

PROTECTIVE SERVICE OPERATIONS TRAINING PROGRAM



Principal, Protectee, VIP, Dignitary, Asset, Executive. Regardless of the terminology utilized, threats to these individuals are not going to decline and will most likely continue to increase, based upon the current state of affairs worldwide. As gleaned from past and very recent internet sites and literature produced by radicals, there are very real threats to our nation's leaders, at all levels, in our homeland and abroad.

Historically, when people envision a "Protective Detail", images of a Presidential Motorcade, Air Force One, hundreds of agents and support personnel are induced. Justifiably, other dignitaries are not afforded the same amount of manpower or resources dedicated to the President of the United States. However, many of the same nature of threats to the President are often directed at others in leadership and command roles.

A few recent eye-opening events include the landing of an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) with suspected traces of radioactive material on the rooftop of the Japanese Prime Minister's office, the Washington Navy Yard shooting in 2013, the 2011 shooting in Tucson, AZ which caused serious injury to U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords and claimed the life of Federal Judge John M. Roll, and the shooting at the Pentagon station of the Washington

Metro in 2010. These incidents are in addition to active threat events and protests that have become prevalent in the media over recent years. These occurrences instill the exigency for protective services training. Not only is there a potential for physical harm to dignitaries, whether inflicted intentionally or accidentally, Principals may face harassment or a situation which may lead to embarrassment.

The Protective Service Operations Training Program (PSOTP) is aimed at training for the security and safety of these dignitaries. Officer safety and survival is always a critical aspect of training for law enforcement personnel; however, in a protective capacity, the agent or officer has been entrusted to protect the life of, and provide safety for, another human being.

The PSOTP is a two week course designed to provide specialized training to Federal, State and Local Law Enforcement Officers and Agents that will conduct or augment Protective Service Operations for Foreign and Domestic leaders who are, or may become, potential targets of terrorism and/or criminal acts.

In this dynamic program, the student progresses from assembling simple formations to conducting detailed advances, and completing complex route and site surveys.

Numerous hours are dedicated to walking formations and motorcade operations as well as cover and evacuation scenarios. These scenarios condition the student in the appropriate protective response while utilizing role-players following scripted scenarios.

Emphasis of training is placed on the full spectrum of protective operations to include: Formations, Mission Planning, Protective Service Motorcade Operations, Tactical Medicine, and numerous other disciplines from the Counterterrorism, Driver and Marine, Firearms, and Physical Techniques Divisions.

Student centered learning and scenario based training are the primary methodologies utilized during the program. The PSOTP takes full advantage of the exceptionally realistic training venues offered at the FLETC, to include Danis City and the Intermodal Training Site. The scenarios and training venues realistically simulate environments and situations a protective detail member may encounter in the field. The program extensively employs the use of the After Action Review (AAR) system, which provides instructors the ability to record and play-back student performance.

The training program culminates with a two day exercise conducted by students off-site. This requires and allows the students to interact and conduct liaison efforts with pre-established locations to include: The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, Ft. Pulaski National Monument, U.S. Coast Guard Station Tybee Island, Ft. Frederica National Monument, Savannah Chatham Metro Police Department, and various Customs and Border Protection facilities.

The alliances that have been cultivated by the PSOTP instructors in Coastal Georgia and Florida have increased the realism of the program exponentially, as well as building long term, mutually beneficial relationships with a multitude of law enforcement entities and business owners.

Through the use of its professional instructor cadre, contract role players, and realistic training venues, the FLETC has made this highly sought after program a tremendous success with its customers, as evidenced by student feedback and the sheer number of requests



Motorcade training in the Danis City training area at FLETC-Glynco.

for PSOTP. The PSOTP is continually evolving and seeks to implement the most current and effective protective measures and training practices. This is accomplished via input from active PSO details, former students, and members of the Protective Services Working Group (PSWG). Several PSOTP instructors serve as contributing members of the PSWG in Washington D.C. The PSWG is comprised of officials including FLETC partner agencies, the FBI, State and Local representatives, and the National Governor's Security Association. This allows for a free-flow of information on developing threats, trends, and technology, as well as affirmation the FLETC is providing current and relevant training and information to students.

Visit the FLETC PSOTP website, which has information and upcoming course dates at <http://www.fletc.gov/training/programs/counterterrorism-division/protective-service-operations-training-program-psotp/>

or, click the QR code below:

