Training for Ambush Situations

According to the FBI, the second largest circumstance where law enforcement officers were killed 2001-2010 was in ambush situations (22 percent). The International Association of Chiefs of Police reports that since 2000 police officers are ambushed an average of 215 times per year. Whether inspired by foreign terrorism, or motivated by an anti-government or anti-police bias, the trend of targeted violence against police officers appears to be increasing after years of decline. Unfortunately, this trend has also touched Ohio. Danville Police Officer Thomas Cottrell and Cincinnati Police Officer Sonny Kim—two of the last three Ohio officers to be feloniously killed while protecting Ohio’s citizens—were both killed in ambushes.

Looking at trends in officer safety and what OPOTA could provide to support Ohio’s law enforcement, in 2014, it began offering Critical Survival Skills for Patrol Officers. This dynamic course for patrol officers blends various disciplines and skills needed to survive surprise violent encounters. Officers will be exposed through exercises and scenarios to the mindset, skills, and tactics needed to protect themselves and others. In 2015, OPOTA developed a similar, but more focused course: Counter Ambush Tactics for Law Enforcement. This three-day firearms course offers strategies and techniques to avoid being ambushed and to increase an officer’s chances of survival during an ambush. The course uses live-fire drills to simulate several different types of ambushes and injured officer drills and puts an emphasis on split-second decision making and communication under stress.

Counter Ambush Tactics for Law Enforcement
Aug. 23-25, London, $430
August 30-Sept. 1, Richfield, $385

Critical Survival Skills for Patrol Officers
Sept. 28-30, Richfield, $300
Targeting Critical Infrastructure

Attacks on critical infrastructure have become a growing concern for governments, private providers and law enforcement. The United States has based their economic wealth and societal prosperity on several infrastructures. These infrastructures are vital to our day-to-day operations.

The Targeting Critical Infrastructure class will provide an overview of what critical infrastructure is, threats that it faces, and law enforcement’s role in developing effective threat assessments. We will also discuss how law enforcement must work with other government agencies and the private sector in order to provide the most comprehensive protection.

Sept. 7, 2016 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
OPOTA Main Campus
1650 St. Rt. 56 SW
London, OH
Cost: $65

Downed Officer/Civilian Rescue

Rescuing a downed officer/civilian who is still in the line of fire is a skill that is not often taught. There may be no time to wait for SWAT or other specialty units if a rescue must take place immediately. This one-day class is designed for the patrol officer and teaches tactics used when a badly wounded officer and/or civilian is still under fire. Live fire practical exercises will include conducting rescue operations, basic responding-officer formations, shield and no-shield rescues, and carrying methods.

Aug. 30, 2016 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
OPOTA Main Campus
1650 St. Rt. 56 SW
London, OH
Cost: $175

Law Enforcement Duty Knife

The duty knife is a valuable tool that is carried by many officers for use as a general utility device, for evidence collection, and under certain extreme circumstances even as a life-saving device. These courses are designed to approach the topics of why an officer should carry a duty knife, when and how to functionally use them, and the reasonable articulation of documenting their use.

These courses are vendor neutral, recognizing that there are many brands and types on the market today. In the course, we will address pros and cons to consider while selecting a duty knife that best fits an officer’s needs as well as general maintenance and care.

OPOTA is offering both a one-day Law Enforcement Duty Knife user course designed to provide officers with fundamental understanding of its use, and also a two-day Law Enforcement Duty Knife Instructor course to give those students valuable information and guidance in taking the information back to their departments to conduct their own in-service type training.
Some topics to be covered in these courses:

- Constitutional Use of Force Standards
- Selection of a LE Duty Knife
- Carry and deployment options
- Principles of evidence collection, rescue, and self-protection
- Critical Injury and First Aid

**Law Enforcement Duty Knife Operator**

Aug. 24, 2016 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
OPOTA Main Campus
1650 St. Rt. 56 SW
London, OH
Cost: $65

**Law Enforcement Duty Knife Instructor**

Sept. 7-8, 2016 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
OPOTA Main Campus
1650 St. Rt. 56 SW
London, OH
Cost: $130