



American College of
Emergency Physicians®

ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE 

POLICY STATEMENT

Approved September
2024

Tactical and Law Enforcement Medicine

Revised September 2024
with current title, February
2018

Reaffirmed October 2012

Originally approved June
2004 titled "Tactical
Emergency Medicine
Support"

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) believes that tactical and law enforcement medicine (TALEM) programs are an essential component of law enforcement, military, and public safety. As an integral part of police operations, TALEM helps maintain a healthy and safer environment for law enforcement, the military, and the public. This unique subspecialty provides emergency care under extreme and potentially dangerous situations. Excellent management of injuries sustained during training or operations requires proficiency in wound care, hazardous materials exposure, and evidence preservation. TALEM physicians can provide both direct and indirect medical oversight during training, mission planning, deployment of tactical teams, and day-to-day patrol and investigative operations.

ACEP encourages:

- Establishment of clinical care standards specific to tactical and law enforcement medicine through evidence-based research and proven methods.
- Participation in recognized evidence-based training programs.
- Identifying optimal medical strategies in military and civilian law enforcement operations to promote medical care capabilities and best possible health outcomes in these environments.
- Establishment of funding sources sufficient to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and training for tactical and law enforcement medical professionals at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Appropriate professional liability protection for TALEM physicians.