

# **FORCE SCIENCE NEWS**

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**2008**

## **JOHN HOAG TEACHES FOR FORCE SCIENCE RESEARCH**

Force Science Institute has begun to offer a week long course which: “Explores the Complex Myths of Human Dynamics Involved in the Often Complicated, Confusing and Controversial Uses of Force by Police”. The first course was sponsored by the San Jose` Police Department. It was coordinated by Officer James Hoag (John’s son) who is currently a full time training officer. When the course was announced online through the Force Science email news, it sold out in one hour! The class is limited to less than 50 students and they are given small group instruction on working to understand and being able to testify about how human dynamics affect controversial uses of force.

Part of that instruction was a two hour presentation by John Hoag entitled: “Interviewing Officers Who Have Been Involved in a Shooting: Policy and Legal Implications.”

John’s presentation was well received: He has been asked to present his material again at two upcoming Force Science training sessions scheduled for next June and October.

Snyder and Hoag, LLC is proud that our work in representing police officers involved in deadly force encounters is being presented for the benefit of other officers on a national scale.

## **READ FORCE SCIENCE NEWS TRANSMISSION 110 FINALLY SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE PROVES THAT APPROPRIATE INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES OF OFFICERS USED IN DEADLY FORCE WORKS**

It is our belief that every police officer should be receiving and reading Force Science Research electronic newsletters. There have now been 110 newsletters. The last one discussed stress and memory from tests conducted with the London Metropolitan Police where experienced police officers went through a high stress scenario which ended in a shooting in a hospital reception lobby area. Then the participants had to either write reports or were interviewed by appropriately trained investigators. Results showed that those who were interviewed provided far more information than officers writing reports. More controversially, it also showed that if all officers involved in the incident were allowed to confer with each other before they were interviewed that the error rate for the information given was reduced drastically. Dr. Lewinski noted that in the United States it was very common to separate the officers, so they don’t have a chance to talk to each other before they interviewed. On the other hand in England, officers confer before they have to write their major use of force reports.

The obvious conclusions from this study is that not only should officers be appropriately interviewed as opposed to having to write a report about a use of force incident, but if multiple involved officers are allowed to discuss the incident with each other before being interviewed, that will produce higher quality interviews with less errors.