

# High Risk Vehicle Stops

Facilitator Guide

## Session Overview

Introduction & Learning objectives	05m
Discussion – Definition of HRVS	10m
<b>MEDIA</b> – Cop Runs up to Door	05m
Discussion – Preparing for and Initiating HRVS	10m
<b>MEDIA</b> – Officer Killed	05m
Discussion – Vehicle Positioning	15m
<b>Break</b>	<b>10m</b>
Discussion – Securing the Scene	10m
<b>MEDIA</b> – LAPD Shoots Suspect	05m
Discussion – Extracting the Suspects	10m
Discussion – Clearing the Vehicle	10m
Discussion – Investigation & Criminal Procedures	10m
<b>Break</b>	<b>15m</b>
<b>MEDIA</b> – DVD – SPD – HRVS	05m
<b>DEMONSTRATION</b> - HRVS	45m
<b>PRACTICAL EXERCISES</b> – HRVS	55m
<b>ASSIGNMENT</b> – Modified HRVS	05m
<b>End of Session / Break</b>	<b>10m</b>

*Total Session Time: 4 hours*

### **Main Topics of Session:**

- *What is HRVS*
- *Preparing for a HRVS*
- *Initiating a HRVS*
- *Vehicle Positioning*
- *Extracting Occupants*
- *HRVS and Crim Pro (sandbox)*

### **Facilitators Needed: 1 (PP)**

**Location: Classroom & Outside**

### **Materials Needed:**

- *Patrol Vehicles (for DEMO)*
- *PowerPoint - High Risk Vehicle Stops*
- *MEDIA (3 min) - Clip A - Cop Runs Up to Door*
- *MEDIA (2 min) - Clip B - Officer Killed*
- *MEDIA (1 min) - Clip C - LAPD Shoot Armed Suspect*

### **Students Should Already Have:**

**[THUMB DRIVE]**

- *HANDOUT - High-Risk Vehicle Stop*



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#1



## SAY TO CLASS

In the last sessions, you gained the knowledge and practice to make an unknown risk traffic stop. In this session, you will learn the tactical components to be employed during a high-risk vehicle stop (HRVS).

#2

### Learning Objectives

- Define 'high-risk' as it applies to vehicle stops and describe when it is appropriate to initiate a high risk vehicle stop
- Identify the tactical components to be employed during a HRVS
- List and define qualifying factors to consider when making a HRVS
- Describe an officer's authority, responsibility and tactical considerations when performing a HRVS
- Given a practical scenario, initiate and perform a HRVS using the six-step model demonstrated in class

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### Definition

*High-Risk Vehicle Stop – a tactical traffic stop used whenever there is more than the normal amount of risk.*



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## DISCUSSION - Definition of a HRVS

**QTC:** Why do you suppose these are now called HRVS and not 'felony stops'?

**AR:** Not all felonies imply high-risk...and not all high-risk stops are the result of felonies. We do not want to be in the mindset that if a felony is not involved, we will not make this type of tactical stop.

**QTC:** What is the definition of a high-risk vehicle stop?

**AR:** We define a high-risk vehicle stop as: A tactical stop of a vehicle; whose occupants the officer has reason to believe are armed and dangerous, are involved in a crime of violence, or who pose a significant threat of death or serious bodily injury to police officers and others.

**QTC:** What is the objective of a high-risk vehicle stop?

**AR:** The objective of HRVS is to safely extract potentially dangerous suspects from a vehicle while minimizing risk to officers, civilians and suspects. We must protect life (officers, civilians, suspects) while placing the officer at the greatest advantage and the suspect at the greatest disadvantage.

**QTC:** What types of crimes might indicate the need for a HRVS?

**AR:** Homicide, burglary, arson, assault, robbery, rape, kidnapping, stolen vehicle, suicidal subjects, shootings, felony domestics, felony eluding, weapons violations, felony traffic.



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## IMPORTANT POINT

According to statistics compiled by the LAPD, utilizing high-risk vehicle stop tactics gains compliance from dangerous subjects 90% of the time.

- LAPD Stats = 90% compliance

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### Video Clip

- MEDIA (3 min) – Clip A



MEDIA (3 min) - Clip A - Cop Runs Up to Door



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**The Plan**

1. *Prepare for the Stop*
  - *Identify the need to do a HRVS*
  - *Choose location of the stop*
  - *Back-up if available*
  - *Radio (dispatch / other officers)*



## DISCUSSION - The Plan

**QTC:** When should you start preparing for a HRVS?

**AR:** As soon as you have identified a vehicle whose occupants are considered armed, dangerous or involved in a crime of violence.

**QTC:** What types of considerations would you think about before initiating this stop?

**AR:** Recruits response should include:

- High-risk or not?
- Risk to attempt detention versus risk if occupants escape
- Minimum of two officers
- Where is my back-up?
- Where to perform the stop
- What are my options?
- Should I back-off or wait?
- Are there innocent bystanders?
- Do I have a backstop?
- Possible escape routes
- Any external hazards?
- Lighting issues?
- My ability to control the traffic around me

**QTC:** What factors would you consider in choosing a good stop location?

**AR:** Advantage of cover (buildings, walls, boulders, Jersey barriers; little cover or escape routes for the suspects; backdrop behind the suspect vehicle in case of gunfire.



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**The Plan**

2. *Initiate the Stop*

- *Vehicle Positioning*
- *Crossfire & Backdrop*
- *Traffic Control*
- *Emergency Lights & Equip.*



## SAY TO CLASS

Initiation includes stopping the vehicle and controlling the occupant's movements. Whenever possible, wait for back-up units to arrive prior to initiating the stop.

- Activate all emergency equipment
- Draw the curtain of light (high-beams, take downs, spots)
- Maintain 30-40 feet distance
- Notify dispatch of final stop location (planned location may change while waiting for backup, etc.)
- Position your vehicle
- Prepare to fight

- Wait for Back-up When Possible
- How to Initiate the HRVS



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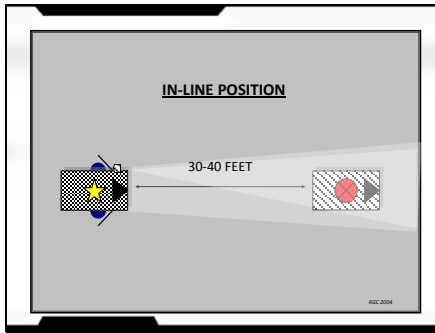
MEDIA (3 min) - Clip B - Officer Killed



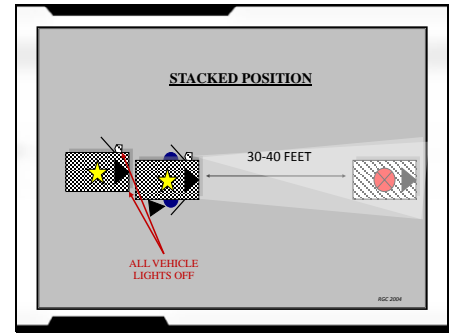
# High Risk Vehicle Stops

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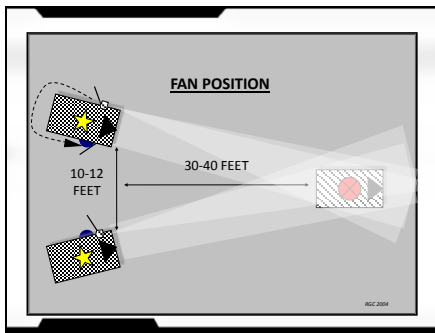
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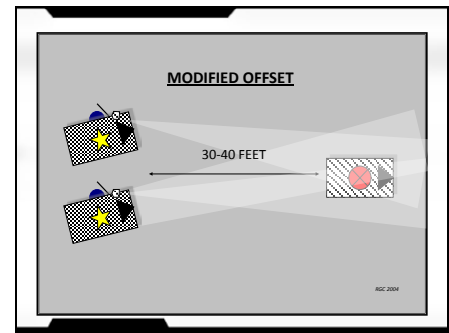
#9



#10



#11





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## SAY TO CLASS

Vehicle positioning may depend on the number of patrol cars available, and the stop location. Multiple patrol cars may be stacked in-line, placed in a fan position, in a modified off-set position (side-by-side angled out). Consider that the lead patrol car can only provide engine block cover for two occupants if it is in-line with the suspect vehicle.

You must immobilize the **vehicle** prior to extracting the suspects; be prepared for the occupants to flee even if they have initially stopped. Until the suspect vehicle's engine is off, do not reposition yourself, your partner or exit your patrol vehicle.

Using either your PA system or unassisted - as needed, order the driver to roll down his window, remove the ignition keys and place them on the **roof of the vehicle**. Be aware that sometimes, vehicles don't have keys (stolen, hot-wired, push button ignition) or have crashed (after a high-speed chase) and this step may not be required.

Follow by immediately challenging the occupants and announcing:

- Your **authority** - *"This is the police"*
- Your **intent** - *"You are suspects of (as indicated - an armed robbery; occupants of a stolen vehicle; suspects of a drive-by shooting)."*
- Your **directive** - *"Put your hands (as indicated - on the roof of the vehicle; out the window; where I can see them)."*

Think before you speak; officer presence is paramount! Keep your voice clear, calm, and commanding. Speak slowly and use simple terms. Don't issue additional commands until previous commands are obeyed. Never lose your cool.

Always control the hands! Clearly order the occupants to raise their hands - in the air, out the window, or interlace their fingers on top of their head.

- Vehicle Positioning
- Immobilize Suspect Vehicle
- Challenge the Occupants
- Slow & Clear
- Control/Watch Hands



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## DISCUSSION -Vehicle Positions

**QTC:** Traffic control is a major concern. Why?

**AR:** We are responsible for bystanders' safety.

**QTC:** What might we do to mitigate vehicle traffic passing by our stop location?

**AR:** Additional units should be positioned fore and aft of your anticipated stop location to stop the flow of traffic.

**QTC:** Wouldn't that create a crossfire situation?

**AR:** Not if they are positioned correctly - far enough aft or fore to prevent that from occurring.

**QTC:** You have decided to perform a HRVS. What information will you provide to your dispatcher?

**AR:** Location of the planned stop, place and vehicle description, number of occupants, direction of travel, security of the channel, request for additional units.

**QTC:** What will you communicate with other units responding?

**AR:** The direction of your backstop; the best directions for them to approach; ask them to extinguish headlights and stoplights to avoid backlighting you.

**QTC:** What types of activities ensure that you are tactically ready to engage?

**AR:** Recruit's response should include:

- Take your seatbelt off
- Have your windows down
- Locate your weapon (don't draw until stopped)
- Turn your patrol vehicle's front wheels
- Open the car door, draw your weapon and take cover behind the 'A' post



**BREAK**



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**The Plan**

**3. Secure the Scene**

- *Angles of Exposure*
- *360-Degree Awareness*
- *Immobilize the Suspect Vehicle*
- *Verbal Commands*



## NOTE TO FACILITATOR

Discuss the bullets on the slide "Secure the Scene":

- *Angles of Exposure*
- *360-Degree Awareness*
- *Immobilize the Suspect Vehicle*
- *Verbal Commands*

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**Video Clip**

- MEDIA (1 min) – Clip C



[MEDIA \(3 min\) - Clip C - LAPD Shoot Armed Suspect](#)



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## The Plan

### 4. Extract and Secure Suspects

- *Curtain of Light*
- *Cover / Concealment*
- *Contact / Cover*
  - *Areas of Responsibility*
- *100% Control*
- *Maximize Advantage*
  - *Position / Weapons / Hands / Etc.*



### NOTE TO FACILITATOR

Discuss the bullets on the slide "Extract and Secure the Suspects":

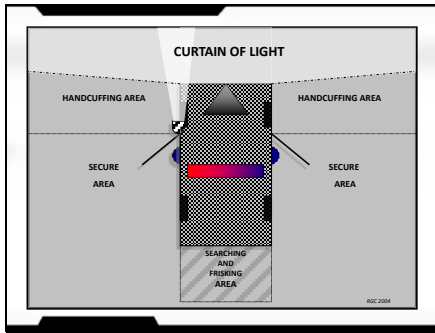
- *Curtain of Light*
- *Cover / Concealment*
- *Contact / Cover*
  - *Areas of Responsibility*
- *100% Control*
- *Maximize Advantage*
  - *Position / Weapons / Hands / Etc.*



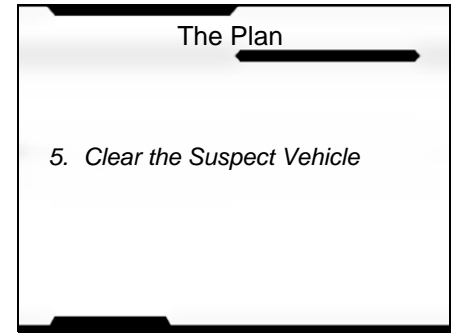
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### SAY TO CLASS

After the vehicle has been cleared, communicate with radio and other officers to let them know the vehicle has been cleared and that normal radio traffic can be resumed.

- Notify Radio



### IMPORTANT POINT

For a lot of agencies, HRVS's are considered a Use of Force and requires documentation and assignment of an incident number. Find out what your departments view is on HRVS's.

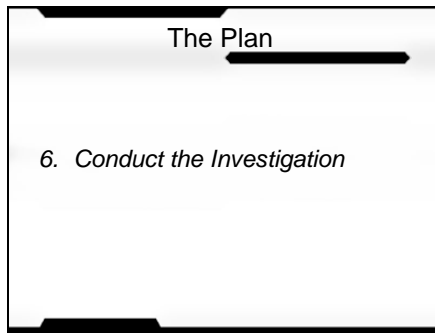
- HRVS May be Considered "Use of Force"



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**QTC:** Once you secure the scene and take custody of the suspects/subjects in the vehicle, what would you do to investigate a scene like this?



## NOTE TO FACILITATOR

Do an impromptu class brainstorm for this question. Take their answers and list them on the white board. Encourage the class to come up with as many investigatory steps and ideas as possible.

Make sure to cover these points:

- Perform a frisk of the vehicle or a search incident to arrest, where applicable
- Locate/photograph/collect evidence. Secure any weapons or evidence in your trunk
- Interview all suspects separately
- Perform record checks and verify the identity of occupants
- Move or impound the vehicle if appropriate
- Document your actions in a police report



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**Criminal Procedures**

- Which 'Sand Box?'
  - Social / Terry / PC?
- Miranda Warnings



### SAY TO CLASS

Issue Miranda warnings before questioning the suspect - even if you have only reasonable suspicion. Remember, you have restricted their freedom to a significant degree. Advise the suspect why they are being detained or arrested and secure them in a patrol vehicle. Don't attempt to interrogate suspects until all occupants are secured and the vehicle has been cleared. Keep the suspects separated.

- Criminal Procedures



### DISCUSSION - Questioning Suspect

**QTC:** What types of questions would you ask the suspect (after issuing Miranda)?

**AR:** Questions concerning officer safety such as whether there are any more occupants or weapons left in the vehicle.



### BREAK



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## Demonstration/Practice

- Demo
- Opportunity to practice
- Debrief at end of practice period



### NOTE TO FACILITATOR

#### Demo

Take the class outside to where you have vehicles *already set-up*. Demonstrate at least two HRVS from start to finish - making sure to use different suspects and back-up for each demonstration. The first demonstration should be in slow-motion with pauses for discussion between each of the six steps. Critique each portion of the stop and ask for questions before proceeding. Have recruits suggest alternative actions during each step. Repeat the demonstration 'real-time'. This will be the first time the recruits have seen everything performed smoothly in one action.

#### Practical

Allow student to practice for the remainder of the session. Observe practice to allow for correction of any noticeable problems. Be available to answer questions that might arise.





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## HOMEWORK-ASSIGNMENT - Make a Plan for Modified High-Risk Stop

Due: Before Mock Scene BANK H (High-Risk Vehicle Stop)

NTF: In the last few minutes of the class, while you have the students outside doing their practical portion, gather them and give them the following "problem" to think about.

Instructions: Imagine that you stop a vehicle for a regular infraction. While you are up at the driver's side window, dispatch informs you that the vehicle is stolen. What do you do? How do you transition into a HRVS when you are already in the middle of a regular unknown-risk traffic stop?

Your class needs to discuss this situation and come to agreement about what to do. You WILL see this very scenario again in a mock scene - maybe even in the final testing mock scenes. You must be ready for it.

Be ready to discuss and PERFORM this on the day of Mock Scene BANK H (High-Risk Vehicle Stop)



## STUDY MATERIAL - HANDOUT - High-Risk Vehicle Stop [THUMB DRIVE]

Instructions: The info in this handout will be testable. Please make sure to read it and learn it. You will also need to know it for the mock scenes in the next Module.



BREAK/END OF SESSION

