Nixle)
- Tactical Debrief

Question and Answer Session

Review and class conclusion

** Photos and videos (practical examples) are used throughout the class to reinforce concepts and learning points.*

** Concepts consistent with LASD Split Second Decision handout "The dynamics of the chase in today's society", copyright 2010.*