



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

WEAPON TRANSITIONS CONCEPTS & SKILLS

VirTra



WEAPON TRANSITIONS CONCEPTS & SKILLS

Course Goals

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES



- Understand and articulate time constraints and tactical considerations associated with transitioning between lethal and less-lethal options.
- Improve speed and quality of transitions.
- Articulate and demonstrate when it is appropriate to transition.
- Understand the tactical considerations of moving in both directions (lethal → less-lethal, less-lethal → lethal).



OVERVIEW



- Introduction to Weapon Transition
- Proximity & Positioning
- TASER Effectiveness
- Action vs. Reaction
- Improving Choice Selection



WEAPON TRANSITIONS CONCEPTS & SKILLS

Introduction

MIAMI POLICE CHASE



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXROuzEsSyM&feature=youtu.be>

Begin video at 8 minutes



MIAMI POLICE CHASE - QUESTIONS



- How many times did the officer transition between his firearm and his TASER?
- What are the implications of these transitions?



Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/324995/active-shooter-incidents-in-the-us/>



INTRODUCTION



- Potential use of force encounters are dynamic and unpredictable events.
- Officers may be required to move up and down the continuum of their available force options **several times** over the course of a single encounter.
- The concept of de-escalation revolves around the movement of a situation down the scale of potential force options.

“When officers used force of a given level of severity in an encounter, they almost invariably also used less severe types of force” – David Klinger, 1995



In 2015, 84 unarmed people were shot and killed by law enforcement in the United States.

In 23 of those cases, officers deployed a TASER **before** resorting to deadly force.

Selby, Singleton & Flosi, 2016

AVERAGE TRANSITION TIMES



Firearm → TASER = 4.70 seconds

TASER → Firearm = 2.49 seconds



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Tactical Considerations For TASER Deployment

PROXIMITY & POSITIONING



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMxuKeQKhvM&feature=youtu.be>

Stop at :28

Permission to use video obtained from Calibre Press

PROXIMITY & POSITIONING - QUESTIONS



- Would you get that close to the subject if you knew the TASER would be ineffective?
- What will these officers do if the TASER fails?
- How could positioning and proximity play into the final outcome in this encounter?
- What role should lethal force and cover play in this scenario?



Independent research has demonstrated
that TASER deployments are only
effective **60-70%** of the time

Mesloh, Henych & Wolf, 2008; Stroshine & Brandl, 2019; White & Ready, 2010.

EFFECTIVENESS



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W30sCkf9J2s&feature=youtu.be>

Stop video at 3:23

Answer questions on next slide, then resume.



EFFECTIVENESS



- Understanding that there is a 40% chance your TASER will fail, how should this impact tactics and decision-making?
- How can over-estimation of effectiveness effect outcomes in potential TASER deployment situations?
 - For officers?
 - For suspects?

ACTION VS. REACTION



<https://youtu.be/7Qq3dXfzvdw>

Stop video at 0:45

Answer questions on next 2 slides, then resume.



ACTION VS. REACTION

- How quickly could the suspect present and shoot a firearm in the officer's direction from this position?
- How quickly could an officer transition to lethal force from TASER?
- How many rounds could a suspect fire in the time it takes an officer to transition to lethal force?



ACTION VS. REACTION

- How quickly could the suspect present and shoot a firearm in the officer's direction from this position?
 - **26/100s of a second**
- How quickly could an officer transition to lethal force from TASER?
 - **2.49 seconds**
- How many rounds could a suspect fire in the time it takes an officer to transition to lethal force?
 - **11 rounds**



WEAPON TRANSITIONS CONCEPTS & SKILLS

Improving Choice Selection & Reaction Times



“As choice-reaction tasks are practiced, reaction times become progressively shorter, with group means typically following a power of law. In fact, of the many variables that affect choice-reaction time, the one with the greatest effect is the amount of practice on the task, and...The process most affected by practice is response selection.

- Johnson & Proctor, 2017





QUESTIONS?