LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
1850-23092
Electronic Weapons Instructor
Expanded Course Outline

Instruction Goal: To provide students with the theory and practical training necessary to effectively instruct users to safely and effectively operate Electronic Control Devices (ECD) deployed by the Department

Performance Objectives: Using lecture, group discussion and learning activities, the student will:

- Analyze the technology behind the Electronic Control Device (ECD)
- Knowledge of the components of the ECD
- Properly manipulate the ECD
- Understand the Department's policy and procedures with respect to ECD usage
- Properly deploy cartridges from the ECD
- Pass a written test with a passing score of 80%
- Demonstrate an understanding of how our Department's guiding value of Reverence for Human Life is the moral and ethical foundation of de-escalation, tactics, reasonable force, and officer safety.
- By the conclusion of the training, students will understand how the application of this training is in keeping with our Department's UOF policy, philosophy and tactical planning.

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

This course complies with the legislative content and mandates of PC 835a

I. INTRODUCTION (Day 1) (30 min)

A. Introduction of instructor(s)
   1. Name, assignment
   2. Experience

B. Expectations
   1. Must complete entire course
   2. Pass written test with a passing score of 80%

C. Safety
   1. No live firearms in training area
   2. Every participant is a safety officer
   3. Safety switches on the ECD will remain in the down (Safe) position unless the instructor directs students to arm the ECD or when it is appropriate to do so during a training drill or scenario
   4. ECD's must not be pointed at any person or body part unless the instructor directs students to do so as part of a training exercise or when it is appropriate to do so during a training scenario
   5. An ECD with a live cartridge shall not be pointed at another person or body part
   6. LASERs must not be pointed at eyes
   7. Eye protection must be worn by instructors and students during the practical application

II. HISTORY AND DEFINITIONS (60 min)

A. Definitions[1]
   1. Electronic Control Devices (ECD) are designed to use propelled wires or direct contact to conduct electrical charge to primarily affect motor functions and/or the sensory nervous system
      a. The LAPD/POST uses the terminology of "ECD" to describe this technology. However, AXON describes its technology as Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW) while other organizations use the terminology of Conducted Energy Device (CED). The different terminologies utilized describe the same technology as defined above
   2. Probe Mode: Utilizes the TASER cartridge while attached to the ECD TASER unit. Firing the two probes attached to wires making contact with the suspect which could cause neuro-muscular incapacitation. This is the most effective way to the use the TASER
   3. Drive Stun: Two contacts on the cartridge or the ECD TASER unit that conduct energy to affect the suspect's sensory nerves causing localized pain. This feature may be used with or without a cartridge in place. If a cartridge is in place, the probes will fire when the trigger is pressed
   4. Optimal Range: Discuss the most effective spread of the probes to accomplish neuro-muscular incapacitation (NMI)
   5. Optimal Target Areas: Splitting the beltline area for probes. Forearm, outside of thigh, calf muscle for drive stun. Avoid targeting the head, face, throat and groin

B. History
   1. Invention
      a. Inventor: Jack Cover, NASA Scientist
      b. TASER Acronym: Thomas A Swift Electric Rifle
      c. The M26, X26, X26P and TASER 7 are brand names associated with specific conducted electrical weapons manufactured by Axon (Formerly TASER International)
   2. Development[2]
      a. During the development of the TASER non-lethal weapon (1966-1974) it was discovered that very short duration of high energy (microseconds), predominately direct current (DC) pulses were non-lethal and non-injurious. However they had a profound physiological and psychological effect on humans and animals
      b. From 1971-1974 tests on volunteers were conducted by Dr. Frank Summers with two cardiologists and a physiologist at Saint Joseph's Hospital in Orange County, California
      c. In 1976, the Treasury Department classified the TASER as a Title II weapon. This classification also included machine guns, destructive devices and certain other firearms. The TASER was classified as a firearm based on the fact that the TASER required black powder and a rifle primer as the propellant. It was

[1] Los Angeles Police Department Use of Force – Tactics Directive No. 4.6, Electronic Control Device, TASER
[2] AXON (Formerly TASER International) Version 7.1, 2000

classified as a Title II weapons because of its flashlight shape which caused it not to appear as a firearm

3. Stun Systems (Pre 1999)
   a. 1st and 2nd generation ECDs jams the central nervous system with electrical noise
   b. Only affected the sensory nervous system
   c. Operated between 7-11 watts depending on model
4. Advanced Taser (1999)
   a. 3rd and 4th generation ECDs use electrical impulses similar to those in the body's nervous system to cause stimulation of the sensory and motor nerves
   b. Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation (NMI) occurs when an ECD is able to cause involuntary stimulation of both the sensory and the motor nerves
   c. It is not dependent on pain and can be effective on subjects with a high level of pain tolerance
   d. Data port function and integrated laser
5. Shaped Pulse (2003)
   a. The previous M26 Advanced TASER utilized a "blunt" pulse to deliver the electrical energy. As a result of skin and clothing that were barriers for the electrical energy to pass, 90% of the delivered energy was lost. Required 26 watts to accomplish
   b. Uses a highly refined energy pulse that concentrates a small portion of energy to first penetrate the barrier, while the majority of electrical charge is held in reserve, flowing freely through the barrier once the leading edge has been penetrated
      1) "Arc phase"
         a) A very high voltage, short duration pulse that can arc through up to 2 inches of clothing or barriers
         b) Once the arc is created, the air in the arc is ionized and becomes a low impedance electrical conductor that conducts the second pulse into the body
      2) "Stim phase"
         a) Doesn't have to arc across a barrier since this was accomplished during the arc phase. It only has to flow across the highly conductive arc
         b) With less energy lost, less wattage is required from the X26 to cause the NMI effect
6. Charge Metering (2011)
   a. The X26P, X2 and TASER 7 constantly measures its output, pulse-by-pulse
   b. This done to optimize the delivered charge and increase the likelihood of NMI
7. Los Angeles Police Department ECD History
   a. In 1980, due to an increase of street and jail confrontations, the Department field-tested the TASER
   b. In November 1980, the Department purchased 700 TASER devices (Model TF-76) and eventually became the first major law enforcement agency in the nation to deploy the device with field officer
   c. In 1986, the TF-76 was deployed more than 600 times
   d. 1994, LAPD begins to replace the older TF-76 (11-watt system) with the TE-93 (5-7 watt system)
   e. In 2000, the older ECD technology is used approximately fifteen times with an effectiveness of approximately 56%. A product evaluation begins on new ECD technology

f. 2001, a field test is conducted on the M26 TASER
g. 2002, five hundred M26 ECDs are deployed Department wide
h. Between 2002 and 2005, the M26 is deployed over 100 times a year with a success rate of approximately 80-85% effectiveness
i. In 2008, the M26 is replaced by the X26 ECD
j. In 2010, the ECD is used 313 times, more than OC spray (154), Baton (82), and Bean Bag Shotgun (31) combined.[3]
k. December 2013, the field test and product evaluation on the X26P began
l. In 2018, Taser use down 46% over 2017 and 40% below the average from 2014 to 2017. Lowest number of Taser uses in the past four years[4]
m. In 2019, the Department began the process of transitioning to the TASER 7 ECD

III. ELECTRONIC WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY (60 min)

A. Technology[5]
1. Electricity is the flow of electrons through a conductor
   a. Voltage is the pressure behind the flow of electrons
      1) Van de Graff generator that many children have experienced in science classes or museums can generate up to 25,000,000 V
      2) A strong static electricity shock can be in excess of 30,000 V
      3) ECDs generate a peak of up to 50,000 V, which allows it to penetrate up to 2 inches of clothing
      4) The peak voltage delivered to the body is about 1,900 V
   b. Current is measured in amperes, measures the flow rate, how many electrons flow each second
      1) 110 volt wall outlet is 16 amperes (A)
      2) Christmas tree bulb is 1 A
      3) The X26 ECD is 0.0021 A
   c. Joules: International system of unit measurement of energy (mechanical, electrical, or thermal) describing the energy delivered in a single pulse
      1) Automated External Defibrillator (AED) delivers 360 joules
      2) Infants and children: 2-10 joules/kilogram
      3) X26 ECD: Delivers up to about 0.1 joules
2. Basic ECD Operating Principles
   a. NMI technology in ECDs doesn't rely solely on pain for incapacitation
   b. In probe mode, the ECD is designed to use short-duration, pulsed, low-energy electrical stimuli to interfere with the signals sent by the command and control systems of the body, at the peripheral and motor nervous system levels, to impair the subject's ability to temporarily voluntarily control his own body
   c. Motor (muscle) and sensory neurons are responsible for movement and sensation
   d. The human nervous system is the command and control system of the human and has three primary elements
      1) Central Nervous System (CNS)

[3] Use of Force Review Division, 2010 Use of Force Annual Report
[4] Critical Incident Review Division, 2018 Use of Force Year-End Report
[5] Smith, R and Brave, M, Brief Introduction to TASER Electronic Control Devices, History, Electricity, Electrical Stimulation, Electrical Measurements, and the Human Body, July 14, 2012

a) Includes the brain and spinal chord
b) Command center where all decision-make processes occur
c) From the CNS, there is "wiring" composed of nerve cells, or "neurons" that carry information in the form of electrical impulses to and from the brain

2) Motor Nervous System
   a) Includes the nerves that carry commands from the brain out to the body
   b) These nerves are primarily involved in muscular control
   c) Commands from the brain are transmitted as patterns of electrical impulses through the motor nerves into the muscles, causing the muscles to move in certain patterns caused by the pattern of stimulation from the brain
3) Sensory Nervous System
   a) Includes the nerves that carry information to the brain about the state of the body and its environment
   b) Sensory nerves in the skin communicate heat, cold, touch, pressure, pain, and other sensations
   c) Nerves carry visual data from the eyes, auditory data from the ears, and olfactory data from the noise
   d) Data is transmitted in the form of electrical impulses along the neurons into the brain

e. ECDs are designed to use very short duration low energy electrical pulses that are somewhat similar to the pulses used by neurons to communicate
f. ECDs take control of, or interfere with, the communication patterns between the brain and the body
g. Telephone Network Communication Analogy
   1) If person A is talking with person B on the telephone and person C picks up another handset and begins yelling, then person A and B can no longer effectively communicate
   2) When person C hangs up the phone, then the normal communication between persons A and B will resume
   3) There is no damage to the telephone hardware, The temporary over-stimulation of, or interference with the communication prevented communication on a transient and temporary basis
   4) Similarly, ECDs are designed to cause stimulation of the nerves that is designed to be temporary in nature with minimal risk of causing serious damage to the hardware of the communication network by the interference
h. Early ECDs (stun systems) only delivered sufficient electrical charge in each pulse to stimulate the sensory nerves close to the skin
   1) Very little motor nerve stimulation occurred
   2) Resulted in relatively low effectiveness against focused, motivated, or pain-resistant subjects
i. Current ECDs deliver more electrical charge in each pulse
   1) This higher delivered electrical charge results in the motor nerves being stimulated
   2) Effects of repeated pulses on muscle tension
   3) Single muscle twitches will fuse together with sufficient repeated stimulus pulses producing increased muscle tension
j. Drive stun

1) The electrical path of the ECD is between the two fixed electrodes on the front of the ECD or an expended cartridge
2) When the ECD comes into drive-stun contact with a subject the delivered charge is pain compliance

IV. NOMENCLATURE (30 min)

A. TASER (Model Specific)
1. Front and rear sights.
2. Cartridge bay(s)
3. Cartridge release button
4. Safety switch
   a. Ambidextrous safety
   b. Safety switch down- Safe
   c. Safety switch up- Armed
   d. Activates CID, Laser, and illumination
   e. Begins events in the Event Log
   f. Safety switches do not operate independent of each other
5. Built-in laser(s)
   a. The laser of the ECD indicates the relative point of aim of the top probe
6. Flashlight
7. Trigger (Model specific)
8. Arc Switch (TASER 7)
9. Ambidextrous Safety
   a. Safety Switch down (SAFE)
   b. Safety Switch up (ARMED)
   c. Activates the Central Information Display (CID) and selected illumination
   d. The ambidextrous safety switches do not operate independently of each other
   e. Do not block the safety switch on one side of the ECD while attempting to move it on the other side
      1) This can break the safety switch and disable the ECD
      2) ECDs with a broken safety switch must be returned to In-Service Training Division
10. Central Information Display (CID)
    a. Battery
    b. Error Messages
    c. Countdown/up
    d. Cartridge Status
    e. Software version
11. Illumination Button (Model Specific)
12. Battery release
13. Battery (Model Specific)
    a. Automatically stops the electrical cycle after 5-seconds even if the trigger is held down past the cycle
    b. An audible tone will sound at 4-seconds to warn the operator the cycle is about to end

c. The audible alarm will continue to sound if the operator continues to press the trigger beyond the five-second cycle even though the electrical energy is no longer being delivered
d. Recharging/replacing (Model Specific)

B. Approved Holsters (Model Specific)
1. Holster shall be worn on the duty belt on the support side
2. Should be carried in cross draw or support side draw
3. The Taser should be carried loaded with cartridge(s)
4. The Taser shall be carried in an approved holster when stored

C. TASER Cartridges (Model Specific)
1. All cartridges have a 5-year expiration from the date of manufacture
2. Nomenclature of the cartridge
3. All cartridges are color-coded which indicate deployment distance/spread
4. Cartridge Inspection
   a. Blast doors attached and not cracked
   b. Expiration date (cartridges have a 5-year life)
5. Probe Wires
   a. Copper Clad Steel with insulated coating
   b. Easy to break if stepped on or pulled
   c. Inadvertent contact with wires or probe during discharge may result in electrical shock
6. Cartridge Probe Spread (Model Specific)
7. Wires
   a. Steel with insulated coating
   b. Can break easily if stepped on or pulled
   c. Inadvertent contact with wires or the probe during discharge can result in electrical shock
      1) The effect of contact with a wire or probe while taking a suspect into custody is relatively minor and will likely not cause NMI to the officer
      2) ECD officer should advise other officers to avoid wires during restraint
   d. Crossing the wires from multiple cartridges during discharge may cause the circuits to short out and reduce or eliminate the delivered charge to the suspect
8. Anti-Felon Identification Tags (AFIDS)
   a. Physical AFIDS vs Digital AFIDS
   b. Originally created for civilian sales of TASER ECDs to deter criminal use

V. MAINTENANCE AND CARE (30 min)

A. Battery
1. Prior to start of each shift, ensure sufficient battery charge

B. Firmware Updates / Internal Clock Sync

C. TASER cartridges expire five-years from date of manufacture
1. Check expiration date
2. Check cartridge for cracks
3. Check cartridge blast doors

4. Check locking tabs to ensure they are not compressed

D. Secure in protective holster, when not in use
   1. Do not store in pockets without holster

E. Wet ECDs
   1. Do not let the Taser get excessively wet
   2. Occasionally inspect and wipe out the firing bay with dry cloth.
   3. Submerged Taser
      a. Remove cartridges and battery
      b. Let the Taser dry out
      c. Safety switch down on safe and return to In-Service Training Division-Taser Armory immediately

F. Dropped ECDs
   1. Inspect for physical and/or functional damage. If malfunctioning, return to In-Service Training Division-Taser Armory immediately

G. Attaching internal inventory control numbers to ECDs
   1. Do not use metal tags
   2. Do not use a vibrating etching machine
   3. Use only paper or plastic labels or permanent ink

H. Troubleshooting
   1. CID shows critical fault icons or fails spark/function test
      a. Do not use
      b. Swap battery
         1) If no resolution, remove from service
         2) Return to In-Service Training Division-Taser Armory
   2. No arc
      a. Replace battery
      b. Conduct spark/function test
      c. Return to In-Service Training Division-Taser Armory if Taser still does not arc
   3. Flashlight/Laser inoperable (Model Specific)
      a. If unable to resolve, return to In-Service Training Division-Taser Armory
   4. Battery is draining quickly
      a. Replace Battery
      b. Confirm Taser is stored in an approved holster
      c. Ensure Taser is stored with safety switch in OFF position
   5. Cartridges
      a. If cartridge is damaged, return to In-Service Training Division-Taser Armory
      b. Attempt return with probes and wires in place
      c. Place shipping cover on returned cartridges

VI. MEDICAL ASPECTS[6] (60 min)

A. Cardiac
   1. ECD cardiac risks are not zero

[6] AXON, Instructor Certification Course, Version 22, Released June 2020

2. ECD cardiac risks are sufficiently remote that making accurate risk or probability estimates very difficult
3. Experts have identified the following key factors related to ECD cardiac risks:[7]
   a. Dart-to-heart ("DTH") distances
   b. Amount delivered electrical charge
   c. The further a ECD dart is away from the heart and the lower the delivered electrical charge, the lower the risk of the ECD affecting the heart
4. To reduce cardiac risks (when practicable):
   a. Target the back
   b. Avoid targeting the chest
   c. Avoid prolonged and repeated exposures

B. Physiologic/Metabolic Effects
   1. ECDs produces physiologic or metabolic effects
   2. The longer the ECD exposure the greater the potential effects
      a. Just like running up two flights of stairs will have a greater effect than running up one flight of stairs, or
      b. Fighting, wrestling, or grappling for 60 seconds has a great effect than 30 seconds, or 10 seconds
   3. Reasonable efforts should be made to minimize the number and durations of ECD exposures and potential resulting physiologic and metabolic effects
   4. Studies show ECD effects are usually comparable or less than fighting or fleeing

C. TASER Technology Medical Testing
   1. Numerous human studies have shown lower effects on human physiology as compared to some other force options
   2. National Institute of Justice[8]
      a. There is no conclusive medical evidence within the state of current research that indicates a high risk of serious injury or death from the direct or indirect cardiovascular or metabolic effects of short-term CED (Conducted energy device) exposure in health, normal, non-stressed, non-intoxicated persons
      b. In summary, the risk of moderate or severe injury or death from a CED exposure, whether the injury is directly due to darts or indirectly due to secondary events (falls, fractures, etc.) is probably less than 1 percent
      c. Evidence from use in the field has shown that the risk of death in a CED-related incident is ≤ 0.25 percent
      d. There is currently no medical evidence that CEDs pose a significant risk for induced cardiac dysrhythmia in humans when deployed reasonably
      e. The risks of cardiac arrhythmias or death remain low and make CEDs more favorable than other weapons
      f. Research to date shows that human subjects seem to maintain the ability to breath during exposure to a CED

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[7] Sun H, Haemmerich D, Rahko PS, Webster JG. Estimating the probability that the Taser directly causes human ventricular fibrillation. J Med Eng Technol. Apr 2010; 34(3): 178-191
JE. Cardiac safety of neuromuscular incapacitating defensive devices. Pacing Clin Electrophysiol. 2005 Jan; 28 Suppl 1:S284-7

[8] U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, NID Special Report, Study of Deaths Following Electro Muscular Disruption, May 2011

g. CED exposure does not appear to add to acidosis above and beyond that seen with exercise to exhaustion. CED exposure without exertion produces only a mild acidosis

D. Electronic Control Device (ECD) Emergency Department Evaluation
   1. Reviewed studies did not report any evidence of dangerous laboratory abnormalities
   2. No physiologic changes or immediate or delayed cardiac ischemia or dysrhythmias were reported after exposure to ECD discharges of up to 15 seconds

E. Possible Higher Risk Populations
   1. ECDs, like other force options, have not been laboratory tested. However generally, the ECD is not recommended to be used on:
      a. Pregnant women
      b. Infirm
      c. Elderly
      d. Small children
      e. Low body-mass index (BMI) persons
   2. Although ECDs have been used in the field on members of each of these high-risk populations, often without injury, it is unknown if these individuals are at a higher risk of injury or death due to a lack of scientific research

F. Excited Delirium[9]
   1. Behaviors characteristic with Excited Delirium
      a. Bizarre, violent, and/or irrational behavior towards persons or objects
      b. Possibly unresponsive
      c. Hallucinations
      d. High tolerance for pain
   2. Potential causes for Excited Delirium
      a. Under the influence of alcohol and/or controlled substances; or
      b. Suffering from mental illness

G. Medical Treatment
   1. Depending on circumstances, consider having an RA on standby prior to suspect/subject contact
   2. Rendering Aid
      a. After any use of force, officers shall immediately request a rescue ambulance for any person injured. In addition, officers shall promptly provide basic and emergency medical assistance to all members of the community, including victims, witnesses, subjects, suspects, persons in custody, subjects of a use of force and fellow officers:
         1) To the extent of the officer's training and experience in first aid/CPR/AED; and
         2) To the level of equipment available to an officer at the time assistance is needed
   3. Regarding medical treatment, manual section 4/648.11 states
      a. "Whenever the TASER control device is used to control a suspect in custody, or being taken into custody, and the TASER darts make contact with that suspect's

[9] LAPD Training Bulletin, Volume XLVIII, Issue 3, Excited Delirium

clothing or skin, the suspect shall be immediately examined by medical personnel"
   b. "If the suspect loses consciousness, officers shall immediately request an ambulance"
   c. "Medical personnel shall include a doctor or a nurse at a contract hospital or jail dispensary, or a paramedic"
4. **Removal of Taser Probes shall only be conducted by approved medical personnel**

H. Supervisor responsibility
   1. Ensure sufficient officers are on scene or have been requested
   2. Communicate a tactical plan to all involved officers
   3. Ensure an RA is requested when an individual has exhibited signs of medical distress

VII. LEGAL/ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS (60 min)

A. Use of Force Policy[10]
   1. Reverence of Human Life
      a. Reverence of human life is the primary consideration in developing tactics and strategies in pursuit of our motto: "To Protect and To Serve."
   2. California Penal Code 835(a) states that force may be used only to:[11]
      a. Effect an arrest
      b. Prevent escape
      c. Overcome resistance
   3. De-escalation is an ever-present guiding principle that encourages officers to make decisions and act in a manner that will increase the likelihood of safely and successfully resolving a situation while at the same time demonstrating the Department's commitment to Reverence for Human Life
      a. Tactical de-escalation involves the use of techniques to reduce the intensity of an encounter with a suspect and enable an officer to have additional options to gain voluntary compliance or mitigate the need to use a higher level of force while maintaining control of the situation
      b. Elements of De-escalation (PATROL)
         1) Planning
         2) Assessment
         3) Time
         4) Redeployment and/or Containment
         5) Other Resources
         6) Lines of Communication
      c. Note: Tactical de-escalation does not require that an officer compromise his or her safety or increase the risk of physical harm to the public. De-escalation techniques should only be used when it is safe and prudent to do so
   4. Proportionality

[10] Department Manual, 1/556.10, Policy on Use of Force
[11] California Penal Code Section 835(a) PC, Effecting Arrest; Resistance

   a. Officers may only use a level of force that they reasonably believe is proportional to the seriousness of the suspected offense or the reasonably perceived level of actual or threatened resistance
5. Fair and Unbiased Policing
   a. Officers shall carry out their duties, including use of force, in a manner that is fair and unbiased. Discriminatory conduct on the basis of race, religion, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, housing status, or disability while performing any law enforcement activity is prohibited
6. Only personnel trained in a specific device (X26P or TASER 7) shall be authorized to deploy that weapon system(s)
7. Deployment of the Taser including minimum and maximum standoff distances, carrying, target location, care, cleaning, and maintenance shall be conducted in accordance with approved In-Service Training Division lesson plans and guidelines and Department Directives
8. The Taser may be used on suspects who are violent, or who pose an immediate threat to themselves or others, when an officer believes
   a. **That a suspect or subject is violently resisting arrest**
   b. **or poses an immediate threat of violence or physical harm**
9. **Verbal threats of violence by a suspect do not alone justify the use of the Taser.** Any threat must be a credible one
10. The Taser shall not be used for suspect or subject who is passively resisting or merely failing to comply with commands
11. Officers should not utilize an ECD on a suspect who is merely fleeing from officers. Officers should consider the totality of the circumstances including the severity of the crime versus the governmental interest in the seizure, the threat level posed by the suspect to others, and the threat of potential serious injury to the suspect.
12. Requirement to Report Potential Excessive Force
    a. An officer who is present and observes another officer using force that the present and observing officer believes to be beyond that which is necessary, as determined by an objectively reasonable officer under the circumstances based upon the totality of information actually known to the officer, shall report such force to a superior officer
13. Requirement to Intercede When Excessive Force is Observed
    a. An officer shall intercede when present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is necessary, as determined by an objectively reasonable officer under the circumstances, considering the possibility that other officers may have additional information regarding the threat posed by a subject

B. Legal Considerations
   1. Graham v. Connor[12]
      a. Objectively Reasonable: Graham states in part, “The reasonableness of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight”
      b. “The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments- in circumstances that

[12] US Supreme Court, Graham v Connor 490U.S 386(1989)

are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving – about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation"

c. The force must be reasonable under the circumstances known to the officer at the time the force was used
d. Factors used to determine reasonableness: Department examines reasonableness using Graham and from the articulated facts from the perspective of a Los Angeles Police Officer with similar training and experience placed in generally the same set of circumstances
e. Factors may include, but are not limited to
    1) The feasibility of using de-escalation tactics, crisis intervention or other alternatives to force
    2) The seriousness of the crime or suspected offense
    3) The level of threat or resistance presented by the subject
    4) Whether the subject was posing an imminent threat to officers or a danger to the community
    5) The potential for injury to citizens, officers or subjects
    6) The risk or apparent attempt by the subject to escape
    7) The conduct of the subject being confronted (as reasonably perceived by the officer at the time)
    8) The time available to an officer to make a decision
    9) The availability of other resources
    10) The training and experience of the officer
    11) The proximity or access of weapons to the subject
    12) Officer versus subject factors such as age, size, relative strength, skill level, injury/exhaustion and number officers versus subjects; and
    13) The environment factors and/or other exigent circumstances
    14) Whether a person is a member of a vulnerable population
        a) Vulnerable populations include, but are not limited to, children, elderly persons, people who are pregnant, and people with physical, mental and developmental disabilities

2. Bryan v. McPherson[13]
    a. "The X26 and similar devices constitute an intermediate, significant level of force that must be justified by "'a strong government interest [that] compels employment of such force'"
    b. Does the suspect pose an "immediate threat to the safety of officers or others?"
    c. "A simple statement by an officer that he fears for his safety or the safety of others is not enough; there must be objective factors to justify such a concern"
3. Beaver v. City of Federal Way[14]
    a. The court concluded
        1) The use of an ECD involves the application of force
        2) Each additional ECD application involves an additional use of force
        3) Multiple ECD applications cannot be justified solely on the grounds that a suspect fails to comply with a command, absent other indications that the suspect is an immediate threat or about to flee from a serious crime
    b. Any decision to apply multiple ECD applications must take into consideration whether a suspect is capable of complying with officer's commands

[13] Bryan v. McPherson, (9th Cir. (Cal)
[14] Beaver v. City of Federal Way, (W.D. Wash. 2007)

C. Verbal Warning Requirement[15]
   1. Where feasible, a peace officer shall, prior to the use of any force, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves as a peace officer and to warn that force may be used, unless the officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe that the person is aware of those facts
   2. The warning is not required when an officer is attacked and must respond to the suspect's actions. Additionally, if a tactical plan requires the element of surprise in order to stabilize the situation a warning is not necessary
   3. The verbal warning should include a command and warning of potential consequences of the use of force
      a. Example of the warning can be:
      b. "Drop the weapon" or "stop what you are doing" followed by "or we may use the Taser, and that may cause you serious injury"
   4. The use of force warning or why it was not given must be documented. The officer giving the warning an what was said shall be documented in the Non-Categorical Use of Force Report, under the Use of Force Summary heading
      a. If no warning was given, an explanation shall be documented with an appropriate justification
      b. The explanation must clearly articulate the reason why the element of surprise, officer safety consideration or any other appropriate reason cause the officer(s) not to provide the warning
      c. The giving of a warning, or the reasons for the failure to do so, will be one factor in determining whether the use of force is objectively reasonable

D. Duration of field applications
   1. The application of the TASER is a physically stressful event
   2. Although there is no predetermined limit to the number of cycles that can be administered to the suspect, officers should only apply the number of cycles reasonably necessary to allow them to safely approach and restrain the suspect
   3. Especially when dealing with a person in a health crisis such as excited delirium, it is advisable to minimize the physical and psychological stress to the suspect to the greatest degree possible

E. Officers should avoid using the Taser when the suspect is
   1. Suspect is operating/riding any mode of transportation
   2. Elevated Position - Suspect is in danger of falling, which could cause death or serious bodily injury (SBI)
   3. In environments containing flammable or combustible fumes
   4. Near a pool, lake, or similar body of water to avoid drowning
   5. Suspects known to have pacemakers
   6. Suspects known to be pregnant
   7. Under 12 years of age
   8. Elderly or visibly frail

F. Use of Deadly Force by Officers in response to suspects/subjects using Taser
   1. ECDs are target specific weapons

[15] LAPD Use of Force- Tactics Directive No. 4.6, Electronic Control Device, TASER

2. Even though ECDs are not considered lethal, they can incapacitate an officer if used against the officer
3. If an ECD were to be used against an officer with a partner officer present, the use of deadly force would generally not be authorized
    a. Since one officer may be temporarily incapacitated, the partner officer could resort to other less-lethal tactics and options available to de-escalate the situation
    b. If an ECD were to be used against an officer working alone, the officer may be authorized to use deadly force (Deadly force can only be used when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary
    c. Totality of circumstances means all facts known to the officer at the time, including the conduct of the officer and the subject leading up to the deadly force.
        1) Officers should consider distance and cover as their first defense against a suspect armed with an ECD
        2) If the officer reasonably believes that if the ECD were to incapacitate the officer as designed, the suspect could cause the officer serious bodily injury or death with another weapon, possibly the officer's own weapon

G. Pointing/display of electrical arc (Model Specific)
1. The ECD should only be pointed at a person when
    a. The officer reasonably believes that discharge, if it proves necessary, will be justified under the circumstances, and
    b. The officer reasonably believes that the existing circumstances will require discharge of the device unless those circumstances change prior to actual discharge such as voluntary compliance of the suspect, or by the intervention of another means of restraint
2. In a number of cases, pointing the laser and/or displaying the electrical arc has successfully convinced suspects that they should submit to officer directions and commands rather than resist. However, in some cases, suspects have immediately attacked officers or turned and ran away
3. If officers have obtained compliance from the suspect through the pointing of the laser and/or the display of the electrical arc and no other force was used, then the display of the laser/electrical arc is not considered a use of force incident

VIII. DEPLOYMENT AND DOCUMENTATION (90 min)

A. Pre-shift spark/function test
1. A full 5-second spark/functionality test SHALL be conducted prior to the start of a shift
2. Check the CID for battery level and for potential fault icons
3. Reason for spark/functionality test
    a. To check that the ECD is sparking
    b. To check the battery status
    c. To check for any error messages
4. Ensure Taser is returned back into field-ready condition upon completion of spark/function test

B. Pre-planning

1. If needed, to request an ECD, unit must broadcast a "**Code-Tom**"
2. Utilize cover and distance tactics. Officers should attempt to obtain sufficient back-up personnel to contain and control the suspect prior to using the ECD. Proper pre-planning will help in bringing a successful outcome to the situation, with a reduction of injuries to suspects and officers
3. Whenever possible, have a back-up ECD on-scene in case the primary ECD fails
   a. Have reasonable and appropriate force options available when practical
   b. Avoid ECD over-dependence
4. Request a supervisor to the scene, however a supervisor need not be present for the officers to deploy an ECD
5. Isolate the suspect as much as possible
6. Form an arrest team
7. Communicate with other officers at scene the tactical plan including a back-up plan in the event the ECD is ineffective
   a. ECDs may have limited or no effect
   b. Be prepared to transition to other force options

C. Arrest Team
   1. Can be accomplished with two officers
   2. Ideally a five-member team assembled to deploy the ECD
      a. Team Leader
         1) Supervisor or senior officer at scene
         2) Gives direction and commands to the officers
         3) Controls arrest team's movements and deployment
         4) Responsible for decision making regarding the tactical plan and the implementation of the tactical plan including the ECD deployment
      b. Arrest Team (two officers)
         1) Responsible for the physical control of the suspect
         2) Handcuffs and if necessary applies the hobble restraint device on the suspect
            a) Places the suspect in the upright seated position and monitors the suspect for signs of distress
            b) Can also be deployed as the "cover officer"
      c. Less-Lethal Officer
         1) Must be trained and authorized to use the less-lethal weapon
         2) Deploys the less-lethal weapon within established Department guidelines
      d. Contact Officer
         1) Verbalizes to the suspect in a constant effort to de-escalate the situation before, during and after
         2) Orders suspect into a position that is advantageous to the officers

D. Engagement Tactics upon contact with suspect/subject
   1. Team Leader advises the team to deploy
   2. Team members should avoid standing within range of the ECD
   3. Position the ECD officer within deployment range of the suspect/subject
      a. Probe Placement
         1) Keep ECD in line with target
         2) Get both probes on the target
         3) May need to angle so bottom probe hits the leg
         4) May need to turn the ECD sideways if subject is laying down

5) Greater probe spread generally increases effectiveness
   a) "Incapacitation by all measures was found to be a function of spread; generally increasing in effectiveness up to spreads between 9 and 12 in. There were notable differences between front and back exposures, with front exposures not leading to full incapacitation of the upper extremities regardless of probe spread"[16]
   b) If practical, minimum four-inch spread to have some effect
   c) Narrow probe spreads typically are more effective if one probe is above the belt and the other probe is below the belt
   d) Electrical arc can penetrate some soft body armor and may jump through clothing up to approximately 1.5 - 2 inches total or approximately 0.75 – 1 inch per probe

b. Deployment Distance Considerations
   1) Deployment range from 0 to 25 feet (Model Specific)
   2) Optimal range is dependent on Taser model and cartridge being used.
      a) Cartridge selection and deployment distance may vary based on the tactical situation
   3) Other distance considerations
      a) High hit probability when deployed at a closer proximity vs. officer safety (distance)
      b) Avoid probes near the heart or in the chest due to low probability of NMI and to increase the DTH safety distance
      c) Good probe spread resulting in a good amount of muscles being affected
      d) Slack in wires (X26P)

c. Targeting
   1) Whenever possible, avoid intentionally targeting the ECD on sensitive areas of the body
      a) Head
      b) Throat
      c) Face
      d) Breast
      e) Chest or area of heart
      f) Genitals
   2) Preferred Target Zones
      a) The back is always the preferred target area when reasonably practicable under the totality of the circumstances of the incident
      b) To the rear of the suspect: below the neck
         (1) Stronger muscles
         (2) Clothes tend to fit tighter
         (3) Surprise factor
      c) To the front of the suspect: split the belt line
         (1) More effective when one probe is above the belt line and one is below since it involves larger muscles
         (2) Reduces the risk of hitting sensitive body areas
         (3) Increases dart-to-heart (DTH) safety margin distances
         (4) Do not intentionally target the genitals

[16] Ho J, Dawes d, Miner J, Kunz S, Nelson R, Sweeney J. Conducted electrical weapon incapacitation during a goal-directed task as a function of probe spread. Forensic Sci Med Pathol. Apr 2012.

E. Deployment
   1. The team leader or ECD operator should advise other officers of the intentions to deploy the ECD by the use of prearranged visual or audible signal
   2. When feasible, a warning shall be given to the suspect regarding the use of the ECD as per policy
   3. The ECD officer will allow the ECD to run through its preset 5-second cycle
      a. A full 5-second cycle deployment should be applied without interruption (unless circumstances dictate otherwise)
      b. Each 5-second cycle is a "window of opportunity" for the officers to approach the suspect to control
      c. The suspect is only incapacitated during the 5-second cycle. The suspect can recover immediately
      d. Officers are encouraged to subdue and cuff the suspect if possible during the 5-second cycle
         1) Do not place hands within two inches of probes
         2) Do not place any body parts between the probes
   4. Look and listen when evaluating the effectiveness of the ECD deployment
      a. Watch the subject's reaction and look for a change in their behavior
      b. Listen to the sound of the ECD
      c. Quiet pulsing typically indicates a good connection
      d. Arcing electricity is noticeably louder when electrical charge is not being delivered to a subject
      e. No change in subject behavior plus a loud arc is a bad connection or the ECD use is ineffective
      f. Intermittent connection
   5. No change in behavior (Model Specific)
      a. Evaluate reason for ineffectiveness i.e. probe miss, clothing, disconnect
      b. Consider re-energizing cartridge or secondary cartridge deployment
      c. Keep expended cartridge in place and apply a three-point drive stun follow up
      d. Employ other force options if necessary
   6. Avoid extended, repeated, or prolonged ECD applications when practicable
      a. Each reactivation and/or cycle must be legally justified
      b. The application of the ECD is a physically stressful event. Attempt to minimize the physical and psychological stress to the subject
      c. *Constantly evaluate the ECD application to determine if progress is being made towards the goal of controlling the subject. If progress isn't being made, evaluate the location of the application or transition to another force option if necessary*
      d. Only apply the number of 5-second cycles reasonably necessary to capture, control or restrain the subject
      e. If circumstances require repeated discharges, the operator should carefully observe the subject and provide breaks in ECD stimulation when practicable
   7. Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation (NMI)
      a. There are different levels of NMI ranging from limited area effects to significant body lockup
      b. The greater the spread, the higher likelihood of NMI
      c. ECDs may not achieve total NMI incapacitation
      d. A subject may maintain muscle control, particularly in arms and legs (depending on many factors, including probe locations)

e. Be prepared with other force options including a drive-stun follow up to spread NMI over a wider area if necessary and reasonably appropriate
f. Drive stun alone usually will not achieve NMI, only localized pain

F. Taser Ineffectiveness
1. Miss or single dart hit
2. Incomplete, broken, or intermittent circuit
3. Loose or thick clothing
4. Low nerve or muscle mass
5. Obese subject
6. Limited probe spread
7. Wires break
8. Operator error

G. Drive Stun

1. **Probe deployments are usually more desirable/effective than drive stuns** (that are not three-point deployments)
   a. NMI vs. pain compliance
   b. Probe deployments can be applied from a safer distance
   c. Usually requires fewer cycles
   d. Usually result in lesser skin and tissue damage than a drive stun
   e. Close probe spread will likely not have significant effect or NMI
2. Recommended drive stun target locations
   a. Radial (forearm)
   b. Common peroneal (outside of thigh)
   c. Tibial (Calf muscle)
   d. Note: If not effective, evaluate the location of the drive stun, consider an additional cycle to a different approved area or consider an alternative force option. Drive stun locations to avoid:
      1) Neck
      2) Groin
      3) Chest
3. If loaded with previously fired cartridges, it will still have Drive Stun capabilities.

   a. A drive stun may be used without removing or deploying the cartridges
   b. Probes can help maintain contact with a violent suspect
4. Three-point drive stun
   a. Leave deployed cartridge in place and apply (three-point) drive stun away from probe impact sites
      1) If only one probe impacts the subject, or if the probe spread is close or ineffective, a drive stun with the cartridge still attached can act as the second probe and complete the circuit, thus may cause NMI
      2) You can then apply a drive stun away from probes to achieve NMI for 3 to 4 points of contact

H. Animals
1. Most animals have been incapacitated or stunned when the ECD was applied
2. Animals typically recover instantly once the ECD cycle is over
3. Most animals have quickly left the scene and broke the wires

4. Some dogs, have not run away and became aggressive
5. The ECD needs to canted when deployed on animals to ensure the bottom probe will impact the animal's body
6. If an animal is stunned, consider having animal control standing by to apply a restraint
7. ECDs intended for human use may be dangerous to smaller animals and may result in a lethal outcome to the animal unintentionally

I. Flammability
   1. ECDs can ignite explosive materials, liquids, fumes, gases, vapors, or other flammable substances, gels, and materials such as
      a. Gasoline, sewer gases, meth labs, flammable personal defense sprays, hair gels, butane lighters, etc.
   2. Personal defense sprays
      a. Some propulsion agents (carriers) are flammable
      b. Some carriers are alcohol and oil based

J. Civilian ECD's
   1. M-18
   2. X26c
   3. C2
   4. TASER Pulse+
   5. TASER StrikeLight
   6. State of California laws:[17]
      a. 12650 PC. "Stun gun" means any item, except a less lethal weapon used or intended to be used as either an offensive or defensive weapon that is capable of temporarily immobilizing a person by the infliction of an electrical charge
      b. 12651 PC. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person may purchase, possess, or use a stun gun, subject to the following requirements
         1) (a) No person convicted of a felony or any crime involving an assault or convicted of misuse of a stun gun under Section 244.5, shall purchase, possess, or use stun guns
         2) (b) No person who is addicted to any narcotic drug shall purchase, possess, or use a stun gun
         3) (c) No person shall sell or furnish a stun gun to a minor unless the minor is at least 16 years of age and has the written consent of his or her parent or legal guardian
         4) (d) No minor shall possess any stun gun unless the minor is at least 16 years of age and has the written consent of his or her parent or legal guardian
      c. 12652 PC. Each stun gun sold shall contain both of the following
         1) The name of the manufacturer stamped on the stun gun
         2) The serial number applied by the manufacturer
      d. 171b(a) PC. Any person who brings or possesses within any state or local public building or at any meeting required to be open to the public pursuant to Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 54950) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of, or Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2

[17] The State of California Penal Code, Section 12650-12655

of, the Government Code, any of the following is guilty of a public offense punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year, or in a state prison: Any taser or stun gun, as defined in Section 244.5

e. 244.5 PC. (a) As used in this section, "stun gun" means any item, except a less lethal weapon, as defined in Section 16780, used or intended to be used as either an offensive or defensive weapon that is capable of temporarily immobilizing a person by the infliction of an electrical charge. (b) Every person who commits an assault upon the person of another with a stun gun or less lethal weapon, as defined in Section 16780,shall be punished by imprisonment in a county jail for a term not exceeding one year, or by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 for 16 months, two, or three years.(c) Every person who commits an assault upon the person of a peace officer or firefighter with a stun gun or less lethal weapon, as defined in Section 16780, who knows or reasonably should know that the person is a peace officer or firefighter engaged in the performance of his or her duties, when the peace officer or firefighter is engaged in the performance of his or her duties, shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not exceeding one year, or by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 for two, three, or four years.(d) This section shall not be construed to preclude or in any way limit the applicability of Section 245 in any criminal prosecution

K. Reporting Procedures[18] [19]
   1. The use of an ECD is a reportable use of force when one or more of the probes and/or electrodes make contact with the suspect's clothing or skin
   2. An officer using an ECD shall notify a supervisor without delay
   3. The full account of the Use of Force will be documented in the related Department crime, arrest, or Employee's Report, Form 15.7
   4. Supervisors will conduct an investigation of the incident and report their findings on a Use of Force Report
   5. Supervisors shall photograph all visible as well as complained of injuries, even when evidence of injury is not present
   6. If no contact is made, the circumstances shall be documented in the appropriate report such as a crime, arrest or Employee's Report, Form 15.7
   7. Use of the laser sight or sparking the ECD for purposes of gaining compliance is not considered a use of force if no other force was used before, during or after the incident
      a. Use of this tactic is not required before the deployment of the ECD
      b. Suspect's actions must be to the level where the ECD may be deployed in probe or drive stun modes
      c.

L. Downloads (Model Specific)
   1. Policy
      a. Supervisors shall download the data from the TASER after a reportable non-categorical use of force incident. Supervisors are required to ensure the TASER data is printed, scanned and electronically attached to the use of force report.[20]
      b. The ECD should be removed from service prior to downloading

[18] Department Manual Section 4/246.10, TASER Guidelines

[19] LAPD Use of Force- Tactics Directive No. 4.6, Electronic Control Device, TASER

[20] LAPD Use of Force- Tactics Directive No. 4.6, Electronic Control Device, TASER

c. Officers should be permitted to review the download prior to preparing their reports if possible
d. Upon download, the ECD may be returned to service

M. General Operating Notes
1. The Taser internal clock is set to Greenwich Meant Time (GMT)
2. Downloaded files will include both GMT and Local Time based on the time zone setting on the computer used and daylight savings time for the Taser. The Taser download will only indicate "Local" time
3. Based on the ECD, downloading and/or saving data from the battery or ECD does not erase the data from the battery or ECD memory
4. Ensure internal clock synchronization occurs per Taser Directive

IX. EXPOSURES (60 min)

A. Benefits vs. Risks
1. Benefits
a. Instructor credibility as a leader and subject matter expert
b. Officers can better understand the effects of the ECD
1) For deployment
2) Confidence to go "hands-on" with a subject without receiving a shock
3) Self defense
4) Court expertise
a) Mateyko v. Felix[21]
b) Two Los Angeles Police officers utilize a Taser
c) Suspect ultimately sues the City of Los Angeles and officers for $400,000
d) Judge rules suspect is at fault 95% and the officers the other 5% and awards the suspect approximately $20,000
e) Officers were unable to testify to the voltage of the Taser or the effects on the body
f) Lecture provides students with knowledge of the voltage and medical information on the effects of the body. Exposure gives students more expertise since they can describe the effects they experienced
5) Secondary exposures caused by officers inadvertently placing their hands in between the probes or within two inches of a probe
2. Risks
a. Stress, anxiety, panic
b. Exertion and effects
c. Strong muscle contractions and effects
d. Discomfort or painful experience
e. Significant injuries have occurred

B. Guidelines
1. Only certified instructors shall conduct ECD exposures
2. The instructor should determine if any pre-existing medical conditions or injuries exist with the students prior to exposure
a. If pre-existing conditions exist, instructors should avoid the area for exposure

[21] Mateyko v. Felix, 924 F.2d 824 1990

   b. If the student is currently "light duty," the student should not be exposed to the ECD until they have returned to "full duty"
   c. The instructor has the authority to refuse to allow a student to take an exposure based on the student's pre-existing conditions, susceptibilities, or injuries
   d. Group ECD exposures are prohibited
3. No student shall be shot with the ECD even if the student requests so
4. Only one cartridge shall be loaded in the Taser during student exposure
5. An instructor will attach the ECD wires or probes (hooks removed)
   a. Instructors have the ability to attach the wires or probes at different locations and spreads
   b. This allows the students to see the different effects on the body when the probes hit the different areas of the body and at different spreads
   c. Instructors shall avoid placing probes in sensitive areas such as the groin, neck and head. Probes shall not attached to the student's chest
   d. Only realistic probe spread, and probe placement shall be utilized (i.e. No shirt collar to shoe, shoe to shoe, etc.)
6. The student will stand in the center of the mat or mat room while being supported by two fellow students
   a. Student can be placed face down on the mat prior to exposure as an option to standing
   b. Each spotter should hold an upper arm of the standing student under the armpit, so that the shoulder, arm, elbow, and wrist are stabilized close to the body to prevent stress, tension, or torsion on the joints
   c. Student may be in a seated position on the mat with their feet stretched straight out and a spotter supporting their back from behind
7. Once the probes or wires are attached and spotter is in position, an instructor will activate the ECD
   a. Normally the ECD will be activated for the full 5 second cycle, unless the student requests that the instructor terminates the activation. The instructor controlling the ECD will deactivate it by placing the safety on.

C. Warm-Up
   1. Prior to receiving an ECD exposure, students shall stretch and warm-up as they would normally do prior to exercising or participating in an athletic event
      a. Back
      b. Shoulders
      c. Arms
      d. Legs
      e. Torso

D. Safety Requirements
   1. Eye protection for all participants, operators and observers
   2. Proper matting
   3. Clear area of bystanders and objects
   4. Make area safe
   5. Instructor per student ratio is 1:8

X. PRE-DRILL SAFETY (DAY 2) (90 min)

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
1850-23092
Electronic Weapons Instructor
Expanded Course Outline

A. Basic Safety Rules
   1. All participants during scenario-based training must wear eye protection
   2. No firearm **(loaded or unloaded)** shall be permitted in the Training Area **(Visually Check)** with the exception of a designated Safety Officer.
   3. Treat all ECDs systems as if they are loaded
   4. Keep your finger outside of the trigger guard until you are on target and ready to fire
   5. Always point the ECD in a safe direction
   6. Know your target area and background and what may be within the deployment distance
   7. Except during scenario training, never deploy an ECD toward another person even if they are well beyond the maximum range of your cartridge
   8. Unsafe behavior of any type will not be tolerated
   9. Students must advise the instructor if they have any injury or pre-existing health condition that would preclude their participation in any training exercise
   10. Report any injuries immediately to the instructor
   11. A pre-designated auditory command of **"STOP ACTION"** will be used anytime a situation is deemed hazardous.
       a. The command may be given by ANY of the instructors, participants or observers
       b. When given, every participant will cease all activity and point their ECDs in a safe direction and put the safety switch in the down (SAFE) position
       c. An instructor will advise when it is clear and resume the drill or scenario

B. Additional Safety Rules for Scenario Training
   1. If any protective equipment becomes dislodged, the scenario shall immediately be stopped. The scenario can resume only when the equipment has been properly adjusted and the instructor announces that scenario may resume.
   2. Not all TASER products are designed for use in training against live targets. Treat all TASER cartridges as live and conductive until personally verified by the instructor
   3. The protective suit (if utilized) does not provide any ballistic protection from any conventional ammunition
       a. Nor does it protect the wearer from the effects of the drive stun
       b. Do not use the protective suit for anything other than training with the blue (LS) Taser cartridge
       c. The temperature inside the suit can become warm when used over a long period of time especially during long drawn-out scenarios
           1) It is recommended that role-players be given regular breaks and encouraged to drink water
           2) It also aids in cooling if the role-player wears loose fitting, comfortable clothing
           3) The suit should not be worn directly over the skin since a layer of clothing provides an additional layer of protection

C. Objectives
   1. Training Drills
       a. Drills are utilized to familiarize students with the basic operation of the ECD control
       b. Additionally, drills provide students with the practical experience to reasonably safely and effectively operate the ECD

2. Isolation Exercise – are used to provide a safe arena for the student to correctly instruct other students on the basic operation and ECD controls
3. Scenario Based Training is used to apply the skills learned in the course to actual situations

D. Administrative Taser manipulations
   1. Pre-shift spark/function test
      a. A full 5-second spark/functionality test SHALL be conducted prior to the start of a shift
      b. Check the CID for battery level and for potential fault icons
      c. Reason for spark/functionality test
         1) To check that the ECD is sparking
         2) To check the battery status
         3) To check for any error messages
      d. Ensure Taser is returned back into field-ready condition upon completion of spark/function test
   2. Cartridge Loading/Unloading
      a. General safety considerations
         1) Keep all body parts away from the front
         2) Ensure the safety switch is down
         3) Point the Taser in a safe direction or inadvertently point cartridges at yourself or at anyone else
         4) Insert cartridge into the deployment bay until it is seated
      b. Loading TASER Cartridges
         1) Point the ECD in a safe direction
         2) Ensure the safety switch is in the down (SAFE) position and your finger is not on the trigger or arc switch
         3) Keeping your hand away from the blast doors, gently push the cartridge into the cartridge bay until an audible click is heard
         4) Verify that the cartridge is secure by pulling on the slides of the cartridge

XI. TRAINING DRILLS[22] (150 min)

A. **Drill No. 1: Safety Switch and Spark/Function Test Drill with Inert Cartridges**
   1. Objective: To provide each student the practical training to safely and properly operate the safety switch and conduct a Spark/Function Test on the ECD
   2. Equipment and Configuration
      a. Taser + Battery (Model Specific)
      b. Inert Taser cartridge (Model Specific)
   3. Instructor Notes
      a. Divide the class into small groups, dependent on instructor/student ratios
      b. Ensure that each student monitors their partner while performing the drills
   4. This drill will also show how to stop the cycle on command in the event of an accidental firing, missed shot, etc.
      a. Exercise A: Safety Switch Manipulation
         1) Issue one ECD to each student pair with an inert Taser cartridge

[22] AXON, Instructor Certification Course, Version 22

2) Point in safe direction and place safety switch in the up (ARMED) position
   a) Verify CID display
   b) Verify Laser
3) Place the safety switch down (SAFE) position

b. Exercise B: Spark/Function Test (Model Specific)
1) Conduct Spark/Function Test
2) Ensure safety is in the down (SAFE) position
3) Have each group perform the drill until everyone shows proficiency manipulating the ECD

B. **Drill No. 2: Loading/Unloading with Inert Cartridges**

1. Objective: To provide each student the opportunity to practice proper loading/unloading of the Taser cartridge
2. Equipment and Configuration
   a. Taser
   b. Safety switch down (SAFE) for entire drill
   c. At least one inert Taser cartridge
3. Instructor Notes
   a. Divide the class into small groups
   b. Ensure that students monitor their partner when performing the loading/unloading drill
   c. Each student must demonstrate how to perform a safe and proper loading/unloading
   d. The instructor needs to ensure that the safety switch on the ECDs remain in the down (SAFE) position
4. Exercise
   1) Issue one ECD and inert cartridge(s) to each student
   2) Have students practice loading and unloading the Taser cartridge
      a) The drill should be performed with the ECD just below eye level, so the student keeps his/her head up to monitor the threat while they are reloading
      b) Key Observations
      c) Point ECD in a safe direction
      d) Proper hand placement away from the front of the ECD

C. **Drill No. 3: Arc Warning**

1. Objective: To familiarize the student with the proper Arc Warning techniques
2. Equipment and Configuration
   a. Taser
   b. Inert cartridge(s)
3. Instructor Notes
   a. Ensure student is equipped with inert cartridges only
   b. Divide the class into small groups
   c. Have student conduct a proper Arc Warning while ensuring the Taser is pointed in a safe direction
4. Exercise
   a. Point Taser in a safe direction
   b. Verbalize with suspect/subject
   c. Conduct Arc Warning

   d. Ensure safety switch in the down (SAFE) position
5. Repeat as necessary

D. **Drill No. 4: Aiming/Holster Drill with Inert Cartridge**
1. Objective: To properly unholster, aim/acquire target and re-holster
2. Equipment and Configuration
   a. Taser
   b. Inert Taser cartridge(s)
   c. Target
3. Instructor Notes
   a. Ensure student is equipped with inert cartridges only
   b. Divide the class into small groups
   c. Identify firing line/distance for drill
   d. Assign another student as Safety Officer (Movement Drills only)
4. Exercise A – Static Distance
   a. Position student at a predetermined distance from target
   b. Direct student to unholster Taser, place safety switch in up (ARMED) position, aim LASER at preferred target zone
   c. Verbalize with suspect/subject by providing a warning
   d. Advise student that suspect/subject complies to commands
   e. Place Safety Switch in down (SAFE) position
   f. Advise student to holster
5. Exercise B – Variable Distance(s)
   a. Position student at a predetermined distance from target out of deployment range
   b. Advise student to move up to deployment range (guided by Safety Officer)
   c. Direct student to unholster Taser, place safety switch in up (ARMED) position, aim LASER at preferred target zone
   d. Verbalize with suspect/subject by providing a warning
   e. Advise student that suspect/subject complies to commands
   f. Place safety switch in down (SAFE) position
   g. Advise student to holster
6. Repeat as necessary
7. Key Observations
   a. Verbal commands
   b. Aiming at preferred target zone
   c. Determining deployment range based on cartridge selection (Model Specific)
   d. Probe spread (Model Specific)
   e. Safety Switch in the down (SAFE) position prior to holstering

E. **Drill No. 5: LIVE CARTRIDGE DEPLOYMENT**
1. Objective: To properly deploy a live cartridge
2. Equipment and Configuration
   a. Taser
   b. Holster
   c. Live Taser cartridge(s)
   d. Target
3. Instructor Notes
   a. Ensure student is equipped with live cartridge(s)
   b. Divide the class into small groups

   c. Identify firing line/distance for drill and ensure no students/instructors are downrange
   d. Assign another student as Safety Officer
4. Exercise A – Live Cartridge Deployment (Static)
   a. Position student at a predetermined distance from target
   b. Direct student to:
      1) Unholster
      2) Arm
      3) Aim
      4) Verbalize
      5) Deploy
      6) Assess
      7) Render safe
      8) Reload
      9) Holster
5. Exercise B – Live Cartridge Deployment (Variable Distance)
   a. Position student at a predetermined distance from target out of deployment range
   b. Direct student to:
      1) Move to cartridge-appropriate distance (guided by Safety Officer)
      2) Unholster
      3) Arm
      4) Aim
      5) Verbalize
      6) Deploy
      7) Assess (deploy second cartridge if initial deployment is ineffective)
      8) Render safe
      9) Reload
      10) Holster
6. Exercise C – Re-energizing Cartridge
   a. Position student at a predetermined distance from target
   b. Direct student to:
      1) Unholster
      2) Arm
      3) Aim
      4) Verbalize
      5) Deploy
      6) Assess
      7) Re-energize
      8) Assess
      9) Render safe
      10) Unload
      11) Holster
7. Key Observations
   a. Student's ability to self-initiate cartridge deployment
   b. Student's ability to differentiate between re-energizing vs deploying another cartridge
   c. Verbal commands
   d. Aiming at preferred target zone
   e. Determining deployment range based on cartridge selection (Model Specific)

f. Safety switch in the down (SAFE) position prior to holstering

F. Overall Key Observations
1. Optimum deployment distance
2. Verbal commands
3. Aiming at preferred target zones
4. Identifying through sight and sound the ECDs effectiveness
5. Proper reloading position. Safety down (SAFE) and ECD held just below eye level so the student keeps his/her head up to monitor the threat while they are reloading
6. Proper hand position on cartridge while reloading

X. STUDENT TEACH BACK (150 min)

A. Instructor will provide each student with a copy of the 4-hour Electronic Control Device User lesson plan and Use of Force- Tactics Directive
B. Instructor will assign each student a 10-15 minute block from the lesson plan
C. Student will provide instruction to fellow students on the assigned block of instruction
D. Feedback will be provided to each student by the instructor and fellow students

XI. OTHER TEACHING CONSIDERATIONS (30 min)

A. Training Site setup
B. Logistics
C. Safety Briefing
D. Medical Equipment
E. Remediation
F. Documentation

XII. TEST AND CERTIFICATION (60 min)

A. Distribute test
B. Students will complete the test
C. Instructors will score the test
D. 80% required for passing
E. Certificate and Learning Management System (LMS) entry completed