



# National Association of Field Training Officers Indiana Chapter

## Commentary Driving

Commentary driving is one of the many tools an FTO has at their disposal. Basically it involves talking while driving, and is a technique for improving many aspects of a recruit officer's performance.

Implementing commentary driving is simple. Instruct the recruit to start a verbal account of his location while driving. Have the recruit tell the FTO their direction of travel, street name, block number, and all intersecting street names. Not only will the recruit be forced to pay attention to their location, but they will also need to operate the vehicle with a divided attention.

This technique improves the recruit's performance in several areas. First it is excellent for training location and orientation. Secondly it helps develop multi-tasking skills. Finally it forces the recruit to view his surroundings as a police officer instead of a civilian.

As the recruit becomes acclimated to this technique the FTO can make it more challenging by increasing the amount of information the new officer must assimilate. For example; the FTO may ask the recruit to not only give their location during patrol, but to also describe the driver of every red SUV passed. Because the level of difficulty can be adjusted, this tactic is appropriate at any time during the new officers training.

*-Steven Kellams*