

SUBJECT: Use of Firearms Training System (F.A.T.S)

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 27, 1991

The purpose of this Procedure is to establish continuity of training and use of the Firearms Training System purchased for members of the Miami Valley Communication Council.

The Firearms Training System (F.A.T.S.) is a computerized judgmental training system. It is designed to place the student officer in lifelike situations and allow a response to a threat on the perception of presented circumstances.

I. Training Philosophy

- A. The underlying focus of all those who use F.A.T.S. shall be adherence to the basic concepts identified in the U.S. Supreme Court case, Garner vs. Tennessee.
- B. It is also recognized that the decision to use or not to use deadly force can arise from a myriad of variables. The F.A.T.S. system attempts to project those variables in a way that makes a more meaningful and productive interaction between the instructor and student officer. Based on the experience of the instructor and the components of the system each officer can be evaluated at the conclusion of any scenario by using a post legal force review. This review should include:
 - 1. Assessment of reasonable use of force.
 - 2. Evaluation of the officer/offender relationship.
 - 3. General circumstances under which legal force can be employed.
- C. F.A.T.S. judgmental training is to be considered a supplement to each department's firearms training program. Its use is not intended to override any department's policies nor impose upon any officer a standard which may compromise their personal safety.
- D. Use of F.A.T.S. is not in any way intended to demand different standards than are expressed in any individual departmental manual of procedures or a member department's use of force policy. Video scenarios that comprise the F.A.T.S. are not without flaws and do not pretend to take into account all variables present in "shoot, don't shoot" situations. At times, officers may even be presented with "no win" situations.

II. Instructor Flexibility

- A. Consistent with the above philosophy, instructors are at liberty to make assumptions in grading an officer's performance based on the totality of such performance, not merely on conclusions pre-determined by the system's manufacturer. Instructors may override the system's conclusions regarding "shoot, don't shoot," the threat level, and accuracy.
- B. Instructors are discouraged from trying to precisely grade officers.
- C. Instructors are encouraged to motivate students to think more completely about possible life threatening situations and how to better address not only clear-cut situations, but more ambiguous circumstances.

III. Access of F.A.T.S. System

Use of the F.A.T.S. system shall be limited to members of the Miami Valley Communication Council.

IV. FATS Committee

- A. Specific operational use and scheduling of the F.A.T.S. system will be determined and re-determined from time to time by the FATS Committee, a subcommittee of Communication Council agencies. The FATS committee shall consist of the primary range instructors or training officers from each member department.
- B. The committee shall meet as necessary and identify a chairperson who shall report to the TCSU Board of Directors pertaining to the use of F.A.T.S.
- C. Policies and/or procedures developed by the FATS committee shall be reviewed and approved by the TCSU Board of Directors prior to implementation.

V. Ongoing Maintenance

The FATS Committee chairperson has overall responsibility for coordination of the system's maintenance. Such responsibility shall include making certain the system is in proper working order and that an inventory of supply accessories and upgrades are maintained, ordered and otherwise properly accounted for. Purchases of supplies and upgrades shall be approved by the Chiefs and processed through normal Communication Council purchase protocol.

Revised: August 2006
Charles J. Gift, Director