



ADVANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT READINESS TRAINING

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COURT SECURITY SEMINAR SYLLABUS

Introduction

Staff and participants meet one another. Participants receive an overview of the seminar. Complete all administrative matters.

1. Courthouse Security

Participants learn the basic principles of courthouse security. They are introduced to state-of-the-art electronic equipment which can be used to support the mission, including physical protection systems, closed circuit TV, duress alarms, lighting systems, reinforced judges' benches, and window security systems. Participants learn to apply the principles of layering protection in order to mitigate risk and vulnerability.

2. Physical Security Site Survey and Practical Exercise

Students learn to perform a basic physical security site survey of a structure, with emphasis on hardening the interior and exterior perimeter.

3. Screening Check Points

Participants discuss the location, design, equipment, and personnel required at screening checkpoints. Students learn about whole body imaging equipment, explosive sniffing devices, metal detectors and x-ray machines. In addition to developing familiarity with various disguised weapons intercepted at the screening process, students learn to identify potential bombs and other dangerous substances contained in letters and small packages. This training block also addresses current constitutional legal issues surrounding searches of persons and packages entering the courthouse.

4. Non-Verbal Communication

Participants learn to interpret body movements, facial expressions, personal space and touching.

5. Courtroom Security and Practical Exercise

Students examine methods for maintaining security in a courtroom environment. They review and discuss techniques for securing the courtroom from contraband; properly searching and restraining prisoners; and safely moving prisoners to and from the courtroom. Students also learn how to effectively handle disturbances in the gallery, including disruptions that can occur among courtroom participants. Students examine current legal opinions involving the use of prisoner restraints in the courtroom, and how to administer restraints in keeping with constitutional protections. Finally, the course addresses the various security risks associated with family court, contentious civil proceedings and juvenile trials, and discusses methods for mitigating security problems. A practical exercise in handling courtroom disruptions concludes this course of instruction.

6. Jury Security and Sequestered Jury Forms

Participants learn how to maintain the security of a jury while seated and while in deliberations. Course instruction focuses on the duties and responsibilities of court officers in maintaining the integrity of the jury by preventing and recognizing complications, such as tampering and breaches in security caused by other sources. Students also learn how to establish a security detail for a sequestered jury, to include acquisition of housing, food, transportation and entertainment, in keeping with security requirements and judicial orders. Students receive sample sequestered jury forms that may be used as a template in establishing a security detail for a sequestered jury.

7. Judicial Threat Management and Judicial Personnel Profile Forms

Participants learn generally accepted procedures for intelligence collection and threat analysis. Emphasis is on different types of threats that may be encountered in the courthouse environment, and suggestions for appropriate protective responses. Protective investigations are distinguished from criminal investigations. Students receive sample judicial personnel profile forms that may be used as a template in establishing profiles of judges and their families.

8. Judicial Protection and Practical Exercise

This course of instruction teaches basic protection skills to employ in the event of a credible threat against a judge, prosecutor, or witness. Students learn the principles of close personal protection, how to organize a protective detail, conduct an advance, and effectively move a protectee in various foot formations from portal to portal. The course concludes with a practical exercise in which students demonstrate the basic skills of assembling and executing a close personal protection detail.

9. Operational Security

Participants learn practices and techniques for safe guarding information and intelligence from those that would do us harm, on and off the job. Operation security affects our professional as well as our personal lives.

10. Today's Threats to the Judiciary

Participants learn the reasons and forces that drive violent groups in our country. Class discussion focuses on the two most active groups in the country and how they operate.

11. High Threat Trials and Practical Exercise

This course provides students with strategies for successfully planning and executing a high threat trial operation. Critical areas covered include personnel, physical aids, restraints, controlled seating, use of closed circuit TV and sequestered juries. Students also prepare a comprehensive high threat trial plan and present it in the classroom.

12. Officer Survival

Participants review and discuss common errors and pitfalls leading to officer injury and death. They learn tactics to avoid these errors, cyclic breathing to reduce stress, and mental rehearsal techniques to foster a winning mindset when confronted with life threatening situations.

13. Practical Exercise and Wrap Up

Students perform a final court security practical exercise. The course concludes with completion of student evaluations of the seminar, and graduation.

At the conclusion of this seminar, the participant will:

- ◆ Demonstrate learned concepts and procedures within the courthouse and courtroom environment.
- ◆ Demonstrate familiarity with state-of-the-art electronic equipment to support the court security mission.
- ◆ Establish or enhance court security plans within their jurisdiction using the knowledge and resources acquired from the ALERT seminar.

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