BIG IDEAS TXST Ep. 1 PROMO TRANSCRIPT

**[Voice Over]** On the next episode of BIG IDEAS TXST, Dr. Pete Blair, director of the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center, discusses how the use of virtual and augmented reality training techniques are improving the effectiveness and safety of first responders.

**[Dr. Pete Blair]** The basic idea is to apply AR, which is augmented reality and VR, which is virtual reality technologies into the police training environment. Now our natural first segue into that is in the active shooter active attack training realm. But we also are seeing that there is room for training in just about anywhere in the policing world particularly in use of force, especially when you see the news. It's hardly a week goes by now that you don't see some event where a police officer was involved in a shooting with someone and the public looks at it and says, “I don't know how that happened or what happened?” The idea of advancing police training that way so that they're better in their use-of-force decision-making in actions.

**[Dan Seed]** How does this virtual reality, augmented reality training enhance that decision-making process? Is it because you're able to do it over and over and over again?

**[Dr. Pete Blair]** Yeah, that's exactly it. One of the problems that we see right now in police training is this idea of the batch training where they get a single training class, such as we offer now, a two-day class, and their skills improve dramatically during that time. Then it's up to the department to maintain that training beyond that, and some departments do a great job of that

and they really are on it and they really help their officers improve. Other departments, once they've been trained, that's kind of the end of it and the skills then begin to drop off very rapidly. The idea of using augmented reality and virtual reality is to have something we can leave behind that allows them to continue training over time to one at least maintain the skill

set they developed but hopefully to improve beyond what they developed.

**[Voice Over]** To hear Dr. Blair's full interview, listen to BIG IDEAS episode 1, available now. Subscribe to experience more innovative, thought-provoking content from Texas State University.

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