

Less Lethal Weapon Systems

Range Day (4 hours)

Reality Based Scenarios (4 hours)

CPT 2020

Course Goals:

The course will provide the trainee with topics in use of less lethal weapons systems. The trainee will develop the necessary tactical less lethal weapons knowledge and skills to deal with dangerous encounters. The course consists of a hands-on/ practical skills training for Sacramento Police Department Officers.

Less Lethal Weapons Systems:

Topics/ Exercises

- a) Judgment and decision-making
- b) Less lethal options
- c) Pros and cons regarding individual less lethal weapons
- d) Safety guidelines and orientation
- e) Tactical Considerations
- f) Non target areas
- g) Weapons clearing/transitions
- h) Less Lethal/Lethal Weapon teams
- i) Overwhelming with less lethal
- j) Arrest Teams and responsibilities
- k) 835a PC/Use of Force policy
- l) Use of force considerations
- m) Moral obligations

Course Objectives:

Trainees will:

- 1) Demonstrate knowledge of less lethal weapons and tactical considerations.
- 2) Demonstrate a minimum standard of less lethal weapons proficiency with every technique, exercise, and course-of-fire, to include:
 - a) Judgment and decision making
 - b) Weapons knowledge and safety
 - c) Target and non-target identification
 - d) Communication

Equipment needed:

- 1) Reload rounds for 40mm
- 2) Drag stabilizer rounds
- 3) Training taser cartridges
- 4) 40 mm weapons
- 5) Beanbag Less Lethal Shotguns
- 6) Pepperball launchers
- 7) Charging station for Pepperball Launchers
- 8) Targets/backers
- 9) 25-yard range
- 10) Classroom with AV
- 11) Class outline
- 12) Eye and Ear Protection
- 13) First aid kit
- 14) Minimum 4 instructors
- 15) Students duty gear including handguns and
- 16) Cleaning equipment for equipment

Added Equipment for Scenario Based Training Day:

- 1) Simunition handguns
- 2) Simunition rounds
- 3) Simunition safety face, throat, groin protection
- 4) Simunition Conversion kit for 40 mm
- 5) Simunition Conversion kit for less lethal shotgun
- 6) Instructor and safety officer vests
- 7) Eye protection
- 8) Minimum of 8 instructors and one Scene Safety Manager
- 9) Red Training Knives
- 10) Red Training Tasers/CEDs
- 11) Simunition/Scenario training safety checklist
- 12) Rollplayers

Expanded Course Outline

I. SAFETY GUIDELINES/ ORIENTATION

- A. Introduction, registration and orientation
- B. Course objectives/overview, exercises, evaluation/testing
- C. Weapons, range and shooting safety rules. (Pre-range weapons unloading procedures and lunch/extended break reload/unload rules)

1. General Safety Rules
 - a. Treat ALL firearms and less lethal weapons as if they are loaded.
 - b. Keep your firearm and less lethal weapon pointed in the safest direction possible.
 - c. Do not put your finger on the trigger until you are on target and ready to fire.
 - d. Be certain of your target, its surroundings and what is beyond it.

2. Range Safety Rules (Pistols/less lethal weapons)
 - a. Once training starts, the range will be considered a HOT RANGE which means pistols and magazines will be kept loaded with ammo.
 - b. Because it is a hot range, **ALL pistols WILL remain in their holster**, with holster retention devices in use, except when on the firing line under the supervision of the range masters and/or at a designated safe handling area.
 - c. Officers will be allowed to administratively load their pistol magazines when off the firing line but they must keep their pistols holstered.
 - d. All Less Lethal weapons will either be holstered or hanging and secured in a sling while not on the line.

3. On the Firing Line Safety Rules
 - a. Refer to General Safety Rules; keep all firearms and less lethal weapons pointed down range
 - b. All malfunctions shall be handled by the officer. If they cannot fix the malfunction then (keeping the weapon pointed down range) they shall raise their off hand for range master assistance.
 - c. Never draw a handgun from the holster on the range unless instructed to do so.
 - d. Never leave your firing position unless cleared by the range master.
 - e. Never go forward of the firing line unless instructed to do so.
 - f. Never bend over to retrieve dropped articles (i.e., magazines, ammunition) on the firing line unless instructed to do so or cleared by the range master first.
 - g. If hot brass comes in contact with your skin, keep your weapon pointed down range, de-cock and holster. Once the weapon is safely holstered, you may take care of the hot brass. Notify the range master of what you're doing.
 - h. All officers will wear eye & ear protection and bulletproof vests while on the firing line and/or in the immediate vicinity of the firing line.
 - i. There will be no smoking, chewing tobacco, eating, or drinking on the firing line.
 - j. Wash hands and face before leaving the range.

4. Range Commands

- a. LOAD and MAKE READY
 - i. Shooter will point muzzle in a safe direction and load or press check as necessary.
- b. FIRE COMMANDS
 - i. During the course of fire, the instructor will tell the class what the fire command will be.
- c. "IMPACT"
 - i. Command given for less lethal deployment/firing.
- d. CHALLENGE
 - i. Shooter gives at least one command to disarm the threat (i.e., "Police! Don't move!"), before no threat or fire command is given.
- e. NO THREAT
 - i. Shooter conducts follow through and scanning on their own.
 - ii. Holster reluctantly.
 - iii. Wait for direction.
- f. CEASE FIRE!
 - i. All shooters immediately;
 - 1. Stop firing
 - 2. Safely holster their weapon
 - 3. Listen for further direction

Less Lethal Weapon Systems Range Day (4 hours)

0700 hours: (CPT Classroom) - Lecture

- Use of Force Policy, 835a PC, less lethal options, De-escalation, pros and cons for less lethal options, non-target areas, tactical considerations, overwhelming with less lethal, arrest teams and responsibilities, communication, range safety, and overview of range day and scenario day.

0800 hours: (Firearms Range) - Practicals on firearms range

- Less lethal and lethal courses of fire. Continuing the emphasis on lethal and less lethal teams, de-escalation, and modified shooting positions.

Exercise 1: Individual Student

- a) Individual transition drills from Less Lethal to handgun.

- b) Dry course of fire.
- c) Reminders: Safe transition, recommendation to place safety on during transition.

Exercise 2: Two-person drills

- a) Officers will be paired up
- b) Potential for 3-person team if necessary.
- c) Lethal and Less Lethal teams
- d) Drills conducted between 5-15 yard lines.
- e) Contact/tactical retreat
- f) Communication/de-escalation with suspect
- g) Situation with subject with Blunt object or knife
- h) Threat assessment
- i) "Impact" command
- j) Team Members rotate after each scenario

Exercise 3: Two-person/team drills

- a) Lethal and Less Lethal teams
- b) Distance
- c) Movement
- d) Communication/De-escalation
- e) Response to the threat

1000 hours - Qualifications

- a) 40 MM
 - i. Qualification for the 40mm: Each officer will start with a loaded 40mm launcher. Upon the impact command they will fire the first round, reload a second round, and fire into the target again within 15 seconds.
- b) Less Lethal Shotgun
 - i. Qualification for the shotgun: Each officer will start with a duty loaded shotgun with a safety engaged. Upon the impact command, the officer will fire two rounds into a target within 6 seconds.
- c) Pepperball gun
 - i. Qualification for the pepperball gun: The officer will start with a stored pepperball gun. Upon the go command, they will connect the air system, load a magazine, and fire 5 rounds at target within 20 seconds.

d) Taser

- i. Qualification for the taser: We will use the qualification course that we have used in the past CPT 2019

1100 hours: Range clean up

Reality Based Scenarios – Less Lethal Training

(4-hours)

Location: Tactical Village

1200-1230 hours:

- Safety Briefing – weapons check (no live weapons allowed in Tac village)
- Class will break into 4 groups (groups will rotate every 45 minutes through each of the four scenarios)
- Instructors remain in their assigned scenario as the student groups rotate
- Simunition gear issued to students
- Secondary safety check for live ammunition/weapons
- Rollplayer safety and instructions brief

1230-1645 hours:

Scenario #1 – possibly suicidal and/or violent subject call armed with a knife

- a) Plan/response
- b) Communication
- c) De-escalation
- d) Tactical considerations
- e) Debrief

Scenario #2 – Incident at a school

- a) Plan/response
- b) Communication
- c) De-escalation
- d) Tactical considerations
- e) Debrief

Scenario #3 – Subject with a knife at a hotel

- a) Plan/response
- b) Communication
- c) De-escalation
- d) Tactical considerations
- e) Debrief

Scenario #4 – Subject in a business with a knife

- a) Plan/response
- b) Communication
- c) De-escalation
- d) Tactical considerations
- e) Debrief

1645-1700 hours

Class debrief, questions and clean-up