



VirTra - Virtual Interactive Coursework Training Academy™ (V-VICTA™)

CONTACT AND COVER CONCEPTS

VirTra



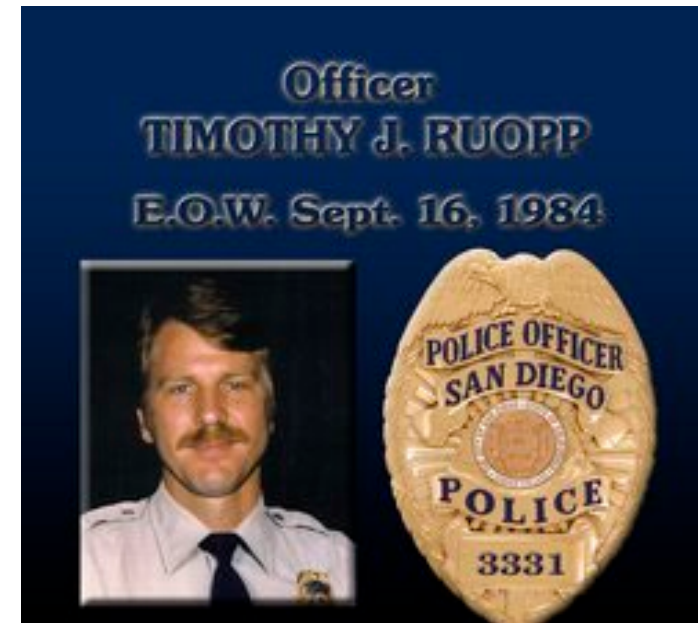
CONTACT AND COVER CONCEPTS

Introduction



INTRODUCTION

- **Contact and cover concepts** were born from multiple tragic incidents in law enforcement history
- One such example is the “Grape Street Park” incident



GRAPE STREET PARK



- On Sept. 14, 1984, San Diego PD Officers Kim Tonahill and Tim Ruopp were shot and killed by an armed suspect.
- Ofc. Ruopp was writing the suspect and another male a ticket while Ofc. Tonahill frisked the suspect.
- A struggle ensued, and the suspect shot and killed Tonahill, then moved to shoot Ruopp after, who was at his patrol car.



CONTACT AND COVER CONCEPTS

Overview of Roles



THE TWO ROLES

- Contact Officer
 - Business/administration part of the team
 - Communicative; seems to be the most active
- Cover Officer
 - Overwatch/protection part of the team
 - Job is to keep everyone safe

Do not bend the roles or make them ambiguous!



CONTACT AND COVER CONCEPTS

Training, Tactics & Procedures

TRAINING, TACTICS & PROCEDURES



- **Officer Roles** – Determine the roles of each officer early in the encounter
- **Ballistic Cover & Concealment** – Should be used during approach when available
- **Officer Positions** – Must be established relating to all subjects, not just one. Subjects may have to be moved.
- **Triangulation** – Uses the subject/group as the “point” of the triangle. Helps avoid crossfire, control subject(s) movement

TRIANGULATION



Red circle: Cover officer

Yellow circle: Contact officer

Middle: Subject





TRAINING, TACTICS & PROCEDURES

- **Distance** – Contact officer is closer to allow communication, frisk, etc., cover officer is further back to spot threats
- **Subject Movements** – Controlled by contact officer. Subjects should be kept in the officers' view and not be allowed to move around.
- **Reactionary Gaps** - Minimum space needed to ensure that you can properly react to a threat



CONTACT AND COVER CONCEPTS

Duties and Responsibilities of Contact & Cover Officers



CONTACT OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Communicate, contain and control subjects
- Performs arrests and searches
- Communicates with cover officer and dispatch
- Typically primary for use of less lethal options





COVER OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Protects contact officer
- Remains aware of surroundings and third parties
- Relays intelligence information to contact officer
- Maintains “triangulation” concept
- Provides lethal cover



CONTACT AND COVER CONCEPTS

Visual, Verbal & Physical Pre-Attack Indicators



VISUAL CUES

- **Clothing** – Does it fit the environment and the person?
- **Appearance** – Does it provide any context or warnings?
- **Immediate Surroundings** – Are there potential threat areas or avenues of escape?
- **Body Language** – Do you sense fear or aggression?





VERBAL CUES

- Yelling and/or threatening
- Incoherent speech
- Aggressive language
- Tone of voice (what is it communicating?)
- Fear or hostility in verbal dialogue
- Loud, pressured speech and guttural noises may signal a risk for excited delirium syndrome



PHYSICAL CUES

- Teeth grinding, clenching teeth or fists
- Tracking officer position
- Security pats (may signal location of illicit item or weapon)
- Excessive eye contact
- Abnormal breathing pattern
- Aggressive or fearful facial expression
- Physiological responses to drugs or alcohol
- Muscle rigidity





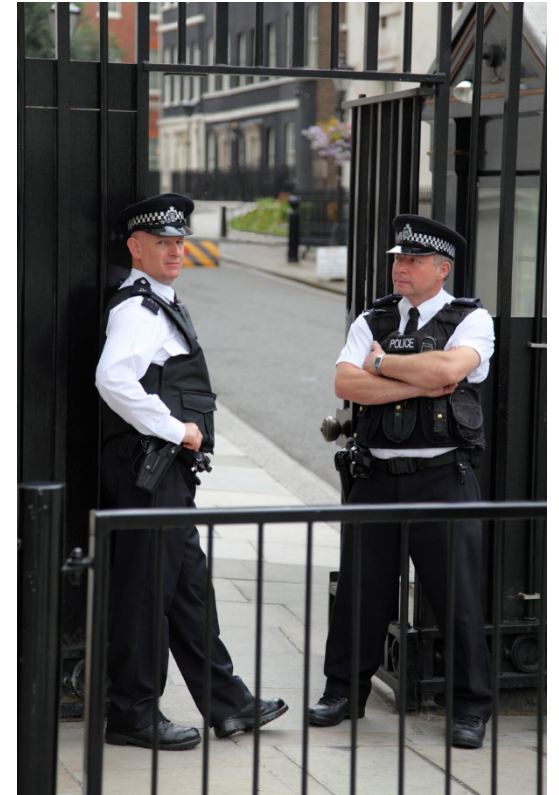
CONTACT AND COVER CONCEPTS

Critical Concepts



TEAMWORK

- Know when to switch roles – switching is OK, blurring roles is not
- Use the right tools for the job
- Know the roles and positions of officers involved, stay in your role
- Know yours and your partner's limits





COMMUNICATION



- Effective communication to other officers and to dispatch
- Effective communication between officer and subject
- Communication must be effective both verbally and non-verbally