



Scouting Techniques

To: TRT Members

From: Sgt. J. Chapman

Date: 10/24/2019

Re: TRT Scouting Techniques Training

Introduction:

A “scouting mission” is an intelligence gathering process by the reconnaissance of a physical location, the interviewing of witnesses/victims, and the investigation/background of the suspect.

Scouting is important to all TRT members because all TRT members are potential scouts. A case agent will usually conduct scouting a preplanned tactical incident; therefore, this training will focus on the tactical call-out. In a call-out situation, the first TRT member on scene will assume the role of “Scout”.

Scouting Process:

The scout’s first consideration will be to establish a crisis entry team. This team will be made up of available police personnel i.e. patrol, K-9, detectives, etc. The role of the crisis entry team is to react to immediate life threatening situations and will be cover more thoroughly as separate training. TRT members should relieve these personnel as they arrive on scene.

The scout should then begin his scouting mission. The scout should have the requesting officer point out the exact target location/house and get a first hand debrief from the requesting officer(s). The scouting mission will consist of three primary areas. They are recon of the physical location, interview of victim/witnesses, and the investigation/background of the suspect. For officer safety, the scout should wait for a “back-up” prior to doing the recon of the physical location. Therefore, these steps are not sequential. Remember, a scouting mission should be as thorough as time permits.

Reconnaissance of the physical location-

While moving around the residence officers should use safe urban movement tactics i.e. cover, concealment, light discipline, and covering movements.

***Diagram the target location using the number siding system.**

*The side of the building facing the main street is side #1.

*Document all doors and windows including which way the doors open and any security screens/bars. Try to identify bathroom windows (small).

*Identify a primary and secondary entry point with a “rally point”.

*Identify gates for backyard access including neighboring residences.

*Note vehicles associated with the residence (get plates) and best method(s) for disabling the vehicles.

*Consider interior and exterior lighting. Do any exterior lights need to be “turned off”.

*Note locations of cover/concealment.

*Note any special equipment needs i.e. ladders, breaching tools, shield, bins, ect...

*Note any hazards i.e. dogs, barbed wire, etc...

***Consider the overall “lay of the land”.**

*Identify a command post and staging location. If patrol command post is inadequate move it.

*Identify interior/exterior perimeter locations. Note the location of patrol personnel (will they need assistance getting to a safe zone?).

*Do neighbors need to be evacuated? Can patrol do this as the team arrives? What’s the best path for evacuation?

*Consider wind and what’s down wind if gas is deployed.

Interview witnesses/family

(Witnesses include unrelated lay witnesses, police, family, neighbors, etc... They are anyone who can provide useful information.)

*What’s the problem?

*Weapons used/available. Is the suspect prior military/law enforcement? Does the suspect hunt? If so, what does he hunt? There's a big difference in weapons used to hunt dove and moose. Get as specific as you can. Where are the weapons stored?

*Does the suspect have a criminal/psycho history? Is there any prior violence to police?

*Is the suspect intoxicated on alcohol/drugs/prescription meds?

*Location of telephones in the home. Are they wireless?

*Location of bathrooms. Injured suspects often flee to the bathroom. They also often seek fresh air in the bathroom when gas is deployed.

*Who is in the house with the suspect? Any kids?

Investigate/Background the suspect

Some of this will be done while interviewing witnesses, but we should not forget to do a data inquiry of the suspect. The patrol personnel on scene can probably do this as you scout.

*Check arjis for suspect/residence/vehicle entries.

*Check CII for criminal history.

*Check DOJ for weapons registered to the suspect/family members.

I will be making a "go by" for officers to carry with them as they scout a location. It will not and can not include all things to be considered when scouting for a call-out. Officers will need to rely on their training and experience when scouting. This is why it is so important to attend debriefings of TRT activities. They are great opportunities to learn what works and what doesn't.

Sgt. J. Chapman