

THE JOUST

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Actual Engagement Training (AET), what has more recently come to be known as Force on Force (FoF) training, has existed since man began using implements as fighting tools. With each generation of weapons development facsimiles have been developed to allow Practitioners to engage in man on man training. When my sons were Cadets at the Virginia Military Institute I gave each of them a replica of a Roman Short Sword as recognition of their development as warrior scholars. I also gave them replicas of the wooden training sword that the Romans used for man on man training. This form of training concept had been around a long time.

Man on man training with firearms has a long history. There were training weapons for dueling pistols from early on in that form of fighting.

Today there are various manner of platforms for training man on man with firearms. Certainly the development of the most recent generation of AirSoft systems is most useful in this form of training.

Man on man training has three variants. First is to serve as a transition from live fire drill inculcation on inanimate targets to human targets. The second is to provide the Practitioner an opportunity to use interactive interpretation in scenarios as a medium to practice decision making in a critical event. The third is to learn anxiety management.

DRILL INCULCATION

Training for the practical use of a firearm involves the layering and dovetailing of skill sets into a drill that is believed to be useful in an actual critical encounter. The target systems are, for the most part, stationary and inanimate. At some point, there is a need to expose the Practitioner to an encounter with a human target. The introduction of this dynamic can degrade the Practitioner's ability to call-up the drill that is deemed appropriate to deal with the problem presented. In particular, agencies may have, due to their specific mission, designated protocols they want their agents to follow in critical events. Tightly scripted scenarios can be devised to allow the trainee to practice to the level of default to a specific drill in the face of a dynamic human interaction. The function of this form of man on man training is to establish that default, particularly in a protocol driven mission statement.

INTERACTIVE INTERPRETATION

Drill inculcation man on man training has some use outside of the agency related mission statement environment. Short and tightly scripted scenarios can be useful for training Practitioners who do not operate in an agency mission statement imperative. Critical incidents do occur as they chose and where they choose. They have a life of their own.

Evolving critical incidents must be interpreted as they flow. Practitioners must learn to spot the flow of such incidents and how to manipulate them. To learn this skill man on man scenarios are used to allow the Practitioner to "communicate" with the role players in a way that confirms intent and may cause restraining judgments.

The function of this form of man on man training is to prepare the Practitioner to think and operate in real-time during a critical incident.

From a training evolution stand point, drill inculcation exposure typically comes at the end of the training regimen. Interactive interpretation is best inserted early in the training experience. With early exposure the Practitioner has a sense of the purpose for the drills he will experience in his live fire training.

ANXIETY MANAGEMENT