



# A Street Cop's Perspective of Critical Force Dynamics & Human Factors (Outline)

## **I. Understanding Human Factors & Use of Force Dynamics**

- A. What are human factors and why are they important in policing?
- B. What have been the core areas of focus of the research into the dynamics of complex, rapidly evolving force encounters?

## **II. Time Compression**

- A. What is it?
- B. Why is it important?
- C. What impact does it have on officer behavior, decision-making and understanding of the actions of both officers and offenders in force events.

## **III. Action v. Reaction, Situational Awareness, Focus of Attention**

- A. Practical interpretation of the current research on each topic.
- B. How does the information from these findings impact officers?
- C. What tactical consideration/alterations could be made in light of this information?

## **IV. The Investigative Process from the Perspective of an Officer Being Investigated.**

- A. What officers must know about how the investigative process works...it's goals, its protocols & investigatory methodology.
- B. Why is it important for you to have a solid grasp on human factors and how they impact behavior in force encounters?
- C. What is the best strategy for articulating your behavior in the context of functioning under extreme pressure and serious time compression?

## **V. Cognitive Distortions**

- A. What are they?
- B. Why do they happen...and can they be voided/overcome?
- C. How are they embodied in a high-stress encounter? Visual/auditory anomalies.
- D. Learn to explain why you may not have seen/heard something or experienced another sensory limitation so you can maintain your own "truth" even in the face of opposing "facts."

## **VI. Understanding video**

- A. How does video work...body cams, dash cams, cell phone videos, etc.
- B. What are the limitations of video?
- C. What does video show and NOT show?
- D. When/if you should watch video of your encounter.

## **VII. Memory**

- A. How different kinds of memories work.
- B. How memory can be impacted by stress and speed.
- C. Strategies for improving your recollection/recall of details of a force event.
- D. What to do when you truly don't remember details of an event.

## **VIII. Report Writing**

- A. Strategies for integrating awareness of human factors and scientific research and their impact on human performance and cognitive processing.
- B. Why would your memory not sync with video footage of an event?
- C. How do you explain that in a report/interview?