



FORCE SCIENCE®

FORCE ENCOUNTERS

INVESTIGATION FUNDAMENTALS,
DECISION-MAKING, AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

16-Training Hours

IADLEST-Nationally Certified Training



WHEN

February

11 - 12, 2025

WHERE

New Mexico Law
Enforcement Academy

4491 Cerrillos Rd
Santa Fe, NM 87507

COST

Training is free of charge through
the New Mexico Law Enforcement
Academy.

REGISTRATION

Please contact your Acadis® Agency Training Coordinator to request enrollment through the NMLEA Acadis® Portal at <https://nmlea.acadisonline.com/>. If you are an Agency Training Coordinator and encounter any issues requesting enrollment for your personnel, please email the Acadis® Administrator at layla.reyes@dps.nm.gov

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Overview

The Force Encounters law enforcement training program is an introduction to the psychological and physiological factors that affect threat assessment, sensory perception, decision, performance, and memory. The course applies these concepts to high-stress and life-threatening encounters in a law enforcement context. The latest version of the course includes up-to-date material that will change the way participants view video recordings, such as those from body cams.

Course Goal

At the end of the course, students will understand the critical factors involved in use-of-force decisions and their performance in such situations. Participants will be able to incorporate the psychological and physiological concepts they learn into training programs that can enhance departmental and individual officer performance, encourage accountability and inform community oversight. The concepts taught in the course support commitment to procedurally just investigations, employing realistic, thorough and evidence-based analysis.

Course Approach

The curriculum for this two-day program is based on Force Science's own research that uses precise time-and-motion measurements to document environmental, physiological and psychological dynamics of high-threat events. The internal research is supported by the work of experts and researchers in Motor Learning and Performance, as well as Perception, Cognition and Decision training.

The training course prepares students to recognize and apply the principles they learn in investigations and training at their own law enforcement agencies. Lessons are delivered via discussions, video presentations, case studies and lectures.

Real-world instances are cited to facilitate discussion and demonstrate the ways physiological and technological factors affect the answers to critical use-of-force questions, including the following:

- How attention, decision-making and response dynamics influence reaction time.
- How adrenaline, attention and trigger speed affect shooting performance.
- How video recordings' capabilities and limitations may affect viewer perception of events.
- How popular firearm tactics can increase the risk of armed encounters.
- How critical incidents can affect memory.
- How investigators can improve the accuracy of recall in interview subjects.
- How the speed of assault influences de-escalation strategies and tactics.
- How the speed of assault, prone threats, attention and exhaustion can affect traffic stop and investigative approaches.
- How the aforementioned factors can affect the memory and performance of all participants in a critical incident.