



TRAINING BULLETIN

Los Angeles Police Department

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IMMEDIATE ACTION / RAPID DEPLOYMENT TACTICS PART II

RAPID DEPLOYMENT

The core of Immediate Action/Rapid Deployment is fluid momentum while searching hallways, rooms and other areas. Officers should not move faster than they can make reasonable decisions or shoot accurately. When the assailant's activity is detectable, the Contact Team's pace will be aggressive and driven toward that activity. If the assailant's activity is no longer detectable, the pace should decelerate and include slow, systematic room clearing techniques. This pace will continue until the assailant's activity is detectable or officers make contact with the assailant. Officers must be cognizant during close quarters searching of their muzzle direction to avoid covering anyone unintentionally. This Training Bulletin provides directions for making entry and room clearing procedures during deployment of this field tactic.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communication amongst the team members as well as with the Command Post is a critical element of officer safety. The Team Leader (TL) should determine the method used to communicate based on the conditions present. If audible alarms, gunshots or other noises are hindering communication, then the Team Members may use loud and clear voice commands. If the activity has ceased and the assailant's whereabouts is unknown, then quiet voice commands or hand signals may be used.

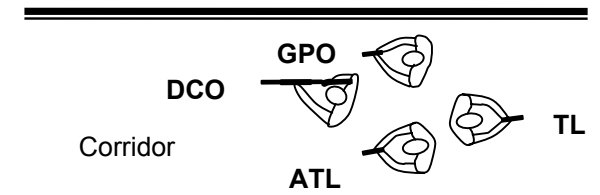
The Assistant Team Leader (ATL) will be in a flank position and is responsible for broadcasting the location of the team, any victims, and the assailant as well as any other pertinent information to the Command Post. It is vital to notify rescue teams of the location of victims to ensure timely rescue. If a tactical frequency is being used, a Radio Telephone Operator (RTO) may be requested to staff the frequency to record any information that is transmitted. This may be especially helpful at the onset of the incident, when the Command Post (CP) is not fully staffed, and the incident is not fully under control.

ENTRY DIAGRAM OVERVIEW

The following series of diagrams detail the procedures for making entry and clearing a room by a Contact Team. **Diagrams 2 through 4** depict entry methods when the **assailant's location is unknown** or there is no ongoing activity. When the assailant's whereabouts is unknown, two officers clear the room. **Diagrams 5 through 7** portray entry techniques if the searching officers believe the **assailant is in a specific location**. When the suspect's whereabouts is known or detectable, three officers will enter, with Designated Cover Officer (DCO) as one of the first to enter, to take advantage of the DCO's superior firepower. When viewing the diagrams the positions of Assistant Team Leader and General Purpose Officer are interchangeable in regard to positioning and order of entry.

BASIC ROOM CLEARING TECHNIQUES

The basic formation used by Contact and Rescue Teams is a diamond formation (Diagram 1). The Team Leader will take the rear guard position and designate the search team. The Designated Cover Officer (**DCO**) is in the point position and should be armed with an Urban Police Rifle (UPR) or shotgun slug ammunition. There are officers on both flanks and a rear guard, to ensure 360-degree coverage. The Assistant Team Leader (**ATL**) and General Purpose Officer (**GPO**) should be the flanks and the Team Leader (**TL**) will act as rear guard. This allows the Team Leader to monitor the room being searched and the corridor at the same time. If there is activity that drives the team forward, such as gun shots, the Team Leader maintains a flank position for better control of the team. The team should move in formation to insure complete coverage. Each team member has specific responsibilities which are detailed in the following diagrams.



Four - Officer Diamond Formation – Diagram 1

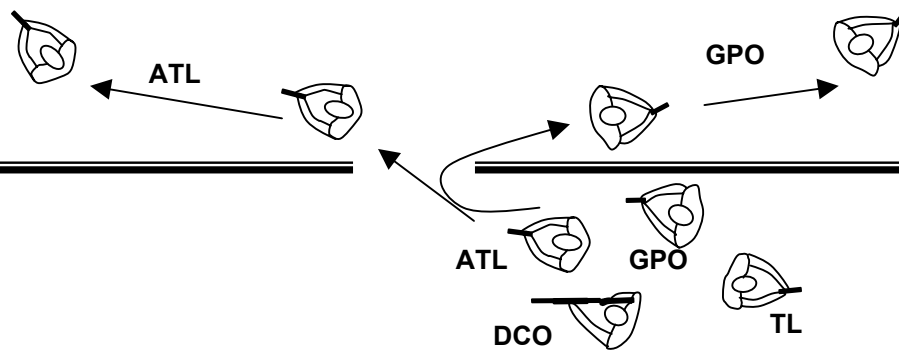
Prior to entering a room, officers will stage outside the doorway. The position of the officers depends upon whether the door is open or closed, and which way the closed door opens. When entering, the officer positioned next to the hinge is usually the first to enter an uncleared room. However, when a closed door opens out, the officer positioned next to the doorknob will likely be the first to see the interior of the room. Therefore, it may be appropriate for the officer positioned on the doorknob side to enter the room first, regardless of the condition of the door. Officers should be aware that **in schools, classroom doors generally open out** into the corridors. When the officers make entry into a room, they will follow their perspective wall, while clearing their area of responsibility (AOR). The officers making entry must avoid over penetration while visually clearing their AORs, since this can lead to exposure to hiding areas, additional doorways and deep corners of the room. After common living/working areas have been searched, it may be appropriate to search “hiding” areas. Ultimately, it is up to the Team Leader to determine how detailed the search will be based on the information known at the time of the search. The initial clear is given if there is no immediate contact with the suspect.

When a team is conducting a search of potential hiding places, one officer will communicate “*Searching*” while the other officer communicates, “*Covering*.” This will prevent a situation where both officers are searching, leaving them uncovered. The officer will conduct a quick but adequate search of potential hiding places. After the search is completed, the searching officer will communicate, “*Room Clear*.” If contact is made, the officer will take appropriate action to control the occupants of the room. If no contact is made, both officers exit the room and continue to the next area to be searched. The officer nearest the door will then announce, “*Coming Out*” and exit the room. When large search teams are used, the last officer will announce, “*Last Out*” and exit the room.

No Activity

If activity is no longer detectable within the crisis site and the whereabouts of the assailant(s) are unknown, the team will slow its momentum and conduct a systematic search, clearing room by room. Officers should not become complacent while conducting the search, since the assailants may present themselves without warning. The below diagrams (2-4) detail the methods used to enter an uncleared room when searching for an active shooter, and the shooter’s location is unknown.

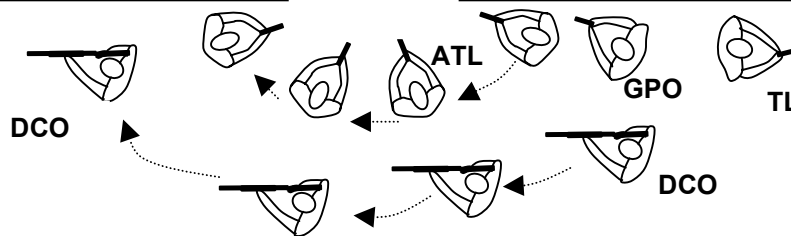
- **ATL** stops short of the open doorway, briefly assess, then communicates to **GPO** when ready to enter
- **GPO** acknowledges the communication by squeezing the back of the **ATL's** leg or knee to signal entry can be made
- **ATL** will step through the doorway and follow his/her respective wall and visually clear AOR
- **GPO** will step through the doorway, buttonhook, and following the wall visually clearing the AOR
- When their respective AOR are clear, each officer will quietly communicate "CLEAR."



Open Door

Diagram 2a

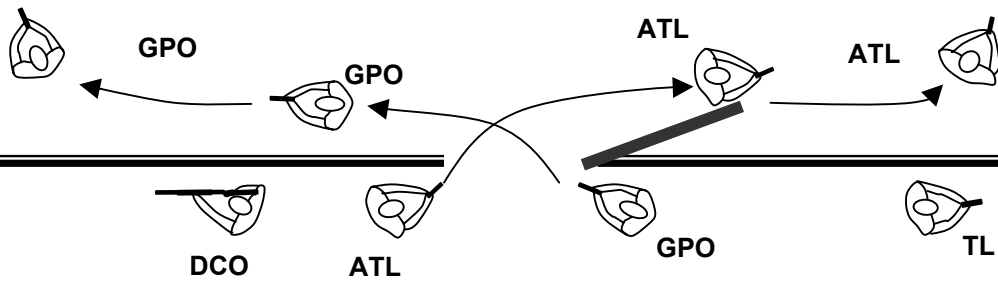
- **ATL** will quickly assess to determine if there is any activity in the room.
- **ATL** will quickly cross the doorway, muzzle towards opening and stage for entry
- **DCO** will also cross the doorway at the same time as the **ATL**
- **GPO** and **ATL** are now staged for a crossover entry into the room, then will make eye contact (or verbalize if necessary) and smoothly enter the room
- **TL** can assume a position next to the open doorway and monitor the search, while maintaining rearward cover



Open Door – Alternate Method

Diagram 2b

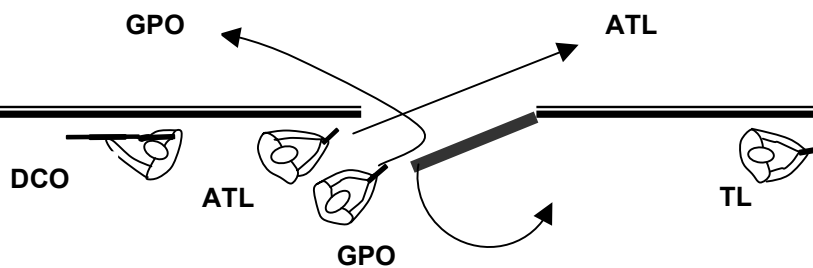
- **DCO** crosses the closed doorway to provide forward cover
- **ATL** crosses the doorway, turns inward and takes a position facing the **GPO**
- **TL** maintains rearward cover
- **GPO** (staged next to the hinge) will be the first officer into the room
- **ATL** will make eye contact with the **GPO** and open the door
- **GPO** and **ATL** will crisscross through the doorway, then both clear their AOR, as previously described



Door Opens In

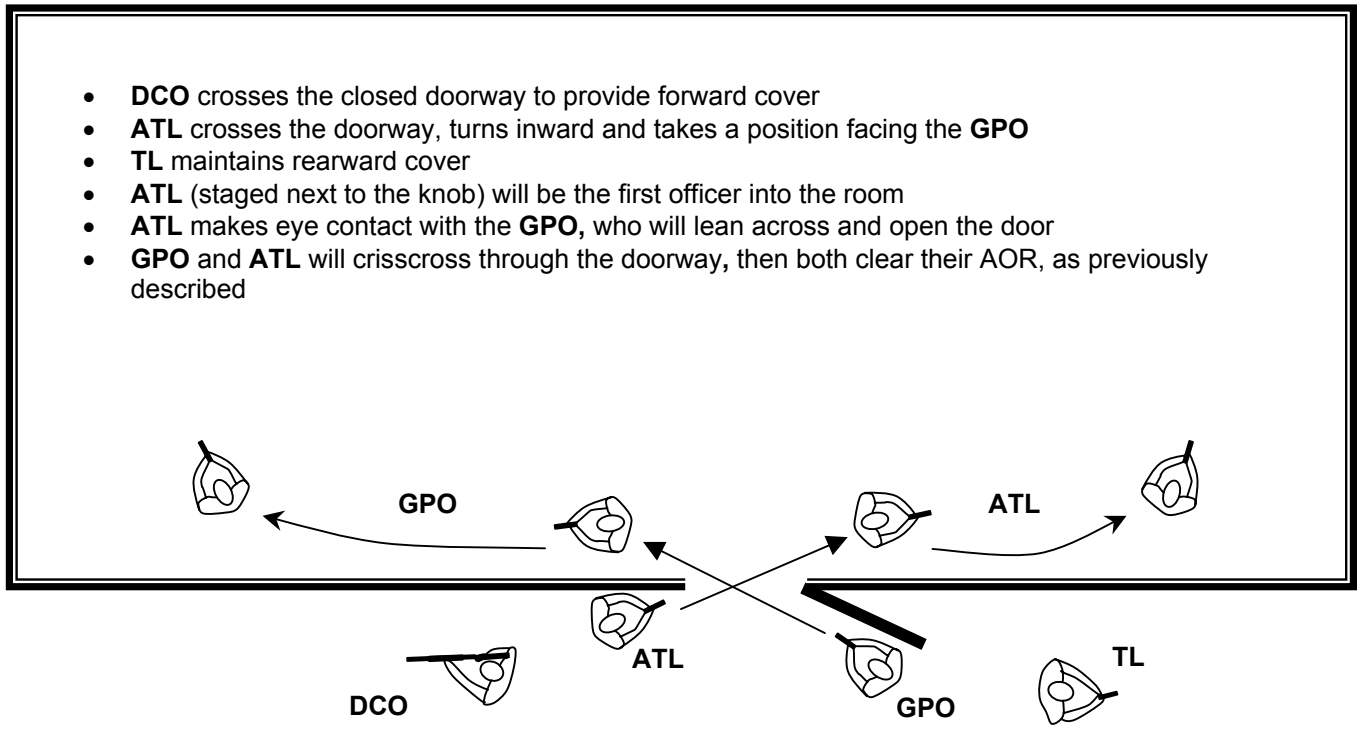
Diagram 3

- **DCO** crosses the closed doorway and provides forward cover, while the **TL** provides rearward cover
- **ATL** crosses the doorway, turns inward and faces the door
- **ATL** (staged next to the doorknob) will be the first officer into the room
- **GPO** takes a position behind the first officer (same side of the door)
- **GPO** will reach around the **ATL** and open the door, which allows the **ATL** to provide cover for the **GPO** as the door is being opened
- Immediately after opening the door, the **GPO** steps behind the **ATL**
- **ATL** will crossover through the doorway, followed by the **GPO**, who buttonhooks, then both clear their AOR



Door Opens Out

Diagram 4a



Door Opens Out – Alternative Method

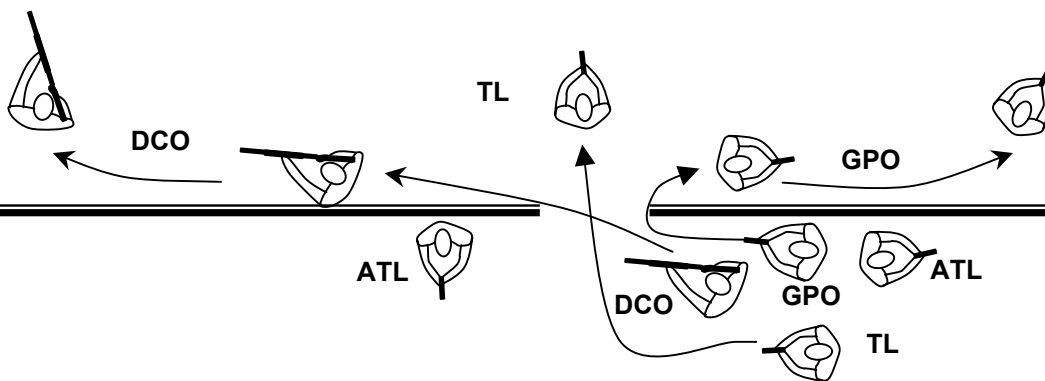
Diagram 4b

Aggressive Deadly Behavior

When an assailant's location is known or detectable and the aggressive deadly behavior is ongoing, the Contact Team must move with determination and aggressiveness to stop the assailant's behavior. Officers must be mentally prepared to engage the assailant with innocent persons in close proximity. When contact with the assailant is imminent, officers should exploit available cover when appropriate. When entry into a room is necessary to contact the assailant, movement should be fluid and aggressive. Under these conditions, three officers from the Contact Team will enter the room. Diagrams 5 through 7 display room entry and clearing techniques when the assailant's presence is known. During aggressive movement, the Team Leader will assume the right or left flank position.

If contact is made, officers will take appropriate action to take the assailant into custody or stop the deadly threat posed by the suspect. After an assailant has been taken into custody, the Incident Commander will ensure that the crisis site is thoroughly searched for additional assailants and victims before the area is considered "CLEAR." If an Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) occurs, those officers involved will stay with the assailant and notify the Incident Commander.

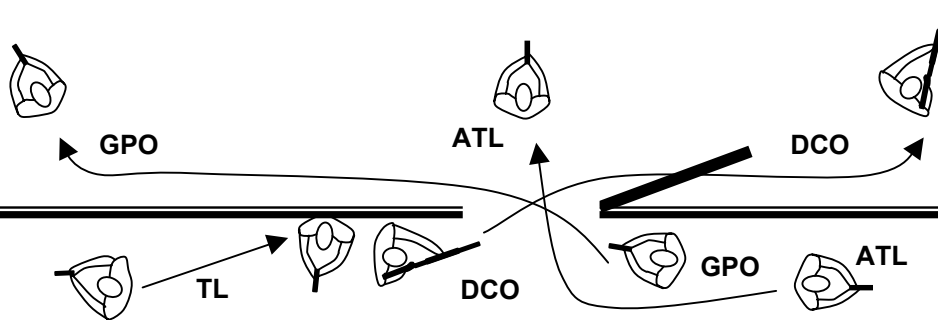
- **DCO** stops short of the open doorway to prepare to enter the room
- **TL** will provide forward cover, while the **ATL** maintains rearward cover
- **GPO** squeezes the back of the **DCO's** leg or knee to signal entry can be made
- **DCO** will then step through the doorway following his/her momentum toward the near corner
- **GPO** will step into the doorway, buttonhook to the opposite corner, and follow the wall while clearing from the near corner to the center of the room
- **TL** will enter and move to the center of the room not to exceed the position of the **DCO** and **GPO**
- **ATL** will move to the edge of the open doorway and monitor the corridor



Open Door

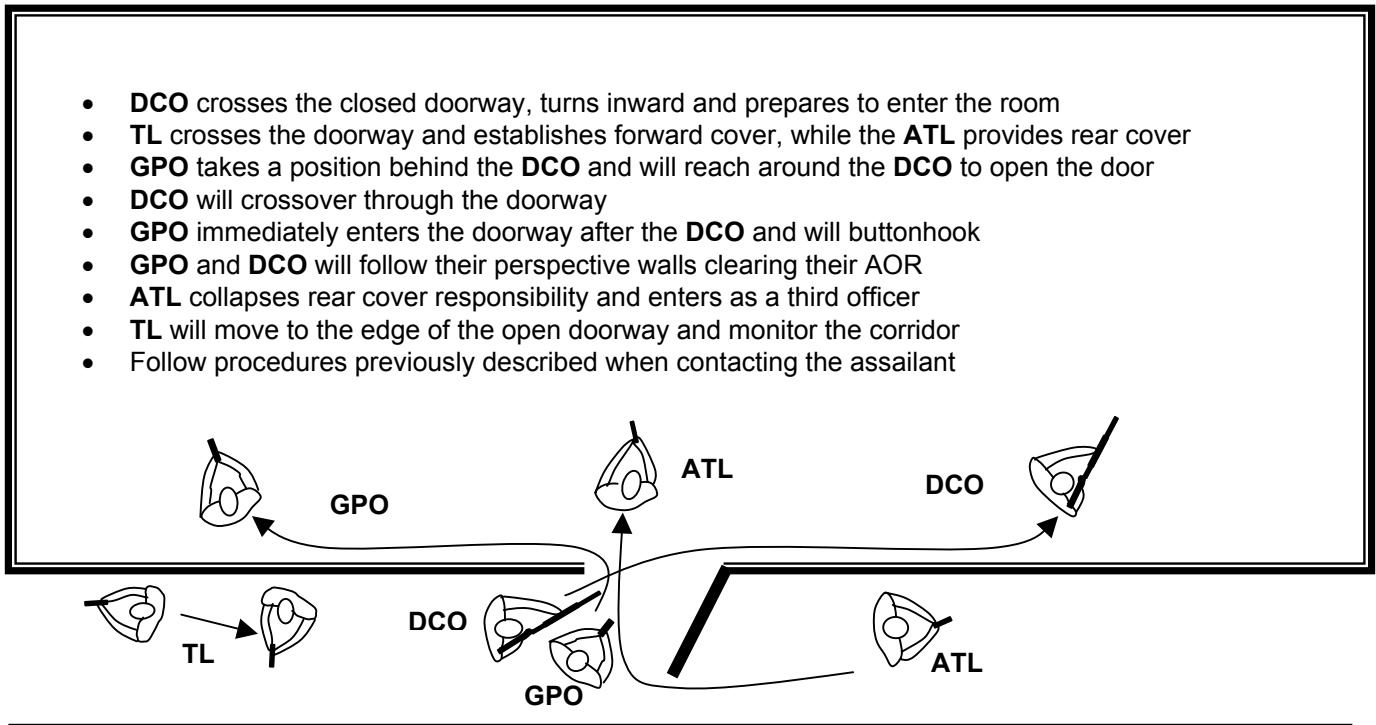
Diagram 5

- **DCO** crosses the closed doorway, turns inward and facing the **GPO**
- **TL** crosses the doorway and establishes forward cover, while the **ATL** provides cover rearward
- **DCO** (near doorknob) will make eye contact with the other searching officer and open the door
- **GPO** (near hinge) will be first into the room, followed by the **DCO**, in a crisscross pattern
- **GPO** and **DCO** will follow their perspective walls clearing their AOR
- **ATL** will collapse rear cover responsibility and enter the third officer in the room
- **TL** will move to the edge of the open doorway and monitor the corridor
- Follow procedures previously described when contacting the assailant



Door Opens In

Diagram 6



Door Opens Out

Diagram 7

WHEN SWAT ARRIVES

When tactical team personnel arrive on scene, they are generally better equipped and trained to resolve tactical situations; however, continued assistance by initial responders is critical. Under the direction of SWAT, officers may aid with containment responsibilities and assist with Rescue Teams. Contact Teams are to advise SWAT of the last known location of the assailant, report location of explosives and provide any pertinent information (assailant description, weaponry, etc.).

CONCLUSION

There will occasionally be circumstances requiring Immediate Action and Rapid Deployment from first responders. While most officers will never face such a threat, nevertheless, mental and tactical preparation for this possibility is essential. Ideally, officers should possess detailed internal diagrams and phone numbers of high-risk locations and know the best approach routes in their area. In an active shooter situation, time is of the essence. Immediate and swift implementation of Contact and Rescue Teams will save lives.

Field Training Services Unit
Continuing Education Division

Distribution "A"