

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Electronic Weapons
LAPD-Only
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

- 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. Review course Safety Policy ¹

II. HISTORY AND DEFINITIONS

- A. Definitions ²
 - 1. Electronic Control Devices (ECD)
- B. History
 - 1. Invention and evolution

¹ CA POST EDI, Electronic Weapons 1850-23090, Safety Policy

² Los Angeles Police Department Use of Force - Tactics Directive No. 4.6, Electronic Control Device, TASER

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Electronic Weapons
LAPD-Only
Expanded Course Outline

III. ELECTRONIC WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY

- A. Technology³
 - 1. Electricity
 - 2. Voltage
 - 3. Current
 - 4. Joules
 - 5. Neuromuscular Incapacitation (NMI)

IV. NOMENCLATURE

- A. TASER
 - 1. TASER (Model Specific)
 - 2. Magazines and cartridges
 - 3. Safety switch
 - 4. Battery

- B. Holsters
 - 1. Model specific
 - 2. Approval requirements

V. MAINTENANCE AND CARE

- A. Battery / Haptic Battery
 - 1. Charge
 - 2. Inspection

- B. Internal computer
 - 1. Firmware updates
 - 2. Clock synchronization

- C. TASER cartridges
 - 1. Expiration
 - 2. Inspection

- D. Dropped ECDs
 - 1. Inspect for physical and/or functional damage
 - 2. If malfunctioning, consult Training Division-Taser Armory immediately

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

³ 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

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Electronic Weapons
LAPD-Only
Expanded Course Outline

VI. MEDICAL ASPECTS⁴

- A. Cardiac
 - 1. ECD cardiac risks are not zero
 - 2. ECD cardiac risks are sufficiently remote that making accurate risk or probability estimates very difficult
 - 3. Cardiac risk mitigation

- B. Physiologic/Metabolic Effects
 - 1. ECDs produces physiologic or metabolic effects
 - 2. ECD exposure and effects

- C. TASER Technology Medical Testing
 - 1. Human physiology
 - 2. National Institute of Justice and electro-muscular disruption

- D. Medical Treatment
 - 1. Rendering Aid
 - 2. Medical treatment ⁵
 - 3. Probe/electrode removal ⁶

- E. Supervisor responsibility ⁷
 - 1. Ensure sufficient officers are present or have been requested
 - 2. Communicate tactical plan
 - 3. Ensure an RA is requested when an individual has exhibited signs of medical distress
 - 4. Complete a Use of Force report or 15.7

VII. LEGAL/ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Use of Force Policy ⁸
 - 1. Reverence of Human Life
 - 2. CA Penal Code ⁹
 - 3. Tactical de-escalation ¹⁰
 - 4. Use of Force reporting ¹¹

A NCUOF shall be reported as a Level III incident under the following circumstances:

- B. Legal Considerations

⁴ AXON, Instructor Certification Course, Version 22, Released June 2020

⁵ Department Manual, 4/648.11, Medical Treatment Required When Less-Lethal Control Device is Used- TASER

⁶ LAPD Use of Force Tactics Directive, Electronic Control Device, TASER

⁷ Training Bulletin, Volume XLVII Issue 4, Command and Control

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

⁹ California Penal Code Section 835(a)

¹⁰ LAPD Use of Force Tactics Directive, Tactical De-Escalation Techniques

¹¹ Department Manual Section 4/245.10, Reporting a Non-Categorical Use of Force Incident

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Electronic Weapons
LAPD-Only
Expanded Course Outline

1. Graham v. Connor¹²
 2. Bryan v. McPherson¹³
 3. Beaver v. City of Federal Way¹⁴
- C. Verbal Warning Requirement¹⁵
1. Elements
 2. Exceptions
 3. Considerations
- D. Duration of field applications
1. Aspects of ECD application
 2. Repeated application(s)
 3. Vulnerable populations
- E. Occasions when ECD application should be avoided
1. Suspect is operating/riding any mode of transportation
 2. Suspect in elevated position with risk of falling which could result in serious bodily injury (SBI) or death
 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 ECD
1. ECDs are target specific weapons
 2. ECDs can incapacitate an officer
 3. Considerations
- G. Pointing/ display of ECD warning / displaying of laser/ strobe light /siren
1. Justification
 2. Changing circumstances
 3. Voluntary compliance prior to deployment/discharge

VIII. DEPLOYMENT AND DOCUMENTATION

- A. Pre-shift function test
1. A functionality test shall be conducted prior to the start of a shift
- B. Arrest team
1. Minimum composition
 2. Ideal composition

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

¹³ *Bryan v. McPherson*, (9th Cir. (Cal)

¹⁴ *Beaver v. City of Federal Way*, (W.D. Wash. 2007)

¹⁵ LAPD Use of Force- Tactics Directive, Electronic Control Device, TASER

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Electronic Weapons
LAPD-Only
Expanded Course Outline

- C. Engagement tactics
 - 1. Planning
 - 2. Probe placement
 - 3. Deployment distance(s)
 - 4. Targeting
 - 5. Preferred target areas

- D. Deployment
 - 1. Team Leader or ECD operator signals/communication
 - 2. Verbal warning
 - 3. Taser cycle
 - 4. Taser cycle as a window of opportunity to gain control
 - 5. Suspect recovery
 - 6. Restraint considerations and officer safety
 - 7. Evaluating the effectiveness of the ECD deployment
 - 8. Attempt to minimize the physical and psychological stress to the subject
 - 9. Avoid extended, repeated, or prolonged ECD applications

- E. ECD ineffectiveness
 - 1. Miss or single cartridge 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

- F. Animals
 - 1. Most animals have been incapacitated or stunned when the ECD was applied
 - 2. Animal size
 - 3. Response
 - 4. Recovery
 - 5. Use of Animal Control

- G. Flammability
 - 1. ECDs can ignite explosive materials, liquids, fumes, gases, vapors, or other flammable substances, gels, and materials
 - 2. Some propulsion agents (carriers) are flammable
 - 3. Some carriers are alcohol and oil based

- H. Reporting Procedures^{16 17}
 - 1. Criteria for reportable use of force
 - 2. Use of the laser sight or audible warning of the ECD for purposes of gaining compliance
 - 3. Supervisor notification(s)

¹⁶ Department Manual Section 4/246.10, TASER Guidelines

¹⁷ LAPD Use of Force- Tactics Directive, Electronic Control Device, TASER

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Electronic Weapons
LAPD-Only
Expanded Course Outline

4. Documentation
5. Investigation

- I. Downloads (Model Specific)
 1. Policy
 2. Required occasions
 3. Data and submission format(s) ¹⁸

IX. PRE-DRILL SAFETY

- A. Basic safety rules and safety requirements
 1. Review course Safety Policy ¹⁹
 2. Eye protection
 3. Proper matting
 4. Clear area of bystanders and objects
 5. Ensure safe area
 6. Instructor/student ratios
- B. Objectives
 1. Training Drills
 2. Reality-based scenario
- C. Administrative Taser manipulations
 1. Review loading/unloading procedures
 2. Function test
 3. Serviceability inspection

X. TRAINING DRILLS ²⁰

- A. Drill No. 1: Safety / selector switch and function test with inert cartridges
 1. Safely and properly operate the safety switch
 2. Conduct a function test on the ECD
 3. Equipment and configuration
 4. Key points
- B. Drill No. 2: Loading/unloading with inert cartridges
 1. Practice proper loading/unloading of the ECD cartridge
 2. Equipment and configuration
 3. Key points
- C. Drill No. 3: Warning
 1. Proper warning techniques
 2. Equipment and configuration
 3. Key points

¹⁸ LAPD Use of Force- Tactics Directive, Electronic Control Device, TASER

¹⁹ CA POST EDI, Electronic Weapons 1850-23090, Safety Policy

²⁰ AXON, Instructor Certification Course, Version 22

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Electronic Weapons
LAPD-Only
Expanded Course Outline

- D. Drill No. 4: Aiming/holster drill with inert cartridge
 - 1. Unholster, aim/acquire target and re-holster
 - 2. Equipment and configuration
 - 3. Fixed distance
 - 4. Variable distance(s)
 - 5. Key points

- E. Drill No. 5: Live cartridge deployment
 - 1. Properly deploy a live cartridge
 - 2. Equipment and configuration
 - 3. Multiple static distances with cartridge re-energizing
 - 4. Key points

- F. Drill No. 6: Hook-and-Loop Training Cartridge (HALT) cartridge deployment
 - 1. Properly deploy a HALT cartridge
 - 2. Equipment and configuration
 - 3. Multiple moving distances with cartridge re-energizing
 - 4. Key points

XI. TEST AND CERTIFICATION

- A. Testing
 - 1. Distribution
 - 2. Scoring

- B. Certification
 - 1. Passing score
 - 2. Certificates

- C. Administration requirements
 - 1. Post rostering
 - 2. Agency learning management system