

**POST CRITICAL INCIDENT SEMINAR (PCIS) XIV
FOR
SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND SPOUSES
July 19-21, 2010**

The Overall Goal of the Training: turning vulnerability into strength through learning, utilizing and offering peer support.

This is an experiential workshop for officers who have "been there". Despite the best support immediately following a critical incident, there can be long lasting effects. Going through a critical incident is like crossing a fence, with no opportunity to jump back. A critical incident can rupture an officer's basic worldview. You are vulnerable and have to emotionally come to grips with a reality that the uninitiated cannot understand. The job, the street, and one's weapon are perceived differently. The PCIS will provide education on trauma, patterns of resolution, and field-tested coping strategies to promote recovery and resilience. Peer support is an important element of the PCIS. Discussion of incidents with fellow officers who have "been there" promotes normalization and recovery. This format has been in use by the FBI for over 25 years.

What is a Critical Incident? A Critical Incident is any event that results in an overwhelming sense of vulnerability and/or loss of control. These include line of duty shootings, getting shot or seriously hurt on the job, high speed pursuits that end in tragedy, events that bring prolonged and critical media attention, personal tragedies and the like.

What will I get out of this? An opportunity to share one's experience with one's peers, give and receive support, sessions with law enforcement related mental health professionals utilizing proven trauma recovery methods, and learn coping strategies that will enable recovery from past critical incidents and strengthen one's ability to deal with future incidents.

While several state police organizations around the country offer PCIS-type programs for their own agency, to the best of our knowledge there is no such program which is regional/statewide in scope and is offered to any officer in the state. While we may not be able to include everyone who wishes to participate in the program, we are planning a PCIS retreat which would include 35 participants and 15 facilitators. As the course fills up a waiting list will be started. The facilitators will be law enforcement peers, mental health professionals and law enforcement chaplains. This is a program which will be offered to any sworn officers in the state, including but not limited to: SLED Agents, SCDNR Officers, SCDPS officers, SCDPPP Agents, other State Police personnel, Sheriff's Deputies, Officers from local PD's and Federal Agents based in SC. **Spouses/significant others and 911 Telecommunicators are invited to attend the 2010 PCIS offerings.**

Date: July 19-21, 2010. Location: 5503 Sunset Blvd., Lexington, SC 29072-9162. Re-certification credit is available through SCCJA for sworn officers. For more information call J. Eric Skidmore: 803-252-2664 or cell 803-206-8961. Sponsor: The South Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program