

INTRODUCTION TO ICAT

Integrated Communication and Tactics

ABOUT ICAT

- Gives police officers tools for defusing critical incidents
 - especially those that **do not involve suspects with guns**
- Created by PERF with input from working officers
- Skills already in place with specialized officers

ABOUT ICAT

- Regional and national input to develop ICAT principles
- Pilot tested at 7 agencies
- Now more than 620 agencies
- Program is continuously updated
 - Last updated November 2021

THE 7 MODULES OF ICAT

1. Introduction
2. Critical Decision Making Model
3. Crisis Recognition
4. Tactical Communication
5. Suicide by Cop
6. Operational Tactics
7. Step Up and Step In

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CREATING MORE OPTIONS

“Throughout the process, we reminded each other that we were looking to give officers more tools and options, not less. ICAT would not take anything away and it would seek to make these incidents safer for everyone”

-Sgt John Flynn (NYPD SWAT)

ICAT FOCUS

- Incidents in which a subject in crisis and is
 - Unarmed or
 - Armed with a weapon other than a firearm

ICAT FOCUS

~40% of fatal OIS the subject is unarmed or
is armed with a weapon

other than a firearm

ICAT RESEARCH

Louisville Metro (KY) PD:

- 28.1% Reduction in Use of Force Incidents
- 26.3% Reduction in Citizen Injuries
- 36.0% Reduction in Officer Injuries

ICAT RESEARCH

- ICAT leads to changes in officer behavior associated with uses of force
- First study to show changes in officer attitudes *and* behavior

ICAT RESEARCH

“The research team is confident that the changes in uses of force - and the subsequent reductions in citizen and officer injuries – correspond with the timing of the ICAT training across the various police divisions.”

-Engel, Corsaro, Isaza, & McManus (2020)

CHALLENGE CONVENTIONAL THINKING

- “We already do this” (CIT)
- Use of Force Continuum vs proportionality
- “We don’t have all day”
- Retreating (vs Tactical Repositioning)
- Not Having a plan B
- Drawing a line in the sand
- Not taking action is a failure to act
- “The most important thing is that
- “I” go home safely” vs. “we all” go home safely”.
- Winning at all costs?

ICAT TRAINING COVERS

- Critical Decision Making
- Crisis Recognition
- Tactical Communication
- Operational Tactics
- Stepping Up and Stepping In
- Scenario Based Training (with an emphasis on teamwork)

ICAT integrates these skills, applied to *non-firearm* critical incidents

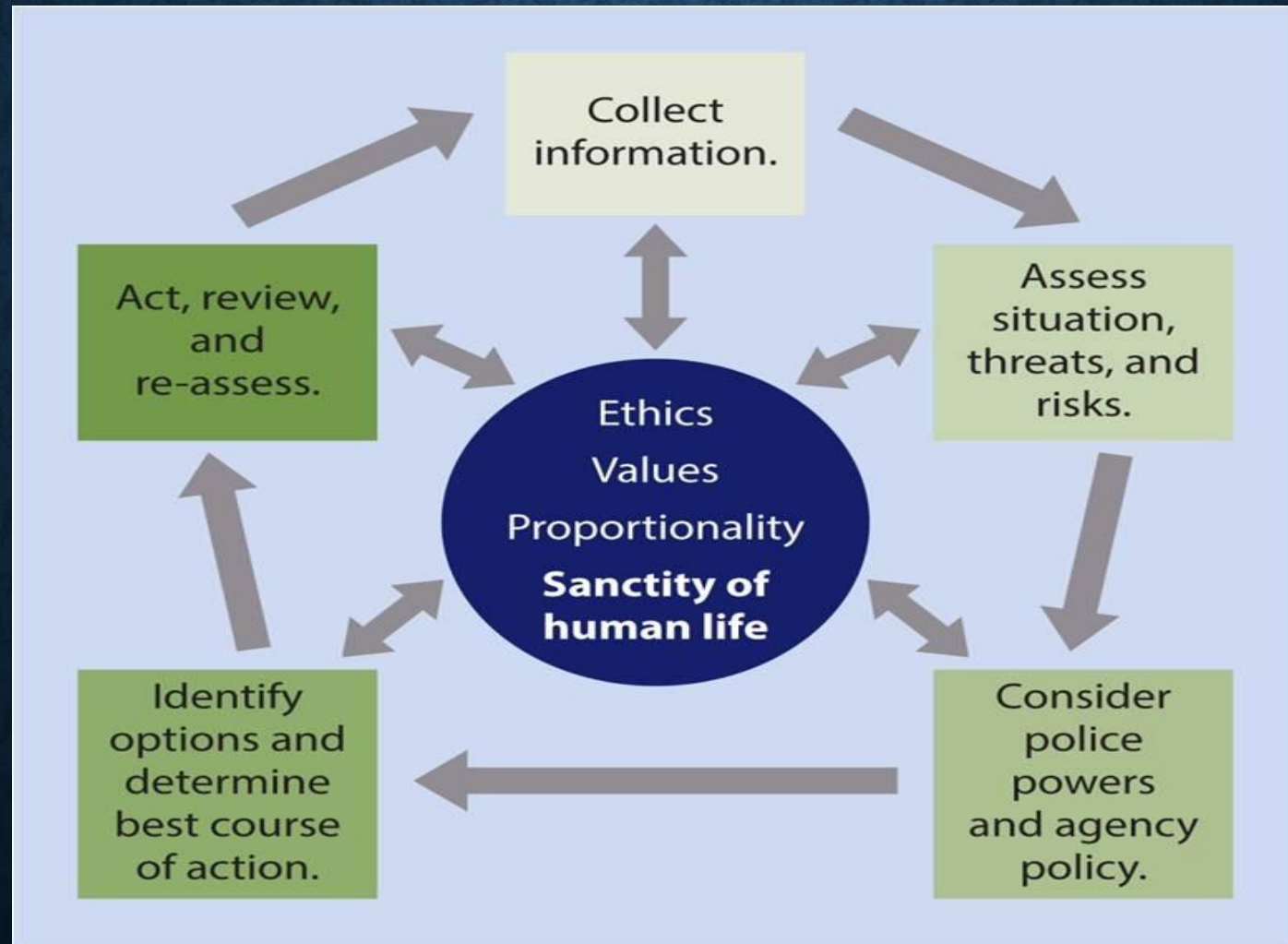
FOCUS

- Patrol Response
- Non-Firearms incidents
- Integration of skills
- Focus on safety and wellness-
 - Physical
 - Emotional,
 - Legal

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CRITICAL DECISION MAKING MODEL



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CRISIS RECOGNITION

- Episode of mental or emotional distress
- Creating instability or danger
- Disruptive to community, friends, family, self

CRISIS RECOGNITION

Emotional Vs. Rational Thinking

When emotions are **HIGH**

Rational thinking is **low**

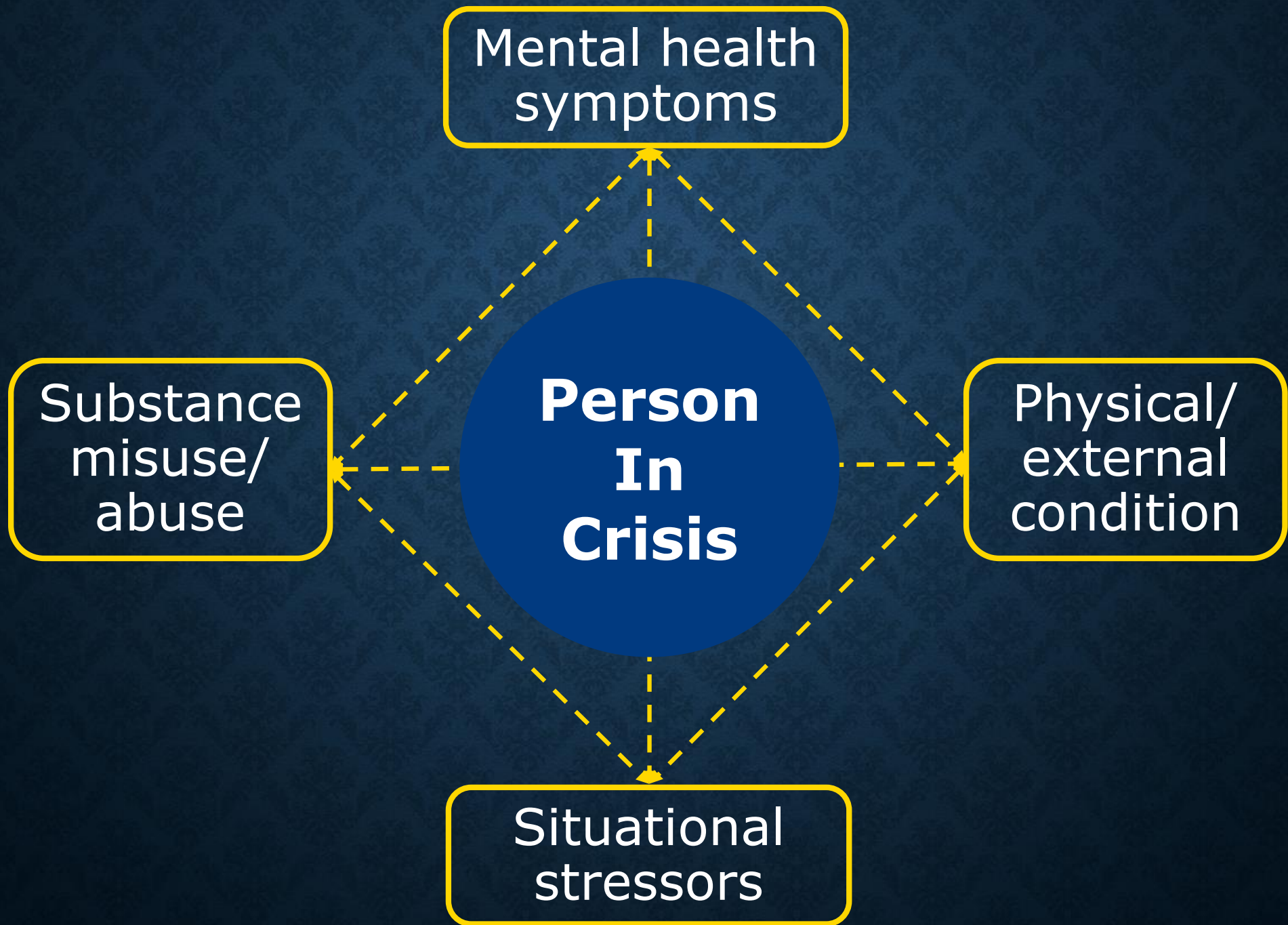
CRISIS RECOGNITION

- Precipitating events
- Person's perception of an event
- Failed coping skills
- Resulting In:
 - Breakdown in control
 - Inability to respond appropriately
 - Feeling overwhelmed

CRISIS RECOGNITION

- People in crisis need help
- Crises can impact public and officer safety
- It's our job
- Reflects mission, values, and ethics – sanctity of life





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TACTICAL COMMUNICATION

1. People feel the need to be respected
2. People would rather be asked than be told
3. People have a desire to know why
4. People prefer to have options than threats
5. People want to have a second chance

TACTICAL COMMUNICATION

TWO GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The mission is not to diagnose or to treat or solve the underlying issues.
2. The top priority is to verbally defuse and stabilize the situation, when feasible.

TACTICAL COMMUNICATION

THREE PHASE RESPONSE APPROACH

1. Ensure the scene is safe (as soon as possible)
2. Work to stabilize the person in crisis
3. Begin the problem-solving process (often by bringing in other resources)

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SUICIDE BY COP

- Says “kill me” or “shoot me”
- Otherwise expresses a wish to die
- Appears to be depressed or in crisis
- Is not behaving like a criminal offender
- Behaves aggressively toward the police for no apparent reason
- Exhibits strange or damaging behavior

SUICIDE BY COP

- Mental health issues? Medication?
- History of PTSD?
- How long has this been a serious problem?
- Substance abuse history?
- Recent events that precipitated this call?
- Previous suicide ideation or suicide attempts?
- What things is the person hopeful or optimistic about?
- Are there topics that should be avoided?

“First, the officers have to make sure they’re safe. That’s reactive. Then you want the officers to switch and become proactive, to start talking to the person and taking control of the situation.”

-Dr. John Nicoletti, police psychologist

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OPERATIONAL TACTICS

- Use the Critical Decision Making Model
- Tactical Repositioning
- Threat vs Threatening
- Key things to know and steps to take before on scene
- Creating distance between subject and officer
- The reactionary gap varies

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STEP UP AND STEP IN

- Intervening before a mistake is made
- Speaking up with safer plan to resolve a situation
- Opportunity to exercise leadership
- Taking ownership of challenging situations
- Stepping in when a situation is going poorly

2025-05-04 SubStation - 0510
AXON BODY 80 COMPASS



CONCLUSION

- Tools for patrol officers to **slow down** an incident
- Person in crisis more likely to get help
- Better outcome for **all** involved
- Training and scenarios make officers think critically about getting a positive outcome
- Goal is to bring everyone down from a highly emotional state and into **rational thinking**