

# **OFFICER VIRTUAL ACADEMY**

## **COURSE SYLLABUS: Contextual Decision Making**



### **Course Location:**

This is a virtual course, offered online only and available to registered users of the Officer Virtual Academy at all times.

### **Instructor Information:**

Lt. Frank Borelli - LE Instructor / Editorial Director

With 40 years of operational experience and more than 30 years of instructional experience, Lt. Borelli has taught programs involving firearms, defensive tactics, officer survival, active shooter response and more to officers from all levels of government to include city, county, state, federal and military. He remains active in law enforcement, continually training and being trained to keep his skills up to date and sharp.

### **Course Description:**

This course of instruction discusses the differences between conscious and subconscious decision making and the pros and cons of each. Further, that information is then applied to the human decision-making cycle, Boyd's Cycle or "OODA Loops," as applicable to conflict and officer survival situations. Finally, the course discusses how training should be structured to most efficiently empower subconscious decision making, increasing the officer's chances of victory in conflict situations.

\*Student officers in states that certify this training for in-service credit must successfully complete the test at the end of the program. A minimum score of 80% is required to pass.

### **Prerequisites:**

Prior to taking/completing this course, it is recommended that the attending officer complete the course titled, "Boyd's Cycle Applied to Conflict Survival."

### **Course Sequencing:**

It is recommended that the student officer view/attend the following courses before viewing this one:  
Boyd's Cycle Applied to Conflict Survival

Upon completion of this course, the recommended follow-on course, when available, is:  
Micro-Moment Debriefing Protocol

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## COURSE SYLLABUS: Contextual Decision Making



### Course Objectives:

- Upon completion, the student officer will be able to describe what is meant by “Contextual Decision Making.”
- Upon completion, the student officer will be able to articulate the difference between a conscious and a subconscious decision.
- Upon completion, the student officer will be able to articulate the four levels of competency.
- Upon completion, the student officer will be able to articulate why subconscious appropriate decisions are better than conscious decisions in a conflict, but why the subconscious decision, and subsequent action(s), is harder to justify.
- Upon completion, the student officer will be able to articulate the difference between linear thinking/planning and abstract thinking/planning.
- Upon completion, the student officer will be able to articulate the value of abstract thinking in the course of investigations, conflict, etc.

### Course Materials :

Course Syllabus

Course Introduction

PDF Handout of PowerPoint Slide presentation

PowerPoint Show with information from course videos

#### Five course videos:

15 minutes	Contextual Decision Making, #1 - Introduction
11 minutes	Contextual Decision Making, #2 – Thought Process & Competency Levels
18 minutes	Contextual Decision Making, #3 – Processing Data Consciously vs.

#### Subconsciously

12 minutes	Contextual Decision Making, #4 – Training Intuitive Decision Making
18 minutes	Contextual Decision Making, #5 – Benefits of Contextual Decision Making

#### Additional Resources:

<a href="https://www.officer.com/21276006">https://www.officer.com/21276006</a>	Ready for the Fight	(article)
<a href="https://www.officer.com/21007204">https://www.officer.com/21007204</a>	Train to Take the Gun Away	(article)
<a href="https://www.officer.com/12330259">https://www.officer.com/12330259</a>	The OODA Loop and Color Code System	(article)
<a href="https://www.officer.com/10233081">https://www.officer.com/10233081</a>	In a High-Stress Situation, Training Takes Over	(article)
<a href="https://www.officer.com/10248725">https://www.officer.com/10248725</a>	Fractions of a Second	(article)