

After Action Review

Who: Craig Douglas “Southnarc”, Shivworks www.shivworks.com

What: Armed Movement In Structures (AMIS)

When: 26-27 Feb 2016

Where: Lincoln, NE

Day One: 2-26-16

We began the day with a short power point on the concepts that we would be working on during the next two days. We had a particularly beneficial examination of an officer involved shooting video. The focus of this course was moving in and around structures as a solo individual. We were taught to view our world and our structures in terms of different visual impairments. One way to look at it is to not focus on the open space, but to focus on the negative space that the impairment creates because that is where the threat could come from. Don't focus on the empty room, focus on the doorway where someone could enter from. Craig also demonstrated how creating depth can increase your visual ability while negotiating these visual impairments, corners, halls, doorways etc. Don't crowd your cover. So always seek as much depth as possible without exposing yourself to another angle.

We then went into “Diagram Hell.” Which was a white board exercise where we had to stand up in front of the class and explain and map out our movement within a sample structure's floor plan. This gave us an opportunity to think through the concepts and talk through them in our head before we started moving around the real structure.

After a quick lunch we went into our training modules. All of these exercises were done with air soft guns. Craig defined four different “routes” that we would move through in the building. We divide up into teams of four and went through our routes. The first evolution was to move through the structure on this route by oneself, no opposition and no hiding. We were just learning the structure. The second evolution was one of us moving through with the rest of the team hiding in certain places throughout the route, no opposition. The third evolution was for us to move through the route with the rest of the team hiding and firing back with opposition, but the opposition can't move. The fourth evolution was for the rest of team to hide as shoots and no-shoots and any opposition can move during the evolution. We did each of these multiple times.

I like the gradual, stair-stepped evolution of the training. This allowed us to train on one concept really well before we moved onto something more complex. This was low stress and focused on quality of tactics. It was not a high stress, overwhelming scenario that set you up to fail.

After dinner, we returned back to the structure and had a training module on low light techniques. We replicated the previous modules on different routes, only this time we had to use the flashlights.

Day Two: 2-27-16

We spent some time reviewing concepts and questions from the day before. Then we went right into running the routes again. We added the variable of pinning someone and holding them until help arrived. This would be in the case that we found someone in the structure, but they were not an imminent threat. We went over verbal and physical techniques to hold someone in place safely until help arrived.

In the afternoon Craig set up a final exercise, where each one of us went through the structure and had to negotiate a problem. This problem involved verbal and physical skills, shoot, no-shoots and movement. At the end of the exercise we were given a quality debrief about our decision making and tactics.

Overall, the concepts and techniques taught in the course were excellent. The overwhelming majority of our time was spent hands on and moving in the structure which is the best way to learn this material. I was thankful we didn't spend 8 hrs in front of a power point. The quality of instruction was great, Craig didn't try to throw too much at us. We were given ample time to get quality reps in to learn the material. Very good course, I'll be taking it again and continuing to practice these concepts.