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Officers recognize, learn to survive life-threatening injuries from training

By SEAN DELANEY

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On select Tuesdays in April, May and June, members of the Shelby Township Police Department will be participating in a series of training sessions designed to improve their ability to recognize, evaluate and control life-threatening injuries, thereby increasing the victim's chances of survival.

"I see this as a natural evolution of our tactical training," Deputy Chief Mark Coil said. "We've gotten very good at providing a critical response during active shooter incidents, but our officers also need to be able to respond if they or their partners are injured in the line of duty."

With that in mind, the Shelby Township Police Department has partnered with Tactical Encounters Inc. to conduct a series of training sessions on April 26, May 3, May 10 and June 7 that will provide its officers with the knowledge and skills to proactively respond to situations involving life-threatening casualties.

"The bottom line is I need to make sure my officers are prepared to treat themselves, their partners and any residents we might come across," Police Chief Robert Shelide said.

According to Shelide, ac-



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On select Tuesdays in April, May and June, members of the Shelby Township Police Department will be participating in a series of training sessions administered by Tactical Encounters Inc. that are designed to improve their ability to recognize, evaluate and control life-threatening injuries, thereby increasing the victim's chances of survival.

tive shooter incidents involving police officers being seriously or fatally wounded in the line of duty have increased significantly over the past year.

"Studies have shown that officers who receive this type of training are more likely to survive," he said. "In fact, in 24 percent of those cases where people (who have received casualty training) have been shot, those people survive. I think we can make those numbers look even better."

Tactical Encounters will administer the training to all sworn personnel in the Shelby Township Police Department, with each session lasting approximately eight

hours. The cost of the course for each officer is \$200 for a total cost of \$13,000.

"The training will take place locally and will include Individual First Aid Kits (IFAK) for each officer for no additional charge," Shelide said, noting that each kit would normally cost \$120 if purchased separately.

According to Shelide, the training has been a part of his long-term plans for the department since he was sworn in on Jan. 19, 2015.

"This is something we identified as something we need," he said. "I want to make sure our department is prepared in the event we stumble upon a gunshot victim so that our officers can

begin treating the person themselves."

A similar training session, also administered by Tactical Encounter, was held in March 2015. It featured an active shooter scenario involving a group of gunmen invading a building and going on a murderous rampage as officers were being dispatched to the scene.

"This (training) will not be focusing on an active shooter scenario," Coil said. "Instead, we will be looking at how we deal with being injured. We already know how to bring the fight to the bad guys; this training will show us what we can do to stay in the fight longer (if injured)."