

**Los Angeles Police Department**  
**Two- Hour Pistol with Attached Light (PWAL) Training Course F212**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

**Instructional Goal:** To provide the student with the knowledge and training necessary to safely manipulate and qualify with their pistol with an attached light.

**Performance Objectives:** Using lecture, group discussion, learning activities, practical application and testing, the student will:

- ❑ Demonstrate the knowledge, skills and ability to safely manipulate their pistol with an attached light (PWAL)
- ❑ Acknowledge the current Department policy pertaining to the authorized PWAL equipment and use.
- ❑ Shoot a qualifying score on the Department's 30-round Night Combat Qualification Course utilizing their pistol with an attached light. The minimum qualifying score is 90 points (60%) on each target out of a possible 150 points.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ 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.

**Materials Needed:**

- ❑ Inert light-capable pistol or light-capable pistol frame only
- ❑ PWAL Training Verification Form

**Source Documents and/or Department Mandates:**

- ❑ Police Science and Training Bureau In-Service Training, Training Division Notice 12.1.2, "Approved and Authorized Handguns"
- ❑ Office of Support Services (OSS) Notice, Approved and Authorized – Tactical Pistol Lights, Revised July 1, 2014
- ❑ OSS Notice, Approved and Authorized Duty Holsters, January 31, 2014
- ❑ Uniform and Equipment Committee Notice 1.12, Approved Uniform and Equipment Items, October 8, 2020
- ❑ 2022 LAPD Manual 1/556, 556.80, Use of force/ Drawing or exhibiting firearms.

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

## **I. PISTOL WITH ATTACHED LIGHT (PWAL) TRAINING COURSE OVERVIEW**

- A. ***LECTURE:*** Introduction & sign-in **(20 min)**
1. Instructor(s)
    - a. Name, Assignment
    - b. Distribute "Course Sign-in Roster" and have students sign-in
  2. Overview Safety Plan: Illness and Injury Prevention Program (IIPP)
    - a. 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 them.
    - b. All personnel should be instructed that a copy of the IIPP is located at each particular training site and is also available to all personnel via the Department LAN.
    - c. At each training location, there is a notebook located in the training unit's office also containing the emergency plan that is in place.
    - d. In addition to the IIPP, the current Training Division Safety Manual is located at each training location and is also available to all personnel via the Department LAN. All

safety guidelines contained therein shall be adhered to during any Department training activity.

- e. Anyone participating in the training, whether student, observer, or instructor, has the authority to “STOP” the exercise if they observe an unsafe act or condition that may cause injury or death and/or damage to the facilities.
- f. All personnel present at any location that facilitates live fire training acknowledges the risk of lead exposure and shall adhere to the procedures outlined in the “Lead Program Rules” section of the Training Division Safety Manual.
- g. 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 or during any demonstration using the same
- h. In case of a serious injury, all IIPP notifications and protocol shall be followed.
- i. 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 an injury.
  - 1) Render the environment safe by maintaining the firing line and securing any unholstered weapons.
  - 2) Render first-aid and obtain appropriate medical assistance.
  - 3) If necessary, transport to the local hospital for a minor injury:

**Granada Hills Facility:**

US Health Works  
390 N. Sepulveda Blvd. Suite 1000  
El Segundo, CA 90245  
(310) 322-8068

**Elysian Park Facility:**

Reliant Urgent Care  
814 Francisco Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
(888) 312-6601

- 4) In the event of a serious injury, Notify the Fire Department rescue ambulance (213) 485-6185 via telephone, cellular phone, or police radio. Give specific directions to the location of the incident.
- 5) If medical response is delayed and immediate transport is necessary due to the nature of the injury, transport to the local trauma center for emergency treatment:

**Granada Hills Facility:**

Providence Holy Cross Medical Center  
15031 Rinaldi Street  
Mission Hills, CA 91345  
(818) 365-8051

**Elysian Park Facility:**

Los Angeles County University of Southern California Medical Center  
2051 Marengo Street  
Mission Hills, California 91354  
(323) 409-1000

- j. 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.

3. Preview briefly to the students the PWAL Training Course overview and requirements
  - a. Use of Force
  - b. Department Policy for PWAL
  - c. Introduction to approved holsters and lights
  - d. Practical application exercises with the attached light
  - e. Closing and reminders

## II. USE OF FORCE REVIEW

(40 min)

**Purpose:** Revisit basic training in the area of use of force considerations, policy, legal issues, moral and ethical dilemmas to include De-Escalation and Reverence for Human Life.

**Procedures:** group discussion

Review Department Manual Section 1/556.10, Policy on the Use of Force and openly discuss how it guides officers in selecting and deploying appropriate and reasonable force options. Discuss background awareness

### 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)

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:
  - a. Effect the arrest,
  - b. Prevent escape, or
  - c. 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.

### 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. LAPD Policy<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> LAPD Use of Force-Tactics Directive No. 1.3, Use of Force Policy

1. It is the policy of this Department that personnel may use only that force which is “objectively reasonable” to:
  - a. Defend themselves;
  - b. Defend others;
  - c. Effect an arrest or detention;
  - d. Prevent escape; or,
  - e. Overcome resistance
2. **Drawing or exhibiting firearms**
  - a. Unnecessarily or prematurely drawing or exhibiting a firearm limits an officer’s alternatives in controlling a situation, creates unnecessary anxiety on the part of citizens, and may result in an unwarranted or accidental discharge of the firearm. Officers shall not draw or exhibit a firearm unless the circumstances surrounding the incident create a reasonable belief that it may be necessary to use the firearm.
  - b. When an officer has determined that the use of deadly force is not necessary, the officer shall, as soon as practicable, secure or holster the firearm.
  - c. Moreover, any intentional pointing of a firearm at a person by an officer shall be reported. Such reporting will be published in the Department’s year-end use of force report.
3. **Deadly Force** - Law enforcement officers shall use deadly force upon another person only when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of circumstances, that such force is necessary for either of the following reasons:
  - a. To defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person; or,
  - b. 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.*

4. “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.
5. “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.
6. 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
7. 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*.

8. **Proportionality** - Officers may only use a level of force that they reasonably believe is proportional to the seriousness of the suspected offense or the reasonably perceived level of actual or threatened resistance.
9. **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 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.
10. **Requirement to Intercede when Excessive force is observed** - An officer shall intercede when present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is necessary, as determined by an objectively reasonable officer under the circumstances, taking into account the possibility that other officers may have additional information regarding the threat posed by a subject.
11. **Requirement to report potential excessive force** - An officer who is present and observes another officer using force that the present and observing officer believes to be beyond that which is necessary, as determined by an objectively reasonable officer under the circumstances based upon the totality of information actually known to the officer, shall report such force to a superior officer.
12. **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

#### **E. Tactical De-Escalation Techniques<sup>2</sup>**

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.
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

#### **F. Command and Control<sup>3</sup>**

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.

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

<sup>3</sup> Training Bulletin, Volume XLVII Issue 4, *COMMAND AND CONTROL*, July 2018

- a. Ensure reasonable numbers of Designated Cover Officers (DCO) for both lethal and less-lethal cover.
- b. Reduce over-response or over-deployment to specific duties and responsibilities.
- c. Maintain officer safety through personnel location and assignment.

### **G. Force Options (117e)**

Use of force incidents are fluid and ever changing. Officers should use any of the options or combinations listed below to gain control of the situation. **The use of less-lethal force options is only permissible when the suspect poses an immediate to the safety of the officer or others. Less-lethal force options shall not be used for a suspect or subject who is passively resisting arrest or merely failing to comply with commands. Verbal threats of violence or mere non-compliance do not alone justify the use of less-lethal force.**

1. **Oleoresin Capsicum (OC)**<sup>4</sup>
  - a. OC primarily affects the eyes, the respiratory system and the skin.
  - b. The optimal range for OC is 3-12 feet
  - c. Advantages
  - d. Disadvantages
2. **Electronic Control Device (TASER 7)**<sup>5</sup>
  - a. Causes Neuro-muscular Incapacitation (NMI) which is an involuntary stimulation of both the sensory and motor nerves
  - b. Effective from 0-21 or 25 feet depending on cartridge used
  - c. Optimal Range is 7-15 feet
  - d. Advantages
  - e. Disadvantages
3. **Beanbag Shotgun**<sup>6</sup>
  - a. Super-sock rounds are designed to be non-penetrating and upon striking a target, distribute energy over a broad surface area.
  - b. No minimum range, but recommended deployment is from 5-30 feet
  - c. Multiple payload capacity
  - d. \*\*Shall not be deployed in a crowd control situation<sup>7</sup>
  - e. Advantages
  - f. Disadvantages
4. **40mm Less Lethal Launcher (LLL)**<sup>8</sup>
  - a. Single shot breech loaded launcher
  - b. Red dot optic sighting system
  - c. Recommended deployment is from 5-75 feet<sup>9</sup>.
  - d. Advantages
  - e. Disadvantages
5. **Moral/Ethical Dilemmas (117f)**
  - a. Shoot or no shoot situation
  - b. Youthful offenders
  - c. Consequences of not using lethal force
  - d. Public perception
  - e. Police/peer perception
  - f. Family's perception
  - g. "Suicide by cop" situation

<sup>4</sup> LAPD Use of Force-Tactics Directive No. 5.2, Oleoresin Capsicum

<sup>5</sup> LAPD Use of Force-Tactics Directive No. 4.6, Electronic Control Device

<sup>6</sup> LAPD Use of Force Directive No. 6.4, Beanbag Shotgun

<sup>7</sup> OCOP Notice 1.3, September 28, 2021

<sup>8</sup> LAPD Use of Force-Tactics Directive No. 17.1, 40mm Less-Lethal Launcher

<sup>9</sup> Training Bureau Notice 1.12, Reduction in Maximum Deployment Distance, 40mm LLL

- h. Mental illness is not a criminal offense
- i. Guided by reverence for human life and objective reasonableness

#### H. Suicidal or Self-Mutilating Subjects<sup>10</sup>

1. Whenever it is safe, feasible, and reasonable to do so, officers shall attempt to control and de-escalate an incident by using;
  - a. Time
  - b. Distance
  - c. Cover
  - d. Communication
  - e. Available resources
2. Officers may only use a level of force that they reasonably believe is proportional to the seriousness of the suspected offense or the reasonably perceived level of actual or threatened resistance.
3. It is not a criminal act to express suicidal ideations, or even attempt to commit suicide or self-mutilation in the state of California. Officers must realize that self-mutilating incidents are not criminal acts and taking certain proactive tactical steps to resolve these situations (i.e., utilizing force) may exacerbate the situation by putting the subject and officers in greater danger.
4. Initiating enforcement action is recommended when the subject's condition deteriorates to a point that officers reasonably believe the subject is no longer a threat to the officers or others.
5. By exercising tactical patience, officers are not "doing nothing," they are waiting for the most appropriate time to safely approach the subject.

### III. DEPARTMENT POLICY FOR PISTOLS WITH ATTACHED LIGHTS

(5 min)

#### A. **DISTRIBUTE:** Handout "Training Verification Form"

**Procedures:** Large group activity

1. Distribute PWAL Training Course Verification Form to each student
2. Have the students write in their names and serial numbers at the top of their form
3. Select a student to read aloud the **Policy** portion of the form while the other students follow along
4. Have each student initial each item after it has been read to signify that they are aware of and understand each policy item
  - a. Only a Department approved light shall be attached to the pistol and carried in a Department approved holster.
  - b. The light on the pistol shall only be used when the officer is justified in drawing or exhibiting the pistol.
  - c. Officers shall carry an additional, independent flashlight for use in situations when their pistol with an attached light would not be appropriate or authorized to use.
5. Review the Department Policy on Drawing or Exhibiting a Firearm (1/556.80)
  - a. "An officer's decision to draw or exhibit a firearm should be based on the tactical situation and the officer's reasonable belief there is a substantial risk that the situation may escalate to the point where deadly force may be justified."
6. Overview the manipulation and qualification requirements as listed on the Training Verification Form
7. Answer any questions and clarify any areas of concern

### III. INTRODUCTION TO APPROVED HOLSTERS AND LIGHTS

(15 min)

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<sup>10</sup> LAPD Training Bulletin, Volume LI, Issue 1, Encounters with suicidal or self-mutilating suspects

A. **GROUP DISCUSSION:** Holsters and lights approved for use

**Procedures:** Large group activity

1. The instructor will refer to the list of holsters approved for uniform use in addition to the list of approved lights to facilitate a brief discussion regarding department approved equipment and policy issues.
2. Explain the operational characteristics of the approved lights
  - a. Lumen output differences
  - b. Activation methods, constant/momentary
  - c. Runtime
  - d. Maintenance
  - e. Battery type
    - lithium CR123 3V batteries

IV. **PISTOL WITH ATTACHED LIGHT MANIPULATION SKILLS**

A. **GROUP DISCUSSION:** Tactical considerations for a PWAL

**Procedures:** Large group activity

**(10 min)**

1. The instructor will present to the class the following tactical considerations when using a PWAL
  - a. Deployment
    - An officer should be aware of other officers' locations in order to prevent the covering of another officer with their pistol when scanning or illuminating a new area of attention
    - An officer's eyes should be looking where his pistol is pointed since that is where the light is shining
    - An officer should realize that at certain times he may need to lower the muzzle of his pistol, which will take the light away from his area of attention
    - When using a light in a dark environment, the user's eyes will quickly adjust to that illuminated environment. However, when the user turns the light off, the user's eyes will require, at a minimum, a few seconds to adjust to the darkened environment
  - b. Reloading
    - When conducting a reload, an officer should consider the tactical need to keep the suspect's location and/or downrange area constantly illuminated
    - If the light is to be left "ON" during a reload situation, the officer should conduct the reload in a manner where the pistol with attached light maintains the direction of illumination downrange at the intended area of attention
    - An officer may consider keeping the light "ON" when conducting a tactical reload if the threat is still present and needs to be illuminated
    - It is strongly recommended that an officer practice both types of reloads in a dark environment using the attached light to assess his ability to maintain light discipline while reloading
  - c. One-Hand Operation
    - An officer must use the trigger finger to activate the constant switch "ON" when the support hand is unable to activate the light
    - The constant switch must be used or the light will go off when the trigger finger moves to the trigger



- When performing a one-hand reload, officers should know what location options are available, when standing or kneeling, to place the pistol when obtaining and inserting a new magazine and whether to turn the light off or leave it on while exchanging the magazines
2. Answer any questions and clarify any areas of concern by the students

**B. *LEARNING ACTIVITY:*** PWAL Manipulation Skills – Demonstration

**Procedures:** Large group activity **(5 min)**

1. The following training should be conducted in a location where the lighting can be dimmed or reduced in order to enhance the training and familiarization of using the attached light for the student
2. At this point, have all the students unload and field-strip their pistols so as to have the pistol frame separated from the slide assembly
3. For students who arrived more than five minutes early to the class, the instructor should have directed them to go immediately and unload and field-strip their pistols at the Department Loading/Unloading barrel in order to reduce the number of students needing to unload and field-strip at this time
4. Direct the remaining students to unload and field-strip their pistol at a Department Loading/Unloading barrel, and not in the classroom
5. The students should then place their frames in their holsters once the pistol has been field-stripped
6. Before beginning the demonstration, the instructor will need to procure a light to use and a Glock pistol frame. At no time shall a slide assembly be on the frame of the pistol used to demonstrate the following skill set to the class unless it is an inert training pistol
7. The instructor will demonstrate and explain the following skill set to the class
  - a. Installing the light onto the pistol
  - b. Removing the light from the pistol
    - Have students re-install the light onto the pistol before continuing to “c”
  - c. Activating the momentary switch “ON” and “OFF” while scanning without pressing the trigger
  - d. Activating the constant switch “ON” and “OFF” while scanning without pressing the trigger
  - e. Activating the momentary switch “ON”, press the trigger, then switch “OFF”
  - f. Activating the constant switch “ON”, press the trigger, then switch “OFF”
8. Advise the students that pressing the trigger excessively with the slide off the frame may cause wear on the trigger safety lever
9. At the conclusion of the demonstration answer any questions and clarify any areas of concern

**C. *LEARNING ACTIVITY:*** PWAL Manipulation Skills – Drills

**Procedures:** Individual activity **(15 min)**

1. The instructors should collect the Training Verification Forms from the students before they line up in order to check off each manipulation skill as the students demonstrate proficiency
2. Each student must have an approved light and holster along with their pistol frame in order to participate and complete this training
3. Have the students line up so as to facilitate the conducting of the following training exercises in the most efficient manner possible

4. The primary instructor will give commands to the students and conduct drills to facilitate and reinforce the learning of the previously demonstrated skill set
5. Assisting instructors should observe and assist students in the proper manipulation of the pistol with an attached light
6. Upon completion of the PWAL manipulation training, the instructors should ensure that the "Manipulation Requirement" section of the Training Verification Form has been properly signed off and then returned to the student.
7. Emphasize to the students that they must take this signed form with them to give to the Range Officer when they qualify on a Night Combat Qualification relay

## **V. CLOSING AND REMINDERS**

**(10 min)**

- A. The instructor should give the following closing remarks to the students:
  1. Reinforce safety when utilizing the PWAL
  2. Emphasize the need for officers to practice on their own with this new weapon system
  3. Emphasize to the students that it may only take one person to abuse it for all of us to lose it
- B. The instructor should remind the students before they leave:
  1. Load your pistol with your duty ammunition at the loading barrel before leaving the station
  2. Students must pass the 30-round Night Combat Qualification course and demonstrate proficiency with the attached light while qualifying before they are authorized to carry their pistol with attached light. (This will be complete given night qualification times)
  3. Reinforce the 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
  4. Ensure that the students understand how the application of this training is in keeping with our Department's UOF police, philosophy, and tactical planning