

**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.
- Apply Use of Force decision-making and de-escalation techniques in undercover- related Force Option Simulator (FOS) scenarios.
- 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.<sup>12</sup>

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

**I. INTRODUCTION AND ORIENTATION**

**(30 min)**

A. Introduction:

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

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

C. Brief overview of training topics

1. Policy, Procedure, and Legal Issues
2. Operations – Case studies, FOS, and Practical exercise

D. DISTRIBUTE: Resource Guide

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

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

<sup>2</sup> LAPD Use of Force-Tactics Directive, Tactical De-Escalation Techniques

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**II. UNDERCOVER AND SHADOW TEAM OPERATIONS OVERVIEW (60 Min)**

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
  - 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

**III. USE OF FORCE REVIEW<sup>3</sup> (60 min)**

A. Critical Incident Debrief Equation:

1. Basic Concept (**BC**)
2. Real World Variables (**RW**)
3. Administrative Review (**AR**)

B. Review Deadly Force Policy

C. Review Tactical De-Escalation Techniques (PATROL)<sup>4</sup>

1. **P**lanning
2. **A**ssessment

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<sup>3</sup> Department Manual Section 1/556.10, Policy on the Use of Force

<sup>4</sup> LAPD Use of Force-Tactics Directive, Tactical De-Escalation Techniques

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3. Time
4. Redeployment and/or Containment
5. Other Resources
6. Lines of Communication

**IV. CASE STUDIES, TACTICS, AND LEGAL ISSUES REVIEW (150 Min)**

- A. Review LAPD Use for Force – Tactics Directive 10.3, Undercover and Surveillance Operations<sup>5</sup>
- B. Review LAPD Tactical Operation Plan and Tactical Operation Plan Warrant Service Checklist<sup>6</sup>
- C. Command and Control<sup>7</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.
  3. Tactical Consideration
- D. Review OCOP Special Order 8, Surveillance and Search Warrant Procedures<sup>8</sup>
- E. Law Review – Consensual encounters<sup>9</sup>
  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? <sup>10</sup>
  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

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<sup>5</sup> LAPD Use of Force - Tactics Directive, Undercover and Surveillance Operations

<sup>6</sup> LAPD Tactical Operation Plan, Form 12.25.00 and LAPD Tactical Operation Plan Warrant Service Checklist, Form 12.25.01

<sup>7</sup> Training Bulletin, Volume XLVII Issue 4, COMMAND AND CONTROL

<sup>8</sup> OCOP Special Order 8

<sup>9</sup> LAPD Training Bulletin, Contacts with the Public – Part I Legal Considerations

<sup>10</sup> LAPD Training Bulletin, Contacts with the Public – Part I Legal Considerations

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G. Arrest <sup>11</sup>

1. Probable cause is the standard for a lawful arrest
2. 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment
3. There is no murder scene or crime scene exception to a warrantless search

H. SPICE

1. S – Search Warrant
2. P – Probable cause-vehicle
3. I – Incident to arrest
4. C – Consent
5. E – Exigent Circumstances

I. 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. Security (plainclothes), Arrest (uniformed or raid jackets), chase (uniformed)
4. Change your body language
5. Familiarize yourself with the area you are working
6. Have the right attitude
7. Remember you are the eyes and ears for the team – an intelligence gatherer
8. Keep your supervisor and team advised of your location, observations and activities.
9. Keep your status updated
10. Contact/Cover
11. Identification
12. Roles and Responsibilities Officers
13. Role and Responsibility Supervisors

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<sup>11</sup> LAPD Training Bulletin, Contacts with the Public – Part I Legal Considerations

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- 14. Observation Post
- 15. Planning/Briefing
- 16. Communication/Notifications
- 17. What to Avoid

**V. UNDERCOVER AND SHADOW TEAM OPERATION ROTATIONS – FOS and Shadow Team Concepts Introduction (120 Min)**

**A. Force Option Simulator (FOS)**

- 1. Purpose: The students will be placed in situations where they must determine the appropriate action based on the Use of Force – Tactics Directive – Undercover Operations<sup>12</sup>
- 2. Scenario Analysis / Review (4 scenarios)

**B. Shadow Team Concept Introduction**

- 1. Review Training Bulletin No. XX, Shadow Teams Concepts
  - a. Philosophy
  - b. The limitations of Shadow Teams Operations
  - c. Avoiding blue on blue encounters
  - d. Pre-Operation planning
  - e. Equipment and dress
  - f. Communications
  - 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
- 3. Mission and Objectives
- 4. Definitions

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<sup>12</sup> Use of Force – Tactics Directive– Undercover Operations

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- a. Shadow Team Operator
- b. Uniformed Support
- 5. Planning
- 6. Deployment
  - a. Shadow Team Configuration
- 7. Detention / Arrest
  - a. Uniformed Support squad is given the necessary information to location and identify the suspect(s).
- 8. Radio Communications
- 9. Safety Equipment
  - a. Department badge and identification (Concealed and secured)
  - b. Department firearm (Concealed and secured)
  - c. Cellular telephone (Preferably Department issued)
  - d. Additional equipment requirements (magazines, handcuffs, radios)
- 10. Interactions between Uniformed and Undercover Officers
- 11. Arrest Reports

**C. FOS and Shadow Team Concepts Critical Points to Review:**

- 1. Deadly force shall only be used a LAST RESORT
- 2. When communicating with individuals always be aware of cover, concealment and distance
- 3. What is known at the time of the use of force
- 4. Specific criteria for each weapon system or less lethal device utilized by LAPD<sup>13</sup>
  - a. Beanbag Shotgun protocol<sup>14</sup>
  - b. 40mm and TASER protocol<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Office of Administrative Services Notice 1.3, Use of Less-Lethal Force Clarification, January 2018

<sup>14</sup> Use of Force – Tactics Directive – Beanbag Shotgun

<sup>15</sup> Use of Force – Tactics Directive – Electronic Control Device - TASER

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5. Cover and type of weapon will determine how close you can get to a suspect
6. Notifications

**VI. TACTICAL DEBRIEF**

**A. Conducting Tactical Debriefs**

1. Prepare key points
2. Be fair and honest
3. Allow involved parties to give their thoughts and ideas

**B. Communicate lessons learned**

1. Share with team members
2. Share with Chain of Command for future reference
3. Share with Training Division to improve Department-wide operations