

# PROJECT SHEET

## **Project Name: Regional Public Safety Training Academy: Judgmental Firearms Training Facility**

**Location:** The proposed location for the Judgmental Firearms Training Facility is on the northeast corner of the current firearms range located at the Southern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Center (SALETC) at 10001 S. Wilmot Road, in Tucson, Arizona. It is adjacent to four other firearms ranges at the site.

**Scope:** The Judgmental Firearms Training Facility is composed of two components - a 300-degree handgun indoor tactical scenario range and a 300-meter outdoor rifle range with incremental target stations.

The indoor range will consist of a 2500 square foot indoor air-conditioned space that allows for handgun training. The exterior walls and ceiling of the facility will be capable of preventing the escape of conventional pistol ammunition, allowing for live fire at the walls without ricochet or penetration when this technology is available. A technology vendor will supply a projection system that provides a 300-degree simulation drawn from a video source that will replicate a real life situation in which police officer students will be forced to make deadly force utilization choices and carry out the use of that force. Scenarios will be filmed using tools supplied by the vendor, utilized by the training staff, allowing for contemporary training situations to be offered in a timely manner. The simulation involves movement in three dimensions for the student to create conditions that allow for the safe use of deadly force. A lead recovery system will be included in the project plans to facilitate the move to newer technologies.

The outdoor range consists of a 300 meter range surrounded by a concrete supported earth berm that would allow for the movement of ten officers at one time to safely shoot high powered rifles at judgmental targets at incrementally different ranges as part of a judgmental exercise. Potential targets would be available in the range at ranges beginning at 25 meters, with several potential targets presenting judgmental options for 300 meters. High-powered rifles assigned to patrol officers have presented challenges in training because of the lack of a safe long-range training facility. Judgment issues regarding the distance between officers and suspects in field situations have not been adequately addressed in training. A lead recovery system will be included in this project to minimize maintenance expense.

**Benefits:** This regional training asset allows for efficient, valuable training of police officers in the decision to use deadly force, as well as in the actual application of that force.

**Cost:** \$4,100,000 - Project includes soft costs, construction, site work, central plant, furniture, equipment, and a project contingency.

**Bond Funding:** \$4,100,000

**Other Funding:** Leveraging existing public investments:

- Utilizing the land, including the encroachment buffer, and infrastructure at the Southern Arizona Law Enforcement Center
- Agencies utilizing this facility will be charged a nominal fee to cover the costs of supervision of the facility.

**Fiscal Year Project Start and Finish Date:** The project start date will be 2018 / 2019 and will continue until the funds are fully expended.

**Project Management Jurisdiction:** The City of Tucson will have project management jurisdiction of this project.

**Future Operating and Maintenance Costs:** City of Tucson will cover operations and maintenance costs, which are estimated at \$20,000 per year.

**Regional Benefits:** These improvements would offer a training capacity that is currently unavailable in Southern Arizona. All regional agencies would have access to the new facilities to provide valuable training in judgmental shooting situations.

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Realistic judgmental shooting situations for officers with handguns have been provided in two dimensions for many years. Officers approach a movie screen and are confronted with situations that require they make a decision regarding the use of deadly force. Officers know the situation will be on the screen right in front of them during the training. Over the decades of training judgmental shooting in this fashion, it has become apparent that tunnel vision may be exacerbated by this training approach. Officers may actually be reducing their ability in shooting situations to maintain situational awareness because of this method. Tunnel vision issues present serious safety concerns to the public and officers in these situations. The scenarios do not allow for officers to minimize the likelihood of collateral injury, as only one path is available to address the deadly situations as they appear. Movement of officers is critical in shooting situations, and must be trained to address this issue. The 300-degree range will allow for movement within a large room to improve the officer's ability to respond to threats appropriately. Additionally, the officers will be able to use the firearms during the training they would be using in real situations, giving them confidence in the equipment they carry. Finally, the development of scenarios will no longer be relegated to those produced by a vendor and distributed to law enforcement agencies, but will be produced by local training staff with limited training. This will allow training adjustments to be made quickly when circumstances dictate.

Emphasis in the past fifty years of law enforcement firearms training has been focused on pistol proficiency, with a recent move toward giving students opportunities to exercise judgment about when to shoot, and when not to shoot. This training has not been extended to the use of high-powered rifles, as training facilities have typically not been built to accommodate judgmental rifle training. Rifles are capable of delivering deadly force at long distances, changing variables in shooting situations. While rifles in the hands of most patrol officers were rare even fifteen years ago, most agencies now have rifles available to most patrol officers. Realistic training for the use of rifles in urban situations has not included a judgmental component because of a lack of facilities to do so. Officers must be challenged with regard to decisions to use deadly force as they approach a potentially lethal confrontation in training to equip them with the decision making skills necessary in field situations. Officers must physically practice moving from 300 meters to the suspect to exercise this skill effectively. This requires a purpose built range to provide that opportunity. Below is a current list of agencies that use the existing facility.

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| ADOT   | Gila River Police Department             | Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department         |
| Ak-Chin Police Department                      | Globe Police Department                  | Sahuarita Police Department                |
| Apache County Sheriff's Office                 | Graham County Sheriff's Office           | San Carlos Police Department               |
| Apache Junction Police Department              | Greenlee County Sheriff's Office         | San Carlos Recreation and Wildlife         |
| Arizona Department of Corrections              | Hopi Resource Enforcement Services       | San Luis Police Department                 |
| Arizona Game and Fish Department               | Huachuca City Police Department          | Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office         |
| Arizona State Parks                            | Marana Police Department                 | Show Low Police Department                 |
| Benson Police Department                       | Navajo County Sheriff's Department       | Sierra Vista Police Department             |
| Bisbee Police Department                       | Navajo Department of Law Enforcement     | Somerton Police Department                 |
| Casa Grande Police Department                  | Navajo Police Department                 | Thatcher Police Department                 |
| Clifton Police Department                      | Nogales Police Department                | Tohono O'odham Nation Police Department    |
| Cochise County Sheriff's Department            | Oro Valley Police Department             | Tombstone Marshal's Office                 |
| Coconino County Sheriff's Department           | Parker Police Department                 | Tucson Airport Authority Police Department |
| Colorado River Indian Tribes Police Department | Pascua Yaqui Tribal Police Department    | Tucson Police Department                   |
| Coolidge Police Department                     | Patagonia Marshal's Office               | University of Arizona Police Department    |
| Douglas Police Department                      | Peoria Police Department                 | Wellton Police Department                  |
| Eloy Police Department                         | Pima Community College Police Department | Willcox Department of Public Safety        |
| Flagstaff Police Department                    | Pima County Sheriff's Department         | Williams Police Department                 |
| Florence Police Department                     | Pima Police Department                   | Yuma County Sheriff's Office               |
| Gila County Sheriff's Office-Payson            | Pinal County Sheriff's Office            | Yuma Police Department                     |

**Supervisor District of Project Location:** District 4.