

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Firearms/Tactical Rifle Overwatch
Curcode F249
Expanded Course Outline

Instructional Goal: Provide specialized training to Metropolitan (Metro) Division personnel on Tactical Rifle Overwatch (TRO) techniques. Students will be trained to observe, from a position of advantage, utilizing enhanced equipment. Students will be trained how to communicate real time pertinent information to teams on the ground (responding units). Students will be trained to take deadly force action, if necessary, from a distance of elevation with an emphasis on immediate disengagement when circumstances warrant.

The enhanced skills and training will produce an extra layer of safety, communication, and control during tactical incidents.

Metropolitan personnel are required to deploy rifles in several assignments including but not limited to: Dignitary Protection (POTUS, Heads-of-States, VIPs, etc.), High-Risk Warrants, Counter Assault Teams (National Events, Riots, etc.), Stakeouts (Bank Robbery Suspects, etc.), Witness Protection Details. Metro personnel are the primary security detail for all major events in the city (Academy Awards, Laker Parade, LA Marathon, etc.).

Pre-Requisite: Only currently assigned Metropolitan Division personnel can attend this course. Students must already be certified to deploy the Patrol Rifle and must have successfully completed Basic Metro School. Students must be in good standing with all annual rifle training and qualifications. Students must successfully pass a rifle qualification and manipulations test administered by Metro course instructors prior to attending this course.

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

- o Review Department policy and legal issues in the use of deadly force
- o Understand and follow the firearms safety guidelines
- o Pass the Overwatch written exam with a score of 100%
- o Demonstrate manipulation of rifle and make “shoot” or “no-shoot” decisions
- o Demonstrate the ability during stressful situation to precision shoot
- o Be able to pass Metro’s Tactical Rifle Overwatch qualification course with a minimum 90% score
- o The student will 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.
- o By the conclusion of the training, students will understand how the application of this training is in keeping with our Department’s UOF police, philosophy, and tactical planning.

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

This course provides updated legislative content of Penal Code Section 835a

TACTICAL FIREARMS

Minimum Topics/Exercises:

- a. Safety Policy/Orientation
- b. Moral obligations
- c. Use of Force considerations
- d. Policy and/or Legal Standards
- e. Sight Alignment, Trigger Control, Accuracy

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- f. Target Recognition and Analysis
- g. Weapons Clearing/Manipulations
- h. Live Fire Tactical/Marking Cartridges
- i. Basic Tactical Firearms Situations, Judgment and Decision-Making Exercise(s)
- j. Class Exercises/Student Evaluation/Testing

DAY 1

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Instructors

- 1. Training cadre
- 2. Supervisory

B. Class overview

- 1. Schedule
- 2. Expectations
- 3. Administration
- 4. Review Safety Policy ¹

C. Course Objectives

- 1. Review current Use of Force Policy
- 2. Range Safety Considerations
- 3. Review Patrol Rifle Policies
- 4. Overwatch Rifleman Definition
- 5. Overwatch Rifle Written Test
- 6. Shooting Positions
- 7. Live Fire Practice
- 8. Overwatch Rifle Qualification

II. LEGAL ISSUES AND USE OF FORCE ²

A. Use of force (117e)

- 1. California Penal Code Section 835(a) ³
 - a. Statutory law
 - b. Case law
 - c. Agency policies ⁴
 - d. Reverence for Human Life
 - e. De-escalation ⁵
 - f. Duty to intercede
 - g. Rendering first-aid
 - h. Officer safety

¹ Firearms Tactical Rifle Overwatch Safety Policy

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

³ California Penal Code Section 835a

⁴ Department Manual Section 1/556.10, Policy on the Use of Force

⁵ Use of Force-Tactics Directive No. 16, Tactical De-escalation Techniques

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- i. Team communication during critical incident
2. Use of intermediate force options ⁶
3. Use of Intermediate force options on self-mutilators/suicidal subjects ^{7 8}
4. Use of force in crowd control situations
5. Tactical de-escalation and officer safety
6. Verbal warnings and dispersal orders

B. Use of Force Reporting ⁹

1. Patrol incidents
2. Crowd control incidents (117d), Assembly Bill 48 – Penal Code 13652.1
3. Pre-planned tactical deployment

III. FIREARMS SAFETY

A. Four Basic Firearm Safety Rules

1. Conduct an open discussion that will cause the student to review and think about the importance of the Four Basic Firearm Safety Rules
 - a. All guns are always loaded.
 - b. Never allow the muzzle to cover anything you are not willing to shoot.
 - c. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are aligned on the target and you intend to shoot.
 - d. Be sure of your target
2. Point out that these rules apply to training as well as tactical situations and anytime a weapon is being handled
3. Reinforce that the ALL range safety rules apply to on-duty and off-duty handling of firearm

IV. RIFLE OVERVIEW

A. Rifle Nomenclature

1. Identify and discuss rifle parts
2. Discuss LAPD Manual section 2/296.52 (paragraph 12) and 3/610.15 (sub-notation)
 - a. States that only a Department Armorer can repair City owned firearms
3. Discuss authorized modifications
 - a. Bipod, sling, etc.
 - b. Dedicated light
 - c. Tritium sights
 - d. List of approved optional equipment

B. Accessories

1. Optics
 - a. Specifically, for transitioning from long range to short range targets
 - b. Demonstrate and discuss transition
2. Ammunition

⁶ Department Manual Section 1/573, Use of Intermediate Force Options

⁷ LAPD Training Bulletin, Encounters with Suicidal or Self-Mutilating Subjects

⁸ Use of Force-Tactics Directive, 40mm Less Lethal Launcher

⁹ Department Manual Section 4/245.10, Reporting a Non-Categorical Use of Force Incident

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- a. Department approved ammunition and nomenclature
 - 1) Black Hills 70 Grain Barnes TSX 5.56 (Metro & SIS ONLY)

C. Equipment

- 1. Issue
 - a. Rifle
 - b. Optic
 - c. Sling
 - d. Bipod
 - e. Carry Case
 - f. Magazines
- 2. Verify
 - a. Have students double check all numbers
 - b. Have students sign for assigned equipment
- 3. Disassemble/Reassemble Rifle
 - a. Instructor lead, student follows
 - b. Verify weapon is empty
 - c. Describe each component
 - d. Point out lubrication points
- 4. Rifle care and cleaning demonstration
 - a. The student will field strip, clean, lubricate, and re-assemble their Rifle
 - b. Instructors will observe and verify each student's performance
- 5. Review care and cleaning of optic

V. OVERWATCH RIFLE PROCEDURES

A. Deployment¹⁰

Only certified Metro personnel are authorized to deploy as an overwatch rifle operator

- 1. Mission Specific (Planned or Spontaneous)
 - a. Metro's Overwatch Cadre *is not* a Sniper Cadre
 - b. Role is to deploy in support of units to provide longer range capabilities from various locations (high ground buildings, terrain, etc.)
 - c. Primary mission is to observe and communicate
 - d. Assist with better command and control during tactical incidents
 - e. Capable of long-range precision fire as a last resort
 - f. Primary target is suspect's BODY, not head
- 2. Operator Responsibility
 - a. Understand role and mission
 - b. Give clear and concise information
 - c. Wear Department approved equipment only
 - d. Remain tactically ready to deliver precise shot(s) immediately as last resort
 - e. Immediately disengage from threat if situation warrants
- 3. Supervisor Responsibility
 - a. Final decider if cadre gets deployed to a mission

B. Training

Officers must successfully pass this course to be assigned to TRO cadre

- 1. Officers Responsibility

¹⁰ 2009 LAPD Manual 4/245.50 Deployment of the Patrol Rifle and Slug Ammunition

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- a. Attended all quarterly training
 - b. Pass quarterly qualification course
 - c. Maintain all equipment in perfect working condition
 - d. Immediately notify Metro Armory of any issues with rifle
2. Supervisor Role
 - a. Supervisor is not deployed as an operator or required to attend course
 - b. Documents and maintains records of cadre's deployment and training
 - c. Final decider if cadre gets deployed to a mission

C. Decertification

1. Cadre member failing to attend and qualify one quarterly training day SHALL NOT deploy rifle and must attend the next scheduled training
2. Cadre member failing to attend and qualify two consecutive quarterly training days will be decertified and must reapply and attend this course again
3. Supervisor is responsible to ensure all cadre members are current on training and qualifications

VI. POLICY REVIEW

A. Tactical Considerations

1. Armed Suspect in Public¹¹
2. Barricaded Suspects¹²
3. Immediate Action Rapid Deployment (IARD)¹³

VII. WRITTEN TEST

A. Final Review

1. Review key points

B. Written Test

1. Administer written test
2. Review answers and grade exams
3. Students must pass with 100% to continue course
4. Students failing to pass written exam will be dismissed and not allowed to continue course

DAY 2

VIII. FIREARMS SAFETY

A. Four Basic Firearm Safety Rules

1. Conduct an open discussion that will cause the student to review and think about the importance of the Four Basic Firearm Safety Rules
 - a. All guns are always loaded.
 - b. Never allow the muzzle to cover anything you are not willing to shoot.

¹¹ LAPD Tactical Concepts, Armed Suspect in Public

¹² LAPD Training Bulletin, Barricaded Suspects/Subjects

¹³ LAPD Tactical Concepts, Immediate Action/Rapid Deployment

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- c. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are aligned on the target and you intend to shoot.
 - d. Be sure of your target
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 3. Reinforce that the ALL range safety rules apply to on-duty and off-duty handling of firearm

B. Range Setup

1. Review
 - a. Range safety rules
 - b. Consequences for violating safety rules
2. Assign students to specific duties in case of emergency
 - a. Pathfinder
 - b. Notifications

IX. MARKSMANSHIP¹⁴ -Review

A. Seven Elements of Marksmanship

1. Stance
2. Grip
3. Sight Alignment
4. Sight Picture
5. Trigger Control
6. Breathing
7. Follow-Through

B. Mental Preparation

1. Mastering the seven elements is essential to mental preparation with split second shoot/no-shoot decision making techniques where speed, accuracy and processing are equally stressed

X. MANIPULATIONS -Review

A. Skills

1. Carrying Techniques
2. Sling Techniques
3. Loading / Unloading Techniques
4. Reload Techniques
5. Safety On/Off Techniques
6. Malfunction Techniques
7. Optic High/Low Power Transition

B. Drills

1. Students will perform each skill while instructors monitor their performance

¹⁴ LAPD Urban Police Rifle School Manual

