

ATS Scholarship – US Section 2015

I was extremely excited to learn I had received the ATS for the US Section of the IPA. It was not just because I would be attending a training I wanted but for all those who would benefit from my knowledge. When I applied for the ATS I explained that attending the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) Active Shooter Instructor Training would not only benefit me but the hundreds of officers I would be training. The trickle-down effect of this training is immense.

Originally the class was scheduled to take place at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia. Because the instructor class is so sought after, they decided to offer additional classes. I was accepted to attend my training in Wall Township, New Jersey.

As this was an instructorship, the training began fast and furious on Monday morning of the first day of training. The class was attended by twenty eight officers from various police departments along the eastern coast of the United States. I was the only attendee from the Midwestern United States. In addition to the instruction I would receive that week, the informal conversations with police officers from other jurisdictions helped to compare and contrast or departmental procedures and policies. It was especially beneficial to communicate with the New York City Counterterrorism Detectives who already operate at a highly skilled level. Their input to the class was immeasurable.

After the initial introductions of instructors and students, several hours of power point presentations concerning the history of active shooters showed the students the seriousness and complexity of the problem within the United States. From there it was directly into the practical instruction phase.

Over the next three and one half days a physically taxing but practically applicable program describing procedures used by responding officers to locate, isolate, contain and eliminate the active shooter threat was presented. Some of the old concepts of "officer safety first" and "contain and wait for SWAT" no longer apply in this non-traditional response to the active shooter that is now based upon quick and immediate response to eliminate the threat and save more lives. The system is based upon tactics used by the Israeli Defense Forces that have been developed through their vast experience with armed intruders.

Because this was an instructor level school, we were required to pass a practical exercise to demonstrate our proficiency and knowledge of the system. The practical exercise encompassed all the techniques and tactics learned throughout the week. An inherent stress level was present because the pass/fail finality of the testing was evident in all the students. I was glad to learn that all twenty-eight law enforcement officers from various jurisdictions passed.

Before FLETC could certify the instructors, each officer was given a topic area within the lesson plan and required to teach for twenty minutes to the learning points of that segment to demonstrate their proficiency to relay that information to prospective students. Again, all twenty eight students passed the teaching test and on day five we were each presented with certificates awarding us instructorships in Active Shooter Threat through the United States federal government.

The obvious benefit of the class is the certification to teach but the friendships and resources obtained through meeting officers from other departments will be invaluable. Additionally, the number of police

officers trained by me and the other instructors will serve to protect their lives and the lives of innocents during future engagements. It is for those lives that will be saved that I thank the International Police Association for selecting me to attend this most valuable training. **Servo Per Amikeco!!**

Kevin P. McGinnis, 1st VP

US Section - Region 57