



Robert King

National Director of Training for Con10gency

Topic: *"The C.A.L.M. Approach, Comprehensive Verbal and Physical De-escalation"*

Robert King, National Director of Training for Con10gency, is responsible for the evolution of the C.A.L.M. Approach™ and other Con10gency course offerings, in addition to creating and executing strategies to expand the organization's training footprint nationwide. King retired as Commander of the North Precinct for the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) in 2018, having worked with the Bureau for over 27 years, before transitioning to a role in the office of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler in April 2019. He joined Con10gency in July of 2021 in support of a personal mission to improve training, survivability, and knowledge of law enforcement for the betterment of themselves, their department, and the wider community.

Commander King was a survivor of a traumatic incident in 1991 that shaped and influenced the rest of his police career. He worked Patrol and was assigned to SWAT while also a trainer in firearms, defensive tactics, patrol tactics, less lethal, survival attitudes, suicide prevention, and emotional survival instructor. King also served as the Employee Assistance Coordinator early in his career. In addition, he supported officers and their families with peer support and chaplaincy services and helped to facilitate mental health services.

In 1999, King was promoted to detective and assigned to gang investigations. In 2000, he was elected to the Portland Police Association as President, a role in which he served for eight (8) years. After his third term, he returned to PPB as a street sergeant before being promoted to lieutenant. His assignments included the Training Division, Public Information Office, and Drugs and Vice Division in that role. As he pursued promotion to Captain, King was assigned Acting Captain in the Forensic Evidence Division, providing PPB crime scene processing. He was formally promoted to Captain in 2015 and assigned to the East Precinct before being promoted to Commander of North Precinct in 2017. He also served as Acting Assistant Chief of the Operations Branch during his final year with PPB (2018).

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler hired King as the Mayor's Senior Policy Advisor for Public Safety in April 2019, a role that was one of the most challenging of his career. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic began, and May of that year saw the murder of George Floyd and the start of over 170 days of violent protests in Portland. An unprecedented increase in violence in 2020 resulted in over 150 officers retiring or resigning from PPB and the most challenging year in PPB history.

Commander King's 30-year career in public service is rooted in a deep desire to support law enforcement officers and their families. He continues this mission through his work with Con10gency, a national company with strong support for law enforcement at its core. As the National Director of Training, King hopes to share vital lessons learned over his career and ensure officers are supported, encouraged, and live full and satisfying lives as they provide essential public safety services to their community.

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This practical solution provides personnel with a safe and practical de-escalation response matrix. It should be used to mitigate a potentially violent encounter whenever a weapon is not involved. It was not designed or intended to impede or restrict law enforcement's public safety mission. When the C.A.L.M. Approach™ is employed properly, it can protect officers by reducing the negative impacts of public perception, civil actions, administrative proceedings, and criminal charges and increase safety for everyone. When designing this approach, officer safety was paramount. As we move forward, please remember that no officer should ever sacrifice tactics for rapport.

The C.A.L.M. Approach was created by a retired San Antonio police officer with over 27 years on the force in close concert with a 24-year defensive tactics instructor, a Board-certified emergency medicine doctor with decades of experience, and a Board-certified psychologist with nearly 20 years in the field.

As you know, law enforcement strategies have evolved and will continue to do so. The C.A.L.M. Approach addresses the present evolution.