

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Perimeter and K-9 Search Team tactics
Expanded Course Outline
1850-30868

Instructional Goal: To provide the student with a review of the skills necessary to perform perimeter and K-9 searches. This course provides updated legislative content of Penal Code Section 835(a).

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

- Understand the history of the K-9 unit in LAPD
- Know the K-9 search criteria
- Know the benefits and safety with perimeter containment
- Be familiar with K-9 search team tactics
- Review Use of Force Policy and Guidelines
- 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.

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

I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

(60 min)

- A. Introduction of instructor(s)
 - 1. Name, assignment
 - 2. Experience
- B. Overview block of training
 - 1. History of K-9 Unit
 - 2. K-9 search criteria
 - 3. Perimeters
 - 4. Officers' guide on K-9 search team tactics

Use of Force Review

Purpose: To Discuss use of force considerations, policy, legal issues, moral and ethical dilemmas to include De-Escalation and Reverence for Human Life.

Procedures: Large group discussion

Review Department Manual Section 1/556.10, Policy on the Use of Force¹ and openly discuss how it affects the use of less-lethal force options.

- A. Reverence for Human Life
 - 1. In Preamble for Use of Force Policy
 - 2. Why?
 - 3. How does this play into our decisions when using force?
- B. **California Penal Code section 835(a)**² As set forth below, it is the intent of the Legislature that peace officers use deadly force only when necessary in defense of human life. In determining whether deadly force is necessary, officers shall evaluate each situation in light of

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

² California Penal Code Section 835a

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the particular circumstances of each case and shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible to an objectively reasonable officer.

1. The totality of the circumstances
2. That individuals with physical, mental health, developmental, or intellectual disabilities are significantly more likely to experience greater levels of physical force during police interactions, as their disability may affect their ability to understand or comply with commands from peace officers. It is estimated that individuals with disabilities are involved in between one-third and one-half of all fatal encounters with law enforcement.
3. Totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary
4. Any peace officer who has reasonable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public offense may use reasonable force to;
 - a. Effect the arrest
 - b. Prevent escape
 - c. Overcome resistance
 - d. Only reasonable force may be used
 - e. You must have reasonable suspicion to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public offense

II. K-9 SEARCHES

(60 min)(117e)

A. GROUP DISCUSSION:

Procedures: Large group activity

1. Since 1979 the K-9 Unit has provided officers with a decided tactical advantage when searching for suspects
2. The advantage is an invaluable tool in the rapid detection of suspects and the protection of officers
3. K-9 search criteria³
 - a. Felony suspect(s)
 - b. Misdemeanor suspect with a gun
 - c. Firearm searches
 - d. Public Safety Searches
2. Initial incident information needed
 - a. Type of crime
 - b. Number of outstanding suspects
 - c. Weapon(s) involved
 - d. Were there shots fired?
 - e. Officer Involved Shooting?
 - f. Were suspects or victims injured?
 - g. Location of Command Post?
 - h. Major cross streets and route of approach
 - i. Perimeter information
 - 1) Size, number of blocks
 - 2) Type of area
 - 3) Building description
 - 4) Other pertinent information regarding the perimeter

³ 2003 LAPD Metropolitan Div. K-9 Platoon Manual

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- j. Is there an Air Unit on scene?
- k. Tactical frequency being used
- 3. Officers' guide on K-9 tactics⁴
 - a. Perimeter training
 - 1) Discuss containment from short end of block
 - 2) U-shape perimeter
 - 3) Line of sight and ability to render aid to partner.
 - b. Planning and training - Discuss perimeter tactics with partners
 - c. Roll calls - Discuss perimeter tactics with partners
 - d. Field Training Officer (FTO) - Discuss perimeter tactics
 - e. Think perimeter:
 - 1) Slide of officers stationed in a perimeter around a city block
 - 2) Responding units should:
 - a) Monitor primary unit location
 - b) Cover alleys
 - c) Hold the tactical frequency
 - d) Use common sense
 - e) Activate lights/siren when the vehicle code/departement policy dictate
 - f) Position vehicle
 - (1) Away from corners
 - (2) facing inward
 - (3) officers out of vehicle
 - g) Line of sight with your partner
 - h) Be sure to cover mid-block
 - 3) Communications
 - a) Responding units
 - (1) Monitor radio
 - (2) Broadcast only emergencies
 - (3) Respond to location on perimeter as opposed to officer's location unless specific request
 - b) Provide short vital information only
 - c) Air Unit
 - (1) Airborne observation post
 - (2) Help with establishing perimeter
 - (3) View of hazards
 - (4) Observation of search team positions
 - d) Perimeter size
 - 4) Perimeter positions - Re-emphasize corners, mid-block, alleys, and line of sight
 - a) Establishing a perimeter
 - b) Vehicle position - Reiterate positioning and leave room for additional emergency vehicles
 - 5) Requesting K-9
 - a) Request a tactical frequency
 - b) Keep radio traffic to a minimum
 - c) Stay alert and observant
 - d) Control the perimeter

4. Command Posts (CP)⁵

⁴ 2003 LAPD Metropolitan Div. K-9 Platoon Manual

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- a. Briefings
- b. Communication
 - 1) K-9 search plan
 - a) Briefing of plan
 - b) Search team responsibilities
 - 2) Perimeter officers' locations
 - a) Out of vehicles
 - b) keep line of sight
 - c) utilize cover
 - 3) UPR and slug shotgun positions
 - a) Locations
 - b) standing down per K-9 request
 - 4) K-9, Air Support Div., perimeter officers, Incident Commander (IC)
 - a) Communications issues between all above listed
 - b) utilization of multiple tactical frequencies to facilitate both emergency and administrative communications
 - 5) IC and K-9 Supervisor approvals
 - a) Crime must meet search criteria
 - b) and verification that the suspect will be arrested for the crime if found
 - 6) K-9 and search announcements
 - a) Made by airship or P/A,
 - b) determination to be made, also, in Spanish
 - 7) Ongoing updates by K-9 - Informing all perimeter units of search progress
 - 8) CP monitor base and tactical frequencies
 - a) Monitor base for prowler calls
 - b) and tactical frequency for tactical and emergency issues
- 5. Announcements
 - a. K-9 announcement: "This is the Los Angeles Police Dept. We are searching for a suspect and are preparing to use a police dog. For your safety, please go inside your home or business and stay inside until we have completed our search.
To the person or persons who are hiding from the police. Make your location know to us immediately. Put down all weapons, come out with your hands raised, and follow directions. If you do not, a police dog will be used to find you. When the dog finds you, do not move or you may be bitten. You have one minute to surrender.
 - b. Search announcement: "K-9 (unit's designation) to the Airship and perimeter units; we are starting our search. Limit radio traffic to emergency and tactical information broadcasts. Use your divisional frequency for administrative broadcasts. If there are shots fired or a suspect is running inside the perimeter do not enter or break down the perimeter unless you are directed to do so by the Airship of K-9 only."
- 6. Responsibilities during a search
 - a. K-9 handler
 - 1) K-9 works off leash, constant visual of K-9
 - 2) Directed by the handler with hand, voice, or flashlight
 - 3) Ultimate responsibility for the K-9
 - 4) Ensures scent is available to the K-9

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- 5) Communicate/control/coordination
 - b. Point or DCO
 - 1) Protection of handler and K-9
 - 2) Weapon at low ready and offset left/right of handler
 - 3) Flashlight control - Use to spot check and not to guide in front of dog
 - 4) Covers forward and high of handler
 - 5) Remains as cover during search unless suspect is located, and positions change
 - 6) Point is the designated cover officer
 - c. Rear Guard
 - 1) Maintains 180-degree coverage
 - 2) Responsibility is split down the middle between two officers
 - 3) Weapon at low ready
 - 4) Flashlight control - Use to spot check and not to guide in front of dog
 - 5) Visually Searches for suspect
 - 6) Rear Guard becomes point at times (positions change)
 - 7) Commands suspect, and handcuffs suspect
 - 8) Carries other equipment needed for search
 - 9) No independent searches
7. Search tactics⁶
- a. Video showing search team responsibilities
 - b. Situations
 - 1) K-9 shows interest
 - 2) Stray dogs and other hazards
 - 3) Community members
 - 4) Locked gates, keys
 - 5) Hand search
 - a) Utilization of search team members to search a specific area without aid of the dog
 - b) minimum of two officers for contact and cover
 - 6) Independent search
 - a) Searching independently of the identified search team (perimeter officers decide to conduct their own search prior to arrival of canine if canine is to be utilized or during the canine search)
 - b) Team concept, no independent searches
 - 7) Trash cans
 - 8) Suspect located by team
 - 9) K-9 contact with suspect
 - 10) Suspect runs or fights
 - 11) Hot spots located by the Airship
 - 12) Communication with handler
 - 13) Shots fired and/or OIS
 - 14) Injured K-9
 - 15) All search team members on a hunt
 - a) All team members are responsible for search
 - b) weapons out of holsters at low ready
 - c) search team members share responsibility with K-9 team
8. Risk levels of searches
- a. Low risk search - Search team configuration of three vs. four officers

⁶ 2003 LAPD Metropolitan Div. K-9 Platoon Manual

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- b. High risk search - Search team configuration of three vs. four officers plus the addition of extra K-9 handlers or SWAT officers
 - 9. Search team during K-9 contact
 - a. K-9 handler's control of dog, team's responsibility for cover and control of suspect
 - 10. Air Unit support
 - a. Advantages
 - 1) Mobile observation post (OP)
 - 2) Communication
 - 3) Assist with perimeter
 - 4) FLIR
 - 5) Keeps suspect down, not moving
 - 6) Alerts all the hazards
 - 7) Assist K-9 operations
 - 8) Psychological effect on suspect
 - 9) K-9 announcement
 - b. Disadvantages
 - 1) Sense of false security
 - 2) Weather and time dependent
 - c. Use of FLIR
 - 1) Discuss the pros and cons of the FLIR, numerous unrelated heat sources
- B. Debriefs
 - 1. Reconstruct events
 - 2. Include all parties
 - 3. Keep debrief focused
 - 4. Stress learning points, what was done well and not
 - 5. Review need for training
 - 6. This should not be a character assassination session
- C. Use of Body Worn Video
 - 1. Recording during active search
 - 2. Camera not in use when giving tactical briefs or during the end of search debrief
- D. Barricade Situations
 - 1. K9 team and a Supervisor will respond to all Barricade calls
 - 2. Knowing the limitations of the canine
 - 3. Canines need to be allowed to work a scent problem if possible
- E. K9 Long Line Tactics
 - 1. Purpose of the long line
 - 2. K9 Handler or Supervisor will handle the long line operations
 - 3. K9 Handler will determine protocols on line use
 - 4. Less Lethal may be deployed if practical during incident
 - 5. SWAT will be under direction of the K9 handler during the use of the long line
- F. Taking the Suspect into Custody
 - 1. Discussed prior to long line deployment
 - 2. Controlling the canine
 - 3. Use of less lethal
 - 4. Use of Taser is discouraged
- G. Use of force discussed
 - 1. California Penal Code Section 835(a)⁷

⁷ California Penal Code Section 835a

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- 1) Updated pursuant to Assembly Bill 392 that was signed into law on August 19, 2019 and effective as of January 1, 2020.
 - 2) Any peace officer who has reasonable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public offense may use objectively reasonable force to:
 - (1) Effect the arrest,
 - (2) Prevent escape, or
 - (3) Overcome resistance.
 - 3) The authority to use physical force, conferred on peace officers by this section, is a serious responsibility that shall be exercised judiciously and with respect for human rights and dignity and for the sanctity of every human life.
 - 4) A peace officer who makes or attempts to make an arrest need not retreat or desist from their efforts by reason of the resistance or threatened resistance of the person being arrested. A peace officer shall not be deemed an aggressor or lose the right to self-defense by the use of objectively reasonable force in compliance with subdivisions (b) and (c) to effect the arrest or to prevent escape or to overcome resistance. For the purposes of this subdivision, "retreat" does not mean tactical repositioning or other de-escalation tactics.
2. Department Use of Force policy states that force must be "objectively reasonable" to:
- a. Defend themselves
 - b. Defend others
 - c. Effect an arrest or detention
 - d. Prevent escape
 - e. Overcome resistance
 - f. Use of force policy does not change in crowd control situations
 - g. Department Tactical De-Escalation Techniques In circumstances not involving imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury, officers should consider tactics and techniques that may persuade the suspect/s to voluntarily comply or that may mitigate the need to use a higher level of force to resolve the situation safely.
 - h. Tactical de-escalation does not require that an officer compromise their safety or increase the risk of physical harm to the public.
 - 1) Guided by the principal of reverence for human life.
 - 2) The use of techniques to:
 - a) Reduce the intensity of an encounter with a suspect; and,
 - b) Enable an officer to have additional options to gain voluntary compliance; or,
 - c) Mitigate the need to use a higher level of force.
 - d) All while maintaining control of the situation.
 - i. De-escalation techniques (PATROL) should only be used when safe to do so:
 - 1) Planning- Arrive and Coordinate
 - 2) Assessment- Change tactics as needed
 - 3) Time- Distance + Cover= Time for planning and communicating
 - 4) Redeployment and/or Containment- Maintain control and buy time
 - 5) Other Resources- Request additional resources and/or specialized personnel
 - 6) Lines of Communication- Helps to improve decision-making

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- j. Deadly Force can only be used when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary for either of the following reasons:

(1) To defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person; or,
(2) 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. Where feasible, a peace officer shall, prior to the use of force, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves as a peace officer and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless the officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts.

Note: In determining whether deadly force is necessary, officers shall evaluate each situation in light of the particular circumstances of each case and shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible.

- 1) “Deadly force” means any use of force that creates a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury, including, but not limited to, the discharge of a firearm.
- 2) “Totality of the circumstances” means all facts known to the peace officer at the time, including the conduct of the officer and the subject leading up to the use of deadly force.
- 3) A threat of death or serious bodily injury is “imminent” when, based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or another person. An imminent harm is not merely a fear of future harm, no matter how great the fear and no matter how great the likelihood of the harm, but is one that, from appearances, must be instantly confronted and addressed.
- 4) A peace officer shall not use deadly force against a person based on the danger that person poses to themselves, if an objectively reasonable officer would believe the person does not pose an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or to another person.

Note: The Department will analyze an officer’s use of deadly force by evaluating the totality of the circumstances of each case consistent with California Penal Code Section 835(a) as well as the factors articulated in *Graham v. Conner*.

- k. Proportionality⁸
- l. Rendering Aid. 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

⁸ Department Manual, 1/556.10, Policy on Use of Force

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community, including victims, witnesses, subjects, suspects, persons in custody, subjects of a use of force and fellow officers:

- a) To the extent of the officer's training and experience in first aid/CPR/AED; and
 - b) To the level of equipment available to an officer at the time assistance is needed.
- m. Requirement to Intercede when Excessive force is observed
- n. Requirement to report potential excessive force
- o. Vulnerable Populations - include, but are not limited, children, elderly persons, people who are pregnant, and people with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities.
- a) Age is not a legal consideration
 - b) The Department has always utilized extreme caution with respect to the use of deadly force against youthful offenders
 - c) Nothing in the use of force policy is intended to reduce the degree of care required in such cases
- p. Command and Control⁹
- a) The use of active leadership to direct others while using available resources to coordinate a response, accomplish tasks and minimize risk.
 - b) Initial responsibility to begin the process to develop a plan of action falls upon the senior officer, or any officer on-scene who has gained sufficient situational awareness.

Ensure reasonable numbers of Designated Cover Officers (DCO) for both lethal and less-lethal cover.

Reduce over-response or over-deployment to specific duties and responsibilities.

Maintain officer safety through personnel location and assignment

H. CLOSING: Reinforce key learning points

- 1. Containment, communication, control
- 2. Search team tactics
- 3. Search team tactics

III. PRACTICAL APPLICATION

(360 min) (117e)

- A. After classroom lecture, students participate in hands-on training scenarios involving the use of K-9 during indoor / outdoor searches, as well as the establishment of perimeters

⁹ LAPD Training Bulletin, Volume XLVII Issue 4, COMMAND AND CONTROL