**TRAINING AND PRIORITIES 2023**

We just finished a Tac Pistol/Rifle Instructor course and we had some exceptional instructor students in the class. Two, cleaned the pistol standards with RDS sights. Outstanding job.

Was it the sights that made them successful? Maybe a small part.

The real success was the training they did and the prep their agency did before they came to the class. They are from the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office (JSO) in Florida, an 1800 or so officer agency.

I trained there years ago and they used what I taught them and pushed forward. The officers they send to my courses are professional and set the standard in law enforcement. They are to be commended.

**CURRENT TRENDS**

One current trend is to throw equipment at a mental discipline issue in Law Enforcement. The first example that comes to mind is RDS sights on pistols. Is it a performance-enhancing tool? If you put about 3,000 rounds through it in a structured shooting program.

One RDS came loose on another instructor’s gun during the course. They do add a level of maintenance and more training. As one officer said, be careful of the automatic mode at night as it might wash out. That is good to know.

Currently, Texas requires its officers to qualify once a year. Many do the minimums. Now LE management will throw trinkets like RDS sights to pacify this current generation who lacks the discipline to train. Do you think many will spend the time, ammo and energy to master their RDS? The answer is no.

It is like throwing your child a toy to play with or watching a TV show instead of reading a book for an hour of quality time each evening. The book requires discipline. It might require you to spend time with them as a parent, which takes your time.

**ADDITIONAL NEEDS**

Uvalde is now just a memory in many LE minds. So much for continued training, as many agencies punched a one-day sims active shooter class after the fact and now can move on with life.

Bullshit.

One big void I have seen in LE training is single officer responses to active shooters. ALERRT only now teaches one-person response and it is Sims. In the Virginia Tech incident, the shooter killed 32 people in 11 minutes. One officer pushing the fight could have made a difference.

Most Trainers either do not know how to teach it or are simply lazy.

Who are the trainers I am talking about? Agency Training Sergeants and SWAT Officers.

Agency training Sergeants should be training patrol. If they are not, SWAT should be training patrol at least once a year.

Why should SWAT know single person clears?

It is a fundamental skill. If a team pushes in a structure and “pins” an area and another team flows through, uncleared areas/doors need to be pinned by the initial team. If the door is closed, easy. If the door is open, the pinning officer should pie it from the outside to protect the flow through teams from any fire from the rooms or interconnecting rooms. Pieing a room is a basic skill every SWAT Operator should know. This should be passed to patrol.

Should an officer go by themselves if they hear gunfire? Yes, especially if in a school. The suspect is killing kids and you are standing outside waiting for a second officer is allowing him to continue the killing. You are simply a worthless human being while you are standing outside. The shooter is focused on the killing of innocents and not you. In my book, pushing the fight to save lives makes you worthy of wearing the badge.

**TRAINING**

Training calendars and plans need structure and redundancy. They should be planned a year out and trainers should practice their delivery and demos. Low light should be done in the winter to maximize your training time as it gets dark earlier.

As for Single CQB, integrate it now with pistol and rifle and in low light conditions. Patrol does it every day. You should be training on it and live fire it. Then, take it to sims and role players.

**Conclusion**

In the failed Uvalde response, you could have had an RDS on every officer’s pistol. If they did not enter the school to stop the shooter, it would be a useless piece of equipment.

I am neutral on RDS sights on pistols. I run one specific type on my rifle because of my combat and operational experience. Not because some weekend IPSC shooter told me I need it to improve. I still shoot irons on my pistol accurately/fast and will likely take them to the grave. We have instructors who specialize in RDS sites, and I refer those interested to them.

As a Patrol Officer, before you go to a RDS on your pistol:

* Learn to shoot with irons
* Learn Single CQB with a pistol
* Learn Single CQB with a rifle
* Do both in low-light conditions
* Then maybe you should get an RDS on your pistol

Once you have these techniques down, you can experiment with a new piece of equipment. You are behind the learning curve if you cannot apply proper tactics to the device.

**About the Author**

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