FORCE SCIENCE® RESEARCH CENTER

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Force Science News Extra

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Latest on force issues featured in upcoming Lethal & Less-lethal seminar

The latest findings on officer-involved shootings from the Force Science Research Center will be among the cutting-edge topics featured at an upcoming seminar on Lethal and Less-lethal Force, sponsored by Americans for Effective Law Enforcement.

The popular 3-day program, spotlighting new developments in the legal, psychological, and physiological aspects of force encounters, is scheduled for Mar. 24-26 in San Francisco, to be repeated Oct. 20-22 in Las Vegas.

Registration information and full descriptions of content and instructors are available at: www.aele.org/Seminars.html.

"These programs typically fill up quickly, so prompt registration is recommended," says Wayne Schmidt, executive director of AELE, the nonprofit organization that monitors law enforcement-related court decisions and files legal briefs on behalf of police agencies in significant courtroom controversies.

"The use of force lies at the heart of an overwhelming proportion of litigation against officers and their agencies, not to mention demoralizing exposure in the media," Schmidt says. "Misconceptions about how to defend these cases-and prevent them in the first place-too often result in severe judgments of liability against departments and in unwarranted criminal convictions of officers.

"Research, technology, training, and legal issues related to use of force are evolving rapidly, and our goal with this program is to de-mystify current complexities with practical information that's immediately useful to command staff, city and county attorneys, police legal advisors, trainers, and risk managers."

Content presented by the nationally known faculty, including 4 instructors affiliated with the Force Science Research Center at Minnesota State University-Mankato, will cover in depth such urgent topics as:

• Revelations about **"excited delirium"** and other sudden and in-custody death phenomena

• How to use FSRC's recent ground-breaking research findings to **improve investigations of controversial, high-profile shootings**, including shot-in-the-back cases

• What investigators must know about **perceptual and memory distortions** during critical incidents to keep their search for the truth on track

• Important force implications for dealing with mentally ill, suicidal, and chemically influenced subjects, as well as **suicide-by-cop** scenarios

• Critical, independent assessments of **medical issues related to the Taser®:** street truth vs. media "truth"

• The latest **policy and procedural recommendations** for electronic restraint devices, neck restraints, chemical agents, and other options in the less-lethal "toolbox"

• Devices, techniques, and tactics that can help in **avoiding rather than generating lawsuits** and complaints

• How to dissect and apply in training the most **critical Supreme Court decisions** related to force, as well as other current case law

• Sidestepping **legal landmines** in internal investigations, criminal probes, and review board hearings

• The impact of **consent decree** litigation

• Surprising discoveries about the psychology of combat and the **dynamics of violent encounters**, revealed in hundreds of officer-involved shootings

• Proper procedures and preparation for **internal affairs, review board, and criminal investigations** to assure fair and valid results.

Faculty members who are affiliated with FSRC are:

Dr. Bill Lewinski, the Research Center's executive director; **Dr. Alexis Artwohl**, former police psychologist and a prominent researcher on perceptual and memory distortions in officer-involved shootings; **Greg Meyer**, captain (ret.) with the Los Angeles Police Academy and a risk management consultant specializing in reducing injuries in force encounters; and **Charles Remsberg**, senior correspondent for PoliceOne.com and author of 3 leading textbooks on officer

safety.

Other instructors include: **Judge Emory Plitt Jr.**, past chair of the IACP's Legal Officers Section, with more than 3 decades' experience in civil liability litigation; **Dr. John Peters**, president of the Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths; **Ken Katsaris**, former sheriff and a prominent expert witness and litigation consultant; **Michael Brave**, national litigation counsel for Taser® International.

AELE courses are accredited for training credits in some states. For details, check: www.aele.org/cle.html.

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