ACTION PRACTICE FOR DE-ESCALATORS, PEACEKEEPERS, AND SECURITY

SUGGESTED ROLE PLAYS:

March
- Group comes marching in. Marshals use their hands and voices to move crowd toward rally site.
- Crowd moves along but a small group of 3 people want to “stay right here,” because they want a better view of the stage.
- Hecklers.
- Moving march lagging behind line in front; moving too quickly; passing heavily populated corner.
- Outsiders grab demonstrator’s sign.
- Group of demonstrators begin chanting “fuck the police.”
- Police unexpectedly stop march.
- Group of demonstrators decide to change route of march.

Rally
- Hecklers.
- Rally dispersal.
- Man faints.
- Disrupters demand to speak.
- Demonstrators demand to be allowed into press area.
- Media people disruptive by insisting on interviewing speakers and demonstrators during rally in front of stage.

Vigil or Picket Line
- Demonstrator joins picket line with a sign unrelated to your action.
- Police inform vigil they must be a moving picket line.
- Silent vigil disrupted by inquisitive passerby; hostile passerby.

Civil Disobedience Actions
- Untrained demonstrators want to join the action.
- Demonstration supporters taunt police.
- Passerby wants to know what is going on; outraged passerby; sympathetic passerby.
- Police pull someone taking action by hair or use club under their neck to move them. Police horses step on demonstrators.

Suggested Quick Decisions
- Person approaches march saying they represent forty people and asking how to join.
- Someone seizes a bullhorn and begins shouting provocative slogans.
- Someone faints during the march.
- Bricks are tossed over demonstration toward police.
- March is stalled, people are impatient and cold.
- During march, five demonstrators attack an isolated policeman.
- Marchers harrass peacekeepers, calling them “cops,” “pigs.”
- Someone seizes a bullhorn and begins provocative slogans.
- During the rally, 15 people begin chanting “Fuck the Cops!” to a group of nearby police. Hundreds pick up the chant.
- During the rally, five demonstrators begin a fistfight.
- A small group breaks away from rally with the intent of breaking into a city administration building.
- Silent vigil interrupted by media insisting on interviews.
- Police charge into a picket line without warning.
- Police begin to club action participants
- Affinity group breaks with the action plan by running toward police barricade.

Suggested Situation Analysis Scenarios
- A large march of 1,000 is moving down the street. The demonstration has been warned that it will not be allowed to reach its goal. Suddenly tear gas is released at the front of the march; the gas drifts through the line of march, frightening people more than debilitating them, and panic begins to grip some people. What action can peacekeepers take?
- Diagram speakers’ stage and peacekeepers placement. How can peacekeepers be placed to help insure that speakers will not be disrupted by individuals or small groups wishing to take over the platform?
- Diagram an attack on a vigil. Indicate placement of peacekeepers, vigilers, police, passersby, attackers. A legal rally and civil disobedience action take place side by side. Diagram how peacekeepers keep groups separated, and create an atmosphere that is supportive of each group.