

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
ATV Rider Course
Expanded Course Outline
1850-21143

Instructional Goal: At the completion of this course the student will understand and be able to apply the ATV officer safety principles and skills

Performance Objectives: Using lecture and learning activities the student will:

- Understand the need and use of the ATV in off-road law enforcement use
- Understand the policies and procedures for the safe handling of the ATV in off-road law enforcement use
- Know the basic principles of officer safety and relate them to the use of the ATV in off-road law enforcement activities
- Be able to apply the principles and skills during practical applications in a field environment
- Recognize force options and the amount of force peace officers may use based on the subject's resistance. Reverence for Human Life is guiding principal

I. INTRODUCTION (15 Min)

- A. Introduction of instructor(s)
 - 1. Name, assignment
 - 2. Experience
- B. Overview block of training
 - 1. Policy review
 - 2. Safe rider orientation
 - 3. ATV exercises
 - 4. Field Exercises
 - 5. Cleaning and Maintenance of ATV's

II. Policy Review (15 Min)

- A. **LECTURETTE:** Policy Review
 - 1. Pursuit
 - a. Department Manual Volume 1/555
 - b. ATV can initiate a pursuit, but must relinquish upon arrival of a marked black/white vehicle and lights and siren.
 - 2. Code 3
 - a. Department Manual Volume 4/120.40
 - b. ATV's may operate Code-3 when directed by Communications Division to respond to a Code 3 call for service.
 - c. When the operating officer deems it necessary and advises Communications Division of Code 3 status.
 - 3. Use of Force
 - a. Officers may use objectively reasonable force to:
 - 1) Effect an arrest
 - 2) Overcome resistance
 - 3) Prevent escape
 - 4) Defend themselves
 - 5) Defend others
 - b. Graham vs. Connor
 - 1) Objective Reasonableness
 - c. S.O. 5-2017

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- d. De-escalation Directive 16¹
- e. Reverence for human life as a guiding value

B. *LEARNING ACTIVITY:* Deployment Procedures

Procedures: Small group activity

1. Minimum equipment
 - a. Uniforms
 - 1) Terrain to dictate uniform. During beach operation you may wear a bike uniform. During trail operation you must wear department Battle Dress Uniforms
 - 2) The bike uniform does not offer the protection required from shrubs and insects that you will encounter during a trail ride
 - b. Safety gear
 - 1) Helmet provided by Department
 - 2) Shatter proof glasses or goggles
 - 3) Leather gloves
 - c. Duty belt
 - 1) Leather or nylon
 - 2) It is strongly suggested that you carry a flashlight easily accessible on your belt
2. Minimum number of personnel
 - a. The ATV's may not be deployed without a minimum of 2 officers
 - b. Two officers are required to ensure officer safety as it applies to suspects and off road trail riding
3. Vehicle operations
 - a. All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's)
 - 1) The ATV's may be deployed 2 or 3 at a time
 - 2) Deployment locations: parks, beach, canyons, street
 - 3) Only qualified officers shall ride
 - b. Support vehicles: tow vehicle and trailer
 - 1) The ATV's are transported and stored in a 26 ft box type trailer
 - 2) The tow vehicle is shop # 06177 (Ford V8 pickup truck)
 - 3) Only officers experienced in trailer operations should tow the ATV trail
 - 4) **DEMONSTRATE:** Ensure the ATV's are properly tied down and secured in the ATV trailer
 - a) Proper alignment of ATVs
 - b) Points of Tie down on ATV
 - c) Points of Tie down on trailer
 - 5) Ensure that the ATV fuel switch is off on each ATV
 - 6) At the end of a deployment you shall ensure that the power switches are off on each ATV and the trailer to prevent a dead battery

III. Safe Rider Orientation

(15 Min)

A. *LECTURETTE:* Range Safety

1. Identify the hazards and the borders of the ATV range
 - a. Identify locations that are off limits due to beach goers

¹ LAPD, Directive No. 16, Tactical De-Escalation Techniques, October 2016

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- b. Identify radio frequency to be used
- c. Ensure all students have safety equipment
- 2. Identify safety procedures
 - a. Location of lifeguard station
 - b. Radio or cell phone to call a rescue ambulance
 - c. Location of first aid kit
- 3. Officer safety; the buddy system
 - a. Stay together, do not separate in an off road environment
 - b. When away from the ATV remove the ignition key to prevent theft
- 4. Off-road environment
 - a. Proper hydration
 - b. Always bring more water than you will need during a deployment
 - c. Minimum equipment required (in case of extended deployment)
 - 1) All above safety gear
 - 2) Portable food or MRE's (meals ready to eat)
 - 3) Radio and extra batteries
- 5. Vehicle operation
 - a. Ride only within your abilities
 - b. Use extreme caution in unfamiliar terrain
 - c. Ride at the level of the least experienced rider present

B. *LEARNING ACTIVITY:* ATV Safety Institute (ASI) Rider Safety Course

Procedures: Small group activity

- 1. Students meet on the range near the pre-staged ATV's
- 2. Students must have safety gear and water
- 3. **DEMONSTRATE:** Pre-ride ATV inspection using T-CLOC acronym
 - a. T- inspect tires and check pressure using low pressure tire gauge to manual specs
 - b. C- Controls and cables. Check operation of throttle, brakes (hand, foot, and dual brakes), shifter, and choke
 - c. L- Lights and electronics. Check all lights, ignition, engine stop, code-3 equipment, horn, and wench
 - d. O- Oil and fuel. Check fuel level with the gauge, oil with the dipstick and coolant levels with the sight gauge
 - e. C- Chassis. Check drive shaft and suspension for obvious defects, wear, and proper lubrication
- 4. Range information and rules
 - a. Demonstration of range hand signals
 - 1) **DEMONSTRATE:** Hand signal using lesson 2 in the ATV Rider Course Range Cards
 - 2) **DEMONSTRATE:** Use of the helmet mounted radio set for range instructions
 - b. Rules of operation
 - 1) Operate ATV's only when instructed and when supervised by an instructor
 - 2) Always wear safety equipment
 - 3) Be aware of other riders' and instructors' location
 - 4) Do not attempt any maneuvers beyond your capability

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5. ATV controls and starting engine
 - a. Yamaha 660 Grizzly ATV
 - 1) 2/4 wheel drive selectable
 - 2) 660cc engine
 - 3) Code-3 equipped
 - b. Identify locations of pertinent controls and demonstrates their uses
 - 1) Code-3 equipment
 - 2) Brakes
 - 3) Key
 - 4) Lights (high/low beam selector)
 - 5) Winch
 - 6) Fuel shut off valve
 - 7) Engine kill switch
 - 8) Ignition
 - 9) 2/4 wheel drive selector Differential lock
 - 10) Horn
 - 11) Over ride
 - 12) Shotgun release
 - 13) Throttle
 - 14) Radio/Public Address switches

C. *LEARNING ACTIVITY:* Operation of ATV

1. **DEMONSTRATE:** Starting and stopping engine
 - a. Place foot on break
 - b. Ensure ATV is in park
 - c. Key on
 - d. Engine kill to on position
 - e. Choke if necessary
 - f. Press ignition button release when started
 - g. Shut down with engine kill and then key to off
 - h. Student demonstrates procedure to instructor
 - i. Instructor demonstrates kick start back up (student does not need to perform)
2. Moving from parked position and braking (Range Cards lesson 4)
 - a. Mount ATV and properly start engine
 - b. Depress foot break and shift to (H)
 - c. Depress throttle smoothly until moving
3. Braking
 - a. Smoothly depress front rear and dual brakes as needed until stopped
 - b. Do not lock brakes

IV. ATV Exercises

(270 Min)

A. *LECTURETTE:* Safe and Responsible Riding Practices, and Tactics

1. Safe and responsible riding practices
 - a. Safety
 - 1) Research the terrain prior to riding
 - 2) Prepare for the environment by bringing the proper cold or warm weather supplies

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- 3) Verify the reliability of communication devices
 - 4) First aid kit
 - 5) Have students point out other factors and concerns
 - b. Responsible riding practices: Environmental concerns
 - 1) Utilize trails if possible
 - 2) Stopping in dry brush could cause a brush fire due to hot exhaust
 - 3) Minimize ATV tracks with proper throttle and brake control
 - 4) Stay off private property when possible
 - 5) Have students identify additional concerns
2. Riding strategies (Range Cards Lesson 6)
- a. Be aware of the terrain and be able to safely navigate through it by using S.I.P.D.E. acronym
 - b. S.I.P.D.E.
 - 1) S- Scan/Search: Keep head up and eyes forward searching the terrain ahead for hazards
 - 2) I- Identify Hazards: Pick out specific factors creating risk
 - 3) P- Predict: Predict what may happen when you reach the hazard, think of consequences, predict how it will affect handling
 - 4) D- Decide: Decide what to do. Do not exceed your abilities or the capabilities of your ATV
 - 5) E- Execute: Adjust your speed and path of travel and execute your decision using the proper technique for the obstacle
 - c. Apply S.I.P.D.E. to ASI Flip Cards 2-10
 - d. Apply S.I.P.D.E. to immediate area

B. *LEARNING ACTIVITY:* Starting, Stopping, Shifting, Braking Exercise

Procedures: Large group activity

1. **DEMONSTRATE:** Starting, stopping, shifting, braking (Range Cards lesson 4)
 - a. Mount ATV, start engine, and shift to (H)
 - 1) Throttle until moving
 - 2) Brake when instructed
 - 3) Repeat until instructor is at the opposite end of the course
 - 4) Proceed around the oval course to the staging area
 - b. Students return demonstration
2. **DEMONSTRATE:** Turning exercise (Range Cards Lesson 5)
 - a. Static demo then active
 - 1) Assume proper riding position
 - 2) Feet on foot rests
 - 3) Slow prior to turn
 - 4) Assume proper lean and shift weight into turn
 - 5) Initiate turn on inner oval track
 - 6) Return upright when turn is complete
 - 7) Return to outer oval and then staging area
 - b. Students return demonstration
3. **DEMONSTRATE:** Riding circles and figure 8's (Range Cards Lesson 7)
 - a. Feet on footrests
 - b. Assume proper riding position

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- c. Look through turns
 - d. Shift weight properly
 - e. Demonstrate smooth throttle control
 - f. Use S.I.P.D.E. to select a proper gap on the figure 8
 - g. Maintain a safe following distance
 - h. Return to the perimeter
 - i. Return to staging area
 - j. Students return demonstration
4. **DEMONSTRATE:** Quicker turns (Range Cards Lesson 8)
- a. Feet on footrests
 - b. Assume proper riding position
 - c. Coordinate proper weight shift and throttle control
 - d. Quickly shift weight to initiate turn
 - e. Quick throttle burst
 - f. Keep eyes up
 - g. Shift weight and repeat in opposite direction
 - h. Return to staging area
 - i. Students return demonstration
5. **DEMONSTRATE:** Sharp turns (Range Cards Lesson 9)
- a. Feet on footrests
 - b. Assume proper riding position
 - c. Slow using all brakes prior to turn
 - d. Look through turn, shift weight, lean in
 - e. Throttle burst
 - f. Counter steer out of turn if needed
 - g. Ride within your abilities
 - h. Reverse course direction and repeat
 - i. Return to staging area
 - j. Students return demonstration
6. **DEMONSTRATE:** Emergency stops and serves (Range Cards Lesson 10)
- a. Feet on footrests
 - b. Assume proper riding posture
 - c. Look for signal and stop or swerve in the direction indicated by the instructor
 - d. Keep head and eyes up
 - e. When stopping apply brakes firmly with out grabbing and stop in a straight line
 - f. When swerving shift weight properly into the turn stay off brakes and do not tip
 - g. Return to the staging area when 3 passes are completed
 - h. Students return demonstration
7. **DEMONSTRATE:** Quick stop in a turn (Range Cards Lesson 11)
- a. Feet on footrests
 - b. Assume proper riding posture
 - c. Look through turn keeping head and eyes up
 - d. Lean and shift weight to the inside of the turn
 - e. Apply brakes firmly without grabbing
 - f. Straighten handle bars if tipping
 - g. Return to the staging area
 - h. Students return demonstration
8. **DEMONSTRATE:** Riding over obstacles exercise (Range Cards Lesson 12)
- a. Approach at a 90 degree angle to the obstacle

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- b. Slow before obstacle
 - c. Stand on footrests with knees and elbows bent
 - d. For a two track obstacle place weight on both footrests, apply a small burst of throttle just prior to the wheels contacting the obstacle, lean forward and release the throttle as the front wheels clear
 - e. For a one track obstacle use momentum to cross the obstacle without applying the throttle and do not pull up on handlebars or attempt to loft the front wheels
 - f. Return to staging area
 - g. Students return demonstration
9. **DEMONSTRATE:** U-turn/traversing hills (Range Cards Lesson 14)
- a. Assume proper riding posture
 - b. Stand on footrests
 - c. Have momentum go uphill
 - d. Keep weight uphill
 - e. Slow decent with gradual breaking
 - f. **Do not stop on the hill**
 - g. For the U-turn ride straight up hill while standing on the footrests then turn the ATV in an arch before you reach the top
 - h. When traversing the hill, stand on the foot rests and keep your weight uphill
 - i. Return to the designated staging area
 - j. Students return demonstration static then in motion

C. **LEARNING ACTIVITY:** Circuit or Trail Ride

Procedures: Large group activity

1. Instructor leads on an ATV, students follow
 - a. Instructor will lead the students through the skills learned during the course
 - b. Instructor will point out any hazard or obstacle by means of radio as he/she approaches them
 - c. Students will acknowledge the obstacles by means of their radio prior to reaching the obstacle
 - d. Students must maintain a safe following distance
 - e. Do not perform a maneuver that is beyond the your skill level
2. Review
 - a. Student performance evaluations
 - 1) Instructors will use their knowledge and overall ATV experience to evaluate the students performance throughout the course
 - 2) Instructors will verbally recap the students performance and advise if pass or fail (students may have failed any portion of the course)
 - b. Instructors will advise the student on what areas they need practice on and give a passing student the opportunity to practice prior to the trail ride
 - c. Any student who does not pass the course will no longer be allowed to ride an ATV. A failing student will be allowed to re-enroll in the ATV course at the commanding officers discretion

D. **LEARNING ACTIVITY:** ATV tactics

1. All weapons and OC Spray will be secured and safety briefing will be conducted.
2. Traffic stops

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- a. Unknown risk: Instructor demonstrates the technique (both ATV's stop parallel to each other behind the violator's vehicle with the contact officer on the left)
 - b. High risk: Instructor demonstrates the technique (both ATV's parallel as above, officers take cover to the rear of the ATV or alternate cover nearby)
 - c. Student demonstrates both techniques
3. Pedestrian stops
- a. Unknown risk: Instructor demonstrates the proper technique (Both ATV's stop in a V formation pointed at the suspect)
 - b. High risk: Instructor demonstrates the proper technique (Both ATV's stop in a V formation pointed at the suspect the officers then take cover to the rear of the ATV or alternate nearby cover)
 - c. Student demonstrates both techniques
4. The presence and noise of an ATV may cause dogs to become aggressive and attack the operator. If this occurs, accelerate away if possible. The ATV will outrun a dog. If this is not possible dismount the ATV and use it as cover keeping the dog on the opposite side of the vehicle broadcast a back-up, assistance, or help call and deploy OC spray or baton strikes to stop the dog's aggression. If the situation degrades to an I.D.O.L. situation follow the department's use of lethal force policy when deploying your firearm.
5. When responding to an armed suspect call, dismount your ATV far enough away from the suspect's location to be out of sight and approach on foot utilizing available cover. If a confrontation with an armed suspect should suddenly occur while mounted on an ATV and time permits, you should either used the rear of the ATV as cover (placing the engine and frame between you and the suspect) or move to available cover. If time does not permit and you must engage the suspect immediately, you can engage the suspect from a sitting or standing position on the ATV. A stationary ATV is a stable-shooting platform when your feet are firmly on the footrest platforms. When time and tactics permits move to available cover or place the ATV between you and the suspect.

V. Field Exercises

(105 Min)

A. **LECTURETTE:** Safety Review

1. Equipment
 - a. Identify terrain to be ridden and what supplies and safety equipment will be needed
 - b. ATV's: Inspect ATV's using T-C.L.O.C.
 - c. Helmet, gloves, goggles
 - d. Recap proper safety equipment and verify that it is in use
2. Environment: Different factors that affect the handling of the ATV's
 - a. Sand
 - 1) Loose sand has plenty of give and is very forgiving
 - 2) The front and rear wheels will slide during most maneuvers
 - b. Dirt
 - 1) Soft packed dirt will behave similar to sand
 - 2) Hard pack dirt is less forgiving and will cause less slide and may cause unwanted traction and tipping during turns

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- c. Pavement
 - 1) Can easily cause you to tip or flip the ATV
 - 2) Greatly reduce speed in turns
 - 3) Use front brake sparingly to avoid flipping the ATV forward
 - d. Weather
 - 1) Be aware of the weather conditions and be prepared for all possible weather changes
 - 2) Wet weather will make trails slippery and cause the ATV to damage the trails
 - e. Ruts, gullies, etc.
 - 1) Most small ruts will only cause the ATV to change course slightly, counter this by keeping a firm grip on the handlebars and guiding the ATV where you want it to go
 - 2) Larger ruts and gullies could cause the ATV to roll onto its side. These should be avoided
3. Accidents and injuries
- a. Reporting
 - 1) In case of injury immediately notify an instructor or a department supervisor
 - 2) When an instructor becomes aware of an injury he/she must immediately notify a department supervisor
 - 3) A department supervisor must complete all related documentation
 - 4) Traffic collision/CPI reporting requirements are same as all Dept vehicles.
 - b. Medical facilities
 - 1) The injured student will be transported to the nearest contract medical facility by police vehicle or rescue ambulance unit depending on the severity of the injury
 - 2) A Department supervisor or a rescue ambulance will decide the mode of transportation

B. *LEARNING ACTIVITY:* Trail Riding Field Exercises

Procedures: Small group activity

- 1. Students will demonstrate an ATV trail ride while in a patrol situation
- 2. The ride will include safely and effectively using the following techniques they have previously learned:
 - a. Traversing
 - Student will be able to traverse a hill, encountered in a field environment, in a safe manner, utilizing instructed riding techniques
 - b. Turning
 - Student will be able to make turns, encountered in a field environment, including but not limited to; circles, figure eights, quick turns and sharp turns, in a safe manner, utilizing instructed riding techniques
 - c. Riding over obstacles
 - Objective: Students will be able to safely traverse over obstacles encountered in a field environment in a safe manner, utilizing instructed riding techniques

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VI. Cleaning and Maintenance of ATV's

(60 Min)

A. **LEARNING ACTIVITY:** Cleaning ATV's

Procedures: Small group activity

1. Wash ATV with soap and water
2. Towel dry

B. **LEARNING ACTIVITY:** Trailing the ATV's

Procedures: Small group activity

1. **DEMONSTRATE:** Proper placement of ATV's in the trailer
 - Students return demonstration
2. **DEMONSTRATE:** Proper method for tying down the ATV's with the tie down straps
 - Students return demonstration

C. **CLOSING:** Reinforce key learning points

1. ATV safety: prevent accidents by exercising good decision making
2. Always ride within your skill level