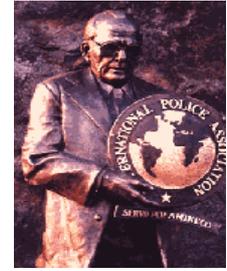




International Police Association

Professional Commission



Arthur Troop Scholarship 2016 REPORT

Name of Scholar: Abdullah Ahmad

IPA Section: Pakistan

Course attended: Force Encounters Analysis Course, California Training Institute, USA

I have been a member of IPA Pakistan since December 2012. I was anxious to get an Arthur Troop Scholarship and in 2015, when I was posted in Gilgit Baltistan, I applied for an Arthur Troop Scholarship 2016, which I was lucky enough to win. It is indeed a matter of great pride for me. My pleasure knew no bounds when I received an email from Kees Sal on 19th October 2015, containing the announcement of the award. Till then I had been posted in Sindh and its geographical location, pattern of crime and problems of policing were different from Gilgit, where I was posted previously. I had been promoted to the rank of Superintendent of Police. My responsibilities had changed. Hence, I requested to change my planned seminar. The Chair of the Professional Commission, Mrs. May-Britt Rinaldo, was kind enough to change it accordingly. I opted for a course on Force Encounters Analysis at California Training Institute, California.

I registered myself for the course but I was unable to attend in February 2016. Again I registered to attend the course in December 2016. And thanks God, this time I managed things according to my plan. I left from Sukkur, Sindh, on 28th November 2016 for Islamabad. From Islamabad I took a flight to Los Angeles, USA. It was a long journey of 15,000 kilometres and it took me 36 hours to reach Los Angeles. When I landed at Los Angeles International Airport the weather was pleasant and I felt refreshed. I checked in to the hotel and tried to sleep. Although I had jet lag yet I had a sound sleep. The next day I visited different places in Los Angeles. Hollywood, Griffith Observatory, Universal Studios, Santa Barbara and Venice beach were places worth seeing. Because of paucity of time, I couldn't go to Disneyland, which is an attraction for fun lovers.

I had chosen a course on 'Force Encounters Analysis' to make use of my Arthur Troop Scholarship. Its hosting agency was Santa Ana Police Department. Under the supervision of California Training Institute, Santa Ana Police Department had provided its training center for the class. On 5th December 2016, I proceeded to Santa Ana Police Department, where I was received by a smiling and welcoming police officer, Marty. He accompanied me to the

classroom to meet instructor Mike Tosti and the other 29 course participants, who were all from Police departments of different cities in California.

The introductory session was an interactive and interesting part of the class. We shared our life history with the course participants. They were all amazed to find that I had come from Pakistan, which is 15,000 kilometers away from Los Angeles. They welcomed me warmly and I found them very friendly and supportive.

Mike Tosti, instructor of the class, had wide ranging experience of policing in the USA. He is a nationally recognized law enforcement instructor with 28-years of law enforcement experience and over 20 years of training credentials. He has experience as a Narcotics and homicide detective, hostage negotiator, SWAT Commander and traffic officer. Mike is also a Veteran of the US Army.



He explained the objectives of the course on Force Encounters Analysis. The learning objectives of the course are:

1. Understand the biological basis of behavior in a force encounter situation.
2. Explain the physiological, perceptual, and cognitive factors that officers encounter in a Force situation.
3. Analyze and investigate a lethal force encounter and explain the human factor forensics involved
4. Predict an officer's and suspect's reaction time, and the biomechanics of lethal force encounters.
5. Understand the "best practices" to consider before conducting an interview with officers involved in an 'Officer Involved in Shooting' (OIS) incident.
6. Act as a resource in the department to better inform leadership, the public, and the media of an OIS and other use of force situations.

After the introductory session the class began. Class comprised of different modules.

The first module was about Error Management, in which we learned to manage errors in critical conditions. Different scenarios were given to the class and the instructor divided us into groups. The groups were tasked with answering questions on these scenarios.

Similarly the first day was full of class activities, including videos pertaining to police officers involved in shooting. All in all it was a good day and I enjoyed every second of training. Commander Ruben Ibarra of Santa Ana Police Department was very kind and helpful to me.

He took me for a visit to Santa Ana Police station, where I observed the American police at work.

On the second day of class, we learned to manage stress during critical situations. The module regarding fatigue was particularly relevant to my field. I had learned why fatigue and working efficiency are co-related. Decision making in critical conditions was also part of the module. We were shown different videos that kept the attention of the participants alive on the subject. I was then sent on a ride along in a patrol car with Sergeant Rodriguez, which enabled me to watch the working of Santa Ana police closely. It was a unique experience for me to work with American police officers until late into the night.



The third and last day of class began with an interactive session with participants. My fellow course participants asked me questions regarding Pakistan and the Pakistani Police. Their interest was a source of encouragement for me. I tried to answer their questions and cleared their doubts regarding Pakistan and the Pakistani Police.

This was followed by modules regarding Reaction Time, the biodynamic of shooting: officer vs. suspect, reaction time and memory were taught. There were simulations and real life situations that meant classes full of knowledge, activity and adventure.

During the lunch break we were taken for a visit to Santa Ana Jail. It was again a learning experience for me. I observed the differences between Pakistani and American jails. In the last session, we presented our assigned topics and answered the questions.



The class ended with a word of thanks from the host, Santa Ana Police Department. I was given a badge of the Santa Ana Police Department as a souvenir. I thanked the course instructor for being so kind and supportive. I said good bye to all with a heavy heart but I was happy that I had made many friends in America. I will not forget Mike Tosti, the course instructor of the California Training Institute, Padilla of the Santa Ana Police Department, Sergeant Mel Sarabia of the Santa Ana Police Department, Artoro Carranza of the Santa Ana Police Department, Alex Bello, instructor of the Los Angeles School, and last but not least, John of the Sheriff's Department, Santa Barbara City.

I was happy to be part of the class and I have taken knowledge back to my country. I was ambitious to share my knowledge and experiences with my colleagues and subordinates. Now I am able to comprehend human psychology in critical conditions. I could reduce the losses of police by teaching them ways to respond in Force Encounters situations.

I started the return journey to my country on 8th December, and on 10th December 2016 I landed at Islamabad airport. Although it was a long journey, I was energetic and felt changed and enriched with new ideas and thoughts.

Here I must say that this training experience will go a long way in strengthening my policing career and this was only possible due to the Arthur Troop scholarship. I am highly obliged and thankful to the International Police Association and IPA Pakistan Section for giving me the opportunity to learn from International policing experiences. Being a police officer, who is posted to far flung areas of Pakistan, it was a lifetime opportunity to travel abroad and learn from the experiences of seasoned police officers of America. Conflict- and terrorism-hit countries like Pakistan need to learn from the world's best practices employed in policing and public safety. The legacy of this training course is the lifelong friendships and a better understanding of policing systems around the world.

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