



ISR Matrix

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The lights were off. I could faintly see the shadows moving quickly. The annoying loud music made it difficult to concentrate on what was happening, and I wondered how the shadows themselves were able to concentrate. As my eyes adjusted, the shadows gained some substance, and I watched one dark form throw a series of punches at another. The punches were hard enough for me to wince slightly. Even with boxing gloves on, I knew no police or military defensive-tactics (DT) instructor would allow that amount of force to be used in training.

With the darkness reducing student's vision, the loud (and really bad) music distracting further, strobing torchlight was added. This was a serious training serial.

The defending dark form instantly protected his head with the 'helmet', practiced hundreds of times over the past two days. Within seconds he had moved in and taken control of the attacker and had him on the ground, ready to be handcuffed.

But there was no time to stop. The situational awareness training was working, and the second attacker was quickly identified and actually used to block the third attacker.

And on it went.

I leaned over to instructor Dave Pauli, regional representative for ISR Matrix International – "Do the students normally progress to this level so quickly?"

Without stopping his strobing, Dave said they were usually faster.

I didn't know what to say. I was impressed with the skills that could be taught so quickly, and trained at 100 per cent realism and power. Even after being marked 'competent' in contemporary Australian police and military defensive-tactics training, there was no way on earth I or my fellow operators would have been able to perform to this standard. And to do so without suffering injury? Hell no!

ISR Matrix is "A dynamic, full-spectrum integrated system of subject control and personal protection that thrives naturally throughout use-of-force continuums and mission-specific modes of operation used by both sworn and non-sworn professionals world wide" according to the ISR Matrix web site.

Dave Pauli, who runs ISR Matrix Australia Asia Pacific, and has both a law-enforcement and military background, has already taught a number of ISR courses in Australia.

ISR stands for intercept, stabilise, resolve.

For those of us who have been trained in contemporary police and military DT/OST skills, ISR is a breath of fresh air.

AIIMS – incident management

The Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS) provides a single management structure that facilitates the bringing together of all re-sources, from one or several organisations, to work cooperatively and cohesively in resolving an incident.

This module introduced the AIIMS framework and highlighted how it could be best used in a multi-agency response to a major critical incident affecting law enforcement, military or security personnel.

Pro-Com Consulting – tactical adaptive communication

The Pro-Com Consulting session provided an insight into the adaptive-communication process – a process using a system known as REAL – that teaches officers to talk naturally while thinking tactically, to develop their own style delivered within a set of professional communication boundaries and based on the elements of adaptability, awareness, strategy and delivery. The system provides a consistent approach and caters to everything from PR and traffic stops through to negotiation. Pro-Com staff have years of field experience and been involved in the resolution of hundreds of police negotiations.

The Tactical Edge

Tactical Week Australia, held in Brisbane from 12 to 21 March, was the result of the collaborative efforts of a range of specialist tactical-training providers for 10 days of leading-edge operational and industry skills training, demonstrations, lectures and discussions.

There was also a concurrent, two-day Tactical Gear Expo showcasing a wide range of industry equipment and gear, with two large blocks of time dedicated to the expo scheduled into the program. This aspect alone was described by one exhibitor as being "better than a whole week at Land Warfare Conference".

Tactical Week Australia (TWA) was pitched at law-enforcement and military training specialists and tactical operators as well as corrections,

customs and government- and private-security professionals.

TWA consisted of a range of training providers who had extensive experience in delivering specialist training to elite units domestically and internationally.

One of the major training components of TWA was ISR Matrix, a form of subject control that teaches escalating use-of-force techniques appropriate to the tactical situation, but without relying on the pain-resistance techniques taught to most police recruits that can be dangerous to both the subject and the practitioner – and to the outcome of any subsequent court case.

The ISR component of Tactical Week Australia covered two phases, being three days at the start, plus the final two days of the 10-day TWA.

WITH THE DARKNESS REDUCING STUDENT'S VISION, THE LOUD (AND REALLY BAD) MUSIC DISTRACTING FURTHER, STROBEING TORCHLIGHT WAS ADDED. THIS WAS A SERIOUS TRAINING SERIAL.



ALL THE DRILLS USED BY ISR ARE BASIC NATURAL MOVEMENTS, USING THE NATURAL MOVEMENTS OF THE OFFENDER TO CONTROL THEM. NO PAIN COMPLIANCE AND NO JOINT LOCKS. AT ALL TIMES, ISR ALLOWS THE USER TO ESCALATE OR DISENGAGE, DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

Progressive Force Concepts – structure clearing

PFC Training is the training division of Progressive F.O.R.C.E. Concepts, a Las Vegas-based company dedicated to the advancement and delivery of use-of-force and tactical instruction to law enforcement, security professionals, military personnel and qualified private citizens. PFC instructors have a background in military and police special operations and their coaching is in high demand among tier-one SF units. Their focus is simple – to save lives. Whether you face danger as a result of an occupational hazard or an unfortunate circumstance, PCF principle- and performance-based training methods aim to condition operators to prevail in a real-world conflict.

I attended this course to see how it would *NOT* work on the streets, where operator safety is the priority – but, I was pleasantly surprised.

With a tendency today of perception being reality, the defensive blocks and movements of ISR that lead to subject control will obviously be perceived – especially in coronial, criminal and civil courts where perception can make or break a case – to be less aggressive than the punches, kicks and pain compliance currently taught.



Another important aspect of ISR that needs to be considered is reassessment, or situational awareness.

All police and military are taught the use-of-force model that requires them to reassess an incident constantly, but are never taught to do that during the practical component of operational skills training (OST). ISR does.

Within four to five hours of starting the three-day course, students were defending themselves from and controlling multiple opponents, requiring them to constantly

remain aware of their surroundings and reassess the situation.

If operators need to disengage from the threat, again, that is addressed within ISR.

Even offenders using passive resistance can be dealt with in a non-violent but effective manner.

The other common problem in DT/OST training today is that if an offender goes to ground on their back, the techniques used to get them onto their front for handcuffing can easily be perceived as excessive force. ISR again addresses this

issue, using techniques that easily enable operators to control the subject and move them into a better position.

All the drills used by ISR are basic natural movements, using the natural movements of the offender to control them. No pain compliance and no joint locks. At all times, ISR allows the user to escalate or disengage, depending on the circumstances.

ISR training comprises three streams. Everybody undertakes the initial three-day subject control program, which makes them proficient in the fundamentals of the system. Further training is available within the separate streams of physical management (civilian), law enforcement and armed forces.

The basic law-enforcement course is an additional two days and includes retention, disarms, counter-knife, vehicle extraction and team subject-control tactics.

Current DT/OST packages have a very heavy emphasis on joint locks and pain compliance and, because of the pain and injuries resulting from those techniques, the training is predominantly performed on static and compliant subjects, at half speed or slower. There is no ability to perfect techniques on non-compliant, moving or multiple opponents, simply because the likely outcome is injury instead of control.

Even when practiced at half-speed, injuries have resulted from current training, so it is hard to understand how administrators are happy that that training is in accordance with the National Guidelines on Use of Force. Causing both operators and 'clients' to be injured during relatively low-level use-of-force incidents is not a success, but a failure. And this failure is guaranteed by using inferior training and techniques.

Also, using pain compliance techniques when humans naturally resist pain means that our police organisations are training their frontline officers in techniques that actually cause people to resist arrest.

By contrast, the techniques of ISR can be practiced at full speed, against multiple opponents, with the most serious injury

Extreme Medical/ Critical Response – tactical trauma care

Extreme Medical offered tactical medical-skills training using lessons from current global conflicts. Session facilitators pride themselves on providing the very best advice, most applicable equipment for operator needs and the most up-to-date training for modern environments using the very latest techniques. Training methods included reality-based casualty-care simulations, including the use of moulage (special-effects make up) to ensure that mock injuries assessed and treated in training accurately depicted real-life incidents. The trainers are former special-forces medics with extensive operational experience across a range of conflicts and with numerous allied SF units.

likely to occur being a few bruises and physical exertion. That alone makes ISR vastly superior to any contemporary Police DT/OST package in use today. If no injuries are caused when drilled at full-speed, and control of an offender is still able to be achieved, then naturally, there will be reduced criticism of police actions, fewer law-suits and reduced compensation costs, among other benefits.

ISR truly bridges the chasm that exists in current DT/OST training today. Current training can only be used on static subjects, one at a time, at slow speed, with operators being unable to apply those techniques in a sweaty, full-speed street incident with multiple offenders. Not only can ISR work on the street but it can be practiced at full speed.

In my opinion, the benefit of having these relevant techniques used as PT, combined with the skills built up during an additional 20 to 30 hours of ISR training during PT for the remainder of a course will result in operators who are confident and capable of handling themselves without having to resort to aerosol subject restraints,

electronic control devices, batons, pain-compliance joint locks or even currently taught techniques such as punches and kicks that never look good to witnesses. That alone would reduce the cost of excessive-force complaints and lawsuits, not to mention the cost of out-of-court settlements.

Those managers and trainers who have convinced themselves that they are currently using 'world's best practice' in DT/OST training really ought to consider ISR Matrix as a viable and valuable training method for our police and military operators.

Tactical Week Australia brought together actual experienced subject-matter experts with extensive operational experience as opposed to those who merely completed instructor courses in the subject. And the difference in the quality of training provided during TWA as opposed to 'official' training was glaringly obvious.

After 10 days of training, the trainees who completed all facets of the TWA schedule were obviously operating more efficiently and effectively than the vast majority of on-line police and military personnel.

In my opinion, the value of this training for frontline operators cannot be understated. However, it was a shame that more senior-management-level personnel did not attend to enable them to see what training is available today. Simply providing the same stagnant training as has been done for the past decade or more can no longer be excused.

I truly look forward to future TWA events and encourage anyone involved in law-enforcement, corrections, security or military operations to attend.

Planning for Tactical Week Australia 2011 is already under way. For information, visit www.tacticalweekaustralia.com

AusTac – tactical firearms training

The AusTac Training and Development team's mission is to provide armed professionals with the highest-quality, realistic and operationally specific training possible – to enable the operator to prevail in high-risk environments.

While their training and simulation methodology is unique, their operational doctrine is not specifically theirs – it is however a fusion of what is available, delivered by a team that has seen operational action from Vietnam to Rhodesia to Iraq and, along the way, survived several gunshot wounds in more than 100 contacts. AusTac has provided tactical firearms training for many specialist units in Australia and overseas.

