SWAT Commander

Eligibility

OPOTC-certified peace officers, deputies, and troopers employed full- or part-time by an Ohio law enforcement agency, or another state's equivalent.

Description

The **OTOA SWAT Commander Course** is a four-day advanced leadership program for current and future tactical commanders and agency leaders responsible for SWAT operations. The course focuses on the commander's responsibility to build, lead, support, and evaluate a professional tactical program—before, during, and after critical incidents.

Participants examine **Commander's Intent, mission planning and review, command and control, risk management, policy, training, personnel, liability, interoperability, and organizational readiness** through facilitated discussion, case studies, and practical exercises.

The course emphasizes the relationship between the **Commander and Team Leader**, developing leaders who can establish clear intent, evaluate tactical plans, ask the right questions, allocate appropriate resources, and provide effective oversight **without unnecessarily directing tactical execution.**

Course Length: 4 Days / approximately 32 hours

Equipment List

Student Requirements:

- A laptop computer to review documents and prepare presentations.
- A copy of the agency's SWAT policies and procedures/guidelines.
- A copy of the agency's threat assessment matrix.

Class Schedule

Start Time: Each day begins promptly at 8:00 AM. The course spans at least 8 hours per day and is structured to ensure comprehensive coverage over multiple days.

Note: Students will receive a scheduled lunch break; however, lunch will not be provided. Please plan accordingly and bring your own food and beverages.

Day 1: Lead ? Day 2: Command ? Day 3: Build ? Day 4: Sustain

Day 1 — Role of Command & Operational Planning

Day 2 — Command & Control

Day 3 — Building & Maintaining the Team

Day 4 — Command Responsibility & Program Oversight

Medical

If you are allergic to bees, outdoor plants, or animals, please bring your epinephrine pen or other medication.

Report life-threatening allergies and pre-existing injuries or conditions to the OTOA training staff on day one of training.

Lodging, Travel, and Meals

Students are responsible for their ammunition, lodging, transportation, and food.