SA 03 EVOC
Session 1 – Law Enforcement Driving Simulator
LD 19 Emergency Vehicle Operations Course

Purpose: This learning activity along with the scenarios provides students with the opportunity to drive a law enforcement driving simulator and apply what they have learned in relation to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) pursuit policy and California State Law. The scenarios included in this learning activity will help the students develop their decision making skills and articulate their actions.

Description: The instructor will separate the students into groups in the driving simulator room, which is equipped with 8 simulators. The instructor will brief the students on the purpose of the exercise and what is expected. The instructor will then give the students a demonstration to familiarize them with simulator operation and how to operate the emergency and communication equipment.

The students will observe and participate in the California POST Scenarios listed below:

Scenario 1: The student will be parked in the gas station watching the off ramp of the freeway. The student is looking for the suspect vehicle of an armed robbery that just occurred and shots fired. The student will start his/her car and be on the lookout for the suspect vehicle. The student will observe the suspect vehicle commit a traffic violation.

- **CAP 820:** A vehicle commits a traffic violation. The student will attempt to stop the suspect who fails to yield to emergency lights and siren. The student will decide whether or not to pursue the vehicle. The instructor will select one of the students who drove the scenario and conduct a debrief with the entire group. During the debrief, the instructor will replay the scenario and facilitate a discussion on whether or not the student made the correct decision of whether or not to pursue. The goal is for the student to recognize potential hazards and be able to apply the balance test in regards to state law and department policy. The student should be able to articulate the reason for continuing or discontinuing the pursuit based on their observations and the recognition of hazards.

Scenario 2: The student will respond to a burglary in progress with shots fired and an injured security guard. When the student arrives at the scene, they will see the suspect fleeing in the vehicle.

- **CAP 821:** The student will respond to the scenario described above. The student will decide whether or not to initiate a pursuit. The instructor will select one of the students who initiated a pursuit and debrief with the entire group. During the debrief, the instructor will replay the scenario and facilitate a discussion on whether or not the pursuit was legal and whether the initiation was in accordance with LAPD Pursuit Policy. The instructor will also facilitate how the balance test applies to the scenario. The goal is for the student to recognize that the pursuit was legal and within policy. Additionally, the student should be able to recognize that the need to apprehend the suspect was greater than the risk to officer and public safety (balance test). The instructor will reinforce the concept of the balance test as well as the legal and Department aspects that apply to the scenario.

RBC Version 6.0   10/2018

Scenario 3: This scenario is linked, which allows two students to respond to the same scenario. One student is responding as a primary unit and one student will respond as a back-up unit. The student in the primary unit is responding to a call of a vehicle involved in narcotics activity and parked in front of a school.

- **CAP 822L:** When the scenario begins, the student in the primary unit observes the van and is expected to coordinate via radio communication with the student in the back-up unit. As both units approach the van, it pulls away. The student in the primary unit has to make a decision of whether or not to initiate a pursuit. The student in the back-up unit will be guided by the primary unit's decision. At the end of the scenario, the instructor will select two of the students who were linked together and conduct a group debrief. The instructor will replay the scenario and facilitate a discussion on the primary unit's decision to pursue or not to pursue. The facilitation will involve the legality of the pursuit, if it would have been within LAPD pursuit policy to pursue, and how the balance test applies. The goal is for the students to be able to articulate that although the pursuit is legal and within Department policy, the risk to public and officer safety may outweigh the need to apprehend. Consequently, if the primary unit had decided to pursue, the best decision may be to terminate due to the suspect's erratic driving, the wrong way on a one way street, and the proximity to the school zone. The instructor will reinforce state law, LAPD pursuit policy and the balance test considerations that apply to this scenario. Articulation is one of the key components in this exercise.

Scenario 4: The student receives information that a red BMW has just been stolen by a juvenile. While on routine patrol, the student observes the stolen vehicle run a red light, increase his speed, and flee from the area.

- **CAP 830:** Once the student observes the stolen vehicle taking evasive action, they will be expected to initiate a pursuit. During the scenario, the student will be told that the instructor is now his/her training officer. The instructor will tell the student to **"Go faster!"** As the student approaches the intersections, the instructor will continue to tell the student, **"Go, Go, Go!"** If the student listens to the instructor, it will be likely to result in a collision. At the end of the scenario, the instructor will conduct a group debrief. During the debrief, the instructor will replay the scenario and facilitate a discussion to include the topics listed below:

  Note: **The student will participate in one or more learning activities from the POST-developed Instructor's Guide to *Learning Activities for Leadership, Ethics, and Community Policing (December 2005)* or other comparable sources regarding vehicle operations. At a minimum, each activity, or combination of activities must address the following topics, which are listed above in CAP 830: (LD 19 VI.E.1-5)**

1. **Use of critical thinking and decision making to balance the apprehension of violators against the obligation to drive safely, tactically, and responsibly**
2. **Effects of personal attitudes on emergency or pursuit driving and the interests of public safety**
3. **Community expectations that officers should be exemplary drivers**
4. **Accountability as it relates to officer actions during vehicle operations**
5. **Universal concepts of Penal Code Section 13519.8 and Vehicle Code Section 17004.7**

Once all scenarios have been completed, the instructor will conduct an overall debrief and address any questions or concerns expressed by the students. The instructor will conclude by reinforcing the key learning points.

Resources needed:
- Simulator room
- Eight simulators

Key learning points:
- Decision making and articulation of LAPD Pursuit Policy
- Decision making and articulation of California State Law relating to pursuits
- Community expectations of how officers should drive
- Accountability of actions while operating a law enforcement vehicle
- Balance Test considerations

Time required: 1 hour 30 minutes