

It's not their fault, but most cops are blind.

And because they are blind, their investigative skills, driving skills, and survival skills are all compromised. They may miss evidence at crime scenes, even though it may be in plain sight. They have traffic accidents, often hitting objects and other vehicles they simply didn't see. They are assaulted by assailants, never noticing obvious visual cues or weapons prior to the attack. They are involved in controversial uses of force, based on observations made under mental conditions which will further impair their ability to see. Unfortunately, most cops don't realize they are afflicted, and therefore won't do anything to correct their condition.

The condition, known as Perceptual Blindness, has been studied extensively in scientific circles for decades, and is only now finding practical applications in fields like police work. For a profession in which observation skill plays such a critical role, understanding this is extremely important. Perceptual Blindness affects everyone to varying degrees. It is a breakdown in the complex visual recognition cycle, and can manifest itself in several ways:

- ◆ **Inattentional Blindness:** The scientific definition is the inability to detect unexpected changes or movements to which we aren't paying attention. Because vision requires attention, being distracted can cause you to miss what your eyes are sending to your brain. One can literally look at something and fail to see it.
- ◆ **Change Blindness:** The failure to notice large changes across different views of a scene, especially if it occurs during an extraneous disruption of visual continuity, such as a rapid eye movement, a flicker, a blink or distraction. Based on scientific data, a person is physically blind as much as 90 minutes of every day.
- ◆ **Cognitive Blindness:** Vision is closely tied to recognition and memory. In observation, many times the brain will take shortcuts, accessing a limited amount of actual visual input, and then relying on memory to fill in the blanks. As a result, people often see only what they expect to see, even if it isn't really there, or what they are specifically looking for, and ignoring otherwise obvious things.



Combined, these various elements of Perceptual Blindness affect police officers in every aspect of their daily duties, regardless of the assignment. The visual evidence shown in this class is compelling and frightening. Words can't do justice to the scope of the problem. This powerful presentation has to be seen to be believed.

Our **Tactical Vision** course has the following learning objectives:

- ◆ Make officers aware of the scope of the problem of Perceptual Blindness, and how it affects their performance and safety.
- ◆ Teach officers the mechanics of vision.
- ◆ Introduce officers to the various components of Perceptual Blindness.
- ◆ Teach officers how to recognize the limitations of their vision, and give them the training tools to overcome the problem.
- ◆ Teach officers how to integrate their new visual skills into daily activities like investigations, handling service calls and driving, both routine and pursuit.

Tactical Vision is an 8-hour class that will actually show police officers how to become "trained observers." To supplement the classroom instruction, officers will receive a proprietary CD, containing over 50 training exercises, which they can do at their leisure, to develop and maintain their observation skills.

The *Tactical Vision* program was originally designed for special operations personnel, but is highly recommended for all police officers.

Class sizes and schedules can be customized to fit your department's training needs. Contact Snipercraft, (863) 385-7835, to discuss details and pricing.