

OpTac International Tabletop Challenge

The OpTac International Tabletop Challenge is presented in this edition of our News Bulletin. This is a multi-part challenge in which initial intelligence from an actual incident is provided in Part 1. Readers are encouraged to submit their answers to the 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, along with a description of what actually happened will appear in a subsequent News Bulletin.

Tabletop Exercise Part 1:

1500hrs - Fire-Rescue Communications receive a call for a 60-year old woman having difficulty breathing.

1510hrs - Medic-Rescue personnel arrive at the single family residence of the woman and attempt to speak with Bill Thomas Sr., a deaf mute. They proceed through the garage / basement and go up the stairwell to the first floor where one male and one female are laying on the floor. They have both been shot.

1510hrs - Patrol officers are dispatched to the scene.

1512hrs - Patrol officers arrive on the scene and learn from Bill Thomas Sr. that the suspect was in possession of at least one shotgun, which is believed to be the weapon used to shoot both people laying on the floor. They request activation of your tactical team.

Additional Intelligence:

- A high school is in close proximity to the target location and is selected as the site for the Command Post by a patrol supervisor.
- Medic-Rescue personnel were told to leave the residence by dispatch.
- The suspect is still believed to be inside the residence.
- Bill Thomas, Sr. only has non-verbal communication ability.

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 additional information would you like to have at this initial stage of the incident?

4) What is your initial tactical plan?

5) Should the patrol officers enter the residence to evacuate the wounded people?

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.