

Overview

This course is designed to enhance a maritime law enforcement officer's capabilities by providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to appropriately operate their vessel in a safe and efficient manner at higher operating speeds, assess risks in the maritime domain, and protect his/her vessel, crew, and the citizens in their area of operation. Training offered will incorporate close quarter maneuvers through tactics, techniques and procedures that the U.S. Coast Guard uses to train its boat operators, and will ensure seamless integration into law enforcement operations amongst federal, state, county, local and tribal maritime law enforcement officers and agencies.

Most importantly, participants will become better boat operators. Students will become familiar with the handling characteristics of their boat at various speeds and in various conditions, and learn how to maneuver in a safe and effective manner.



Finally, after completing the course, participants will demonstrate abilities necessary to properly use defensive and protective boat tactics while conducting maritime law enforcement procedures.

This course is intended for local, county, state, and federal law enforcement officers or DOD personnel assigned to marine patrol units, agencies or departments. This training consists of four modules, practical exercises, and a knowledge based assessment.

Course Goals

The overall goal of this training program is to provide students with the skills required to effectively function as law enforcement officers and become efficient operators in various maritime operations. At the completion of this course, students should have a basic understanding of how to safely perform various methods for use by patrol officers during vessel intercepts, boardings, and pursuits.

Course Outline, and Objectives Stated in Performance Terms

Module One: Introduction and Overview

The student will explain the need for enhanced boat operator training and the means to conduct such training in a safe, controlled and effective manner by:

- a. Explaining the importance of training parameters in delivery of curricula.
- b. Identify and understand the safety parameters of this course.
- c. Identify the importance of and utilize a risk assessment model prior to any underway operations.
- d. Explain the importance of interagency training in maritime event response.

Module Two: Crew Efficiency Factors, Risk Factors and Team Coordination

By the end of this module, the student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of steps that can be taken to identify, evaluate, mitigate and manage risks that should be considered in every maritime operation, by:

- a. Explaining what factors can impact a team's ability to perform a mission in the maritime domain.
- b. Explaining what TCT is.
- c. Explaining what the five critical skills are to reduce the probability of human error.
- d. Identifying tools that can help assess and manage risk.
- e. Being able to identify behaviors and actions that can increase situational awareness and decrease the likelihood of poor judgment.

Module Three: Vessel Intercept and Approach Tactics

The student will be able to demonstrate various boat tactics employed by a maritime law enforcement officer by:

- a. Demonstrating appropriate approach techniques of a target vessel.
- b. Demonstrating appropriate techniques for vessel operators to protect themselves, their personnel, and their vessel.
- c. Demonstrating intercept techniques.



Module Four: Vessel Pursuit Tactics and Techniques

The student will be able to safely perform various tactical methods for use by waterborne response teams during vessel pursuit by:

- a. Explaining the need for standardized pursuit tactics.
- b. Differentiating between defensive boat tactics and pursuit tactics.
- c. Classifying methods to mitigate dangers related to high speed pursuits.
- d. Categorizing methods of maintaining tactical advantage (use of primary, secondary, and back up positions.)
- e. Demonstrating position change maneuvers.
- f. Illustrating outside loop maneuvers.
- g. Analyzing the hazards of taking a pursuit angle.

Criteria Performance Standard

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will demonstrate mastery of each of the above stated objectives through a compilation of measures including objective testing, scenario review, class discussion, practical activities, and homework.

Target Audience

The primary target audience for this course is sworn law enforcement officers assigned to the maritime environment at the local, county, state, or federal level that need to enhance their boat handling abilities.

Requirements

Participating agencies are required to provide one boat for each four students attending from their department/unit/agency, and the host/sponsoring agency is required to provide a classroom with seats and tables for up to 30 people, a projector with screen, computer speakers, white board and/or an easel with paper and markers.



Each boat in the training must have proper safety equipment, two buoys or floating markers with line and a weight attached to be used for drills on the first day of training, a functional VHF radio, and a functional “kill switch” with lanyard for attachment to the operator.

Each student must bring a proper bump helmet, life jacket, and appropriate work clothing for the days of training.

Course Structure

This course consists of a “team teaching” model of instructor lecture, which will be aided (and assessed) by slide presentations, class interaction, practical exercises, a knowledge test and final exam. Instructors will emphasize student interaction and discussion throughout the course to ensure that the information taught is being understood and can be applied in a real-world environment. The student-to-instructor ratio is no greater than 4 to 1.

Course Cost

The fee for the three day/24 hour course is \$23,500 for up to 20 students, and covers all instructor costs (travel, per diem, fees, etc.) administrative costs (certificates, database entry, etc.) and materials (student handbooks, practical exercise materials, etc.) The course fee on an individual student basis is \$1300 with a minimum requirement of 12 students. Note that payment or an appropriate purchase order is required 45 days prior to the convening date of the class in order to conduct the necessary planning and logistics coordination need to deliver the course on the desired date.

Contact

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Schedule

The schedule noted below is for reference purposes only. This is only a guide as participants may be more interested in some subjects than others and the instructor can vary the time allotted accordingly.

Day One Schedule

Module One: Course Introduction and Overview

Timeline 0800–1200

- Start class facilitator introduction
- Introduce course goals and discuss
- Outline course topics
- Explain the course schedule
- Review and discuss module objectives
- Class introductions
- Administer and discuss knowledge test
- Introduce vessel familiarity techniques and methods
- Discuss vessel preparation
- Discuss protection techniques
- Discuss pursuit techniques
- Discuss housekeeping and training parameters
- Discuss practical exercises

Module Two: Crew Efficiency Factors, Risk Factors and Team Coordination

- Explain what factors can impact a team's ability to perform a mission in the maritime domain.
- Define what Team Coordination Training.
- Explain what the five critical skills are to reduce the probability of human error.
- Identify tools that can help assess and manage risk.
- Identify behaviors and actions that can increase situational awareness and decrease the likelihood of poor judgment.

Timeline 1300–1700

Practical Exercises: Rodeo Drill, Gate Drill, and Pacing Drill

Day Two Schedule

Module Three: Vessel Intercept and Approach Tactics

Timeline 0800–1000

- Introduce module and objectives
- Introduce use of force for brief discussion
- Introduce the intercept/stop concept
- Introduce various approach and close quarter techniques
- Introduce the shadowing or mirroring concept
- Assign homework and discuss practical exercises



Module Four: Vessel Pursuit Tactics and Techniques

Timeline 1030-1200

- Introduce module and objectives
- Introduce pursuit vessel positioning
- Discuss standardized pursuit tactics
- Discuss basic primary vessel pursuit position including related video
- Explain pursuit position of the secondary vessel
- Explain the pursuit position of a backup vessel
- Discuss vessel responsibilities
- Introduce pursuit vessel maneuvering procedures
- Explain crossing the wake in a pursuit including related videos
- Explain a position change in a vessel pursuit
- Discuss the outside loop maneuver in a vessel pursuit
- Explain the modified “S” turn
- Discuss the “closer is better” principles
- Discuss maintaining outside position on turns
- Explain the “corkscrew” theory
- Explain the echelon maneuver
- Discuss the “danger point” of a pursuit angle
- Explain the “stay on the road” theory
- Review pursuit dangers
- Review pursuit theories
- Discuss low visibility pursuits
- Review pursuit guiding principles

Timeline 1300–1700

Practical Exercises: Vessel Intercepts, Pacing, Shadowing, Herding and Pursuits

Day Three Schedule
Final Operations and Practical

Timeline 0800–1200

Practical Exercises

Timeline 1300-1400

Review all concepts
Final exam
Evaluations
De-Brief



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