

Pasadena Police Department Air Operations Section

Vehicle Pursuit/Containment Training

Class Syllabus

Learning Goals

- Better understanding of applicable laws, policies, and tactics pertaining to pursuits that will assist in appropriate pursuit operations and management
- To enhance community and officer safety by reducing traffic collisions related to vehicle pursuits and hazardous situations associated with suspect apprehension
- To standardize terminology, enhance communication skills, and better define pursuit “rules of engagement”
- Gain better understanding of containment techniques and options
- Improve decision making and risk management by law enforcement

Expectations

- Discussion on public’s expectations of law enforcement and pursuits
- Discussion of staff’s expectations and the concept of proactive supervision
- Discussion on expectations of ground officers and Air Operations Section personnel
- Discussion on expectations pertaining to decision making
- Review concept of “Risk versus Gain” as it relates to vehicle pursuits and containment operations

Qualified Immunity

- Review of qualified immunity – what it is and what it is not
- Review CVC 21055 – Rules of the road exemption
- Review CVC 21056 – Driving with due regard / qualified immunity
- Group discussion of these points and concepts

Physiological Changes Due to Stress

- Discuss on the physiological changes the human body goes through because of the introduction of stress. Pursuit driving is stressful, and officers must prepare themselves for the effect of adrenaline when it hits their body as a result of stress
- Effects of increased heart rate
- Effects of increased respiration
- Effects of vasoconstriction of the extremities
- Effects of vision/hearing loss/loss, depth perception i.e., “tunnel vision”.
- Increased in reaction time
- Tactics and techniques on managing physiological changes

Pursuit Psychology

- Discussion of the psychology behind police pursuits, some of the related factors, and how to combat the negative effects
- Discussion on the “Need” to apprehend the suspect(s)
- Discussion on concept of “Contempt of Cop”
- Internal/external pressure to pursue or cancel
- Discussion on the “Hero” mentality
- Discussion on being “Overwhelmed by Events”

Pursuit Terminology

- Discussion of pursuit terminology consistent with policy (Lexipol). Each component is discussed in-depth with accompanying visual aids and photographs
 - Pursuit
 - Tracking
 - Cancel

Role of the Air Crew

- Discussion of the air crew’s role in a vehicle pursuit
- Discussion on the concept of “Proactive Management”
- “Painting the Picture” – Clear communication and situational awareness
- Review of tactics and techniques for pursuit supervisor/manager

Role of Ground Officers

- Discussion of ground officers’ role in a vehicle pursuit
- Policy review and considerations
- Risk versus Gain, to pursue or contain
- Discussion related to use of “Tracking Mode” – Pro’s and Con’s

Tactical Considerations

- Nature of violation or reason to pursue
- Number of suspects
- Number of officers/resources involved or needed
- Threats and challenges to public and law enforcement. Are the suspects armed?
- Intervention techniques and opportunities to end pursuit and/or manage incident
- Discussion on resource needs for local or outside jurisdiction incidents

Communication Skills

- Review the need for clear and articulate communication to “Paint a Picture” of incident
- Effective decision making is based on articulate and timely communication
- Review of radio discipline and responsibilities

Rules of Engagement

- Review of terminology and the need for clear communication
- Be clear with advisements or requests when entering outside jurisdictions
- Only authorized units should be engaged in the pursuit.
- Be proactive/disciplined – do not let the pursuit manage you

When the Pursuit Concludes

- Review containment considerations and options
- Discussion related to decision making and employing sound judgment
- Felony/High Risk considerations and options
- Command post locations and considerations
- Resource management
- Tactical debrief, when appropriate

Question and Answer Session

- Review and class conclusion

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