

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Firearms- Sighting Systems
1850-32063
Expanded Course Outline

Instructional Goal: To provide the student with the knowledge and training necessary to safely maintain, manipulate and employ a pistol mounted optic (PMO).

Performance Objectives: Using a blended-learning approach with an online review in LMS, lecture, group discussions, learning activities, practical application and testing, the student will:

- Demonstrate the knowledge, skills and ability to safely manipulate their pistol with a PMO attached
- Demonstrate the ability to install, replace batteries, zero, clean and maintain a PMO
- Shoot a qualifying score on the Department's 30-around Combat Qualification Course. The minimum qualifying score is 105 points (70%) on each target out of a possible 150 points.
- Agree to abide by the requirements set forth as a member of the PMO cadre concerning qualification, battery installation (maintenance) and zeroing of the PMO.
- Display 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
- Display an understanding of 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 current references are utilized

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

I. INTRODUCTION AND ADMINISTRATION

(30 minutes)

- A. Instructor (s)
 - 1. Name, assignment
 - 2. Experience
 - 3. Distribute POST and Safety roster
- B. Brief overview of the training schedule
 - 1. Summary of hours, activities and sequence
- C. Overview Safety Plan: IIPP Guidelines
 - 1. These safety guidelines apply to all training given by the Department. These guidelines are to ensure that staff and participants are aware of potential hazardous situations and how to avoid it.
 - 2. A copy of the guidelines will be given to each student, instructor and coordinator to ensure they are followed.
 - 3. Anyone participating in training, whether student, observer, or instructor, has the authority to "STOP" the exercise if they observe an unsafe act or condition that may cause imminent injury or death and/or damage to the facilities.
 - 4. Protective eyewear and hearing protection (American National Standards Institute ANSI approved) shall be worn if blanks or live-fire rounds are used during a practical application.

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- D. Students shall immediately notify an instructor(s) of the training staff of any injury sustained during training, and use the following steps in the event of a serious injury
1. Render first-aid and obtain appropriate medical assistance. Notify the Fire Department rescue ambulance (213) 485-6180 via telephone, cellular phone, or police radio. Give specific directions to the location of the incident.
 2. In case of a serious injury, all IIPP notifications and protocol shall be followed.
 3. At each training location, there is a notebook located in the training unit's office also containing the emergency plan that is in place.
 4. The Supervisor will ensure that the necessary Worker Compensation forms (PDAS-43) and other reports (Employee Notification Form / 15.7) are completed in a timely manner.
 5. If necessary, transport to the local hospital for a minor injury:
 - a. Elysian Park Facility:
Los Angeles County University of Southern California Medical Center
2051 Marengo Street
Los Angeles, California 90033
(323) 409-1000
 - b. Davis Training Facility:
Providence Holy Cross Medical Center
15031 Rinaldi Street
Mission Hills, California 91354
(818) 365-8051

Distribute: Handout "Pistol Mounted Optic Operators Course" Overview of handout and address the key points

II. USE OF FORCE REVIEW

(60 Min)

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?

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

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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 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

C. *Graham v. Connor* 490 U.S. 386 (1989) affirms the “objectively reasonable” standard and states that the “reasonableness” of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, and its calculus must embody an allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force necessary in a particular situation.

1. No 20/20 hindsight
2. Based on the totality of facts known at the time
3. Would another officer with similar training and experience, facing similar circumstances act the same way or use similar judgement?
4. Does not have to be the best decision, just a reasonable decision

D. Tactical De-Escalation Techniques³

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,

² California Penal Code Section 835a

³ LAPD Use of Force-Tactics Directive No. 16, Tactical De-Escalation Techniques

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- c) Mitigate the need to use a higher level of force
- d) All while maintaining control of the situation
- 3. Tactical de-escalation **DOES NOT** require that an officer compromise their safety or increase the risk of physical harm to the public
- 4. Tactical de-escalation techniques should only be used when it is safe and prudent to do so
 - **P**lanning
 - **A**ssessment
 - **T**ime
 - **R**edeployment and/or Containment
 - **O**ther Resources
 - **L**ines of Communication

E. Command and Control⁴

- 1. The use of active leadership to direct others while using available resources to coordinate a response, accomplish tasks and minimize risk.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Tactical Consideration

F. Less Lethal Weapons and Kinetic Energy Projectiles

- 1. California Penal Code Section 16780(a)
 - a) "Less lethal weapon" means any device that is designed to or that has been converted to expel or propel less lethal Kinetic Energy Projectiles by any action, mechanism, or process for the purpose of incapacitating, immobilizing or stunning a human being through the infliction of any less than lethal impairment of physical condition, function or senses including physical pain or discomfort. It is not necessary that a weapon leave any lasting or permanent incapacitation, discomfort, pain or other injury or disability in order to qualify as a less lethal weapon.
- 2. California Penal Code Section 16770
 - a) As used in this part, "Less Lethal Kinetic Energy Projectiles means any Kinetic Energy Projectiles that both of the following requirements.
 - 1) Designed to be used in any less lethal weapon or any other kind of weapon (including but not limited to firearms, pistols, revolvers, shotguns, rifles and spring, compressed air and compressed gas weapons; and
 - 2) When used in less lethal weapon or other weapon is designed to immobilize or incapacitate or stun a human being through the

⁴ Training Bulletin, Volume XLVII Issue 4, *COMMAND AND CONTROL*

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infliction of any less lethal impairment of physical condition,
function of senses, including physical pain or discomfort.

B. Less-Lethal Force-Clarification⁵

1. Less-Lethal force options (OC Spray⁶, Baton⁷, TASER⁸, Beanbag Shotgun⁹, 40mm LLL and kinetic energy projectiles ¹⁰) are only permissible when:
 - a) An officer reasonably believes the suspect or subject is violently resisting arrest; or,
 - b) Poses an immediate threat of violence or physical harm.
2. Less-Lethal force options shall not be used for a suspect or subject who is:
 - a) Passively resisting, or
 - b) Merely failing to comply with commands.
3. Verbal threats of violence or mere non-compliance do not alone justify the use of Less-Lethal force.
4. In addition, generally, an officer shall give a verbal warning prior to using such force when feasible.

C. United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit

1. Defines “Intermediate Force” as force capable of inflicting significant pain and causing serious injury. (Young v. County of Los Angeles)

D. *Deorle v. Rutherford* (2001DJDA 2725)

1. Officers have a duty to warn, if possible, before using any force option, including beanbags
2. The cloth cased shot constitutes force which carries significant risk of serious injury and thus is not to be deployed lightly

E. *Bryan v. McPherson* (630 F.3d 805)

1. X26 TASER and similar devices, when used in dart mode, constitute an “intermediate, significant level of force that must be justified by the governmental interest involved.”
2. Placed the taser at a higher level of force than most law enforcement agencies and the International Association of Chiefs of Police had placed them

F. *Young v. County of Los Angeles*

1. Traffic stop for a seatbelt violation (infraction)

⁵ Office of Administrative Services Notice 1.3, Use of Less-Lethal Force Clarification

⁶ Use of Force-Tactics Directive, Oleoresin Capsicum

⁷ Use of Force-Tactics Directive, Baton

⁸ Use of Force-Tactics Directive, Electronic Control Device

⁹ Use of Force-Tactics Directive, Beanbag Shotgun

¹⁰ Use of Force-Tactics Directive, 40mm Less Lethal Launcher

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2. Pepper spray and baton blows are “intermediate force” because they are “capable of inflicting significant pain and causing serious injury,” and therefore “present a significant intrusion upon an individual’s liberty interests.”

III. LIVE FIRE RANGE DRILLS

(200 minutes)

Through guided exercises students will learn to properly operate a pistol with a mounted optic under simulated combat conditions

- A. Pistol Mounted Optic Zeroing
 1. Zero the optic at 15 yards with five shot groups with a minimum group size of 4 inches centered on the target
 2. Confirm co-witnessed position of the optic reticle in relationship to the iron sights
- B. Zero verification
 1. Slow fire 5 shot groups from 7 yards to 25 yards on pie plate targets
 - a. Compare the elevation offset from close to far
- C. Draw time with PMO activated
 1. Assess draw time utilizing the PMO
 2. Shot timer drill testing draw speed at 7 yards
 - a. Compare the draw speed with irons vs PMO
 - 1) Discuss acceptable sight picture with iron sights vs dot blur
- D. Dot positions 7-10 yards
 1. Slow fire drill at 7 yards with the reticle placed in extreme portions of the lens
 2. Repeat the drill at 10 yards
 - a. Discuss the advantages of the optic and the lack of parallax at usable combat distances
 - b. Reinforce acceptable sight picture with PMO and advantages in alternative shooting positions
- E. Multiple target failure drills
 1. At 10 yards conduct a failure drill on two targets
 - a. Discuss elements of the drill
 - 1) Sight picture acquisition from the draw
 - 2) Acceptable sight picture as the weapon presents on target
 - 3) Target transition techniques
 - a) Eye acquires target first
 - b) Upper body transitions consistently to eye focus location
 - c) Eye acquires PMO reticle and aligns it with the target
 - d) On acquisition of an acceptable sight picture the trigger is pressed smoothly to the rear
- F. Alternating head shots drills
 1. At 10 yards from a low ready position shoot alternating head shots

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- a. Re-enforce target transition techniques
 - b. Emphasize
 - 1) Trigger control
 - 2) Slower speed required for precision (low probability targets)
 - 3) Follow through
- G. In service combat qualification review
- 1. Review the phases of the in-service combat qualification course
 - a. Sequence of fire must be followed
 - b. Minimum score to pass the test is 105 points on each target
 - c. Conduct a pre-test
- H. Bonus phase 2 progression drill
- 1. 7 yards build student speed and marksmanship by progressing the number of rounds fired
 - a. 9 and 10 ring acceptable accuracy
 - b. Develop student confident and timing techniques
 - 1) Cultivate the ability to shoot turning targets
 - 2) Emphasize
 - a) PMO sight picture
 - b) Trigger control
 - c) Recoil management
 - d) Transitions
- I. Bonus course review Phase 5
- 1. 17 yards alternating body shots
 - a. Build confidence in extended distance marksmanship
 - b. Emphasize the importance of changing speeds between combat manipulatives (Draw, transition, reloads) and long-distance marksmanship
 - c. Develop student technique to utilize the available to achieve 10 ring accuracy during the phases allotted time limit
- J. Bonus course review Phase 6
- 1. 25 yards
 - a. Review barricade shooting techniques
 - 1) Right-hand right-side barricade
 - 2) Left hand left side barricade
 - 3) Over the countertop barricade technique
 - 2. Slow fire
 - a. Confirm shooter capabilities to shoot consistent groups
 - 1) Emphasize
 - a) Trigger control
 - b) Breath control
 - 2) Change dot brightness for optimal sight picture at 25 yards
 - 3. 25 yards timed
- K. Bonus Relay

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1. Shoot the LAPD Bonus Course using a pistol mounted optic

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CIRCUMSTANCES

(50 minutes)

Through guided live fire exercises student shall learn techniques to utilize the pistol under unusual environmental circumstances commonly experienced in combat.

A. Discuss wet optic issues

1. Exposed diode saturation
 - a) "Starbursting"
 - b) Reticle occlusion
2. Lens saturation
 - a) Optic occlusion
 - b) Reticle occlusion
3. Battery compartment saturation
 - a) Loss of reticle due to electrical short
 - b) Long term failure of the optic due to internal corrosion

B. Wet optic drill

1. Loaded weapons shall be sprayed with a layer of water simulating water saturation during a moderate rain storm engagement
2. 10 yards
3. Multiple failure drills
4. Techniques for shooting with a water saturated optic
 - a) Moving the reticle to find a clear section of lens
 - b) Centered optic in conjunction with body position at short ranges
 - c) Wiping the lens and diode when time is given

C. Discuss occluded optic issue

1. Causes of occluded optic
 - a) Water
 - b) Mud
 - c) Oil
 - d) Lint
2. Loss of identification through optic lens
 - a) Reticle is still visible and illuminated
 - b) View through the window of the lens is distorted or non-existent
3. Occluded eye shooting technique
 - a) Two eye shooting technique
 - b) Non-dominant eye acquires target information
 - c) Dominant eye provides reticle information
 - d) Combined image superimposes reticle onto the target and provides a useable sight picture for combat purposes

D. Occluded eye shooting drill

1. 10 yards
2. Front lens of optic taped with masking tape

E. Discuss: Lens destruction

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1. Causes of lens destruction
 - a) Direct impact to lens
 - b) Body damage to the external portion of PMO
2. Lens destruction considerations
 - a) Threat level
 1. Distance to threat
 2. Urgency of threat
 3. Capabilities of the shooter
 - b) Transition to back-up weapon
 - c) Lens destruction shooting techniques
 1. Weapon indexing
 - a. Side of weapon
 - b. Top of optic
 - c. Angle of optic
 2. Body indexing in conjunction with weapon indexing

- F. Lens destruction drill
1. 7 – 12 yards
 2. Front lens of optic taped
 3. Optic deactivated

V. PMO EXPANDED CAPABILITIES

(60 minutes)

Open discussion on the advantages of the PMO and how these advantages can be exploited under combat conditions to improve accuracy and capabilities of the operator

- A. Increased situational awareness improves ability to assess¹¹ the shooting situation
 1. Two eye shooting technique
 2. Target focus

- B. Ability to engage accurately with the reticle in a non-centered position
 1. Sight picture is easier to maintain under nontraditional¹² positions and while shooting on the move

- C. Smaller targeting reticle versus irons sights produces increased precision and consistency

Through guided live fire exercises student shall learn techniques to take advantage of the strengths of the PMO under combat conditions

- D. Decision making drill
1. 12 yards
 2. Alternating targets
 - a. Shoot
 - b. No shoot

¹¹ Assess refers to the operators continued evaluation of the tactical environment versus the range manipulative of scanning the environment with the weapon after a shooting

¹² Shooting from a barricade, support hand, or while utilizing a shield

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- E. Shooting from barricades
 - 1. 12 yards
 - 2. Right hand barricade
 - 3. Left hand barricade
 - 4. Kneeling position

- F. Shooting from shields
 - 1. 12 yards

- G. Shooting on the move
 - 1. 20 yards to 7 yards
 - 2. Forward and back

- H. Hostage taker shots
 - 1. 12 yards
 - 2. Hostage target

VI. TESTING AND EVALUATION

(50 minutes)

In-service combat qualification tests

- A. PMO Operator school test: In-service combat qualification test
 - 1. Live fire warmup test
- B. Test: In-service combat qualification test
 - 1. Each student shall be assigned to a lane
 - 2. Students will shoot the LAPD In-service combat qualification course once
 - 3. The student must pass with a minimum passing score of 70%. 70% is defined as 105 points on each target for each relay fired.
 - 4. Instructors shall score the targets and record the scores on a qualification score sheet.

VII. COURSE REVIEW AND COMPLETION

(30 minutes)

- A. Review PMO cadre membership requirements
 - 1. PMO cadre members shall shoot every month in-service combat qualification is available for the duration of one year
 - a. Zero cost program to the Department
 - 1) PMO cadre shall provide their own ammunition on non-specified qualification months
 - 2) PMO cadre members shall contact the companies directly for any warranty issues concerning the pistol mounted optics
 - 1. Department Armories are not responsible for the upkeep, maintenance, installation, and repair of pistol mounted optics
 - 2. Reinforce key learning points of operator's course
 - 3. Continually check proper working condition of weapons and equipment
 - a. Keep a redundant supply of batteries

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- b. Maintain access to a redundant Department authorized pistol, magazines, holsters and equipment in the event of catastrophic failure of the PMO
- c. Periodically reapply witness mark to any fastener capable of moving during recoil
- d. Prior to going on duty check
 - 1) The reticle is activated
 - 2) The lens is clean and clear
 - 3) The optic is properly installed and torqued
- 4. Practice reticle acquisition during the draw and under simulated combat conditions
- 5. Practice iron sight shooting to maintain the necessary elements of marksmanship specific to iron sight shooting in the event the PMO does not activate properly
- 6. REVERENCE FOR HUMAN LIFE. Reverence for human life is the primary consideration in developing tactics and strategies in pursuit of our motto: "To Protect and To Serve." It is the moral and ethical foundation of de-escalation, tactics, reasonable force, community relations and officer safety.