

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Mounted Patrol Equine Training – 8 Hours
Expanded Course Outline

Instructional Goal:

Course serves as a review of Mounted Patrol Equine techniques and considerations. Material integrates tactical de-escalation techniques, less lethal devices and command and control tactics to preserve human life, reduce the intensity of tense encounters with violent suspects, and mitigate the need for higher levels of force.

Performance Objective:

- Review Use of Force Policy
- Analyze, understand and apply Tactical De-escalation Techniques
- Analyze, understand and apply Command and Control concepts
- Apply the laws and policy related to Use of Force and impact devices (Bokken Baton)
- Use the Bokken proficiently on the ground
- Use the Bokken proficiently while mounted and control the mounts
- Demonstrate how to maintain and care for the Bokken Baton
- Review Equitation Basic Skills
- Review Sensory Drills
- Conduct an Equine Trail Ride
- Review of Equine Tactics
- Demonstrate an understanding of how our Department's guiding principle of Reverence for Human Life is the moral and ethical foundation of de-escalation, tactics, reasonable force, and public/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 provides current Penal Code Section 835a content

I. USE OF FORCE AND TACTICAL DE-ESCALATION ^{1 2 3} (60 min)

- A. Use of force by law enforcement
 1. UOF by officers is a matter of critical importance and concern
 2. Some individuals will not comply with the law unless compelled to do so
 3. Law enforcement derives authority from the public
 4. Every attempt should be made to de-escalate situations
 5. Criteria
- B. Reverence for Human Life
 1. The guiding principle for our Use of Force (UOF) policy
 2. The Los Angeles Police Department is guided by the principle of Reverence for Human Life in all investigative, enforcement, and other contacts between officers and members of the public
- C. Fair and unbiased policing
 1. Officers shall carry out their duties, including UOF, fairly and without bias

¹ California Penal Code Section 835a

² Department Manual Section 1/556.10, Policy on the Use of Force

³ LAPD Use of Force-Tactics Directive, Use of Force Policy

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2. Discriminatory conduct of any kind is prohibited
 3. Failure to follow through on this principle has negative effects
 4. Procedural justice
- D. Inappropriate uses of force
1. Violates constitutional policing principles
 2. Degrades the confidence of the community we serve
 3. Exposes the Department and fellow Officers to legal, physical, and personal hazards
- E. Objective reasonable standard⁴
1. Factors used to determine reasonableness
 2. Evaluation standard(s)
 3. No 20/20 hindsight
- F. Appropriate level of force / proportionality
1. Actions should not be more severe than is reasonably necessary
 2. Only use levels of force that are reasonably believed to be proportional to the seriousness of the suspected offense or the reasonably perceived level of actual or threatened resistance
 3. The guiding value when using force shall be reverence for human life.
 4. De-Escalation
- G. Requirement to report / intercede in excessive force situations
1. Shall report perceptions of excessive force
 2. Shall intercede when present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is reasonably necessary
 3. Observing officers must consider that other officers may have additional information regarding the threat posed by a subject
- H. Drawing or Exhibiting Firearms
1. Officers shall not draw or exhibit a firearm unless the circumstances surrounding the incident create a reasonable belief that it may be necessary to use the firearm.
 2. When an officer has determined that the use of deadly force is not necessary, the officer shall, as soon as practicable, secure or holster the firearm
 3. Any intentional pointing of a firearm at a person by an officer shall be reported
 4. Unnecessarily or prematurely drawing or exhibiting a firearm limits an officer's alternatives in controlling a situation, creates unnecessary anxiety on the part of citizens, and may result in an unwarranted or accidental discharge of the firearm.
- I. Use of deadly force by law enforcement officers:
1. It is the policy of this Department that officers shall use deadly force upon another person only when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of circumstances, that such force is necessary for either of the following reasons:
 - a. To Defend against and imminent threat of death of serious bodily injury to the officer or another person (or)
 - b. To apprehend a fleeing person for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended.
 2. Define serious bodily injury
 3. Reverence for Human life
- J. Determining if Deadly Force was necessary⁵
1. Polices and legal issues

⁴ *Graham v. Connor* 490 U.S. 386 (1989)

⁵ California Penal Code Section 835a

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2. Necessity of using deadly force
 3. In determining whether deadly force is necessary, officers shall evaluate each situation considering the particular circumstances of each case and shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible. Before discharging a firearm, officers shall consider their surroundings and potential risks to bystanders to the extent reasonable under the circumstances.
- K. Rendering Aid / Reverence for Human Life
1. After any use of force officers shall immediately request a rescue ambulance for any injured person
 2. Officers shall promptly provide basic and emergency medical assistance to all members of the community based on the extent of their training/experience in First-Aid/CPR/AED, the level of available equipment and the totality of the tactical situation
- L. Warning shots
1. Reverence for Human Life
 2. To prevent taking a life, by not taking a life
 3. Exceptional circumstances
 4. Locations/direction of fire
 5. Minimize the risk of injury to innocent persons, ricochet dangers and property damage
- M. Shooting at / from a moving vehicle
1. Imminent threat of death or SBI to officers or others by means other than the vehicle
 2. Shall move out of vehicle's path instead of discharging a firearm
 3. Likelihood of a bullet stopping a moving vehicle
 4. Firearms shall not be discharged from a moving vehicle, except in exigent circumstances and consistent with the department's deadly force policy
 5. Accuracy when shooting from a moving vehicle
- N. Learning Activity: Facilitated Discussion **(117e)**
1. Review Reverence for Human Life
 2. Ask: LAPD policies vs CA Penal Code?
 3. Review and discuss history and legal precedent(s)
 4. Review references
 - a. Objective reasonableness^{6 7}
 - b. Tactical De-escalation⁸
 - c. Determining if Deadly Force is Necessary⁹
 5. Command and Control¹⁰
 6. Consequences of using force
 7. Discuss: draw and exhibit a firearm¹¹
 8. Discuss: Is an officer justified to use deadly force to protect property interests?
 9. Discuss: violent fleeing felon

⁶ LAPD Use of Force-Tactics Directive, Use of Force Policy

⁷ *Graham v. Connor* 490 U.S. 386 (1989)

⁸ LAPD Use of Force -Tactics Directive, Tactical De-escalation Techniques

⁹ California Penal Code Section 835a

¹⁰ Training Bulletin, Volume XLVII Issue 4, Command and Control

¹¹ Department Manual Section 1/556.80, Drawing or Exhibiting Firearms

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10. Discuss: Is justification for the use of deadly force limited to what reasonably appears to be the facts known or perceived by an officer at the time the officer decides to shoot?
 - a. Policy¹²
 - b. Objective Reasonableness¹³
 - c. Necessity of Deadly Force¹⁴
 - d. Assessment¹⁵
 11. Discuss: Could an officer use deadly force to effect the arrest of a person who has committed a misdemeanor, if there are no other means to apprehend the suspect?
 12. Discuss: Is firing at a moving vehicle to disable it generally prohibited?
 13. Discuss: Could Officers sometimes use deadly force to protect themselves from assaults that are obviously unlikely to have serious results?
 14. Discuss: Are there circumstances that would allow an officer to shoot a juvenile?
 15. Discuss: In General, can warning shots be fired?¹⁶
 16. Discuss: When should Officers use deadly force?
 17. Discuss: What is the Department's guiding principle when using force?
 18. Summarize training regarding stopping the threat
 19. Imminent Defense of Life (IDOL)
 20. Background, Age, Last resort, Knowledge, Seriousness of the Crime (BALKS)
- O. Other Deadly Force issues
1. Suicidal Subjects
 2. Furtive movement(s)
 3. Penal Code 835(a) and tactical redeployment^{17 18}
 4. Cover Fire; definition and application
- P. Group Discussion: Use of Force standards **(117e)**
1. Verbal Warnings
 2. Suspect's actions and force options available
 3. Reverence for human life is the guiding principle when developing tactics and strategies in pursuit of our motto: "To Protect and to Serve"
 4. Discuss unsafe to approach
 5. Size and stature
 6. Vulnerable Populations
 7. What is known at the time of the use of force
 8. Criteria for use of applicable weapon systems
 9. Minimum Use of Force¹⁹
 10. Available cover and type of weapon as factors in determining how close you can get to a suspect.
 11. Tactical De-Escalation techniques and their application

¹² Department Manual Section 1/556.10, Policy on the Use of Force

¹³ *Graham v. Connor* 490 U.S. 386 (1989)

¹⁴ California Penal Code Section 835a

¹⁵ LAPD Use of Force -Tactics Directive, Tactical De-escalation Techniques

¹⁶ Department Manual Section 1/556.10, Policy on the Use of Force

¹⁷ California Penal Code Section 835a

¹⁸ LAPD Use of Force -Tactics Directive, Tactical De-escalation Techniques

¹⁹ Department Manual Section 1/115, Management Principles

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- Q. Less lethal force options and intermediate force
 - 1. Case law
 - 2. Department policy
- R. Analyzing case law; key legal factors
 - 1. Offense- seriousness of the crime (violent/ non-violent)
 - 2. Flight- fled, fleeing or likely to flee
 - 3. Resistance- active resistance/ passive resistance
 - 4. Threat- seriousness of the physical threat and immediacy
- S. Use of Less-lethal force
 - 1. Definitions
 - 2. Occasions for use
- T. Less-lethal force articulation
 - 1. Specific physical threat or
 - 2. The immediacy of that threat
 - 3. Describe the suspect's actions and behaviors in detail
- U. Verbal warning
 - 1. Given when feasible
 - 2. Case law
 - 3. Commands
 - 4. Stating possible consequences of failure to comply with lawful commands
 - 5. Documentation of verbal warnings
 - 6. Circumstances when warnings are not feasible
- V. Less lethal tools
 - 1. OC Spray²⁰
 - 2. Electronic Control Device (Taser)²¹
 - 3. Beanbag Shotgun²²
 - 4. 40mm Less Lethal Launcher²³
 - 5. Impact Device^{24 25}
- W. Reinforce the key learning points related to the Use of Deadly Force
 - 1. Reverence for Human Life
 - 2. All alternative force options have been exhausted or are unfeasible
 - 3. Necessity
 - 4. Drawing or exhibiting firearms
 - 5. Articulation of the force option(s) that were used
 - 6. Vehicle considerations
 - 7. Warning shots
 - 8. Rendering aid

II. COMMAND AND CONTROL

(30 min)

²⁰ Use of Force-Tactics Directive, Oleoresin Capsicum

²¹ Use of Force-Tactics Directive, Electronic Control Device

²² Use of Force-Tactics Directive, Beanbag Shotgun

²³ Use of Force-Tactics Directive, 40mm Less Lethal Launcher

²⁴ Use of Force-Tactics Directive, Strikes and Kicks

²⁵ Use of Force-Tactics Directive, Baton

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- A. Command and Control²⁶
 - 1. Definitions
 - 2. Purpose
 - 3. Results
- B. Key components of Command and Control:
 - 1. Active leadership
 - 2. Use available resources
 - 3. Accomplish tasks
 - 4. Minimize risk
- C. Reverence for human life is the primary consideration in developing tactics and strategies to resolve critical incidents.

III. TACTICS

(60 min)

- A. Procedural justice
 - 1. When community members perceive the justice system and process is fair they are more likely to comply and to obey laws
 - 2. Community members are less likely to file complaints when they see the process is fair and impartial
 - 3. Perceived fairness is key point involving procedural justice.
- B. Implementation strategies
 - 1. Humanize the experience
 - 2. Explain what you are doing and why you are doing it
 - 3. Create dialogue for community members to be heard
- C. Pedestrian stop
 - 1. Approach
 - 2. Dismount
 - 3. Contact officer dismounts, hands off get down rope to the guarding officer and approaches the suspect(s) on foot. Circumstances may require the guarding officer to dismount and assist
 - 4. Remounting
- D. Suspect come-along
 - 1. Tactical disadvantages of dismounting
 - 2. Techniques to reduce disadvantages and public/officer risk
 - 3. Other considerations
 - 4. High Risk Stop
- E. Aggressive suspect(s)
 - 1. Mounted defense techniques
 - 2. Tactical planning
 - 3. Movement, horsemanship and riding skill
 - 4. Continuous assessment
 - 5. Dismounting when tactically advantageous
 - 6. Maintaining open and effective lines of communications
- F. Foot pursuits
 - 1. Mounted
 - 2. Dismounted
 - 3. Continuous assessment
 - 4. Additional resources

²⁶ LAPD, Training Bulletin, Command and Control

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- 5. Communication
- G. Approaching vehicles
 - 1. Mounted
 - 2. Dismounted
 - 3. Continuous assessment
 - 4. Additional resources
 - 5. Communication

IV. GROUNDWORK

(30 min)

- A. Catching
 - 1. Pre-positioning halter
 - 2. Entering the stall
 - 3. Haltering the horse
 - 4. Leading out of stall
- B. Leading
 - 1. Horse position
 - 2. Horse should lead, stop and stay well behind handler (5-6') and slightly to the right
 - 3. Lead rope carried in hand, but never looped around hand, arm or any body part
- C. Backing
 - 1. Students will learn to back the horse to the end of the rope with a minimum cue
- D. Turning
 - 1. Left turns on forehand and hindquarters
 - 2. Right turns on forehand and hindquarters
- E. Flexing
 - 1. Flex horses head around to both sides with horse standing still and quiet
 - 2. Flex horses head at the poll, dripping head towards ground
- F. Lunging
 - 1. Lunge horse in both directions
 - 2. Walk and trot in circle around student
- G. Tying
 - 1. Properly tie horse to a tie rail, in cross ties, to a trailer or any other suitable object
 - 2. Proper knots for tying up horses and facility locations for tying up
 - 3. Safety Factors
- H. Loading
 - 1. Loading
 - 2. Unloading
 - 3. Tying

V. BASIC EQUITATION SKILLS

(60 min)

- A. Basic riding skills
 - 1. Mounting and dismounting
 - 2. Turning
 - 3. Backing
 - 4. Stopping

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- 5. Walking/Jogging
- B. Intermediate riding skills
 - 1. Patterns
 - 2. Obstacle courses
 - 3. Rollbacks (abrupt changes of direction at the lope)
 - 4. Get downs (dismounting a moving horse)
 - 5. Brideless Riding Skills

VI. BOKKEN BATON

(30 min)

- A. Use of Force guidelines for the bokken²⁷
 - 1. Policy relationship to the side handle baton²⁸.
 - 2. Verbalization
 - 3. Show of force as de-escalation tactic
 - 4. Alternative between unarmed self-defense and deadly force
 - 5. Continuous assessment
 - 6. Considerations for necessary and reasonable use of force
- B. Warning
 - 1. Verbal warning
 - 2. Requirements and exceptions
 - 3. Tactical planning
 - 4. Documentation
- C. Tactics De-Escalation Techniques Directive No. 16²⁹
- D. Reverence for human life
 - 1. Guiding principle in any use of force situation
 - 2. It is both moral and ethical to place the highest value on human life
 - 3. Not policy, but a philosophy for how to approach police work
 - 4. Consistent with the department's mission, vision, and values
 - 5. Helps build public trust
 - 6. Tactical de-escalation and reasonable force demonstrate this principle
- E. Target areas
 - 1. Consistent with side-handle baton, contact with the Bokken should be directed to areas of the body that will temporarily incapacitate the combatant and avoid contact that could be potentially lethal
 - 2. Primary and secondary
- F. Fluid nature of violent confrontations may prevent officers may from effectively striking target areas
- G. Avoid striking the head, neck, throat, spine, kidneys and groin areas
 - 1. Moving target
 - 2. Moving platform
- H. Crowd Control- use of the bokken³⁰

²⁷ Use of Force Tactics Directive No. 1.2, Use of Force Policy

²⁸ Use of Force Tactics Directive No. 8, Baton

²⁹ Use of Force Tactics Directive No. 16, Tactical De-escalation Techniques

³⁰ Use of Force Directive 1.2, Use of Force Policy

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1. Engaging people who exhibit unlawful and/or hostile behaviors
 2. It may be necessary for officers to utilize physical force to control or move crowd members who do not respond to verbal directions
 3. The bokken may be used to push individuals in certain circumstances
 4. The bokken may be used as an impact weapon in certain circumstances
 5. There are no exceptions to the Department's Use of Force Policy
 6. Only objectively reasonable and necessary force shall be employed
 7. Verbalization should be used throughout the duration of the operation to gain compliance and reduce the necessity for further physical force.
- I. Bokken basic techniques:
1. Overview of key components students must learn on the ground before mounted
 2. Grips
 3. Primary striking surface of the baton
 4. Stances
 5. Downward strike on a stationary target
 6. Downward strike on a target while advancing and retreating
 7. 4-side striking pattern while advancing and retreating
 8. Two-hand power stroke
 9. Forward push
 10. Handle-end strike
 11. Handle-rear strike
 12. Blocking techniques
- J. Practical ground exercises
1. Tire target exercise
 2. Live suspect exercise
 3. Reverence for human life
 4. Remind students of Tactical De-escalation Techniques³¹
 5. Remind students of UOF policy³²
- K. Ready positions for the bokken
1. Ring position
 2. High position
 3. Low position
 4. Forward
 5. Neutral position
- L. Position of the horse when utilizing the police bokken
1. Striking targets that may be in any position in relation to their horse
- M. Draw and Ring Bokken While on Horseback
1. Draw/ring the bokken while stopped
 2. Draw/ring the bokken at the walk
 3. Draw/ring the bokken at the trot

³¹ Use of Force Tactics Directive No. 16, Tactical De-escalation Techniques

³² Use of Force Tactics Directive No. 1.2, Use of Force Policy

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- 4. Draw/ring the bokken at the lope
- N. 15 downward strikes on cone targets
- O. Live suspect attack (mounted)
 - 1. Reverence for Human Life
 - 2. Tactical de-escalation techniques and UOF^{33 34}

VII. CROWD CONTROL

(60 min)

- A. Crowd control mission and objectives³⁵
 - 1. Department mission
 - 2. Primary objectives
- B. Tactical De-Escalation Techniques and UOF
- C. Squad maneuvers; formations/movements that enable the platoon to travel
- D. Crowd control techniques

VIII. SENSORY SKILLS

(15 min)

- A. Loud Sounds
 - 1. Horns
 - 2. Firecrackers/Fireworks
 - 3. Gunshots
- B. Unusual Objects
 - 1. Flags
 - 2. Streamers
 - 3. Animals
- C. Urban Environment
 - 1. Traffic
 - 2. Vehicles
 - 3. Pedestrians
 - 4. Environmental Sounds

IX. TRAIL RIDE

(120 min)

- A. Steep Hills
- B. Dirt Trails
- C. Rocky Trails
- D. Brush

X. CLOSING/DEBRIEF

(15 min)

- A. Reinforce key learning points
 - 1. Reverence for Human Life
 - 2. Use of Force policy
 - 3. Safety

³³ Use of Force Tactics Directive No. 16, Tactical De-escalation Techniques

³⁴ Use of Force Tactics Directive No. 1.2, Use of Force Policy

³⁵ Guidelines for Crowd Management and Crowd Control Volume 5 of the LAPD Emergency Operations Guide pg 4 & 18

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- 4. Technical proficiency
 - 5. Tactical acumen
- B. Opportunity for questions and comments