

Scenario-Based Training
WI Chapter of NAFTO
Breakout Session

By: Tom Hausner

As police officers we must be able to respond to requests for our service. More important, we must be ready to take proper action. How do we prepare ourselves to ensure we are ready and able to meet the demands placed upon our officers and departments?

We have all been to those classes or seminars where hear about the latest fad, tactic or gizmo that will “change” the way police function forever. An instructor once told me, “If it’s black and has Velcro, cops will buy it!” No matter what gizmo you buy or tactic you learn, you must do one thing before you use it on the street...train with it and make sure it works under real life situations. Too many times, we have seen officers get a new piece of equipment, throw it on their belt or vest and fail to see if it will work under real life situations.

The time to see if a tactic, method, or a new piece of equipment works is not during a call, you need to learn and know they work before you deploy or respond to a call for service.

In a time of stress or “combat” you have only two things to rely upon...experience or your training. If you have no experience, all you will have to rely on is your training. If your training was only sitting in a classroom setting, talking about what to do, there is a high probability that you will fail. In police work, failure is not an option!

So, what do we do to ensure we will not fail? Using a training program with a foundation that is based upon Solid Realistic On-going Verifiable Training (SROVT) and Scenario-Based training is a great place to start. SROVT is really nothing new to law enforcement training, but Mr. Gordon Graham was the one who authored the acronym SROVT and has developed an outstanding foundation for high-risk training. You can learn more about Mr. Graham at his website <http://www.gordongraham.com>

The evolution and use of Scenario-Based training has brought law enforcement officers the opportunity to face those “high-risk” – “low frequency” events in a controlled training environment.

Scenario-Based training sounds simple. You take a situation and have your officers “act-out” the scenario. As a Field Training Officer (FTO) or training officer, you are headed for disaster if you are not familiar in the proper use, development and implementation of Scenario-Based training.

In the breakout session on Scenario-Based training, you will be exposed to the pit-falls of using scenarios without proper management or preparation. You will be given tools to assist you in the development, preparation, set-up and implementation of Scenario-Based training.

Remember, if you stay ready, you don’t have to get ready! See you in October.