



Bruce Liebe presents training related to critical incident management and training for both the public and private sector. Bruce is a 30-year veteran of law enforcement and has instructed criminal justice and homeland security related topics in higher education for 26 years. He researches and writes feature articles for the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA) and the Illinois Tactical Officers Association. Bruce consults internationally with police agencies regarding incident command and training.

He started his career with the LaSalle (IL) Police Department serving for 5 years and attaining the rank of sergeant. He joined the Illinois State Police (ISP) and served in patrol, investigative, tactical, and administrative assignments.

Bruce served with ISP's SWAT program (then named Tactical Response Team) for 13 years and was statewide coordinator of the program for seven of those years. Operationally, he served on the entry team and in a training capacity was responsible for close quarter battle (CQB) and operations planning and management. Bruce was assigned to both state and federal (DEA) drug task forces and established ISP's Methamphetamine Response Team program. He rose to the rank of master sergeant and upon retirement, was assigned as deputy chief of staff to the operations command.

For twenty years, Bruce has instructed nationwide for the Department of Defense counterdrug initiatives, focusing on topics involving clandestine drug laboratories, tactical operations, highway drug interdiction, and courtroom testimony. He served as an expert witness in state and federal court regarding methamphetamine production and distribution. Currently, Bruce serves as Senior Director of the School of Professional Studies and Assistant Professor of Homeland Security at MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois. Bruce holds undergraduate degrees in criminal justice from Illinois Valley Community College and the University of Illinois – Springfield (UIS). He has a master's degree in Legal Studies from UIS and is a graduate of the Administrative Officer's Course at the University of Louisville, Southern Police Institute.

Improving Critical Incident Response

Today, police are challenged more than ever to respond to a wide array of dynamic critical events. While such responses are a small portion of even the largest agency's calls for service, the preparation for these situations looms large. Proper training is taxing on a department's resources as it requires a commitment of time and money. However, even for the smallest agency, the public expectation is that the incident is handled effectively and professionally.

Great strides have been made in preparing police agencies for critical incident command and response. However, improvements are still needed and regardless of how well we train and prepare, threats are ever evolving. Training and educating police personnel to manage and resolve critical events will forever be an ongoing process.

The Role of Departmental Leadership

As senior command, we must understand the challenges and demands of critical incident response as well as selecting those that are best suited to serve as the officer in charge of a response. Once key personnel are identified, the process of training and education of these personnel is an ongoing event.

Agency leaders must be versed in the National Incident Management System, the Incident Command System and the concept of unified command. Further, to effectively and efficiently manage such events, incident commanders must maintain an up-to-date knowledge of threats and response strategies. Equally important is the necessity of conducting after-action reviews to identify lessons learned to improve future operations.

The focus of this presentation is to expose summit attendees to the key considerations and best practices in preparing for and responding to dynamic critical incidents.