

Curriculum

The following is an outline of subjects and time allocations in the curriculum of the U.S. Army Military Police School polygraph course:

	<i>Hours</i>
Military law:	
Evidence.....	3
Legal aspects of the polygraph.....	3
Orientation:	
Introduction to the polygraph.....	1
History of the polygraph.....	1
Polygraph considerations (drugs and interpreters).....	1
Mechanics:	
Nomenclature and functions of pneumograph, cardiosphygmograph, and galvanograph components.....	7
Mechanical disassembly and assembly of the polygraph instrument.....	3
Operation of the pneumograph, cardiosphygmograph, and galvanograph components.....	4
Operation of the polygraph.....	4
Malfunctions of the polygraph.....	2
Physiology:	
The human body.....	1
The nervous system.....	4
The cardiovascular system.....	3
The respiratory system.....	2
Psychology:	
Psychology of the polygraph.....	2
Abnormal psychology.....	7
Techniques of detecting deception:	
Pretest interviews.....	8
Polygraph test construction.....	10
Chart interpretation.....	10
Test graph markings.....	1
Polygraph interrogation techniques.....	8
Practical exercises in conducting polygraph examinations: Practical exercises.....	166
Written examinations.....	8

Methods of instruction

Approximately 75 percent of the course time is devoted to practical application exercises in pretest interviews, test construction, chart interpretation, interrogation, and the conduct of polygraph examinations. The remaining 25 percent of the time is devoted to lectures and conference-type instruction. The primary emphasis is on realism and doing practical work.

During the course, each student, under the direct supervision of instructor personnel, devotes 166 hours to conducting polygraph examinations in hypothetical criminal cases. Military personnel selected as subjects commit hypothetical "crimes" under the direction of instructor personnel. The students examine these "suspects."

These hypothetical case examinations permit the student to master the mechanics of the examination and help him to gain confidence in himself and the instrument. It also affords an opportunity for instructors to observe the student and critique his technique before he is assigned an actual case.

Throughout the course, instructors provide student guidance and individual instruction. During the practical phase of instruction each student is observed and critiqued daily in order to apprise him of his progress.

Polygraph transition course

In addition to the 7-week polygraph course, the U.S. Army Military Police School conducts a 2-week polygraph transition course. This