



# Rapid Deployment Critical for Patrol Tactical Skills

/Kelly Foreman, Public Information Officer

▼ RAPID DEPLOYMENT TRAINING IS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL BEAT OFFICERS WHO ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO BEING CALLED OUT TO ANY HIGH-RISK SITUATION.

/PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON



**W**hen seconds are critical, patrol officers can't always wait for a tactical team to get on scene, said Bill Sullivan, Department of Criminal Justice Training advanced individual training instructor.

"The patrol officers become the ones who have to handle it," said Sullivan, a former commander of the Kentucky State Police Special Response Team. "Most situations are going to be over in a matter of minutes. That is why it (rapid deployment training) is so critical."

Sullivan teaches the DOCJT Rapid Deployment course with fellow DOCJT AIT Instructor Paul Root. The course, taught 12 times annually, teaches patrol-level officers how to use tactical measures with a limited number of resources, Sullivan said. Among the skills taught are movement to contact, 360 cover, room entries and dealing with hostages and threats, he said.

An advanced rapid deployment course is being developed for 2011.

The course is based on the national model of four-person teams, but because of the limited size of many Kentucky law enforcement agencies, Sullivan said it has been modified for three- and two-person teams as well.

In the past, Sullivan said patrol officers were taught the four C's — contain the environment by setting up a perimeter, control the situation by not letting anyone in or out, communicate by establishing negotiations and call for a SWAT team. However, in many situations, such as those including an active shooter, this response will not work, he said.

Rapid deployment training allows the first officers on scene to employ tactical skills and hopefully bring the situation to a quick and safe conclusion, with or without a formal tactical team.

Sullivan also said that getting every Kentucky officer trained in rapid deployment skills is crucial so that all officers can be on the same page when responding to critical incidents. Dedicated tactical teams usually spend time training together, he said. But, in many cases, patrol officers responding to a call requiring tactical response may be met with fellow officers he or she has not trained with or even officers from a neighboring agency.

If all those officers had been trained in rapid deployment, the potential for successful communication between them and an effective, quick conclusion rises, Sullivan said.

"It would be ideal if this were offered in basic training and be part of [their skill set] when they graduate," he said. "It's just like firearms or like anything else; it is critical that the officers continue to train when they return home. It has to be maintained. Having the training is better than nothing, but it makes a difference if they get to do it a few times a year." ■

*The remaining 2010 offerings for this course all are full. Look for the new DOCJT schedule book in late October or early November to sign up for 2011 courses. Book early for greatest availability, the class fills quickly.*