

Portland Police Bureau Training Division

In Custody Death Review
1300 Block NW Everett Street
September 17, 2006



In Custody Death

1300 Block NW Everett Street

- Members of the Training Division staff reviewed this case including:
- Lieutenant Dave Famous
- Tactical Consultant - Sergeant Don Livingston –
Lead Defensive Tactics Instructor
- Commander Eric Hendricks

Training Division Analysis

- Initial observations and perceptions made at NW 18th/Everett Street
- The initial contact with Mr. Chasse
- The Foot Pursuit & Knock-Down Technique
- Custody Procedure
- Custody & Transportation
- Recommendations

Officer Humphreys - NW 18th/Everett St.

- He looked disheveled and appeared to be a transient.
(*Observation*)
- He was rocking back and forth stiff legged with his back to the officers for several minutes. (*Observation*)
- He probably was intoxicated and waiting for a bus.
(*Perception*)
- He sees officers in the area and immediately and rapidly walked away from the officers crossing the street.
(*Observation*)

Deputy Burton – NW 18th/Everett St.

- He was shuffling, gesturing, maybe talking to no one while he was by himself on the corner.
(Observation)
- He was possibly intoxicated, mentally ill, or had an outstanding warrant. *(Perception)*
- “He had made a bee-line out of there – clearly indicating that he wanted no police contact.”
(Perception)
- Sergeant Nice did not observe Mr. Chasse while conducting his stop at NW 18th/Everett Street.

Crisis Intervention Team Training

- Deputy Burton stated he had not received CIT training prior to this incident.
- Officer Humphreys passed a two (2) hour CIT Mental Health Awareness In-Service Class on January 3, 2005.

Individual Encounters

- The Initial Assessment
- Radio Procedure

Initial Assessment

■ Factors included in the Initial Assessment are:

- Type of contact. Is it a call driven contact, or self-initiated contact?
- Number of subjects being contacted.
- Is there a mention of weapons?
- Are there drugs or alcohol present? What is the demeanor or condition of the individual?

Radio Procedure

- Factors included in Radio Procedure are:
 - Try to broadcast on the radio before you arrive, or at least as you arrive if possible.
 - Try to give basic information including:
 - Number of subjects
 - Reason for contact
 - Sex, race age
 - Location

Radio Procedure

- Officer Humphreys and Deputy Burton did not advise dispatch that they were contacting a person (later identified as Mr. Chasse) in the 1300 Block of NW Everett St.

Radio Procedure

- Upon review of this case file, no articulated information was found that indicated Officer Humphreys and Deputy Burton were seeking the initial contact with Mr. Chasse due to an emergency situation.

Radio Procedure

- Sergeant Nice observed Officer Humphreys and Deputy Burton stop and contact Mr. Chasse; he originally had no intention of stopping to assist.
- As he drove by, he observed the officers in foot pursuit; he immediately pulled over and attempted to intercept Mr. Chasse.

Analysis of the Initial Contact

- **Foot Pursuit**
- **Knock-Down Technique**

Analysis of the Initial Contact

- The belief that Mr. Chasse had urinated in public.
- Mr. Chasse possibly had an outstanding warrant for his arrest.
- Mr. Chasse possibly had illegal drugs in his possession.
- Mr. Chasse might have been armed with some sort of weapon.
- Mr. Chasse screamed, had the look of sheer terror on his face, and ran from the police.

Analysis of the Initial Contact

- **Foot Pursuit**
- **Knock-Down Technique**
- **Danger versus Public Safety**

Foot Pursuit Doctrine

- Officer Humphreys attended the PPB In-Service Class titled, 2005-2006 Tactical Update – Foot Pursuits:

Foot Pursuit Analysis

- After Officer Humphreys landed on the ground, he started to get up.

- Tactical Advantage:
 - Distance.

- Fundamental Concepts:
 - Be Adaptable & Correct Mistakes.

Foot Pursuit Analysis

- Pushing Mr. Chasse to the ground, in the effort to terminate the foot pursuit, allowed Mr. Chasse the opportunity to physically terminate the foot pursuit by surrendering.
- This is consistent with the training Officer Humphreys received during In-Service. Instead of surrendering and physically terminating the foot pursuit by staying on the ground, Mr. Chasse started to get up.

Foot Pursuit Analysis

- At this point, Sergeant Nice grabbed Mr. Chasse by the left arm and Deputy Burton tried to control his legs joining Officer Humphreys attempt to gain control in the effort to place Mr. Chasse into custody.

Custody Procedure

- Once on the ground, Officer Humphreys, Deputy Burton, and Sergeant Nice struggled to handcuff Mr. Chasse and place him into custody. Mr. Chasse was screaming, kicking, and resisting their efforts to have him roll over onto his stomach.

Analysis: Strikes-Kicks-Arm Bar- Knee

- **Portland Police Bureau Levels of Control:**
 - Directive 1010.20 “Physical Force” was most recently updated on March 17, 2008.
 - A more expansive discussion related to the Bureau’s levels of control model is contained in the updated Directive, as opposed to Directive that was applicable on September 17, 2006.

Levels of Control

- The Five Levels of Control are a basic breakdown of control methods.
- They are:
 - A - Mere presence and demeanor
 - B - Verbal Control
 - C - Physical control, including aerosol restraints, Taser
 - D - Impact weapons and less lethal specialty munitions
 - E - Deadly physical force

Levels of Control

- Strikes (including punches) and kicks are included in the following Level of Control:
- Impact Weapons:

Taser

- The deployment of the Taser by Deputy Burton, in the effort to overcome aggressive physical resistance, is an option that is consistent with the Training Division's Tactical Doctrine.

Hobble – Maximum Restraint

- Sergeant Nice directed the officers to place Mr. Chasse in maximum restraint, because Mr. Chasse continued to be combative, even while handcuffed.

Maximum Restraint

- Members are authorized to use hobble restraint cords when necessary to subdue or secure a violent or unruly person. Restraint cords should not be used in lieu of handcuffs.

Custody Transportation

- Officer Humphreys and Deputy Burton discussed options pertaining to the type of restraint they would need to apply to Mr. Chasse during transport.
- Because of the distance and time it would take to drive to the hospital, Officer Humphreys did not want Mr. Chasse placed in the maximum restraint position.

Custody Transportation

- Providing a two officer transport towards Portland Adventist Hospital, provided Officer Humphreys the ability to constantly monitor Mr. Chasse for changes in behavior and signs of distress.

Custody Transportation

- Officer Humphreys made the following observations as they proceeded on the freeway:
- Mr. Chasse was leaning against the passenger door.
- Mr. Chasse has stopped mumbling and was quiet.
- He couldn't tell if Mr. Chasse was breathing.
- Mr. Chasse's left arm "looked stark white".

Recommendations

- Offer the forty (40) hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to all uniform officers and sergeants in the Portland Police Bureau.
- Revise emergency medical procedures:

Recommendations

■ In-Service Training:

- Review person encounter doctrine through scenario-based training; and include the following performance objectives:
 - Demonstrate effective communication skills.
 - Demonstrate good defensive tactic skills.
 - Demonstrate proper use of force.
 - Demonstrate proper positioning.
 - Demonstrate proper use of cover.

Recommendations

- Review Directive 1010.20 – Use of physical Force; through scenario-based training and classroom instruction.
- In-Service 2008 - Includes a scheduled class pertaining to 1010.20 Use of Physical Force: Supervisor Responsibilities
- Review of the current Use of Force Policy will be included during In-Service 2009.

Recommendations

■ **Advanced Academy Training:**

- Introduce Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training incrementally over time during the Advanced Academy.
- The 2008 Advanced Academy now features scenarios every Wednesday, thereby enabling recruits to practice skills learned up to that point in time, including CIT Training.

Recommendations

■ Roll Call Video

- Foot Pursuit
- Knock-Down Technique
- Taser

Recommendations

- Expand the Training Division's Foot Pursuit Tactical Doctrine when discussing:
 - Danger versus Public Safety.

Recommendations

- Some of the symptoms displayed by Mr. Chasse, during this incident, were symptoms commonly associated with “excited delirium” and are listed below:
 - Violent resistance or physical struggling with officers.
 - Incoherent screaming/yelling.
 - Subject suddenly goes unconscious after struggle.
 - Talking incoherently.
 - Profuse sweating.

Recommendations

- The Tips and Techniques bulletin dated July 20, 2008, and distributed to Bureau members, discusses Recommendations for Response to Excited Delirium Calls.

