



# National Association of Field Training Officers Indiana Chapter

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## **Simulation Training**

There are many aspects to field training. The core of field training takes place on the job and as such is relevant to the job being taught. There are, however, certain elements of police work that may not be encountered during the FTO program. Other events may be so dangerous that training outside of the traditional “wait until it happens” method is a must. The best training for these circumstances is Simulation Training.

Simulation training involves all of the senses in a full fledged reenactment of a scenario or event. A true simulation involves handling a situation from the radio dispatch to the signing of your name on the final report. The best part of simulation training is that it is conducted in a safe training environment where mistakes can be made without normal consequences. In a scenario simulation the student can experience the emotions and adrenaline of the event and the instructor can evaluate the student’s ability to handle stressful situations. A good simulation allows the student to have the “experience” of the event in a training setting.

Simulation training can be difficult to implement. It is labor intensive and requires a number of role players and evaluators. Safety can be an issue if the students and role players become overly zealous. If not run properly the scenarios can create paranoia in the student instead of building their confidence. To avoid these problems the following steps should be kept in mind when designing a simulation training program.

1. Clearly define objectives – Make sure you understand what you would like to achieve in the training.
2. Prepare written scenarios – A written scenario will help provide direction in your training.
3. Designate a safety officer – have one person responsible for ensuring the safety of all participants.
4. Utilize proper training and protective gear – Simunition (<http://www.simunition.com/>) and High Gear (<http://www.tonyblauer.com/highgear/index.html>) are both excellent training and protective gear to use in your simulation training.
5. Role players – Role players should remember to act like the person they are representing and to respond verbally and physically just as the role demands. Good role players are one of the main ingredients in a good program.

6. Debrief the incident – Debrief and evaluate the incident with the student to ensure that the proper training has been conducted. Make sure your evaluation corresponds with your objectives.

The above core components can help you develop and design your own simulation training program. A well run program can be a tremendous advantage to an FTO program and can greatly enhance the training a new officer receives. The relevance and realism offered in simulation training can aid the instructor and the student in many areas and is a great addition to field training.

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