

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Stand Alone 7 – LD 35 Firearms**  
**Session No. 2 – Nomenclature & Functioning, 7 Elements of Marksmanship,**  
**Loading & Unloading**

Hours: 4

**LD 35 (RBC Calendar Location Week 3)**

LOCATION: Classroom & Range

TRAINING NEEDS: Inert Pistol

HANDOUTS: None

VIDEO: Glock Animation (use for nomenclature and functioning)

**LD 35 II.A1-3,B; III.A,B,C; V.B1-6**

**Learning Objectives:**

- **Describe the basic information about a semiautomatic pistol and magazine, including: (35.II.A)**
  - **Primary components and their functions (35.II.A.1)**
  - **Steps for loading and unloading (35.II.A.2)**
  - **Steps for rendering the semiautomatic pistol safe (35.II.A.3)**
- **State the guidelines for the safe handling of ammunition (35.III.A)**
- **Describe the primary components of firearms cartridges (35.III.B)**
- **Explain the chain of events that takes place when a projectile is discharged from a cartridge (35.III.C)**
- **Demonstrate the following elements to accurately shoot a firearm: (35.V.B)**
  - **Grip, Stance, Breath Control, Sight Alignment/ Sight Picture, Trigger Control, Follow-through (35.V.B. 1-6)**

**I. Describe the basic information about a semiautomatic pistol and magazine, including the primary components and their functions. (LD 35 II.A1)**

- A. Refer to Chapter 2 in the LAPD Basic Firearms Manual to introduce the nomenclature for each striker fired pistol.
- B. Use the inert pistol to point out the nomenclature of the parts on a pistol.
- C. Explain the parts of a pistol magazine.

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**II. Describe the cycle of operation that takes place with each single pull of a semiautomatic pistol trigger. (LD 35 II.B)**

- A. Use the video of the animated Glock pistol to explain the cycle of operation of a striker fired pistol.
1. Firing
  2. Unlocking
  3. Extracting
  4. Ejecting
  5. Stripping
  6. Feeding
  7. Resetting
  8. Relocking
- B. Point out that an unexpected interruption in the normal cycling of the pistol that can be quickly fixed by the shooter is called a malfunction.

**III. State the guidelines for the safe handling of ammunition. (LD 35 III.A)**

- A. Treat each round as though it was capable of discharging
- B. Avoid dropping live rounds on the ground
- C. Avoid hitting live rounds with any object
- D. Only use ammunition that is specifically recommended for your firearm

**IV. Describe the primary components of firearm cartridges. (LD 35 III.B)**

- A. Use the following chart to explain the primary components

Cartridge components	Description/Function
Primer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detonation charge contained in the base of the cartridge</li> </ul>
Powder charge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gun powder which burns when detonated by the primer</li> </ul>
Bullet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actual projectile that is expelled from the firearm toward the intended threat</li> </ul>
Cartridge Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outer container that holds the primer, powder charge, and projectile</li> <li>• Usually made of brass or other metal</li> </ul>
Blank Shell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A cartridge which contains an explosive charge but without a bullet</li> </ul>

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**V. Explain the chain of events that takes place when a projectile is discharged from a cartridge (LD 35 III.C)**

A. Use the following chart to explain the chain of events.

Event	Action
Primer Detonated	When struck by the firing pin/striker, the pressure sensitive compound of the primer explodes The compound changes structure and disintegrates completely Heat is generated in the explosion
Powder Ignited	Powder is ignited by the heat generated from the primer The burning powder creates great quantities of gas which expand very rapidly Pressure builds in the chamber and barrel from the expanding gasses
Bullet Expelled	The expanding gasses force the bullet from the firearm's barrel

**VI. Describe the Department Authorized Duty Ammunition for Handguns**

- A. **Revolver** - Speer Gold Dot, .38 Special +P, 135gr. GDHP. Product Code#53921
- B. **9mm** - Winchester Ranger, 9mm Luger, 147gr. SXT. Product Code #RA9T
- C. **.40 S & W** – Winchester Ranger, 40 S & W, 180gr. SXT. Product Code #RA40T
- D. **.45 ACP** - Federal Premium, 45 Auto, 230gr. HST. Product Code #P45HST2

**Note:** An officer's handgun duty ammunition shall be replaced one time every year with new duty ammunition during Qualification Cycle 2 (February/ March).

**VII. Demonstrate the following elements to accurately shoot a firearm: (V.B1-6)**

- A. Refer the students to the LAPD Basic Firearm Manual, Chapter 3. Introduce and discuss the Elements of Marksmanship.
  - 1. Stance
  - 2. Grip
  - 3. Sight Alignment / Sight Picture
  - 4. Trigger Control
  - 5. Breath Control
  - 6. Follow-through

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- B. Discuss the Four S's of shooting as outlined also in Chapter 3
  - 1. Squeeze
  - 2. Slack
  - 3. Sights
  - 4. Smooth
- C. Conduct the steps with the recruits to determine their dominant eye.

**VIII. Range Drills: Loading/Unloading, Dry Practice using snap caps**

**A. Describe the steps for loading/unloading (LD 35, II.A2)**

- 1. Whenever loading or unloading a pistol or revolver on a Department facility, a Department loading/unloading barrel shall be used. This policy is found in the LAPD Manual Volume 3/610.95, "Loading and Unloading revolvers and semi-automatic pistols utilizing the Departmental Loading/unloading barrel."
- 2. Loading, as opposed to reloading, is an administrative (non-combat) function. Loading is usually performed prior to start of watch or after cleaning the pistol in order to return it to a patrol ready condition.
- 3. Instruct and demonstrate to the class how to load snap caps into the magazine
- 4. Insert a loaded magazine into the holstered pistol.
- 5. Draw to a low ready position (count three of the presentation).
- 6. Keep the pistol pointed in a safe direction and the trigger finger alongside the frame during the entire loading procedure.
- 7. Conduct a chamber check to verify the condition (loaded or empty) of the chamber.
- 8. If the chamber is loaded, holster the pistol. If the firing chamber is not loaded, continue with the following steps.
- 9. Keep the pistol pointed in a safe direction.
- 10. Assume an overhand grip on the rear portion of the slide with the support hand.
- 11. The slide is grasped between the heel of the hand and finger tips. The thumb does not contact the slide. Roll the pistol to right.
- 12. Retract the slide fully to the rear, then release it and follow through by slapping the primary shoulder in one continuous motion.
- 13. Conduct another chamber check to verify that a cartridge has been chambered.

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14. **If the chamber is empty, check the magazine to verify that it is fully seated and locked, then cycle the slide again and perform another chamber check.**
  15. Holster the pistol.
  16. Add one cartridge to the magazine so that it is at full capacity.
- B. Conduct drills to reinforce the steps for unloading the pistol. **Describe the steps for rendering the semiautomatic pistol safe (LD 35 II.A3)**
1. Unloading is an administrative (non-combat) function normally performed prior to dry practice, cleaning or storage.
  2. Draw the pistol to the low ready position (count three of the presentation).
  3. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and the trigger finger alongside the frame during the entire unloading procedure.
  4. Conduct a chamber check to verify the condition (loaded or unloaded) of the chamber.
  5. Remove the magazine from the pistol.
  6. Place the magazine into the support side pocket.
  7. Obtain a modified overhand grip on the slide covering the ejection port.
  8. Keep the pistol pointed in a safe direction and roll the pistol to the right to a horizontal position with the right side of the pistol parallel with the ground, while bringing the pistol slightly closer to the body.
  9. In order to keep the muzzle in a down range direction, it may require the shooter to rotate his/her upper body clockwise.
  10. Maintain upward pressure on the bottom of the slide stop with the primary hand thumb (right-hand shooter) or the index finger, (left-hand shooter).
  11. Left-hand shooters grasp the slide with their support (right) thumb pointing toward the front sight.
  12. Lock the slide to the rear and capture the cartridge in the palm of the hand.
  13. **Note: It is more important to lock the slide to the rear on the first attempt than to catch the ejected cartridge and fail to lock the slide to the rear on the first attempt. Allowing the slide to cycle back and forth with a cartridge in the ejection port could result in an open breech detonation.**
  14. Secure the cartridge (round) in the support side pocket.
  15. CAUTION: Do not allow the support hand to cross in front of the muzzle.

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16. Visually inspect the chamber/ magazine well to verify the pistol is unloaded.
  17. Guide the slide forward.
  18. Conduct a chamber check to verify the chamber is empty and the pistol is safe.
- C. Introduce the Count 4 (on-target) position and the procedures for Dry Practice using snap caps.
1. Explain and demonstrate the Count 4 (on-target) position and Count 5 (pressing the trigger) as described in Chapter 7 of the LAPD Basic Firearms Manual.
  2. Explain that after each press of the trigger, the student will need to properly return to the low ready position with the trigger finger alongside the frame and conduct a chamber check in order to reset the trigger.
  3. Have the students utilize the proper loading procedures to load a snap cap into chamber of the pistol. Having a snap cap in the chamber protects the firing pin during extensive dry practice as well as reinforces the proper chamber checking steps.
  4. Give verbal commands that outline the proper steps for dry practice while the students are performing the dry practice exercises.
  5. Reinforce the information that was presented earlier regarding the Elements of Marksmanship as well as the proper Sequence of Marksmanship while conducting as much dry practice as time permits.
  6. Conclude the drill by having the students properly unload the pistol.
  7. The instructors should inspect the student's pistols and magazines to ensure that they are empty before securing the equipment.
  8. Secure the pistols back into the boxes and the empty magazines in their range bags.
- D. Bring the students into a class circle and instruct them to read the section covering the Tactical Reload in Chapter 8 of their LAPD Basic Firearms Manual before the next class session.
- E. Also remind them to practice the skills they have learned up to this point
- F. Dismiss the class.