

OpTac International Tabletop Challenge

The OpTac International Tabletop Challenge, a new online training exercise, is presented in this edition of our News Bulletin. This is a two-part challenge in which initial intelligence from an actual incident is provided in Part 1. Readers are encouraged to submit their answers to response-related questions.

Part 2: Next week, updated information will be provided after which readers will be asked to re-submit their revised plan of action for successful incident resolution. The best answer and the author's name/agency, along with a description of what actually happened will appear in a subsequent News Bulletin.

Tabletop Exercise Part 1:

0130hrs - An anonymous caller advises your dispatch center that a pick-up truck is stuck on large rocks in a yard. The caller stated that the driver is spinning his tires trying to get the truck loose.

0200hrs - Your dispatch center receives a call for shots fired at a residence a short distance away from where the truck is stuck. The residence is located in a rural neighborhood with houses on both sides of the street that are separated by approximately 50 feet on either side and all back to woodland.

0210hrs - Patrol officers respond to the residence and find a man standing inside of the attached garage with the door open, near the threshold leading to the driveway. He is periodically shooting a handgun and possibly a .223 rifle in the air and into the garage walls. The pick-up truck that had been stuck on the rocks and the residence both belong to the man in the garage. He lives alone and no one is believed to be inside the house. Patrol officers are requesting activation of your tactical team.

Questions for patrol officers, patrol supervisors, tactical officers, and commanders:

- 1) What are your primary concerns upon arrival at the residence?
- 2) What are your secondary concerns?
- 3) What is your deadly force policy with respect to an individual firing a weapon in the air and into his own garage?
- 4) Would you shoot the suspect, and if so, under what circumstances?
- 5) For commanders: Would you instruct your officers to shoot the suspect if they have not yet done so? Why/why not?
- 6) What is your tactical plan?

Tabletop exercises similar to the one presented in this News Bulletin should be part of every tactical team's training curriculum. Your answers to these questions can be emailed to: optacemail@optacinternational.com.