THREAT SUPPRESSION, INCORPORATED

THREAT SUPPRESSION®

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Asymmetric Counter-Assault Training (ACAT)™

Executive Summary:

Asymmetric Counter-Assault Training (ACAT) is an eight to sixteen-hour program for active law-enforcement and military law-enforcement personnel who may need to counter attacks designed to exploit predictable response patterns. The course examines how perpetrators use ambushes, denial of entry, fire, vehicles, explosives, chemical or smoke munitions, pre-attack intelligence, and mobile attacks to create confusion, delay response, and increase casualties. Participants move from historical case studies and attacker behavior to counter-assault decision-making at the patrol, supervisory, tactical, and command levels. The sixteen-hour option adds controlled practical application when the host can provide an appropriate training environment and approved equipment.

THE CHALLENGE: Active assailant after-action reports repeatedly identify gaps in responder preparation for asymmetric threats that fall outside a conventional active shooter response model. These incidents may involve barricaded subjects, fire-as-a-weapon, explosives, hostage situations, multiple or mobile attackers, secondary attack locations, denial of entry, or other tactics designed to delay, divide, or confuse the response.

Course Overview:

Asymmetric Counter-Assault Training (ACAT) examines how attacks can exploit predictable responder routines, access points, communications, protection gaps, and assumptions that support conventional response models. The course uses historical case studies and operational analysis to examine ambushes, denial of entry, fire, vehicles, explosives, chemical or smoke munitions, pre-attack intelligence, mobile perpetrators, and coordinated or multi-scene attacks. Participants consider how law-enforcement personnel at the patrol, supervisory, tactical, intelligence, and command levels can recognize the attack method, prioritize life safety and responder protection, manage incomplete information, control access and movement, coordinate resources, and adapt as conditions change. ACAT is available as an eight-hour lecture or a sixteen-hour lecture-and-practical program, with practical activities developed alongside the host agency and conducted within approved policy, equipment, authority, and safety requirements.

Course at a Glance:

Length	Eight-hour lecture program or sixteen-hour lecture-and-practical program, with the practical scope finalized during planning.
Format	In-person, instructor-led training using case studies, operational analysis, discussion, and approved practical exercises when included.
Audience	Active civilian or military law enforcement, fire, and EMS personnel. This course is not offered for the general public.
Prerequisites	The host agency is responsible for participant eligibility and approval.
Class Size	Host-specific. Final enrollment depends on instructor-to-student ratios, practical station capability, facility limits, and safety requirements.
Classification	Law Enforcement Sensitive / Unclassified.
Cost	$6,000 for one full-day lecture program. Qualifying government agencies is $5,000 a day. Travel and lodging are additional. Practical training is customized and requires separate pricing.

What Participants Will Learn:

Understanding the asymmetric operational problem

Asymmetric attacks are designed to create an advantage by exploiting a responder's assumptions, routines, access points, communications, or protection gaps. The attacker may use a familiar setting or a conventional weapon, but the sequence, target selection, timing, movement, or secondary hazard creates a problem that does not fit a simple active-assailant response model. ACAT gives law-enforcement personnel a framework for recognizing that shift and adapting before the response becomes predictable.

The course is built for active law-enforcement and military law-enforcement personnel. It is not a general-public or civilian security course. Instruction can be delivered as an eight-hour lecture or expanded to a sixteen-hour program that includes approved practical application. The host agency remains responsible for participant eligibility, local policy, operational authorization, and the safe use of agency equipment.

Attack methods and case-based analysis

Participants examine recurring attack methods and the response problems they create. Topics include fire-as-a-weapon, vehicle-as-a-weapon, explosives, denial of entry, chemical and smoke munitions, extensive pre-attack intelligence gathering, mobile perpetrators, ambushes, and attacks that create multiple scenes or secondary threats. Case studies may include the Dubrovka Theater attack in Moscow, the Beslan school attack, the Mumbai attacks, the Aurora theater attack, the Forsyth County courthouse attack, the Nice attack, and the Paris attacks. The purpose is not to memorize incident histories. It is to identify the operational decisions, assumptions, and vulnerabilities that affect counter-assault performance.

Counter-assault decision-making

ACAT examines counter-assault tactics across the response spectrum, from patrol officers and first-line supervisors to specialized tactical teams. Participants consider how to recognize the attack method, protect responding personnel, organize information, make access and movement decisions, manage secondary hazards, and coordinate with other law-enforcement resources. The emphasis is on disciplined adaptation within the agency's authority, training, equipment, and policy rather than on a single universal tactic.

Operational judgment under pressure

The practical option uses controlled, scenario-based application to test recognition, prioritization, communication, movement, and adaptation. Practical activities are selected with the host and may be limited by facility conditions, equipment, instructor qualifications, and agency policy. The course does not authorize live operations, expand a participant's law-enforcement authority, or replace agency qualification programs.

Delivery Options

ACAT can be scheduled as an eight-hour lecture or as a sixteen-hour lecture-and-practical program. Both options use the same core framework. The longer program gives participants additional time to apply the concepts to approved scenarios, evaluate decision points, and identify agency-specific gaps in policy, training, equipment, communications, and coordination.

Eight-hour lecture program

The lecture program establishes a shared understanding of asymmetric attack methods, historical case studies, perpetrator behavior, response vulnerabilities, and counter-assault priorities. It is appropriate when the host wants a common operating framework for a broad law-enforcement audience or when practical facilities and equipment are not available. The host receives the instruction specified in the formal scope and quote.

Sixteen-hour lecture and practical program

The sixteen-hour option adds controlled practical application. Participants work through approved scenarios that require them to recognize the attack method, make time-sensitive decisions, communicate changing information, protect responders, and adapt as conditions change. The practical component is not a live-fire qualification and does not replace an agency's firearms, tactical, hazardous-materials, medical, or other certification requirements.

Agency application and sustainment

The course is intended to inform agency planning after delivery. Leaders should use the material to review response plans, identify training and equipment gaps, examine communications and command relationships, and determine how asymmetric attack considerations fit within existing policy. Threat Suppression can discuss customized scenarios, additional practical stations, and follow-on exercises through a separate scope and quote.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of the program, participants will be able to:

1. Define asymmetric attack tactics and explain how they differ from a conventional active-assailant response problem.
2. Identify attack methods that may exploit responder routines, access points, communications, protection gaps, or predictable movement.
3. Analyze historical case studies to identify perpetrator objectives, operational effects, and counter-assault decision points.
4. Recognize the implications of fire-as-a-weapon, vehicle-as-a-weapon, explosives, denial of entry, chemical or smoke munitions, and mobile attacks.
5. Evaluate information from dispatch, witnesses, officers, intelligence sources, and other agencies when reports are incomplete or conflicting.
6. Prioritize life safety, threat containment, responder protection, access, movement, and information management during an evolving attack.
7. Apply counter-assault concepts appropriate to the participant's assignment, training, equipment, agency policy, and lawful authority.
8. Coordinate patrol, supervisory, tactical, intelligence, and command functions when an incident creates multiple scenes or secondary threats.
9. Recognize indicators that an initial attack may be part of a broader, coordinated, or continuing threat.
10. Adapt tactics and decisions as the attack method, location, threat behavior, casualty picture, or available resources change.
11. Demonstrate disciplined communication and team coordination during approved practical or scenario-based application.
12. Identify agency-specific policy, training, equipment, communications, and exercise needs related to asymmetric attack response.

Host Agency Requirements:

The host is responsible for coordinating the facilities, participants, equipment, approvals, and safety resources required for the selected delivery option. The host must confirm that participants meet the law-enforcement or military law-enforcement eligibility requirement and that the selected practical environment can safely support the approved activities. Threat Suppression and the host should identify practical stations, equipment, staffing, and safety controls during scheduling.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND CLASSROOM REQUIREMENTS

- Provide a suitable classroom, computer, projector, screen, and audio system for lecture instruction.
- Register eligible participants and provide a final roster before delivery.
- Identify the host training officer, safety officer, emergency contacts, medical support, and operational points of contact.
- Confirm agency approvals, local policy requirements, participant screening, and any required continuing-education documentation

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PRACTICAL DELIVERY

- Provide a controlled training location suitable for the approved scenarios and participant movement.
- Provide agency-approved inert or training weapons, protective equipment, communications equipment, vehicles, props, role players, or other resources identified in the formal scope.
- Provide qualified host personnel, safety staffing, emergency medical support, and an approved risk-management plan for the selected practical activities.

About Threat Suppression:

Threat Suppression, Incorporated is a research-driven safety, security, and public-safety training and consulting firm founded in 2012. The company is a leading provider of integrated active assailant training for the Department of War, providing more than 165 classes at 45 major installations. The company has invested more than 50,000 hours in internal active assailant research. Threat Suppression serves as a principal member of NFPA 3000 and participates in multiple state and federal ASHE workgroups that shape national active assailant preparedness standards and policy.

The company's leadership has commanded multiple active assailant events. Members of the company's leadership have commanded active-assailant events and served as lead authors of the 2021 Oxford High School mass-shooting after-action report, one of the most comprehensive analyses of an active-assailant incident response. Threat Suppression provides active assailant preparedness, rescue task force training, emergency management support, behavioral threat assessment and management, exercises, after-action reviews, and physical security services to federal agencies, military installations, public safety organizations, healthcare systems, schools, and private organizations. Our work combines operational experience, applied research, and field-tested instruction.

To Schedule or Learn More:

Phone: 1-800-231-9106
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Course Page: www.threatsuppression.com/asymmetric-attack
Website: www.threatsuppression.com