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?
   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?