

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**1850-10207**  
**Ballistic Shield Operator**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

**Instructional Goal:** To provide students with the knowledge, skills, and techniques in the use and limitations of the LAPD ballistic shield. 3 Hours of Instruction

**Module Summary:** The instructor will begin with a facilitated discussion in the classroom followed by a practical application on the range. The students will finish the day with a practical application inside the FOS room.

**Performance Objectives:** Given instruction using lecture, group discussion, learning activities, demonstration, the students will learn, discuss, and demonstrate:

- Discuss advantages and disadvantages of the ballistic shield for law enforcement operations.
- Demonstrate carrying positions and movement while using the ballistic shield.
- Demonstrate shooting techniques using the ballistic shield.
- Demonstrate close quarter and retention techniques using the ballistic shield.
- Demonstrate the ability to incorporate the ballistic shield into existing police tactical operations.
- Ballistic Shield components and nomenclature
- Ballistic Shield use during common law enforcement operations (i.e. warrant service, breaching, MACTAC/Active shooter, officer down rescue, building search).
- Demonstrate shooting proficiency utilizing the Force Option simulator or live fire.

**References:** Instructors, facilitators and training supervisors shall ensure that the most current references are utilized

**I. INTRODUCTION AND COURSE OVERVIEW**

**(0800-0830) 30 Min**

- A. Introduction
1. Insure the students sign the Post Roster (input Post ID)
    - a. Advisory to students
    - b. No more than 10 percent rule for time missed during a Post Certified course
  2. Instructor(s)
    - a. Name, Assignment
    - b. Experience
    - c. Ask the students if they have subpoenas to attend court during this course
    - d. All Students must be full duty (no work restrictions).
  3. Handouts: The Ballistic Shield handout will be given to all students
  4. A copy of the Safety Guidelines will be available for the students
  5. Student Introductions
    - a. Name
    - b. Area/Division
    - c. Assignment/Unit
- B. Resources Required:
- Ballistic Shields or approved non ballistic practice shields
  - Radio for emergency notifications

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- First aid kit (with trauma kit)
  - Sam Browne
  - Inert handguns
  - Body armor and ballistic helmet
  - FOS room
  - Ballistic Shield Handout
  - Copy of the Safety Guidelines
  - Post Roster
  - Classroom with tables
- C. Course Overview
1. Discuss course overview and emphasize key learning points
  2. Ballistic Shield components and nomenclature
  3. Ballistic Shield advantages and disadvantages
  4. Ballistic Shield carrying positions.
  5. Building Search Techniques-Practical Application
  6. Ballistic Shield use during common law enforcement operations
  7. Proficiency test using Force Option Simulator
    - After each block of instruction ensure to close with a question ensure to close with a question
- D. Overview Safety Plan
- Ask- Why is it important to have a safety plan?
1. Designate an EMT (if available)
  2. Designate a runner to meet FD if training location is different from street address
  3. Designate a communications officer to request medical assistance
  4. All participants in training have the authority to stop the exercise if they observe an unsafe act or condition that may cause imminent injury or death and/or damage to the facility
  5. Students shall immediately notify an instructor(s) or the training staff of any injury sustained during training, and use the following steps in the event of a serious injury
    - a. Render First Aid and obtain appropriate medical assistance. Notify the Los Angeles Fire Department (213-485-6185) via telephone, cellular phone or police radio. Give specific directions to the location of the incident. Consider transporting to nearest Trauma Center if necessary. If outside the City of Los Angeles, contact appropriate Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service.
    - b. In case of a serious injury, all IIPP notifications and protocol shall be followed
    - c. The supervisor will ensure that the necessary worker compensation forms (PDAS-43) and other reports (Employee Notification Form 15.7) are completed in a timely manner.
    - d. Transport to the local hospital for a minor injury
  6. Discuss Safety Rules:
    - a. The instructor will emphasize the Safety Rules
      - Ask- What are the Firearms Safety Rules?
      - Four Firearms Safety Rules:

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- 1) All guns are always loaded;
  - 2) Never allow the muzzle to cover anything you are not willing to shoot;
  - 3) Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are aligned on the target and you intend to shoot; and,
  - 4) Be sure of your target.
7. Discuss Los Angeles Police Department Use of Force Directives
- a. Distribute Directive No. 1 July 2020: Use of Force Policy -Revised
  - b. Distribute Directive No. 16 October 2016: Tactical De-Escalation Techniques

## II. INTRODUCTION TO THE LAPD LEVEL III BALLISTIC SHIELD

(0830-0900)

30 MIN

### A. LAPD Level III Ballistic Shield

- Ask- What is the primary purpose of the LAPD ballistic shield?
    - The primary purpose of the LAPD ballistic shield is to provide NIJ rated Level III ballistic protection to previously unprotected areas of the body (i.e. face and neck) while also giving protection to the carrying arm and upper torso, in addition to the soft body armor already worn.
1. Shield nomenclature
    - a. Face and Back-normally made of an ABS plastic or rubberized spray covering the ballistic material
    - b. Ballistic Protection- Made of DYNEEMA highly compressed polyethylene.
    - c. Viewport-made of polycarbonate resin with the same protection level as the shield body. Easily scratched and must be protected to maintain visual clarity.
    - d. Edging- Made of a fiberglass composite. The edging protects the ballistic body of the shield.
    - e. Light- Integrated into the shield. Provides operator powerful illumination to identify possible threats and disorient suspects.
    - f. Forearm strap-Used to facilitate transitional movement, ease of carry and control. Also facilitates use of both hands for variety of actions, including pistol reloading/malfunction clearing.
    - g. Foam pad-Used to cushion forearm while holding the shield in position.
      - Ask-Why is it important to keep the viewport face up when setting the shield on the ground?
  2. Care and cleaning
    - a. Viewport-The viewport, like the visor on the ballistic helmet, are easily scratched and damaged. Be careful to avoid unnecessary scratches or other damage to the viewport, as it could affect visibility. When placing the shield on the ground keep the viewport face up to avoid scratching it on the ground.  
[2]
    - b. Cleaning-Keep the ballistic shield clean by using a soft cloth dampened with water to remove dirt or grime from the handle and light systems. Keep the light switches free from excessive dirt and dust.
    - c. Storage- Always store the shield in its protective carrying bag when not deployed.

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#### 3. Ballistic Shield Advantages and Disadvantages

- Ask- What are the advantages of having a ballistic shield?

##### a. Advantages

- 1) Ballistic Protection: The LAPD ballistic shields are rated to stop NIJ Level III (High Powered Rifle) threats. They are literally “portable cover”. The ballistic shields are designed to be used in conjunction with Department firearms, to include handgun, shotgun and patrol rifle. They can also protect officers against blunt and edged weapon assaults.
- 2) Light weight: The ballistic shield weighs approximately 18 pounds including lighting system, carrying straps and viewport. High intensity lighting system: The ballistic shield is equipped with a high intensity (900 lumens) light system designed to illuminate and disorient potentially armed suspects. This lighting system acts independently of weapon mounted lighting systems.
- 3) High Mobility/Low profile: The ballistic shields are intentionally designed for ease of mobility in close quarter situations, compared to those commonly used in the past.

- Ask- What are the disadvantages of having a ballistic shield?

##### b. Disadvantages

- 1) Focal point isolation (Tunnel Vision). The use of a ballistic shield with a viewport provides excellent protection. However, care must be given to maintain situational awareness while using the shield, as the use of a viewport can decrease the operator’s field of view.
- 2) Shield weight and size: No matter how compact and light a shield is, it’s still heavier and bigger than no shield. You must balance the protection afforded by the shield with the innate cumbersomeness of carrying a large object during tactical situations.
- 3) Ballistic protection: Ballistic Shields, like body armor, are designed to protect the user against a certain type of ammunition fired at a certain velocity. Level III ballistic shields and body armor will not protect against armor piercing rifle rounds.
  - Like any tactical option, it is ultimately the operator’s decision to weigh the “pros and cons” to determine what is best and most effective in each situation. Sometimes the best choice is not the easiest choice.
- 4) Size and Weight are dictated by the materials (the viewport is typically the heaviest part of the shield) and overall size of the shield.
- 5) Maneuverability is more a function of the size and design characteristics
- 6) Most handheld ballistic shields are rated Level IIIA, which means they are designed to stop only handgun rounds. The LAPD ballistic shields are NIJ Level III rated shields, which means they can stop high powered rifle rounds. These are tested by an independent lab to ensure they stop the rounds at specific velocities. They are not designed to stop armor

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piercing rifle rounds. Shields that are designed to stop armor piercing rounds are rated at Level IV. Just like any other cover, it is imperative to know what the protective level of the shield you are using.

- 7) Personal protective equipment-The LAPD ballistic shield augments and does not replace your personal protective equipment (PPE) such as your ballistic helmet, body armor, gloves and eye protection. A shield operator should wear a helmet, body armor and eye protection when deploying the ballistic shield. Protective tactical gloves are also an option particularly when conducting breaching operations.
- 8) Only trained officers and supervisors are allowed to deploy and use the ballistic shield. Trained means taking and passing an approved
- 9) Department shield course put on by certified Department ballistic shield instructors.

### III. SHIELD MANIPULATIONS/DEMONSTRATION & STUDENT PRACTICE (0900-0945)

45 Min

- A. After instruction of section III Students will practice skills and demonstrate their ability to perform them satisfactorily.
- B. Discuss and demonstrate one handed shooting techniques with primary hand. Discuss the differences between one and two handed shooting techniques. Demonstrate how one handed shooting position with support side arm held close to torso is similar to shield positions.
  - Ask: Do these shields stop rifle rounds?
- C. Discuss and demonstrate shield carrying and shooting positions
  - Have the students assume "Rest Position" while demonstrating the position and its benefits. Do this with the other positions as well.
  - Demonstrate how use your feet to lift the shield up or use your support hand to pick up the shield.
  - Demonstrate how to sling shield.
  1. Rest position
    - a. Hold the shield in upside down position, support hand through the sling and holding the handle.
    - b. This is considered an administrative rest position, designed to facilitate rest and ease of movement without fatiguing the operator.
  2. Shoulder Shield
    - a. The support hand holding the shield is placed on the support side shoulder so that the shield is facing away from the operator and the handle is near the support side shoulder. For some people the handle will actually rest on the shoulder.
    - b. This is considered a tactical rest position, designed to facilitate rest and ease of movement without fatiguing the operator. It also is used to allow the operator better frontal visibility while moving with the shield.

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3. Sling Shield
  - a. Support arm through the forearm strap, support hand releases the handle so the strap supports the weight of the shield.
  - b. This will be used for weapon reloading and malfunction applications
4. Combat Ready Wrap
  - a. Operator has shield in support hand
  - b. Shield is held in front of operator's face
  - c. Inner part of the primary elbow is placed around shield cutout
  - d. Weapon is displayed in front of viewport
  - e. Primary arm elbow crease presses against shield to provide stability
  - f. Weapon should be canted slightly inwards with a straight wrist to minimize muzzle flip during recoil.
  - g. Low Ready can be used in this position by lowering the weapon below the view port
5. Close Combat position (Primary side)
  - a. Operator has shield in support hand
  - b. Shield is held in front of operator's face
  - c. Weapon is presented and resting on strong side cutout with front or bottom of the trigger guard pressed against the cutout or side of the shield below the cutout.
  - d. Never allow a pistol light to rest on the shield. If you have a pistol light use the bottom of the trigger guard as the point of contact on the shield.
  - e. The weapon/ejection port is slightly canted away from shield to avoid malfunction. Primary side elbow is tucked behind shield.
6. Close Combat position (Support Side)
  - a. Operator has shield in support hand
  - b. Shield is held in front of operator's face
  - c. Weapon is presented and resting on support side cutout with front or bottom of the trigger guard pressed against the cutout or side of the shield below the cutout.
  - d. Never allow a pistol light to rest on the shield. If you have a pistol light use the bottom of the trigger guard as the point of contact on the shield.
  - e. The weapon/ejection port is slightly canted away from shield to avoid malfunction. Primary side elbow is tucked behind shield.
7. Kneeling position
  - a. From any standing shield position, step forward with the support side foot and drop the primary knee down into a speed kneeling position.
  - b. Invert the shield keeping it in front of you (not to the side)

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- c. Release the handle to manipulate the weapon with two hands or to reload or clear malfunction while still in the strap.
  - d. If you're going to be in position for an extended period of time, you can come out of the strap and turn the shield facing up (12 o'clock position). You can also step on the strap with your forward foot to stabilize the shield, particularly if using a patrol rifle or shotgun in this position.
  - e. To get back up: From the inverted position, grab the handle. Start the rotation of the shield and use any firing position needed until you reach the standing position and assess. This is also known as "fighting your way back up".
8. Prone position (Optional)
    - a. From kneeling position: Invert the shield. Release the handle and get out of the forearm strap system. Grab the handle and flip the shield back to the 12 o'clock position. Place the rifle or pistol in the cut out. Grab the handle (palm up). Lower your body into a roll over prone position. Allow the shield to rest on top of you with your weapon extending from the primary side cut out. If carrying a rifle release the handle and support the rifle by placing your support hand under the rifle in front of the ejection port.
    - b. To stand up from prone: Grab the handle (palm up), as you get to a kneeling position, invert the shield. Get back into the forearm strap and reacquire the handle. "Fight your way back up" to a standing position.
  9. Ground Shield (shield facing up to protect viewport)
  10. Low Ready Shield with assessment
  11. Split Shield position: used while making room entries. The Split Shield position is used to face a threat on the officer's support side while his attention and firearm are facing towards the primary side threat
- D. Discuss and demonstrate reloading the pistol while carrying the shield.
1. Active: immediate action drill by slinging the shield and completing tactical and speed reloads while on the move
  2. Static: taking cover behind the shield in the kneeling position and completing tactical and speed reloads while stationary.
  - 3.
- E. Discuss and demonstrate placement of weapon on shield with and without weapon attached light.
- F. Discuss and demonstrate use of shield light.
- G. Evaluation

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**IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION DURING TACTICAL SITUATIONS (0945-1015)**  
**30 Min**

- A. Discuss and demonstrate typical situations where the Ballistic Shield could be used:
  - 1. Building searches: Demonstrate the use of the shield while conducting door entries, room clearances and hallway movement.
  - 2. Breaching operations: Demonstrate the use of the shield while conducting manual breaching operations on breaching door and breaching window.
  - 3. High risk vehicle stop: Demonstrate the use of the shield while clearing the suspect vehicle and covering the suspect during handcuffing.
  - 4. Approaching to handcuff: Demonstrate the use of the shield while approaching a suspect who will be handcuffed by the contact officer.
  - 5. Persons with mental illness: Discuss how a shield could provide cover
  - 6. Vicious Animals: Discuss how the shield could provide cover
  - 7. Edged weapon suspects
  
- B. Demonstrate the use of the Ballistic Shield during Officer Down Rescue situations:
  - 1. Single and multiple shield use: Demonstrate how the shield could be used in single and/or multiple shield applications for rescue.
  - 2. Planned and spontaneous rescues
  
- C. Shield retention techniques:
  - 1. Bladed presentation of shield towards suspect to minimize ability of suspect to grab shield.
  - 2. Holster or bring weapon to close contact position
  - 3. Lower center of gravity by bending the knees and lowering the hips.
  - 4. Push and pull the shield.
  - 5. Use solid structure as controlling agent.
  - 6. Shield strikes. In close quarters during shield retention situations, the shield may be used in a manner consistent with other approved impact devices. The target areas are the same as a baton and the use of the shield as an impact device will be evaluated in the same manner.

**V. SHIELD CERTIFICATION: USE THE FORCE OPTION SIMULATOR OR LIVE FIRE TO TEST THE PROFICIENCY OF SHIELD OPERATORS.**  
**(1015-1045) 30 Min**

- A. Scenarios
  - 1. Choose scenarios that allow the officers to test their ability to use their firearm with the shield.



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- B. Pistol proficiency using Force Option Simulator
  - Remind students of the Firearms Safety Rules
  - 2. Use “Skill Builder #2” which shows silhouette targets at approximate 8 second intervals.
  - 3. From any approved shield position, fire two rounds at each target. Six targets in total
  - 4. 15-21 feet distance from screen
  - 5. A passing score is 8/12 rounds in the body
- C. Pistol proficiency using Live Fire
  - Remind students of the Firearms Safety Rules
  - Must maintain a safety ratio of one HITS instructor to five students for live fire (static line drills only).
  - 1. Have the students load one magazine with 12 rounds or two magazines with 6 rounds.
  - 2. From any approved shield position, using silhouette targets, the student will fire a controlled pair within 8 seconds into the body of the target.
  - 3. The instructor will give the student six opportunities seconds each to fire two rounds into the target.
  - 4. 15-21 feet distance
  - 5. A passing score is 8/12 rounds in the body.

**VI. CLOSING**

**(1045-1100) 15 Min**

- A. Reinforce key learning points from the entire training
  - 1. An understanding of the pros and cons of using the Ballistic Shield
  - 2. Review of the nomenclature and care and cleaning of the Ballistic Shield
  - 3. Review the shooting positions and shield retention
  - 4. Emphasize that the Ballistic Shield is a tool for the officer to use for their protection and increase their safety.
- B. Discuss Tactical De-Escalation Techniques and how this should be incorporated into Department Use of Force Policy.
- C. Discussion and Questions (Open to class)
  - Ask- What lessons were learned?
  - Ask the students if they have any questions and what would they add to the class.