

FORCE ENCOUNTERS

INVESTIGATION FUNDAMENTALS,
DECISION-MAKING, AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

Training sponsored by the Northern Arizona OIS Shoot Team in Partnership with
Arizona Homicide Investigators Association (AHIA)



16-Training Hours

IADLEST-Nationally Certified Training

WHEN

MAY 30 – 31
2024

WHERE

Flagstaff Medical Center
McGee Auditorium
1200 N. Beaver St East Campus
on the First Floor

COST

Free
to AHIA Members

REGISTRATION

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Overview

The Force Encounters law enforcement training program is an introduction to the psychological and physiological factors that affect threat assessment, sensory perception, decision, performance, and memory. The course applies these concepts to high-stress and life-threatening encounters in a law enforcement context. The latest version of the course includes up-to-date material that will change the way participants view video recordings, such as those from body cams.

Course Goal

At the end of the course, students will understand the critical factors involved in use-of-force decisions and their performance in such situations. Participants will be able to incorporate the psychological and physiological concepts they learn into training programs that can enhance departmental and individual officer performance, encourage accountability and inform community oversight. The concepts taught in the course support commitment to procedurally just investigations, employing realistic, thorough and evidence-based analysis.

Course Approach

The curriculum for this two-day program is based on Force Science's own research that uses precise time-and-motion measurements to document environmental, physiological and psychological dynamics of high-threat events. The internal research is supported by the work of experts and researchers in Motor Learning and Performance, as well as Perception, Cognition and Decision training.

The training course prepares students to recognize and apply the principles they learn in investigations and training at their own law enforcement agencies. Lessons are delivered via discussions, video presentations, case studies and lectures.

Real-world instances are cited to facilitate discussion and demonstrate the ways physiological and technological factors affect the answers to critical use-of-force questions, including the following:

- How attention, decision-making and response dynamics influence reaction time.
- How adrenaline, attention and trigger speed affect shooting performance.
- How video recordings' capabilities and limitations may affect viewer perception of events.
- How popular firearm tactics can increase the risk of armed encounters.
- How critical incidents can affect memory.
- How investigators can improve the accuracy of recall in interview subjects.
- How the speed of assault influences de-escalation strategies and tactics.
- How the speed of assault, prone threats, attention and exhaustion can affect traffic stop and investigative approaches.
- How the aforementioned factors can affect the memory and performance of all participants in a critical incident.