

Sacramento Police Department – 2320  
FIREARMS PSP Course – 29501

**Statement of Purpose:** The purpose of this course is to provide the student with topics of tactical firearms and lethal force training, which meet the requirements of the Perishable Skills Program (PSP) for POST. The student will develop the necessary tactical firearms knowledge and skills to survive and win a lethal force encounter. This course consists of hands-on / practical skills firearms training instruction for sworn Sacramento Police Department officers. This course complies with the legislative content and mandates of AB392, SB230 & PC835a.

**Minimum Topics / Exercises**

- A. Judgement and Decision Making Exercise(s)
- B. Student Evaluation / Testing
- C. Safety Guidelines and Orientation
- D. Sight Alignment, Trigger Control, Accuracy
- E. Target Recognition and Analysis
- F. Weapons Clearing
- G. Live Fire Tactical / or Simmunition Tactical
- H. Policies and/or Legal Issues
- I. Use of Force Considerations
- J. Moral Obligations

**Course Objectives**

Officers will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of their individual departments Use of Force and Firearms Policy
2. Identify the tactical analysis key points related to tactical firearms as reported in POST Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) studies (1994-present)
3. Demonstrate a minimum standard of tactical firearms proficiency with every technique, exercise, and course of fire to include:
  - a. Judgement and Decision Making
  - b. Firearms Safety
  - c. Fundamentals of Marksmanship
  - d. Safe Drawing and Presenting Firearms
  - e. Shoot / No Shoot
  - f. Speed, Accuracy and Effectiveness Under Stress and Movement Conditions
  - g. Shot Placement: Combat Effectiveness
  - h. Malfunction Clearing
  - i. Loading / Reloading

**Sacramento Police Department – 2320  
FIREARMS PSP Course – 29501**

**Minimum standards of performance shall be tested by the instructor(s) observing the officer during their performance of each technique, exercise and course of fire. If an officer does not meet a minimum standard, as established by the Firearms Training Unit, remediation will be provided until the standard is met.**

<b>I. Safety Guidelines/Orientation</b>	<b>(C)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Instruction, registration and orientation</li><li>b. Course objectives / overview, exercise, evaluation/testing</li><li>c. Weapons, range and shooting safety rules</li><li>d. General safety rules<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Treat all firearms as if they were loaded</li><li>ii. Never point a gun at anything you aren't willing to destroy</li><li>iii. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target</li><li>iv. Be sure of your target and what's beyond it</li></ul></li><li>e. Range safety rules<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Once training starts, the range will be considered a hot range, which means pistols and magazines will be loaded with ammo</li><li>ii. Because it is a hot range, all pistols will remain in their holsters, with weapons retention devices in use, except when on the fire line under the supervision of the range masters and/or in a designated safe area</li><li>iii. Officers will be allowed to administratively load their pistol magazines when off the firing line, but they must keep their pistols holstered</li></ul></li><li>f. On the firing line safety rules<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Refer to general safety rules; keep all firearms pointed down range</li><li>ii. All malfunctions shall be handled by the officer. If they cannot fix the malfunction, the shooter shall raise their non-dominant hand for range master assistance</li><li>iii. Never draw a handgun from the holster unless instructed to do so</li><li>iv. Never leave your firing position unless cleared by the range master</li><li>v. Never go forward of the firing line unless instructed to do so</li><li>vi. Never bend forward to retrieve dropped articles on the firing line unless instructed to do so or cleared by the range master first</li><li>vii. If hot brass comes in contact with your skin, keep your weapon pointed down range, de-cock if applicable and holster. Once holstered you can take care of the brass. Notify range master of what you are doing</li><li>viii. All officers will wear eye protection, ear protection and bulletproof vests while on the firing line and/or in the vicinity of the firing line</li><li>ix. There will be no smoking, chewing tobacco, eating or drinking on the firing line</li><li>x. Wash hands and face before leaving the range</li></ul></li><li>g. Range commands<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Load and make ready<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Shooter will point their weapon in a safe direction and load or press check, as necessary</li></ul></li><li>ii. Fire commands</li></ul></li></ul>	

**Sacramento Police Department – 2320  
FIREARMS PSP Course – 29501**

1. During the course of fire, the instructor will tell the class what the fire command will be
- iii. Challenge Command
  1. Shooter gives at least one command to disarm the threat (i.e., "Police, don't move!"), before a no threat of threat command is given
- iv. No shoot
  1. Shooter conducts follow though and scanning on their own
  2. Holster reluctantly
  3. Wait for direction
- v. Cease Fire
  1. All shooter immediately:
    - a. Stop shooting
    - b. Safely holster their weapon
    - c. Listen for further direction

**II. Lethal Force Overview (H,I,J)**

- a. Legal Issues Involving Use of Force/Lethal Force
  - i. Review of PC835a, as updated by AB392 & SB230
  - ii. Ensuring the use of force is justifiable under department policy, Federal and State law
  - iii. Determining is the use of force is necessary
  - iv. Administer after force care
- b. Civil and department implications of force/lethal force
  - i. Civil lawsuit by suspect and/or family
  - ii. Internal Affairs
  - iii. Office of Public Safety Accountability (OPSA)
- c. Report writing and preliminary investigation
  - i. Document your mindset at the time, suspects actions, how you felt, fear for your life or others of imminent death or serious bodily injury, what you knew prior to the incident, de-escalation, how many officers on scene and environmental facts
  - ii. Be articulate so that others will understand the degree of threat you felt
- d. Moral/ Ethical issues
  - i. Sanctity of life
  - ii. Duty to enforce laws
  - iii. Duty to serve the public
  - iv. Discretion

**III. Use of Force/Lethal Force/Firearms Policy (H,I)**

- a. Use of force options
  - i. Lethal force within the spectrum of force options
  - ii. Verbal, hands, less lethal and lethal force spectrum
  - iii. Command presence
  - iv. Control holds
  - v. O.C., Baton, CED, pepperball, bean bag, 40mm

Sacramento Police Department – 2320  
FIREARMS PSP Course – 29501

- vi. Firearms
- vii. De-escalation
  - 1. Taking action or communicating verbally or nonverbally during a potential force encounter in an attempt to stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of the threat so that more time, options, and resources can be called upon to resolve the situation without the UOF or with a reduction of the force necessary. De-escalation tactics include, but are not limited to, warnings, verbal persuasion, and tactical repositioning.
- b. Department Policy
  - i. Deadly Force
    - 1. Review of SPD GO 580.02 – Use of Force Policy, as updated by AB392 & SB230
    - 2. The use of a firearm or other deadly force is the most serious decision a peace officer may make. In determining whether deadly force is necessary, peace officers shall evaluate each situation considering the circumstances of each case and shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible to a reasonable peace officer
    - 3. A peace officer is justified in using deadly force upon another person only when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary against imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death
    - 4. A peace officer **shall not** use deadly force against a person who presents only a danger to themselves and does not pose an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to another person or officer.
  - ii. Discharging Firearm
    - 1. To protect themselves or another person from what is reasonably believed to be an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death.
    - 2. To prevent a crime where the subject's actions are reasonably believed to place person(s) in imminent jeopardy of serious bodily injury or death.
    - 3. To effect an arrest, prevent an escape, or recapture an escapee when the peace officer reasonably believes the subject to be arrested poses an imminent threat to cause serious bodily injury or death if apprehension is delayed.
    - 4. At a firing range, pursuant to all safety rules and regulations.
    - 5. To stop a potentially aggressive animal, such as a dog, if the animal reasonably appears to pose an immediate threat of serious bodily injury or death to a peace officer or to another person and alternative methods are not feasible or would likely be ineffective.
    - 6. Firearms **shall not** be discharged as a warning.
  - iii. PC 835a and AB392
    - 1. A peace officer is justified in using deadly force upon another

**Sacramento Police Department – 2320  
FIREARMS PSP Course – 29501**

person only when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the 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 to another person
- 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.

2. AB392
  - a. Amended PC 196
  - b. Amended PC 835a
3. Supporting case law
  - a. Tennessee v. Garner
    - i. Fleeing felon
  - b. Graham v. Conner
    - i. Objective reasonableness

**IV. Post Law Enforcement Officers Killed / Assaulted (LEOKA) Studies**

- a. 2014-2019 Vital Statistics
  - i. Top police calls related to officers killed
    1. Suspicious circumstances/persons
    2. Traffic violation stops
    3. Wanted persons
  - ii. Firearms most used in officers killed
    1. 9mm
    2. .40 cal
    3. .45 cal
    4. .223 cal
  - iii. Distance between officer and suspect
    1. 0-5 ft
    2. 6-10 ft
    3. 11-20 ft
  - iv. Time of day (Day Light v. Low Light / Dark)
    1. Swing shift
    2. Day shift
    3. Graveyard shift
  - v. Years of service of officers killed
    1. 1-10 years
    2. 11-20 years

Sacramento Police Department – 2320  
FIREARMS PSP Course – 29501

- 3. 21-30 years
- vi. Accuracy of Officers who fired at suspect
  - 1. Percentage hit rate- 18.3%

**V. Fundamentals of Shooting (D)**

- a. Shooting Platform
  - i. Stance
    - 1. Isosceles
    - 2. Weaver
    - 3. Modified
  - ii. Grip
    - 1. 360 Degree coverage
    - 2. Off-hand thumb forward down the slide
  - iii. Trigger Control
    - 1. Smooth trigger press to the rear
    - 2. Disengage trigger safety (if applicable)
    - 3. Double action/single action systems
  - iv. Breathing Control
    - 1. Breathe with mouth open
    - 2. Shoot at a natural pause (if possible)
  - v. Sight Alignment/Sight Picture
    - 1. Focus on front sight
    - 2. Align front sight in center of rear sight
    - 3. Align sight on target
  - vi. Follow-through
    - 1. Continue looking through sight
    - 2. Assess target
    - 3. De-cock (if needed)

**VI. Range Drills (D,E,F,G)**

- a. Learning Activity: One Hole Drill
  - i.
  - ii. Draw and fire rounds
  - iii. Focus on fundamentals
  - iv. No time limit
  - v. Shoot the smallest group
  - vi. Repeat 3x
- b. Learning Activity: One Hole Drill with reloads
  - i.
  - ii.
  - iii. Draw and fire rounds
  - iv. Focus on fundamentals
  - v. Emergency reload (as necessary)
  - vi. No time limit
  - vii. Shoot the smallest group
  - viii. Repeat 3x

Sacramento Police Department – 2320  
FIREARMS PSP Course – 29501

- c. **Learning Activity:** Draw and Fire
  - i.
  - ii. The threat command will be a shape, color and a number
  - iii. Draw and fire to the shape, color and number given by the range master
  - iv. Holster
  - v. Emergency reload as needed
  - vi. Repeat 6x
- ci. **Learning Activity:** Failure Drill
  - i.
  - ii. Draw and fire to the body and to the head on threat command
  - iii. Holster
  - iv. Repeat 4x
- e. **Learning Activity:** iHack
  - i.
  - ii.
  - iii. On the command of “Fire”:
    - 1. Draw and fire dot left to right
    - 2. Draw and fire dot right to left
    - 3. Fire in each dot, starting with the middle dot, and then shooting both side dots in any order
  - iv. Repeat 1x
- f. **Learning Activity:** F.A.S.T Drill
  - i. All shooters at once
  - ii.
  - iii. On the sound of the shot timer:
    - 1. Draw and fire rounds into
    - 2. Perform a slide lock reload
    - 3. Fire rounds into the
- g. **Learning Activity:** F.A.S.T Drill
  - i.
  - ii.
  - iii. On the sound of the shot timer:
    - 1. Draw and fire rounds into
    - 2. Perform a slide lock reload
    - 3. Fire into the

**VII. Assessment** **(A,B,E,G,I)**

- a. Five Students per Scenario
- b. Simmunitions will be used in all scenarios
- c. Use range robot
- d. Upon completion of the drill, all students will debrief the drill
- e. Focus on tactics, target acquisition, force options, judgement and decision making, after force care
- f. **Scenario #1:** Lethal encounter with after force care

Sacramento Police Department – 2320  
FIREARMS PSP Course – 29501

- i. Suspect is armed with a handgun
- g. **Scenario #2:** Lethal encounter with after course care
  - i. Suspect armed with a knife
- h. **Scenario #3:** Less lethal encounter with after force care
  - i. Suspect not armed but charges officers
- i. **Scenario #4:** No use of force
  - i. Suspect armed with a knife
  - ii. Suspect surrenders with de-escalation
- j. **Scenario #5:** No use of force
  - i. Suspect not armed
  - ii. Suspect surrenders with de-escalation
- k. **Scenario #6:** Less lethal encounter with after force care
  - i. Suspect armed with a knife
  - ii. Suspect drops knife with de-escalation
  - iii. As officers approach, suspect moves toward the knife