

**Command Spanish® Program Data Sheet**  
for  
*Survival Spanish for Highway Drug Interdiction*

**Materials Description and Content:** *Survival Spanish for Highway Drug Interdiction* (SSHDI) is published by Command Spanish®, Inc. and consists of a 66-page manual bound in a 3-ring binder with 2 accompanying CDs. It was authored by Dr. Sam L. Slick in consultation with directors of training of major criminal justice training institutions and academies, and highway drug interdiction officers. In addition to a special section devoted to pronunciation, SSHDI contains the following work-specific language sections: Approaching a Vehicle; Removing the Driver from a Vehicle; Searching a Vehicle; Field Information Questions; Medical Emergencies; Traffic Citations; the Miranda Warning; and Dirty / Alert Words. SSHDI also contains the following appendices: Drug Table; Interdiction Glossary; Spanish Nicknames; Spanish Surname System; Consent to Search Forms; and Latin American Documents.

**Program Description:** This program is designed to provide non-Spanish-speaking interdiction officers with basic, functional skills in Spanish. Officers quickly become proficient users of Spanish language in real-life situations through learner-friendly techniques developed by Command Spanish®, Inc. **No prior knowledge of Spanish necessary.**

**Goal:** To prepare non-Spanish-speaking interdiction officers to carry out highway drug interdiction activities in Spanish.

**Objectives:** Upon completion, participants will be able to use Spanish to: ID and remove driver and passengers from a vehicle, obtain consent to search the vehicle, safely search vehicle and suspects; locate drug and paraphernalia; maintain control of suspects through voice commands; control bystanders; interpret body language messages; use Spanish drug terminology; recognize offensive (dirty) Spanish words.

**Methods of Instruction:** Modeling, intensive drill, choral response, alpha-beta line, learning pairs and triads, Total Physical Response, role-playing, simulations, and situation cards.

**Cross-Cultural component:** Not included in manual. Suggestion: 2 hours with emphasis on demographics, body language, levels of language ability, Latin American documentation.

**Intended Audience:** This program is intended for any law enforcement officers involved in highway drug interdiction, including state police, deputy sheriffs, and city police officers.

**Length of Instruction:** 8 to 24 hours, depending on client's needs and interest.

**Special Considerations:** Before beginning instruction, we suggest you consult CS headquarters regarding recommended language menus to be taught. Make sure that the instructor has completed necessary shadowing before teaching this course. Be advised that monies confiscated in drug raids and seizures are, by law, usually earmarked for either equipment or training specifically dedicated to drug enforcement. This program fills a counterdrug training need.

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## **About the Author**

Dr. Sam L. Slick is a Professor of Spanish and former Chairman of the Department of Foreign Languages at the University of Southern Mississippi. He holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in Spanish from Illinois State University, and a Ph.D. in Spanish from the University of Iowa, as well as diplomas from the Ibero-American University in Mexico City, and from the University of Madrid, Spain. He is a specialist in language acquisition and is one of this country's foremost trainers in Spanish for law enforcement.

Dr. Slick has written and lectured widely on Spanish language training for police personnel. His textbook, entitled *Survival Spanish for Law Enforcement Officers*, is used by hundreds of police agencies and academies throughout the United States, and has been adopted by the U.S. Defense Language Institute for use in Task Force 6, the federal government's war on drugs. In conjunction with Gene Blair, former Director of the Police Academy at Sam Houston State University, Dr. Slick co-authored "Survival Spanish: Needed Training for Police," in the journal, *The Police Chief*, in January, 1990; and "Survival Spanish for Police Officers," in *The Police Investigator*, in January of 1991.

He has accumulated many years of experience working with criminal justice officials. He has also logged hundreds of hours riding with police officers, while observing first-hand virtually all police interventions -- from traffic control to homicides. Dr. Slick completed line tours with such diverse groups as the U. S. Border Patrol and the "Chicano Squad" of the Houston Police Department. He has participated in INS raids where he served as an interpreter. He is the former chief translator for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and has been a consultant to numerous county correctional facilities.

Dr. Slick has taught survival Spanish and cross-cultural training at dozens of police academies throughout Texas, Idaho, California, Washington, Missouri, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Georgia, Florida and Virginia. In addition, he has provided training for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Customs, and the U.S. Special Forces in counterdrug interdiction. He has developed the materials and curriculum for survival Spanish at the U.S. Regional Counterdrug Training Academy where he serves as lead Spanish instructor. He also teaches regularly for the National Association of Criminal Interdiction Officers.

Dr. Slick is certified as a police instructor in both Texas and Georgia. He is a member of the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers, the Association of Professional Police Investigators, the American Correctional Association, and the National Association of Criminal Interdiction Officers.

## **Acknowledgments**

In addition to the consultants listed below, Command Spanish, Inc. would like to thank the many highway interdiction officers who have attended our “Survival Spanish for Highway Drug Interdiction” seminars sponsored by the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy in Meridian, MS. Their valuable observations and suggestions have contributed enormously to the content found in this manual. We would also like to thank the many interdiction officers in our survival Spanish training which is sponsored by the National Association of Criminal Interdiction Officers.

Command Spanish, Inc. is indebted to Mrs. Lauree Mills-Mooney for her perseverance and great skill in formatting and word processing the manual. A special thanks to Elizabeth Verley for proofing the manual.

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