

## **Axon Announces Availability of VR Simulator Training for Public Safety to Increase De-Escalation Training**

*Phoenix PD among first police agencies to roll out new virtual reality training to officers*

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., May 24, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- [Axon](#) (NASDAQ: AXON), the global leader in connected public safety technologies, today announced the availability of its Virtual Reality (VR) Simulator Training, which provides immersive VR training that helps officers develop critical thinking and de-escalation skills and build community trust. Phoenix PD is one of the first agencies to deploy this revolutionary training to better prepare officers for real-life situations in the field.

Police training today can be costly, time consuming and require dedicated training centers, props, and paid roleplay instructors. As a result, officers may not have as much access to training as they would like, and often times the training they do get is focused on use-of-force rather than de-escalation skills. Effective training must be realistic, accessible and easily deployable across departments, independent of department size or resources. These factors are critical in helping officers confront and make optimal decisions during a real-life situation.

With Simulator Training, trainers and trainees no longer need to be in the same location for training to occur. Simulator Training can be easily deployed in any environment and allows officers to train as often as they like from anywhere, even remotely. Simulator Training aims to increase the frequency in which officers conduct skills and de-escalation training through immersive, real-life scenarios that feel real, both physically and mentally, and can be easily completed in 10-20 minutes before or after a shift. The platform can also be used to analyze an officer's current performance and inform future training for that individual.

"Axon's VR Simulator Training is truly a new era in law enforcement training," says Chris Chin, Axon VP of Immersive Technologies. "It directly supports Axon's mission to protect life by giving law enforcement officers the ability to work through situations they see in their communities daily via VR and help create better outcomes for everyone."

### **The Axon VR Training platform is made up of three core components including:**

- **Axon Academy**

- Axon Academy houses a library of supplemental e-learning content and training materials designed to strengthen the skills learned in the Community Engagement and Simulator Training scenarios. For trainers, after-action reports stored on Academy provide performance and progress metrics, insight into an officer's decisions, and new opportunities for coaching and program development.

- **Community Engagement Training**

- Community Engagement Training focuses on developing skills, empathy and communication for engaging with individuals in scenarios involving mental health, trauma, peer intervention and more. Through these experiences, trainees get to understand the perspectives of both the officer and the civilian, and see how different modes of communication can result in de-escalation, which can influence calls for service.

- **Simulator Training**

- **Firing Range – Basic:** In this scenario, trainees learn safe and effective deployment of weapons. Trainees learn to operate TASER 7 energy weapons and replica training firearms in VR within an indoor range environment, then practice their skills on stationary targets from varying distances to improve accuracy, speed, tactical knowledge and critical thinking skills.
- **Firing Range – Intermediate:** In this scenario, trainees deploy the TASER 7 energy weapon from various distances on moving subjects in an outdoor, nighttime setting. This fast-paced exercise helps trainees utilize safety features, recognize proper spread and probe placement on moving subjects, manage clothing disconnects, and achieve higher effectiveness when deploying TASER cartridges.

A recent [study](#) from the National League of Cities looked at a three-month period in which over 85 officers at Phoenix PD's South Mountain Precinct went through nine of Axon's Community Engagement Modules in VR. The study found that 81.4% of participants said that at least one of the VR training modules was effective in preparing them to adapt their approach to a call. Additionally, 59% of participants found that at least one of the modules had encouraged them to see things from another perspective.

"With this new VR training, we've reduced the cost and time that it takes to get our officers the training they need to perform at their best," says Phoenix Mayor, Kate Gallego. "I've experienced the VR training, and it was amazing to see the same incident from different perspectives. The training will help our officers gain confidence and insight as they respond to our diverse communities."

Combining the HTC VIVE Focus 3 VR headset and the VIVE Wrist Tracker from industry leading partner, HTC VIVE, Axon VR provides an all-in-one, portable platform that's simple to deploy and use, with no extraneous hardware, time or space constraints. The VR training provides connectivity for both in-person and remote experiences, creating an on-demand platform that can be accessed anytime.

To learn more about Simulator Training visit <https://www.axon.com/training/vr>.

### **About Axon**

Axon is a network of devices, apps and people that helps public safety personnel become smarter and safer. With a mission of protecting life, our technologies give customers the confidence, focus and time they need to keep their communities safe. Our products impact every aspect of a public safety officer's day-to-day experience with the goal of helping everyone get home safe.

We work hard for those who put themselves in harm's way for all of us. To date, more than 266,000 lives and countless dollars have been saved with the Axon Network of devices, apps and people. Learn more at [www.axon.com](http://www.axon.com) or by calling (800) 978-2737. Axon is a global company with headquarters in Scottsdale, Ariz. and global software engineering hub in Seattle, Wash., as well as additional offices in Australia, Canada, Finland, Vietnam, the UK and the Netherlands.

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