

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
UNDERCOVER OPS/TACTICAL RESP
1850-32592
Expanded Course Outline**

Instructional Goal: To provide the student with the knowledge and skills to apply policy, procedure and legal issues to undercover and shadow team operations.

Performance Objectives: Using videos, learning activities, and scenario exercises the students will:

- Know the different roles and responsibilities of an undercover and shadow team operations.
- 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.
- Understand the importance of and be able to apply the various factors involved in the planning and operational phases of an undercover and shadow team operations.
- Operational Video Review
- 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.¹

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

I. INTRODUCTION AND ORIENTATION

A. Introduction:

1. Instructor (s)
2. Name, Assignment
3. Experience

B. Conduct administrative duties (i.e., POST roster; notification cards)

C. Conduct safety brief per current course Safety Policy

D. Brief overview of training topics

1. Use of Force Policy, Procedure, and Legal Issues
2. Operations – Case studies
3. Shadow Team Operations
4. Video Debriefs

E. DISTRIBUTE: Resource Guide

¹ LAPD Use of Force Directive No. 1, September 2023 and LAPD Tactical Concept, Tactics Training Overview, Tactical De-Escalation, May 2024

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1. Have a resource guide at each table
2. Review handouts and guides

II. USE OF FORCE REVIEW²

- A. Review Deadly Force Policy
- B. Review Intermediate Force Policy
- C. Review Tactical De-Escalation Techniques (PATROL)³
 1. **P**lanning
 2. **A**ssessment
 3. **T**ime
 4. **R**edeployment and/or Containment
 5. **O**ther Resources
 6. **L**ines of Communication

III. CASE STUDIES, TACTICS, AND LEGAL ISSUES REVIEW

- A. Review LAPD Use for Force – Tactics Directive 10.3, Undercover and Surveillance Operations⁴
- B. Review LAPD Tactical Operation Plan and Tactical Operation Plan Warrant Service Checklist⁵
- C. Command and Control⁶
 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
- D. Review OCOP Special Order 8, Surveillance and Search Warrant Procedures⁷

² LAPD Use of Force Directive No. 1, September 2023

³ LAPD Tactical Concepts, Tactics Training Overview, Tactical De-Escalation, May 2024

⁴ LAPD Tactical Concepts, Tactics Training Overview, Undercover and Surveillance Operations, April 2023.

⁵ LAPD Tactical Operation Plan, Form 12.25.00 and LAPD Tactical Operation Plan Warrant Service Checklist, Form 12.25.01

⁶ Training Bulletin, Volume XLVII Issue 4, COMMAND AND CONTROL, July 2018

⁷ OCOP Special Order 8

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E. Law Review – Consensual encounters⁸

1. Subjects are free to not cooperate with the police and may leave if they choose
2. Officers must not restrain or exert any authority over the subject

F. What is a legal detention?⁹

1. Officer has reasonable suspicion, requiring specific and articulable facts
2. Justification for Frisk/Pat Down Search
 - a. A pat search of a detainee is permitted if there is reason to believe the detainee was armed or dangerous
3. Relevant circumstances

G. Arrest¹⁰

1. Probable cause is the standard for a lawful arrest
2. 4th Amendment

H. Tactics/Officer Safety

1. Officer safety, sound tactics and appropriate preparation should remain of paramount importance and should never be compromised in conducting plainclothes operations
2. Always have an operations plan, including teams of support personnel
3. Change your body language
4. Familiarize yourself with the area you are working
5. Have the right attitude
6. Remember you are the eyes and ears for the team – an intelligence gatherer
7. Keep your supervisor and team advised of your location, observations and activities.
8. Keep your status updated
9. Contact/Cover

⁸ LAPD Training Bulletin, Contacts with the Public – Part I Legal Considerations

⁹ LAPD Training Bulletin, Contacts with the Public – Part I Legal Considerations

¹⁰ LAPD Training Bulletin, Contacts with the Public – Part I Legal Considerations

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10. Identification
11. Roles and Responsibilities Officers
12. Role and Responsibility Supervisors
13. Observation Post
14. Planning/Briefing
15. Communication/Notifications
16. What to Avoid

I. Tactical Debrief

1. Conducting Tactical Debriefs
2. Prepare key points
3. Be fair and honest
4. Allow involved parties to give their thoughts and ideas
5. Communicate lessons learned
 - a. Share with team members
 - b. Share with Chain of Command for future reference
 - c. Share with Training Division to improve Department-wide operations

IV. SHADOW TEAM OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

A. Undercover Operations Introduction

1. LAPD Use of Force - Tactics Directive, Undercover Operations
 - a. Philosophy
 - b. The limitations of Undercover Operations
 - c. Avoiding blue on blue encounters
 - d. Pre-Operation planning
 - e. Equipment and dress
 - f. Communications

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- g. Type and quality of investigation
 - h. Resources
 - i. Quality of Intelligence
2. Continued Operational Improvement
- a. Learning from the past
 - b. Planning for the future

V. TACTICAL OPERATIONS – VIDEO ANALYSIS

A. GROUP ACTIVITY

- 1. Students will break out into four to five groups (depending on class size) and view a video of a UC operation
- 2. Using the lens of Department policy, the CA Penal Code, and applicable case law, a student representative from each group will present to the class an analysis of issues defined in sub heading C below.

B. Video Analysis may include, but not limited to:

- 1. Surveillance operations
- 2. Fugitive Arrests
- 3. Kidnap for Ransom recovery
- 4. Undercover firearms and/or drug buy – bust
- 5. Pedestrians stop leading to arrests
- 6. Tracking device installations
- 7. Money flash operations

C. Critical analyses should include

- 1. Relevant Department policy
- 2. Supervisory oversight
- 3. Constitutional issues
- 4. Equipment selection
- 5. General tactics

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6. Division to improve Department-wide operations

VI. Tactical Debrief