LAW ENFORCEMENT QUESTIONS FOR VETERANS IN CRISIS

In terms of the characteristic and open-ended questions utilized by law enforcement officers and hostage negotiators, the distressed Service Member or Veteran, there are several which may serve to diffuse and de-escalate a highly volatile and potentially dangerous situation, going beyond standard active listening skills. Offering the opportunity to ventilate and to be heard may readily be the key factor that provides just the right leverage to reduce or eliminate the crisis-fueled situation, and to demonstrate the desire to understand the underlying painful emotions that led to the crisis in the first place. For example (per Etter, McCarthy, and Asken, 2012):

*How long were you in the military? Are you still serving?*

*Where were you deployed? For how long? How many times were you deployed?*

*What was your deployment experience like for you? Do you miss being deployed?*

*How long have you been back from overseas? What has homecoming been like for you?*

*Are you in contact with any of your fellow veterans/those you deployed with?*

*Did you lose any friends over there?*

*What is your MOS (Military Occupational Specialty)?*

*Have you obtained any services through your local VA or Vet Center?*