Cultivation of Students’ Enforcement Security Awareness in People’s Public Security University of China*

Lebin Liu
People's Public Security University of China
Beijing, China 100038

Abstract—At present, there are problems in the training of enforcement safety awareness of students in public security colleges, such as one-sided understanding, single teaching form, no unified knowledge theory system, and lack of effective long-term assessment mechanism. This paper aims to clarify connotation of enforcement safety awareness by defining the relevant internal logic of police awareness and enforcement safety awareness, draw on the relevant experience of Hong Kong Police College in training students’ enforcement security awareness, and provide reference for solving related problems.

Keywords—public security colleges; enforcement security; awareness training

I. INTRODUCTION

Public security colleges are one of the important sources for police forces in China, and are important starting links for the regularization, specialization and professionalization of public security teams. The quality of students training in public security colleges is directly related to the comprehensive quality of Chinese police teams in the coming decades. In the past few years, according to the unique characteristics of public security colleges, the academic community has done a lot of research work on the cultivation of police awareness among public security college students. However, it is difficult to complete the cultivation of police awareness only by relying on strict police management system and political education of public security colleges. The prerequisite lies in positive psychological recognition. It is a feasible scientific method at this stage to establish positive psychological feedback through police training, strengthen the cultivation of enforcement security awareness, and thus provide a solid foundation for the cultivation of police awareness.

II. POLICE AWARENESS AND ENFORCEMENT SECURITY AWARENESS

Police awareness covers enforcement security awareness, and cultivates students’ awareness of enforcement security in public security colleges, with an ultimate goal to complete the training of police awareness, which is one of the important stages in the training of police awareness. Such awareness should be positive and dynamic, and have a guiding and promoting role in the study and training in school, and more importantly, prepare them for the public security work after graduation and lay a conceptual foundation. [2] Through the cultivation of enforcement security awareness, students establish a strong positive psychological recognition, thus establishing a corresponding mode of thinking. The completion of this stage will directly affect students' comprehensive enforcement ability, and generate strong psychological hints and feedback. It is the main educational purpose after the students complete the public security knowledge education and master certain skills. The cultivation of enforcement security awareness relies on the actual education and training of police work, develops based the standardization of enforcement behavior, and completes positive feedback based on the successful disposal of cases.

Enforcement security is an important prerequisite for carrying out police enforcement, and strengthening enforcement security awareness is the core content of police practical training. Training, practice and enforcement actions of any level must take the training of enforcement security awareness as the top priority. Only by regularly and irregularly strengthening the police's enforcement security awareness can it become a kind of safe enforcement habit. [3] The so-called enforcement security awareness means that the people's police must first consider whether their actions effectively protect the security of their own, the security of the people and the security of the state's property in police activities, as well as the protection of the legitimate rights and interests of criminal suspects. It mainly includes self-protection awareness, force escalation awareness, distance awareness, and rescue awareness.

According to statistics, in the first half of 2016, 63 policemen sacrificed and 1986 policemen got injured in violent attacks, fight with criminals, and accidents in police work. Policemen are suddenly attacked by criminals in daily life or in execution of their duties from time to time, causing casualties. As reserve police officers, it should focus on cultivating of
public security college students’ enforcement security awareness and enhancing their comprehensive enforcement capabilities in the process of police combat education and training, laying a solid foundation for future work.

A. Self-protection Awareness

Self-protection is essentially a kind of psychological activity, whose core is the psychological preparation for police combat. Adequate psychological preparation is an important prerequisite to effectively protect oneself, and subdue and capture criminals. The improvement of self-protection awareness is closely related to the police’s self-psychological adjustment and psychological stimulation. In addition to maintaining a high degree of vigilance, an advance estimate and plan are required. According to the characteristics of various violent cases, combined with the actual situation, corresponding technical and tactical programs are formulated, so as to cope with possible changes with reasonable, legal, safe and effective technical and tactical means in actual combat, and achieve both countermeasures and strong ability to respond.

B. Force Escalation Awareness

The enforcement concept of force escalation is proposed based on the psychological confrontation of enforcement targets as well as the relevant laws and regulations such as the People’s Police Law and the Regulations on People’s Police Use of Police Weapons. Its core is to take a higher level of police force according to the corresponding enforcement situation to protect the police in completing law enforcement. It is mainly divided into three stages: the use of language force, the use of police equipment, and the use of weapons. Generally, the language force is the core force, and the force escalates with the upgrade of the three stages. By cultivating students’ awareness of force escalation, it effectively regulates their enforcement behaviors, and will greatly avoid possible accidents in law enforcement activities and the legal risks they need to bear.

C. Distance Awareness

The so-called distance awareness mainly means that the police should always maintain a safe distance from law enforcement target in law enforcement activities to ensure sufficient response time for self-protection and sufficient safety distance to use police equipment and weapons. Law enforcement activities are both a psychological contest and a safe distance contest. Law enforcement targets always approach the police in various ways, to shorten the distance between them and put the police in a passive situation. In the process of law enforcement, the police should not take close combat or unarmed control as the first law enforcement concept, but should also maintain a safe distance from the law enforcement targets, and use language force, police equipment and weapon to force them to terminate the criminal behavior.

D. Rescue Awareness

The purpose of the use of force by the police in the law enforcement process is to terminate the criminal behavior of the law enforcement targets, rather than intentionally injure them. If public security colleges do not strictly demand this in police education and training, it will cause students to abuse the force and cause irreparable consequences. The cultivation of rescue awareness is based on standardized law enforcement behavior, with the premise of self-protection awareness. After ensuring that the crime is suspended and it is not possible to continue the criminal behavior, the team cooperates with the law enforcement targets to actively implement the rescue behavior.

III. PROBLEMS IN THE CULTIVATION OF ENFORCEMENT SECURITY AWARENESS OF PUBLIC SECURITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

In the practice of education, teaching and police management for many years, public security colleges have initially improved the relevant systems, concepts and methods for the training of students’ police awareness, and provided framework guidelines for the cultivation of enforcement security awareness. However, in actual operation process, due to the lack of specific guidelines and different training subjects, the specific implementation effects will be very different. The main outstanding problems are as follows:

A. Single Teaching Style, One-sided Understanding

At present, there is a general problem of single understanding of the cultivation of enforcement security awareness. It is believed that public security colleges’ cultivation of students’ enforcement security awareness is to improve their level of technical and tactical ability to successfully complete police handling. However, the education and training of police is still limited to every gesture and motion, which aims to cultivate students’ ability to “examine”, but lacks flexible strategy. Therefore, even students get high scores in technical and tactical courses, they may still not know how to handle in actual application, and their brain may even be completely blank, staying there without moving.

The cultivation of enforcement security awareness does not exist alone, and it should be combined with political awareness and legal awareness under the police awareness. If its internal logic with the system of awareness is artificially separated, it will not achieve the corresponding effect.

In 2016, the Ministry of Public Security issued the Notice on Adopting Effective Measures to Further Improve the Security Protection Capability of Civilian Police. The notice emphasizes the need to effectively improve the security protection capabilities of civilian police. In the current law enforcement environment, although there are problems such as slow progress in the construction of legal culture, delay in the standardization of civilian police’s law enforcement, and inadequate implementation of police actual combat training, however, as important positions for training police officers, public security colleges should not only take corresponding measures to the current situation, but also should have a comprehensive overall consideration for long-term development. In the process of cultivating students’ enforcement security awareness, it is necessary to focus on how to effectively improve students’ ability to assess, identify and respond to emergencies, rather than being limited to a single form of teaching, or even a single technical and tactical action.
B. A Unified Knowledge Theory System Has Not Been Formed Yet

In the current public security education and teaching system, there is a lot of outstanding problems in police combat training such as competed content and lack of systemativeness. At the same time, because the theoretical disciplines related to police combat training have not yet been perfected, lacking corresponding theoretical foundations, the boundaries and scope with other disciplines have not been clearly defined. Therefore, in the process of teaching, there is a problem that the police combat training is not closely related to other relevant disciplines. For example, in the process of case teaching, it is impossible to effectively provide a legal basis and corresponding policy support for each link.

To cultivate enforcement security awareness of public security college students, in addition to working on basic technical and tactical actions, it is also necessary to contact other relevant disciplines to provide theoretical support for law enforcement links, skill applications, and tactical behaviors. At the same time, it is necessary to gradually improve the theoretical basis of the entire discipline construction of public security education and training, and form a logical system.

C. There Is a General Lack of Effective Long-term Assessment Mechanisms

Students in public security colleges have a study period of three years (junior college) or four years (undergraduate). During the long learning process, if they only rely on the professional course time in education and teaching and the policing management system in daily life, it is far from enough to cultivate police awareness and enforcement security awareness.

The form and result of exams of courses related to the combat training often have strong subjective factors and do not give students much academic pressure. Therefore, they easily learn, easily prepare for exams, and easily pass the exams. After the end of the course, there are no other courses to consolidate what they have learned. The enforcement security awareness that has just been cultivated slowly fades away over time. However, the cultivation and strengthening of awareness is a process of unifying of understanding and practice, as well as the result of continuous learning and repeated practice. Only in continuous learning and repeated practice can enforcement security awareness be continuously internalized and reflected in stress reaction. Therefore, it is extremely necessary to establish a long-term and effective assessment mechanism throughout the entire academic career.

IV. HONG KONG POLICE COLLEGE'S RELEVANT EXPERIENCE IN CULTIVATING STUDENTS' ENFORCEMENT SECURITY AWARENESS

Hong Kong Police College was established in January 2006 to replace the original training department and it is primarily responsible for the strategic development of police training. Different from the public security education in the Mainland, Hong Kong Police College adopts the police vocational education as its development route, and divides the training into three levels according to the different demands of training and development: professional development, administrative development.

During the training process, instructors will strengthen the enforcement security awareness of students through many ritualized methods. Taking firearms training in shooting range as an example, a link of raising and lowering the red flag will be added before and after each shooting, and generally students who are close will be responsible for this; when the red flag is being raised, everyone is not allowed to take out their gun and keep it in the holster, when the red flag is being lowered, everyone can shoot after hearing the command. This simple move is repeated in the training, to give the participants a very strong awareness of gun safety. In the process of law enforcement, if it is necessary to use firearms, observation of the surrounding environment is also very necessary. For example, in the training of situational shooting, the link of law enforcement object stopping the crime and requesting assistance will be intentionally added, and the instructors will also emphasize the police identity of the students in the training to strengthen the students' rescue awareness in law enforcement.

B. Starting from the Details and Strengthening Police Responsibility

Trainees can deeply understand Hong Kong people's "practical and pragmatic" spirit in training. Everything starts from the details and starts with the details, so as to strengthen the trainees' sense of responsibility and solidify their awareness of enforcement security. Hong Kong instructors attach great importance to the sacrificial spirit of instructor profession, they know that every word and action of them may affect the law enforcement behavior of future police officers, and emphasize the safety bottom line, implementing the enforcement security concept throughout the training, starting everything from the details.

During the training process, Hong Kong instructor team will show the students professional and meticulous demonstration of movement. At the same time, they will also take into account the various problems that students may have during training, including the problem of self-protection, and they emphasize the students' self-protection awareness. For example, during the training of cuffing, they will remind the students to wear a wrist guard to avoid improper use or control of force, which may hurt the companion, and this is also used to emphasize the protection awareness of the law enforcement.
target; in the training of prone position, they will remind to turn down sleeves to avoid injury; in shooting training, they will remind to wear earmuffs and so on.

C. Establishing Personal Files and Standardizing Law Enforcement Actions

Hong Kong Police College establishes a lifelong personal training assessment file for each trainee and links it to the promotion system. At the same time, when police officers have problems in handling cases, their training files will also become evidence of responsibility claiming. Therefore, instructors are not only very strict in training process, but also constantly update their knowledge and skills to adapt to the current law enforcement environment and avoid teaching obsolete knowledge to the police officers, which may result in irreparable consequences.

Before systematic training for students, Hong Kong instructor team will standardize the "demonstration action", "teaching philosophy", "teaching method" and other teaching links through collective lesson preparation. At the same time, it also benefits from the law enforcement rules regulated by Hong Kong Police Force, which lays the foundation for the standardization of police education and training in Hong Kong, and forms a virtuous circle to promote each other.

V. CONCLUSION

China's public security education and training has experienced five major stages since 1949. At this stage, it mainly takes academic education and on-the-job police training as the guiding ideology, and vigorously strengthens the normalization of on-the-job training. As important sources for new police forces, public security colleges should be listed as the top priority for the standardization of student law enforcement and cultivation of enforcement security awareness, so as to promote the standardization of law enforcement in public security organs across the country.

REFERENCES


