Room Entries: Known v. Unknown v. Hybrid

1. Participants will be students at Texas State University excluding minors and pregnant women

2. The students will be recruited from criminal justice classes by Dr. Blair. This will be accomplished by reading the consent form aloud to the students. Some professors may choose to give extra credit this and the alternative indicated in consent form will be announced in the relevant classes.

3. The study will be conducted at Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training’s (ALERRT) Bowie Facility. Upon arrival, the participants will participate in the standard ALERRT safety preparations. This includes searching the participants to insure that no weapons are brought into the facility and a briefing on the safety rules for the use of Simunition FX Marking Cartridge weapons. During this briefing, the participants will be issued and instructed in the use of the safety equipment. Both the searches and safety briefing will be conducted by certified ALERRT instructors who are either full time police officers or retired police officers. Biographical Information will also be collected at this time (See Bio Form). Participants will be told that they are playing the role of an armed gunman who shot someone and fled into a building. The participant will be told that the police are searching for him or her and that when the police enter the room, the participant should shoot the police.

Following the briefing, a safety officer will escort the participants to the hall in which the study is being conducted and placed in the care of the safety officer for that hallway. This safety officer will verify that the study area is ready, inspect the participant’s safety equipment to insure it is properly attached, place the suspect in the room, and issue the Simunition weapon. ALERRT staff playing the role of police officer will then conduct one of three randomly

After the engagement, the safety office will call cease fire, collect the weapons, and inspect the officers and participants for hits. He will then escort the participant out of the study area to the safe room, thank them for their time and dismiss them.

Analysis

The hit information will be reviewed to determine how accurately the officers fired in each condition. The videotapes will be reviewed to determine how long it took for each shot to be fired.

4. The marking rounds fired are similar to paintballs and can leave small welts.

The situation can also be somewhat psychologically stressful. To limit this, participants are fully informed about what to expect beforehand. They are also given numbers to psychological counseling services on the consent form. In similar studies run by ALERRT, the stress has been brief and participants indicated that the event was fun.

5. To minimize welts, protective gear including helmets, facemasks, neck protectors, chest pads, groin protection, long sleeved shirts and pants will be worn. Ice packs will be kept on site to reduce swelling in the event of a welt occurring.

Psychological stress is reduced by fully informing the participants what to expect. The brief nature of the encounter also limits stress. Participants are given numbers to psychological counseling services on the consent form should they need assistance. Past participants have indicated that the study was fun.

6. Participants will benefit from getting to participate in the research process. They will also learn something about shooting at moving targets. If the study finds that one type of entry is superior to the others, this could save police officer lives.

7. Most participants will not be offered any compensation. In classes that choose to offer extra credit, this will amount to less than 1% of the participant’s grade. The article summary described in the consent form will be offered to those who want credit, but choose not to participate in the study.

8. The risks are very low as compared to the potential benefits.

9. ALERRT Bowie facility. This agency/facility is part of Texas State University.

10. This is part of the student’s professional paper which is required for his graduation this December. Dr. Blair is his supervisor. He is writing this form and has approved this project.

11. Approval provided online.

12. N/A

13. Charlie Conditt and Dr. Blair.