Identifying/Handling Suspicious People
Identifying/Handling Suspicious Persons

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

F/Lt. Mike Kromes
MSP Training Division
(517) 322-5596

Identifying/Handling Suspicious Person

1. Mental Awareness
2. Characteristics of Suspicious/Armed Individuals
3. Positioning when Dealing with People
4. Best Course of Action.

State of Mental Awareness

a) CONDITION WHITE

State of "Environmental Unawareness." Daydreaming, tired, preoccupied with distractions, assuming there is no possibility of trouble and thus no cause for alarm. "You are transmitting O.K. but your receiver is out." This is the condition of the majority of the public as they go about their daily tasks.

This is also the condition the vast majority of church members will be in during services!
b) **CONDITION YELLOW**
- Relaxed but alert, cautious but not tense, not specifically expecting a hostile act. **Constantly perceiving and evaluating your ever changing environment.**

c) **CONDITION ORANGE.**
- State of Alarm. You know there is trouble. Concentration is focused on evaluating and resolving it. Developing a tactical plan in your mind, considering use of Police, use of cover, I.D. of adversary. Reason to believe a confrontation is likely.

d) **CONDITION RED.**
- What looks wrong is wrong. (focusing on threat and acting to control it, taking cover, verbal commands, totally committed to defense of self/others. Armed encounter).
Awareness Spectrum Cont.

- e) **CONDITION BLACK.**
- Lethal assault (fight or flight) panic, misdirected frenzy, paralysis.
- * Images of 9/11/01

Characteristics of Suspicious/Armed Individuals

- Your ability to recognize suspicious or armed individuals relates directly to your observation and perception skills.

Observation Skills Are Base On...

a. **PERSONAL DRIVES**
b. **PERSONAL INTEREST.**
c. **CONDITIONING**
   1) This is the most important to you as it can be developed through practice.
   2) Observation is an ability nearly everyone has, however, it is not equally developed for a number of reasons. A five year patrol officer will have better observation and perception skills than a new officer with no prior experience.
Clues to Criminal Behavior

1. The make-up of a criminal:
   a. No one can be categorically excluded from the ranks of potential criminals. Given the right conditions, anyone may resort to crime.
   b. Studies bear out that most people, either as a juvenile or an adult, have COMMITTED AT LEAST ONE ACT FOR WHICH THEY COULD HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND LODGED.
   c. However, most people ARE law abiding citizens and DO NOT require nor warrant an officer's suspicion.

Suspicion vs. Rationalization

1. Suspicion:
   a. Suspicion (hunch, 6th sense) is a highly valued trait among people. Every person possesses it, but in varying degrees.
   b. REASONABLE suspicion based on EXPLAINABLE CRITERIA can often mean the difference between a successful and an unsuccessful situation.

2. Rationalization:
   a. The opposite end of the spectrum from suspicion is rationalization.
   b. This is simply thinking of excuses which can explain away suspicious behavior.
   c. Example:
      Man shuffling through a coat rack must have forgot where he left his coat.
      A person found in a church office must have been asked to get something for the pastor.

Key to Success...

Combining LOGICAL SUSPICION, SKILLFUL OBSERVATION and enough natural curiosity to investigate situations you feel are unusual.

Knowledge of the your facility and the legitimate behavior patterns of your clients will influence what is considered suspicious behavior.
Danger Signs
Characteristics of Armed Individuals

- 88% of people are right handed
- How do you know if they are right or left handed?

7 Signs a Weapon is being Concealed

1. Security Check:
2. Unnatural Gait:
3. Jacket Sag:
4. Hunchback Stride:
5. Bulges and the Outline of a Weapon:
6. Visible Weapon:
7. Palming:

* If a person is suspected of carrying a weapon, law enforcement should be contacted immediately. Don't be a hero, be a good witness.

Before Approaching Anyone!

Observe Suspect's Non-Verbals

For personal safety you must also pay attention to the suspect's non-verbals. The body can't lie, but 90 - 99% of it can. Therefore, whenever you detect a contradiction in body language, be prepared to believe the minor element.
Approaching Suspects:

Proximity

a. Field interview stance.
b. Area of movement for your safety
c. Use of Safety Phrases:
   1. WORK WITH ME SIR.
   2. YOU DON'T NEED ANY TROUBLE TONIGHT

De-Escalation Body Language

- Calming posture
- Relative position of your hands
- Hands in pockets
- Object in hands

Reading People "Danger Signs"

- Repetitive aggressive questions
- Bladed stance
- Pacing
- Grooming
- Thousand mile stare
- Looking around the area
- Clenching of the fist
De-escalation Techniques

The 3 C’s

1. Confident
2. Calm
3. Create space

De-Escalation Cont.

- Speak slowly
- Lower your voice
- Avoid staring
- Avoid arguing and confrontation
- Show concern through non-verbal and verbal responses.
- Be prepared to react!

BEST Course of Action

1. Be a good witness.
2. Know your police officers
3. Outnumber the individual(s)
4. Know the laws, and your limitations.
QUESTIONS?

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