

The week of training culminates in a Field Training Exercise (FTX), which provides students with an opportunity to integrate, and implement all of the skills learned in the classroom. Topics addressed include:

- "Officer Down" Rescue & Extraction
- Hostage Survival
- Medicine Across the Barricade
- Support of Clandestine Drug Laboratory Raids
- Safe Search and Personnel Protection
- Remote Assessment Methodology
- Small Unit Movement

Continuing Education Hours have been approved through the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services in the amount of 38 hours for Paramedics and EMT - Basics.

Successful completion of this 56-hour course results in certification of completed training as an EMT-T for a three year period. Reregistration requires successful completion of specific continuing education training. Authorization to perform special skills must be obtained from the medical control authority of your system.

### THE ADVANCED SCHOOL

The need for advanced training in Protective Medicine has become apparent over the years that the EMT-Tactical school has been offered. To meet this growing need, the CONTOMS program now offers The Advanced School. This school goes beyond the basics taught in EMT-Tactical and builds on the foundation of TEMS science. The Advanced School is intended for actively practicing EMT-T's and relies heavily on small group learning and practical applications.

The Advanced school includes:

- Clinical Forensic Science

- Special Extraction and Rescue Tactics
- Advanced Clinical Procedures
- Sick Call: Diagnosis and Management

The **Commanders Course** is an eight-hour program designed for command-level public safety supervisors who manage medical personnel assigned to tactical teams. Emphasis is on the benefits of integrating medical support into the planning and execution phases and on those things the commander can reasonably expect from the tactical medic.

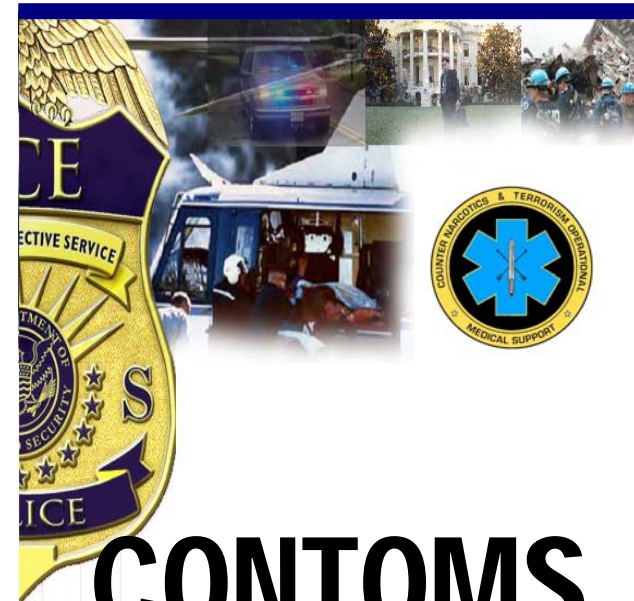
The **Medical Directors Course** is an eight-hour course designed for physicians and others who provide medical control for prehospital personnel operating with tactical law enforcement teams. This course details the rationale and scientific basis for modified standards and scope of practice in the tactical environment. Quality assurance mechanisms and direct physician involvement at the local level are recommended.

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**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE  
OFFICE OF PROTECTIVE MEDICINE



# CONTOMS Programs



*Uniformed Services University*

## CONTOMS

Law enforcement remains a dangerous occupation. A total of **1,649** law enforcement officers died in the line of duty during the past 10 years, an average of one death every **53.5** hours or **164** per year. There were **153** law enforcement officers killed in 2004. On average, more than **57,000** law enforcement officers are assaulted each year, resulting in some **17,000** injuries.<sup>1</sup> Our own data suggest that SWAT Team members are at high risk for injury, sustaining a casualty rate as high as 9 per 1000 officer-missions.

The **Counter Narcotics and Terrorism Operational Medical Support (CONTOMS)** Program is a cooperative effort between the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration Customs Enforcement, Federal Protective Service, and the Uniformed Services University; the Department of Interior, United States Park Police Special Forces Branch; and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine. This program was started in 1990 to meet the need for specialized medical training to support law enforcement special operations. **EMT-Tactical (EMT-T)**, the cornerstone of the program, is a one-week, 56-hour continuing education module for personnel who are already trained at the EMT level or higher. Candidates must be sponsored by a bona fide law enforcement agency.

## BACKGROUND

Law enforcement and the military services have long recognized that medical support of special operations can enhance the probability of mission success. This type of support requires a unique, additional expertise, which is complementary to the basic qualifications of prehospital health care providers.

Community emergency medical services (EMS) systems in the United States and abroad were developed to respond to the needs of individual patients in controlled situations. However, in some locales, emergency medical technicians trained for the EMS role have been pressed into service to support counter terrorism, drug interdiction and other law enforcement activities without any additional training. These activities have become increasingly specialized in nature, characterized by prolonged operations, organized opposing forces, use of military-type weapons, and increasing death and injury among law enforcement officers, perpetrators and innocent citizens.

The goals of the CONTOMS Program are to offer a nationally standardized curriculum, certification process and quality improvement procedure to meet the needs of those EMTs, paramedics, and physicians who operate as part of a law enforcement team. Additionally, the program tracks data to assure that the educational efforts is evidence based, so that it meets the dynamic needs of the law enforcement and EMS communities. Finally, the program faculty are available for consultation to Federal, state and local agencies to help meet immediate requirements, solve urgent problems or conduct needs assessments.

## EMT-TACTICAL

Students graduating from the EMT-Tactical school will be able to integrate the following skills into their agencies' standard operations:

- Recognize and treat unique wounding patterns resulting from deliberate interpersonal aggression.
- Use medical care skills that are appropriate in hostile, austere and prolonged transport environments.

- Assess and plan for preventive medicine needs in sustained operations.
- Provide preventive medical care in sustained operations.
- Explain medical and physiological parameters that lead to performance decrement and implement plans that minimize those effects.
- Develop and apply injury control strategies.
- Produce and analyze medical intelligence and execute a Medical Threat Assessment.
- Apply special law enforcement principles to the delivery of medical care.

The basic EMT-T curriculum includes the following subjects:

- Medical Threat Assessment and Medical Intelligence
- Care Under Fire
- Forensic Interpretation of GSW
- Medical Support of Specific Operations
- Weapons and Their Effects
- Toxic Hazards
- Medical Effects of Extended Operations
- Special Equipment and Medical Kits

Several hands-on laboratories are included in the rigorous training schedule:

- Physical Assessment Under Sensory Deprivation/Overload Conditions
- Medical Support in Civil Disorder
- Advanced Medical-Tactical Procedures
- Hasty Decontamination
- Safe Search Techniques
- Management of Dental Injuries

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<sup>1</sup>National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund