

# TACTICAL POLYGRAPH



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Polygraph Unit  
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## OVERVIEW

- Benefits of a Tactical Polygraph
- Objectives of Law Enforcement
- Comparison of traditional polygraph vs. tactical polygraph
- Tactical polygraph process
- Review, questions, and evaluations

## OBJECTIVES

- Define Tactical Polygraph
- Understand the differences between a tactical polygraph and a standard diagnostic polygraph
- Understand when a tactical polygraph could be utilized
- Understand the integrated approach in which tactical polygraphs are utilized

**"People are more comfortable with old problems than they are with new solutions."**

**- John Maxwell**

## THE VALUE OF INFORMATION OBTAINED DURING TACTICAL POLYGRAPH

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • Video confession of offense(s)                      | • May factor in the suspect's decision to take a plea |
| • Additional charges against suspect                  | • Identify additional suspects                        |
| • Identify unknown victims                            | • Discover evidence                                   |
| • May persuade a hesitant prosecutor to take the case | • Save a child from further abuse                     |
| • May enhance punishment                              | • Prevent other children from being victimized        |

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## OBJECTIVES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN SEX CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

- Arrest offenders
- Identify victims
- Protect victims
- Provide victims access to services

Does normal polygraph procedure fully meet the objectives of law enforcement in sex crimes against children?

- Arrest offenders
  - Yes, but are they held fully accountable?

Does normal polygraph procedure fully meet the objectives of law enforcement in sex crimes against children?

- Identify victims
  - Yes, but usually falls short.
  - Rarely identifies unknown victims

Does normal polygraph procedure fully meet the objectives of law enforcement in sex crimes against children?

- Protect victims
  - Partially, only victims identified (generally only the outcry victim)
  - Offender not being held fully accountable could lead to future victims

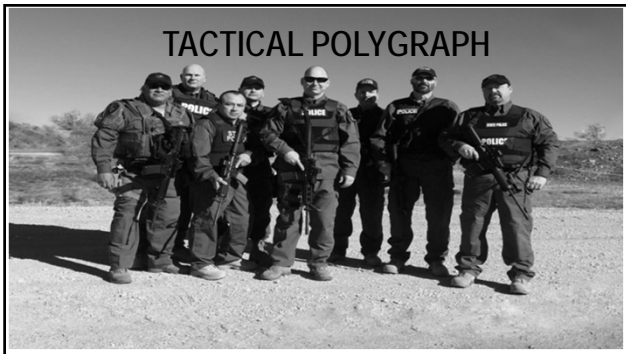
Does normal polygraph procedure fully meet the objectives of law enforcement in sex crimes against children?

- Provide victims access to services
  - No, we cannot help victims we do not know exist

How can Tactical polygraphs meet the objectives of law enforcement in sex crimes against children?

- Integrated approach
  - Case Agent
  - Forensic review of evidence
  - Tactical polygraph
  - Victim Services

So what is a Tactical Polygraph?



### DEFINITION OF TACTICAL POLYGRAPH

- A polygraph examination administered as soon as possible after the point of first contact with a suspect as an investigative tool for gathering immediately actionable information.

### DEFINITION OF TACTICAL POLYGRAPH

- In the context of child exploitation cases: polygraph examinations intended to assist with producing a more complete and truthful interview regarding the facts of the offense under investigation and the individual's history of offending against children.

### TRADITIONAL POLYGRAPH VS TACTICAL POLYGRAPH

#### Traditional Polygraph

- When conducted?
  - After thorough investigation
- Test covers what issue?
  - Specific issue

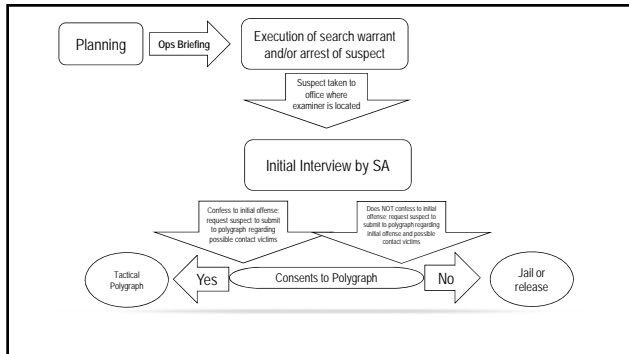
#### Tactical Polygraph

- When conducted?
  - Generally just after first contact with subject
- Test covers
  - Screening test for previous sexual abuse of children

### TRADITIONAL POLYGRAPH VS TACTICAL POLYGRAPH

- The administration of the polygraph during the earliest stages of the investigation is the major difference.
- The Tactical polygraph could be thought of as a "screening" examination.

### TACTICAL POLYGRAPH PROCESS



### TACTICAL POLYGRAPH PROCESS

- Case Agent coordinate as soon as possible with polygraph examiner
  - DPS examiners average 206 exams a year; most have test scheduled 2-3 weeks, or more in advance
- Examiners can request additional examiners to assist in operation
- Examiners can stress the importance of the initial interview

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### TACTICAL POLYGRAPH PROCESS

- Examiners present during operational briefing
  - Provide an overview of the tactical polygraph
  - Advise on the importance of professional conduct of all officers in contact with offenders
    - Arrest team
    - Transport officers
    - Officers in the office
    - Initial interviewers

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### TACTICAL POLYGRAPH PROCESS

- Examiner briefs initial interviewers to discuss strategy
  - Initial interviewers must build rapport
- Short interview regarding initial offense with the following goals:
  - Obtain admission to initial offense
  - Inquire about previous contact victims
  - Get commitment to being a nonviolent person

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### TACTICAL POLYGRAPH PROCESS

- Lay foundation for polygraph by comparing nonviolent and violent persons. "We want to show the world, the offender is not a violent rapist, kidnapper, killer, or even a serial killer."
- The polygraph is the only way we can prove to the world that the offender is not a violent person. Because some people we arrest in cases like this are violent, that's why they used SWAT to make the arrest. (cognitive dissonance)

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### TACTICAL POLYGRAPH PROCESS

- Offender taken into custody and transported to interview location for initial interview.
- Initial interview conducted (examiner should monitor remotely)
  - Offender requested to take polygraph
    - Refuse to polygraph – Jail or release
    - Consent to polygraph – interviewer introduces the examiner

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### TACTICAL POLYGRAPH PROCESS

- Initial interviewer briefs examiner
  - Not just about interview, all pertinent details
    - Chat logs
    - Evidence discovered at scene or on the offender
    - Items discovered that maybe instruments of crime (taser, zip ties, duct tape, etc.)

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### TACTICAL POLYGRAPH PROCESS

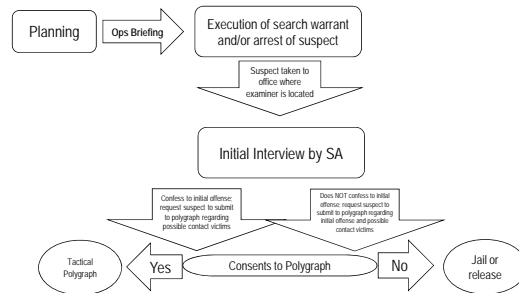
- Examiner conducts polygraph
  - Target issues:
    - Original offense (if not cleared during initial interview)
    - Sexual contact with child
    - Child porn

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### TACTICAL POLYGRAPH PROCESS

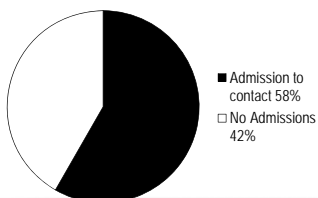
- Examiner reports findings to case agent
  - Subject transported to jail / released pending charges
- Victim services
- CPS

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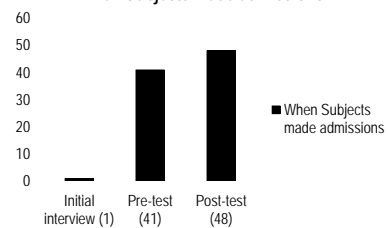
### RESULTS

Subjects Admitting to Contact Victims



### RESULTS

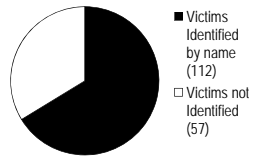
When Subjects made admissions



## RESULTS

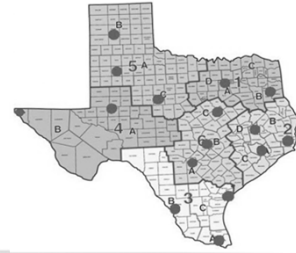
- Several subjects admitted to more than one victim
- Several subjects made admissions at more than one time during polygraph

Total Contact Victims (169)



## DPS Polygraph Unit

- Part of CID – Investigative Support Section
- 17 Special Agents – Assigned in Field across Texas
- 3 Lieutenants – HQ Austin
- 1 Captain – HQ Austin



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Questions?



Captain Matt Mull

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## COMPLETING YOUR EVALUATIONS

- It is important that you complete an evaluation for every presentation that you attend.
- Your certificate for attending the conference will list only those workshops for which you have completed an evaluation.