



Harris County Sheriff's Office - Behavioral Health Training Unit Deputy Aaron Brown, Deputy Carson McMath, & Deputy Eric Uriegas

Aaron, Carson, and Eric are part of the Behavioral Health Training Unit. The Behavioral Health Training Unit instructs uniformed members of the agency on how to effectively respond to critical incidents and communicate with emotionally disturbed persons. The Behavioral Health Training Unit emphasizes that our department values human life, respects the dignity of each individual, and renders our services with courtesy and civility. The Behavioral Health Training Unit has taught over 3,000 individuals on the 40 hour Crisis Intervention Training within the last 3 years. Recently this team has been tasked with providing a new de-escalation class called Integrating, Communications, Assessments and Tactics (*ICAT*) which was created by the Police Executive Research Forum. Along with teaching this class throughout our agency, they were still responsible for providing the 40 hour CIT schools on a weekly basis. These individuals were also tasked with teaching first line supervisors so as they too can lead from the front when it comes to Crisis Intervention out in the field.

Aaron, Carson, and Eric have been training individuals every day since the beginning of the year with little to no days off. Within the first 6 months of the year, they have trained over 1,000 students between the CIT class and the ICAT class. When these individuals are teaching, they are not reading off of a PowerPoint or lesson plan or script – they are spreading knowledge through their vocals of compassion, inspiration, and understanding of those suffering from mental illness. These deputies truly believe and understand the core of what Crisis Intervention is and know this type of training saves lives – they know this training is a must in law enforcement in today's society.

It is because of their training that our detention officers and deputies have been able to de-escalate chaotic situations with little to no use of force. The overall results of these behind-the-scene silent angels have saved countless lives involving individuals experiencing some type of mental health issue.

Aaron, Carson, and Eric utilize the fundamentals of what our Crisis Intervention and De-escalation training is on a daily basis and exercise one of our Core Values to "Develop, encourage, and care of our Sheriff's Office family." Aaron has 10 years of experience of law enforcement and is a 4 year veteran of our Sheriff's Office; Carson is an 8 year veteran of our Sheriff's Office, and Eric is a 9 year veteran of our Sheriff's Office. All come from a patrol background. We are proud to have them in our agency as they represent true leadership.

