

AAR – Low Light Instructor Course, 2022

Hey Erik,

... here's more of my input from the class (finally).

1. Really enjoyed the lecture/power point, in particular case law and the finer points of candela vs lumens vs throw vs spill. Most instructors have little to no understanding of those concepts....throw in your average cop and you know how that goes. It was a great review for me and would have provided a good base of knowledge for new instructors.

2. The review of flashlight techniques with both long gun and handgun was quite comprehensive. The fact that just reviewing those in daylight hours shows folks that you do not need darkness to practice such techniques to be effective. Hell, when I am working on my own in a public indoor range I can work the techniques.

3. The discussion on various types of lighting conditions was useful and to me a verification of what I learned out on patrol. I worked 2200-0800 most of my time in the field. I stress to folks not to rely too much on their lights since generally speaking there is a bit of ambient light that you can work with. A lot of times I see guys using lights as a crutch when really they do not need to.

4. I would have liked to have seen more building search exercises. I know you were working with what you had which is that one classroom area. That being said, it was still a good exercise in showing how light can work for us. It was also a well designed exercise in that you had us hiding out as bad guy so we could see it from the suspect's perspective.

5. The practical application vehicle stop/area search was also outstanding....never done that before (or if I did I do not remember). Lots of takeaways from it and I will be stealing those exercises. Back in the day when Universal Studios was more cop friendly, LASD was able to use the back lot to do area searches with deputies. That exercise reminded me of the stories that guys had of being able to do that and I wish we could do it more often.

6. Emphasis on use of a secondary light and limiting your use of the weapon mounted light was great. Too often (and I have been guilty of this) cops get used to using the weapon mounted light for everything. Even just modifying how you use the weapon mounted light to search is something I will take back home. We recently had a highly publicized incident wherein a deputy was using his weapon mounted light on a bunch of folks (basically muzzling folks you do not need to muzzle) so this issue came up at an executive level recently. I will be touching on Sonic.net Webmail :: Cougar Mountain Low Light Instructor Course
https://webmail.sonic.net/?_task=mail&_safe=0&_uid=10027&_mbo...

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this more when we talk about low light tactics.

7. I am really curious in how you would run long gun drills with a shotgun. Gonzo is actively recruiting folks to see if we can fill up a class with you. I am still a big shotgun fan unlike alot of cops so I'd like to get some low light work with a boomer.

8. Maybe its my background on primarily doing force on force work, but I would like to see force on force work in low light courses. Scenario training involving no shoot/shoot contacts (traffic stops, ped stops, building searches) would have been great. Its one thing working static targets, but its another thing dealing with living/breathing unknowns and suspects. But I get it, you have to work within time/cost/venue constraints.

9. I have yet to start flipping thru the info dump you put on my flash drive. I glanced at it briefly but it seems like there's some good comprehensive info there.

Bottom line Erik...the class was great. It would be a good foundation to give to cops both on the user and instructor levels. In general we do not get alot of low light training yet alot of our work involves low light regardless of what shift you work. Really there are not many presenters of this material out there and I am surprised you do not get more work putting this information out.

I forgot to mention that I really wanted to take the class to get some good reps running pistol mounted optics in low light and I was satisfied with the work that I got. I also got some good work clearing pistol malfunctions too...haha.

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