Practical Exercise – Diffusion Techniques

Scenario 1

You are dispatched to a domestic violence call. When you arrive at the house, you and your partner are advised by the wife that since her husband has returned from “the war,” he has been verbally abusive to her and their 6-year old child. He will not participate in any family activities and all he wants to do is drink and play war video games. When you ask the husband, he refuses to talk to you and tells you “to talk to her,” pointing at his wife, “she is the one that called you.” She tells you that her husband has been deployed to Afghanistan three times. The third time, his Humvee was hit with an improvised explosive device (IED), killing his driver and wounding himself and two other members of his team. What would you recommend to the family members? How would you begin a conversation with the returning veteran?

Scenario 2

You respond to a car impeding the flow of traffic call. When you arrive on the busy roadway, you see a black Ford F-150 in the left lane at the traffic light with no one around the vehicle. Since it is 5:15 pm, traffic is starting to back up and cars are having a hard time getting around the vehicle. When you get behind the vehicle and activate your emergency lights, you see a man with a military style haircut on the right shoulder of the road. He is gasping for breath, as if hyperventilating. When you ask him if that is his truck, he nods “yes” and you notice tears on his face. You ask if he is having engine trouble and he replies, “No, I just had to get out of the vehicle. I felt like I was going to die.” What would you do with the vehicle? How would you interact with the driver?

Scenario 3

You are in the locker room, getting off from your shift. A fellow law enforcement officer comes into the locker room. You notice it is Dave, who has just returned from a year deployment with his unit to Iraq. You have not seen Dave since he got back and you exchange greetings. Dave turns away from you and opens his locker. When you are getting ready to leave, you accidentally slam your locker a little harder than usual, making a loud sound. Dave whips around and draws his firearm and points it at you. He has a look in eyes that you have never seen on him. He lowers his weapon immediately and is trembling and starts apologizing profusely. How would you begin your conversation with him? What resources would you offer to him?