

November 11, 2022

TO:

GEORGEANNE WHITE, City Manager

Office of the City Manager

FROM:

PACO BALDERRAMA, Chief of Police Office of the Chief

SUBJECT:

ADVANCED COMBAT EVOLUTIONS, OWNER MATT ALEXANDER, UNIQUELY QUALIFIFED TO INSTRUCT CA POST APPROVED BASIC SNIPER CLASS OFFERED BY FRESNO POLICE DEPARTMENT

REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER

The Fresno Police Department Regional Training Center holds over 37 California P.O.S.T. approved training classes and offers law enforcement training covering a wide range of topics from basic skills to advanced specialty skills. Some sworn positions within law enforcement agencies in the state of California require specialized skills and training that are strictly regulated and mandated by both the California Penal Code and the California Peace Officers Standards and Training (CA P.O.S.T.) commission. An officer being assigned to a SWAT team within the state of California and designated as a precision marksman (or sniper) on the SWAT team has such a standard and regulation. Therefore, those officers must attend and successfully pass a 2-week CA P.O.S.T. approved and certified basic sniper course in order to serve as a certified sniper on an agencies SWAT team in the state.

The Fresno Police Department Regional Training Center possess a 2-week CA P.O.S.T. approved Basic Sniper class certification and has since 2013. The Fresno Police Department Regional Training Center (FPDRTC) entered a partnership with then Fresno Sheriff's Office Lieutenant and SWAT Commander Matt Alexander, owner of Advanced Combat Evolutions, to fulfill a need for a certified basic sniper course in our region. The purpose of this partnership served several benefits; first a private training groups in the state of California could not obtain CA P.O.S.T. approval certification on their training courses, and therefore Matt Alexander could not offer a basic sniper class to fulfill this need. However, Matt Alexander possesses a unique and wide range of experience and training in the SWAT sniper community. Matt Alexander had the credibility, knowledge, and experience to appropriately teach this class and is well known throughout the state as a subject matter expert in precision marksmanship and is one of only a handful of peace officers in the state that has this level of knowledge, experience and ability to teach this subject at a professional level. Secondly, the Fresno Police Department at that time did not have an officer assigned to the Training Unit with the level of experience or training equal to Matt Alexander, and therefore did not have

an instructor uniquely qualified enough to teach the basic sniper course. As a result, the FPDRTC created the P.O.S.T. approved basic sniper course and relied on Matt Alexander as a 1099 employee, contracting his company Advanced Combat Evolutions, to be the lead instructor for this course. This relationship has been mutually beneficial since 2013 and serves the law enforcement community throughout our region and the state.

Captain Matt Alexander has been a SWAT sniper since 1997, was assigned as a sniper to the Fresno Sheriffs Office SWAT team as an operator, Sniper Team Leader at the rank of Sergeant, and as the SWAT Commander at the rank of Lieutenant. He is currently a Captain with the Fresno Sheriffs Office and remains current on sniper related materials as he teaches other classes within the sniper community that do not hold the same level of expectation or requirement by law or by CA P.O.S.T. as in the basic sniper course. He is also an instructor and organizing member of the California Association of Tactical Officers, specifically in precision marksmanship and sniper applications and holds every sniper operator and sniper instructor certification in the state of California.

It is also important to note that this is arrangement saves the city a substantial amount of money. Matt Alexander has taught this class at the FPDRTC between two and four times a year, each year since 2013. The FPDRTC generates a substantial amount of revenue from this course each year that goes back into the city's general fund. Another added benefit is, because the FPDRTC owns the certification for the class, we have (and will continue to do so) sent our FPD SWAT snipers to this required course at no charge to the city. This equates to thousands of dollars in savings in tuition, travel, hotel expenses and per diem to maintain the legal requirements as outlined in law and by the CA P.O.S.T. commission.

Approved X	Not Approved	
City Manager Signature:	Surht	

JH