

**Nomination Form****POST Excellence in Training Award****Application for 2015 Nominees**[POST Home](#)  
[California Home](#)[Section 1 – Nominee](#)[Section 2 – Nominator](#)[Section 3 – Justification](#)[Section 4 – Documentation](#)**Section 1. Nominee Information****1. Award Category** (select one only) ☒ **Individual** ☐ **Lifetime** ☐ **Organizational****2. Nominee** John Domingo**3. Title** (if applicable) Lieutenant**4. Agency/Organization** (if applicable) Huntington Beach Police Department**5. Mailing Address****6. Contact Numbers****Section 2. Nominator Information****7. Name** Dave Bunetta**8. Title** Captain**9. Agency/Organization** Huntington Beach Police Department**10. Mailing Address****11. Contact Numbers****12. Department Head/CEO****13. Signature****Complete all remaining sections. Attach additional pages if needed.**[Section 3 – Justification](#)[Section 4 – Documentation](#)[How to Submit](#)

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## Nomination Form: POST Excellence in Training Award Application for 2015 Nominees

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### Section 3. Justification for Nomination – REQUIRED

#### 14. Describe the individual's or organization's purpose and training responsibility.

Lieutenant John Domingo has 26 years experience in law enforcement starting with Los Angeles PD and later with Huntington Beach PD. He has always had an interest in Use of Force (UOF) training and has spent over 20 years instructing and developing curriculum on this topic. John is responsible for the management and oversight of the department's Arrest and Control Training program. He is responsible for the training curriculum and oversees the program's instructors. Additionally, John has given presentations to community groups and Citizen Academy classes outlining the department's unique approach to force and dealing with resistive individuals. He is a guest lecturer for a Criminal Justice course taught at California State University- Fullerton and is a Force Science graduate. He is a presenter/instructor for the Institute for Prevention of In-Custody Deaths and consults with Dr. John Peters.

#### 15. Describe the nominee's overall achievement.

Lieutenant Domingo developed an arrest and control training approach approximately eight (8) years ago in an effort to effectively deal with the physically resistive subjects police regularly contact. John realized there was a difference between 'resistive' subjects and 'combative' subjects. Resistive individuals were defined as those who physically attempt to prevent officers from taking them into custody. Combative subjects are intentionally trying to inflict injury and are actively assaulting officers.

John's review of the UOF data indicated the majority of suspects who physically resist were generally intoxicated, under the influence of a controlled substance, suffer from mental illness or a combination of these factors. Under these conditions, suspects are less likely to feel and respond to the effects of traditional pain compliance techniques (wrist locks; arm bars; impact weapons; physical strikes). However, the focus of most training and the frequent control methods used were pain compliance techniques. Based on his analysis of the department's UOF incidents, John determined that the use of pain compliance based arrest and control techniques on these individuals generally led to prolonged struggles, a significantly higher probability of injury to officers and suspects and increased liability to the city and department.

In evaluating these findings and using the training he received, John developed an approach that was unique and non-traditional at the time. His forward thinking on this topic 8 years ago is significantly more relevant today, given the increase in mentally ill and substance abuse subjects we encounter on a daily basis. His approach is referred to as PEP (Platform, Efficiency, Proficiency). PEP is defined as follows:

- Platform assesses the seriousness of the incident and what level of force is justified under the circumstances
- Efficiency requires officers to quickly adapt and apply arrest and control techniques according to the physical/mental condition of the suspect and within the support of the incident's "platform"
- Proficiency in training and the application of the techniques ensure lower levels of force, minimizes durations of struggles, and reduces injuries.

For the 'resistive' suspect, the PEP approach emphasizes the use of techniques to restrict and restrain physical movement, which render the subject immobile, as opposed to compliance through physical strikes, impact weapons, wrist locks or arm bars. In brief, restraint and immobilization begins with one officer wrapping the suspect's thighs and leaning into the subject to force them to the ground. The second officer then attempts handcuffing. If there is resistance, the second officer secures the suspect's arms via an arm/ankle restraint device (aka Batwing) or a hobble wrapped around the upper torso. If still

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resisting, additional batwings and hobbles are used around the arms, thighs and upper torso until the subject is completely immobilized. The subject can then be rolled over, searched and secured to an ambulance gurney for medical evaluation and transportation.

**Section 3. Justification for Nomination *continued*****16. Give explanations for each of the following three criteria to support your nomination.****a) Innovation**

This approach to force use and control techniques was forward thinking at the time of development and implementation. Incorporating the various restraint systems available (Batwing; hobble; violent prisoner restratin systems) into the actual control process was unique and contrary to what was being emphasized in other training programs. This program focused on restricting and restraining movement instead of the depolymment of traditional pain compliance techniques. This has improved the quality of our UOF performance and significantly reduded the number of major injuries incurred by officers and suspects.

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### **b) Impact**

The PEP training approach has been successfully implemented into the daily performance of the officers within the department and improved the overall effectiveness of the department. Recently, local law enforcement agencies have been exposed to the program and have requested assistance with education and implementation of a similar program. For example, after attending a community forum presentation by Lieutenant Domingo, officials from Anaheim Police Department sought his guidance on incorporating PEP into their training. John presented the program to the training staff at Anaheim and organized a 'train the trainer' session with their staff. They incorporated the program into their UOF policy and are pleased with the results. They have high praise for the program components and have recently partnered with John to facilitate a county wide presentation.

The goal of the county wide presentation (which is scheduled for December 2015) is to provide education and offer another option to law enforcement in dealing with UOF incidents. The training has proved to be successful to date. If this training approach gains larger acceptance and support from law enforcement leaders and stakeholders, it could impact the way future training domains for entry level officers are defined.

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### **c) Reputation/Recognition**

Lieutenant Domingo is a recognized UOF expert and has testified as an expert in civil and criminal cases. Additionally, he has been asked to review UOF incidents and offer opinions how to improve performance and effectiveness. As stated above, he lectures at a local university on this topic, conducts community outreach, and, at the request of Dr. John Peters, makes a presentation at the annual National Conference of the Institute for Prevention of In-Custody Deaths

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## **Section 4. Support Documentation – REQUIRED**

### **17. Provide a brief list of any supporting documents included with this application.**

We have been in discussions with California State University-Fullerton regarding a project that will evaluate the UOF data currently in our system. The available reports (based on the software) are not able to capture and present the required data at this time. Anaheim has also created a data base to evaluate the effectiveness of the program, however, since implementation was only a short time ago, the data is too raw to draw any conclusions. There are many components to the training that make it difficult to provide statistical reports at this time. The overall benefit to date has been the reduced duration of the struggle with the subject, and a reduction in the number of officers needed to gain control of the subject.

The attached document demonstrates local support for this program and the increased interest in using alternative techniques.

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**To complete your application:**

- 1) Make sure you have filled in all applicable sections.
- 2) Print and sign form.
- 3) Attach all supporting documents.
- 4) Send your completed application to:



**Excellence in Training Screening Committee  
c/o California POST  
Executive Office  
860 Stillwater Road, Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95605**

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Application questions: 916.227.2808 — Janice Bullard

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