Managing Political Protests

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Today’s Presentation

1. Science of crowd dynamics
2. Crowd management model
3. Principles of effective protest management
4. Discuss concerns/Share strategies
# Crowds Create Challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decrease Effort</th>
<th>Others can help hoist someone over or onto protective barriers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decrease Risk</td>
<td>Provides sense of anonymity / allows escape into crowd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase Rewards</td>
<td>Elicit positive reaction from others when acting aggressively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Crowd swarming encourages pushing and instigates violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provocations</td>
<td>Engaging in violence for the &quot;cause&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide Excuses</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Crowd Science

• People do not go “mad” in crowds.

• Human behavior is influenced by “cues” present in the social and physical environment.

• Police interactions with crowds can suppress or encourage violence.
Elaborated Social Identity Model (ESIM)

If force is used indiscriminately and is perceived to be overly harsh, crowd members will form a shared identity and unite to fight against what they believe is illegitimate action.

Aggressive tactics encourage aggressive crowd behavior
Reactance Theory

If behavioral freedom is threatened or reduced, a person will become *motivationally aroused* (in an attempt to defend the threatened freedom).

The “you won’t” approach promotes resistance

Do not write on these walls under any circumstances
- Police Chief Hutch

Please do not write on these walls
- Your Maintenance Dept.
If authorities act erratically, a sustained culture of distrust and violence will emerge.
RDFC Crowd Management Model

Reasonable
Restrict the fewest freedoms possible

Disarming
Limit use of force, coercion, and intrusiveness

Focused
Target only harmful behaviors and conditions

Consistent
Set and reinforce behavioral expectations
Be Reasonable

What will you expect of protesters?
• Understand role of protest management
  – Focus = *facilitate* protest; ensure public safety

• De-emphasize enforcement mentality
  – Dangers: Zero-tolerance; Overzealous policing; Enforcing “house rules”
Be Disarming

*How will you interact with protesters?*
• Initial planning
  – Reach out to organizers; Meet in advance

• Continuous communication
  – Facilitate dialog; Officers must remain professional and neutral

• Appearance
  – Riot gear – encourages resistance/disrespect
  – “Geared up” response teams – out of view
Be Focused

Against whom will you intervene?
• **Target problematic behaviors/conditions**
  – Focused interventions on specific dangers; Not the crowd

• **Intervene quickly and directly**
  – Do not allow others to encourage violence

• **Intervention requested by protest organizers**
  – Do not want protest disrupted
Be Consistent

How will you act?
• Mobile Field Force Training
  – Academy/Annual refresher - standardized

• Incident Commander Approval for Arrests
  – Self-defense exception

• Case Study: Culinary Training
  – “Thank Metro for being here to keep us safe.”
### RDFC Crowd Management Model

**Goals – Effects - Outcomes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIMENSION</th>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>PERCEPTUAL EFFECTS</th>
<th>BEHAVIORAL OUTCOMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reasonable</strong></td>
<td>Restrict fewest freedoms possible</td>
<td>Autonomy is not threatened</td>
<td>Voluntary compliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disarming</strong></td>
<td>Limit use of force, coercion, and intrusiveness</td>
<td>Implementation does not create duress, tension, or anxiety</td>
<td>Calm, positive reactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focused</strong></td>
<td>Target only behaviors/conditions causing harm</td>
<td>Intervention is acceptable and justified</td>
<td>Permit and support authority intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consistent</strong></td>
<td>Set and reinforce behavioral expectations</td>
<td>Responses are anticipated and predictable</td>
<td>Routine and instinctive compliance</td>
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</table>
Benefits of the RDFC Approach

Outcomes
- Prevent harm and escalation
- Cost savings (e.g., overstaffing)

Perceptions
- Improved community relations
- Avoid negative publicity

Effectiveness
- Increased awareness of crowd dynamics
- Faster at identifying and addressing problems
Additional Resources

Department of Homeland Security
MCATI: Basic Course Field Guide
Training Hotline 1-866-213-9553

UC Davis Report

UC DAVIS NOVEMBER 18, 2011
“PEPPER SPRAY INCIDENT” TASK FORCE REPORT

“THE REYNOSO TASK FORCE REPORT”
MARCH 2012

Additional Resources

Center for Problem-Oriented Policing
Download free @ www.popcenter.org

International perspectives
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