

**Los Angeles Police Department
De-Escalation & Tactical Decision Making
Command Staff
LAPD-Only**

Instructional Goal: To teach students how to better integrate tactical de-escalation techniques, less lethal devices, strategic communication techniques, and command and control tactics to preserve human life, reduce the intensity of tense encounters with violent suspects, and mitigate the need for a higher level of force.

Performance Objectives:

- 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.
- 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 officer safety.
- Demonstrate an understanding and articulation of the Use of Force Policy regarding less lethal options as outlined in the most current Tactical Directives for Taser, OC Spray, Bean Bag, 40 mm, and Baton
- Recognize force options and the amount of proportional force peace officers may use based on the subject's resistance
- Demonstrate the importance of effective tactical communication before, during, and after using force

I. INTRODUCTION/COLD SCENARIOS (45 min)

- A. Introduction
 - 1. Safety Brief
 - 2. Debrief

II. POWERPOINT (30 min)

- A. Tactical De-Escalation
- B. Group Discussion- P.A.T.R.O.L
- C. Weapons Other Than Firearms
 - 1. Assessing suspect's ability to inflict injury or death with the weapon
 - 2. Redeployment
 - a. Distance + Cover = Time
 - b. Time = Options
 - 3. Availability of multiple less-lethal options if available
- D. Tactical Communication Techniques
 - 1. Elements of tactical communication
 - 2. Active listening techniques
 - 3. Contact officer considerations
 - 4. Team communication during an incident

III. COMMAND AND CONTROL REVIEW (30 min)

- A. Definition

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1. Command and Control is the use of active leadership to direct others while using available resources to coordinate a response, accomplish tasks and minimize risk.
2. Command uses active leadership to establish order, provide stability and structure, set objectives and create conditions under which the function of control can be achieved with minimal risk.
3. Control implements the plan of action while continuously assessing the situation, making necessary adjustments, managing resources, managing the scope of the incident (containment), and evaluating whether existing Department protocols apply to the incident.

B. Expectations

1. Initial Responsibility
 - a. The senior officer, or any officer on-scene who has gained sufficient situational awareness, shall establish Command and Control and begin the process to develop a plan of action.
 - b. Generally, the person responsible for establishing Command and Control will declare themselves the Incident Commander (IC) and initiate the Incident Command System (ICS).
2. Ensuring reasonable numbers of Designated Cover Officers (DCO) for both lethal and less-lethal cover.

Note: Reverence for human life is the primary consideration in developing tactics and strategies to resolve critical incidents. Regarding lethal force, an essential goal of Command and Control is to manage the number of officers who are assigned lethal cover responsibilities. In the event of an officer-involved shooting, the reasonable management of lethal cover will help lessen both the number of officers who discharge their firearms and the number of rounds fired. Consequently, danger to the community may also be reduced by minimizing the number of rounds fired. Although guided by the person who has assumed Command and Control, each individual officer is ultimately responsible for articulating the reasonableness of their decision to draw, exhibit, or discharge their firearm.

C. Narrating on Body Worn Video (BWV)

1. Benefits of narrating on BWV
2. Continuously document planning and communication between officers
3. When feasible, narrate all phases of P.A.T.R.O.L.

Note: There is no specific rank requirement to assume the role of an IC, establish a command post or initiate the ICS. Initially, the senior officer or highest-ranking person at scene will take responsibility and act as the IC. Officers, supervisors and command staff should think in terms of Command and Control when responding to an incident or event.

D. Supervisor's responsibility

1. Responsibility for Command and Control lies with the senior officer or any officer on scene who has gained sufficient situational awareness.

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2. Supervisors shall take responsibility for exercising Command and Control.
3. Supervisors shall also declare themselves the IC until relieved by a higher authority.
4. It is the expectation of this Department that the highest-ranking supervisor at scene assume the role of IC and communicate the transfer of command to all personnel involved.

Note: Although it is preferable for a supervisor to establish Command and Control, any officer or first responder can fill that role given sufficient situational awareness and the ability to actively lead personnel through the four key components of Command and Control.

IV. USE OF FORCE REVIEW

(15 min)

- A. Primary focus – Officer and Community Collaboration – peaceful resolution to any encounter regardless of outcome or arrest.
 1. Reverence for human life must be our guiding principle in all situations:
 - a. Whenever safe and prudent to do so, utilize all your tactical de-escalation techniques to gain voluntary compliance
 2. Law and policy review¹
 - a. You must have reasonable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public offense
 3. Force can be used to effect and arrest, prevent escape and overcome resistance
 4. Less Lethal Options
 - a. 40mm Sponge Round²
 - b. Bean Bag Shotgun³
 - c. Taser⁴
- B. Background Awareness
 1. Firearm selection
 - a. Choose best firearm for the situation
 - b. Consider capabilities and limitations of weapons
 2. “Be Sure of Your Target” and beyond
 3. Background considerations for lethal and less-lethal weapon systems
 - a. Location of involved and uninvolved parties
 - b. What is behind the suspect/subject
 - c. Ballistic capabilities of the firearm system selected

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

² Use of Force-Tactics Directive No. 17, 40mm Less Lethal Launcher

³ Use of Force-Tactics Directive No. 6, Beanbag Shotgun

⁴ Use of Force-Tactics Directive No. 4, Electronic Control Device

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V. SCENARIOS

(90 min)

Procedure for Practical Application Scenarios: Instructors will test student's ability to properly respond to and assess Practical Application Scenarios utilizing the above concepts learned during the classroom learning activities section

Note: The instructors should modify the Practical Application Scenarios as necessary based on the availability of resources, location of the training, number of instructors, number of students, and any other variables, to cover the course content in the safest and most efficient way possible

VI. CLOSING

(30 min)

- A. Debrief
- B. Evaluations
- C. POST Roster
- D. End training