



# Characteristics of Armed Offenders Training Lesson Plan Outline

**Trainer:** Richard A. Hobson, Chief Executive Officer/Lead Instructor

**Objective:** The *Characteristics of Armed Offenders Training* is intended to provide sworn law enforcement officer; with skills and ability to:

- Recognize and discern observable characteristics and traits common to street-level criminal gunmen; and
- Develop constitutionally based, reasonable, articulable suspicion supporting justifiable enforcement actions leading to safe crime gun recoveries and successful criminal prosecutions.

**Full Day Course:** Sections I – VI

6.5 instructional hours using PowerPoint slides and video medium and 1 hour for lunch (lunch is not provided)

## I Introduction

1. Statistical Observations
  - a. Relevance of Firearms Related Crime
  - b. Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted – Federal Bureau of Investigation / National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund / Community Oriented Policing Services Office Research Cites

## II Distinctions Between Criminal Gunman and Actual Shooter

2. The Critical Bubble
  - a. Speed of Shooter Transition
  - b. Reactionary Gap/Curve
3. Motivation
4. Accessibility
  - a. Handedness
  - b. Deference to Handgun
5. Concealment
  - a. Common Areas of Concealment
  - b. Retention Methods



### III Characteristics of Armed Gunmen

1. Developing Articulate Suspicion
2. Observation of Body Movements: Physical Traits
  - a. Dominant vs. Weak Side
  - b. Security Adjustments
3. Clothing Characteristics
  - a. Observations of Outer Garments
  - b. Protrusions
4. Behavioral Characteristics: Psychological Traits
  - a. Body Movements
  - b. Retention Checks

### IV Street-level Enforcement Activities

1. Consensual Encounters
2. Police Stops
3. Stop and Frisk: Review Terry v Ohio
4. Constitutionally Based Enforcement Actions; Use of Force Review
5. Crime Gun Recovery
6. Arrests and Searches

### V Vehicle Stops and Searches

1. Considerations and Observations During Traffic Stops
  - a. Body Movements
  - b. Firearm Locations
2. Vehicle Approach Considerations/Tactics; Review Force Science Institute Study
  - a. Traditional
  - b. Cross Over Technique

### VI Firearm Case Preparation (Includes Interactive Practical Skills Discussion and Exercises)

1. Case Articulation
  - a. Observable Characteristics Leading to Enforcement Action
  - b. Stop/Arrest Justification
2. Report Writing and Testimony for Successful Prosecution (Discussion Only)
  - a. Describe Suspicion Rather than Conclusions drawn from Observations
  - b. Overcoming Suppression Hearings



- \*VII **A two-day variant of this course** is available that includes actual Report Writing Exercises, Moot Court Suppression Hearing practical skills exercises and Developing Investigative Leads through Firearms Identification and Comprehensive Tracing Procedures (would require participation from Assistant US Attorneys and/or State's District Attorney and an ATF qualified crime gun intelligence/trafficking instructor).

Material based upon manuscript entitled:

*Firearm Detection, Recovery and Enforcement Techniques: Characteristics of Armed Gunmen*

Developed and written by Richard A. Hobson © 1998