



**AERIAL PLATFORM
OPERATIONS COURSE**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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Mark has published several articles on Aerial Platform Operations in the NTOA's Tactical Edge & Law Enforcement Technology

HOST AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

Our Aerial Platform Operations, (APO), Course is a 36-hour, 4-day course. The course requires a minimum of one helicopter dedicated to the training all four days and we strive for a student to helicopter ratio of 8:1. Additional students typically would require an additional helicopter provided if the agency could acquiesce. The success of the course is dependent upon maximum repetitions for each student and pilot emphasizing classroom concepts and safety. The host agency is responsible for the following.

RANGE REQUIREMENTS

Every Law Enforcement Firearms Training Centers differs, but APO can be conducted safely if certain criteria exists. Below are the minimum criteria to conduct on-site at an FTC.

- Minimum rifle range length of 200 yards with a minimum 500 yards' safe impact area behind it and 100 yards safe impact area in front of it.
- 50 yard flat range for static shooting @ flight idle.
- Ability to place vehicles on a range to be fired at from altitude.
- Ability to shoot steel targets on the above ranges.



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- No excessive power lines or stations in proximity to the FTC. This is the call of the aircrew that will be flying the helicopters in use.
- Classroom on site at range facility that is audio/visual capable.
- If private range is utilized and is a considerable distance from aviation hangar, Instructors request that a refueling truck be on site to minimize refueling times.

SECURED OPEN AREA OR FLAT RANGE.

This area is needed for Moving Target approach to be trained. For live fire training we request your agency's Bearcat or ARV be utilized. The ARV would pull a vehicle hood on the ground at a specified distance behind it. This would encompass a tow chain or cable and area sufficient to pull at minimal speeds (40-50 mph) while students fire at the hood from altitude.

- **TARGET REQUIREMENTS.** Minimum (6) six pieces of IPSC size (18"X31") steel on elevated stands. Several pieces of cardboard to place below the steel against the stand. Minimum (2) two vehicles that may be shot during the course (vehicles do not need to be operable).

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

All Pilots/TFO's are encouraged to attend. We realize with multiple shifts and call availability this may not be possible. Our training is designed for Pilots/TFO's and SWAT personnel and each aspect of communication is discussed in classroom and then followed up with practical flight/shooting. If pilot participation is limited, we encourage your agency to have the CFI's (Chief Flight Instructor) attend with one other senior pilot to Train the Trainer with the remainder of pilots.

- **RIFLES UTILIZED.** Students may utilize 223/5.56, 308/7.62. Instructor(s) will provide custom Ballistics Lag/Lead Data cards for each student to have. If agency request Large Caliber rifle training (50 BMG) this can usually be accommodated. Please contact instructor prior to course.
- **AMMUNITION DATA** Agency POC will provide in advance the muzzle velocities for all student's rifles that will be attending the course. Training and duty rounds.
- **BRASS CATCHERS.** Brass catchers generally are not required or needed for this course. We certainly understand that some pilots may have safety concerns and we will work to address any questions or issues before the course begins.
- **AERIAL PLATFORM EQUIPMENT.** Instructor will be teaching with purpose made equipment designed for this application. Host agency may purchase this equipment in advance of the course (Aerial Platform Slings & Adjustable Safety Lanyards) or after the course is completed. Equipment costs can be included in formal course quote.



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- **TYPE OF COURSE.** Determine whether the course will be conducted as Closed or Open. A Closed course is just for your agency and others that your agency may invite that meet the basic requirements. An Open course is open to any verified law enforcement officer on a SWAT Team or Tactical Flight Officer that meets the basic requirements of the course. In exchange for hosting an Open course the agency receives (2) complimentary spots in the course.
- **AIRCRAFT VARIATIONS.** If the host agency operates several different types of helicopters (i.e. manufacturers or airframes) we prefer to rotate the various aircrafts in during the course. Deploying Aerial Platform Operations for a crisis often cannot be predicted and due to maintenance either scheduled or unscheduled it is imperative that all types are trained during the formal course for operational readiness.
- **INCLEMENT WEATHER.** Our goal is to identify several months of the year with your agency that are ideal for this course. This course is dependent upon your aircraft flying and students shooting. We will work with you to establish the best time of the year to conduct.

TACFLOW'S INSTRUCTORS are **Subject Matter Experts (SME's)** in this field and continue to improve the course offering as current intelligence and real world deployments occur. We are here to assist you in anyway in your endeavor to host this course.

We look forward to assisting you in any way,

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