

Office of the Sheriff, Santa Clara County

Active Shooter Update (Solo and Team Response)

2270-22308

Rev. 02/03/2020

Expanded Course Outline

Objective: This course is designed to update students regarding active shooter trends/response. Students will be taught techniques for individual response. Topics discussed are Hostage Barricade vs. Active Shooter (A/S); Policies/Legal Issues; stimulus/driving force; priority of life; problem solving; Post Engagement Status Check (PESC); Security, Incident Command, Medical (SIM). This course is intended to meet the Perishable Skills required for Tactical Firearms.

I Introduction

10 Minutes

- A. Course Goals and Objectives
 1. Improve decision making skills related to Use of Force and Active Shooters (A/S)
 2. Increase knowledge in current use of force law and trends of A/S
 3. Improve skills in tactics/selection of appropriate force options by utilization of live role players in scenario-based training environments
 4. Improve target recognition and analysis of subjects encountered in an A/S
- B. Safety Guidelines and Orientation
 1. No live weapons or ammunition
 2. Individual, partner, and instructor weapon check
 3. Use of Simunition brand pistols and marking rounds inspected and issued by Training Safety Officer (TSO)
 - a. Eye protection (ear protection if loud blanks)
 - b. Full face, groin and neck protection with marking rounds

II. Policies and Legal Issues

40 Minutes

- A. Reasonable Force PC § 835a
 1. When may peace officer use reasonable force?
 2. Conditions of retreat and aggression
- B. AB 392
 1. PC 196 no longer exists and is part of PC 835
 2. De-escalation and other non-deadly force options
- C. SB 230
 1. Additional training in CA to minimize use of force
 2. Policy requirements on de-escalation, an officer's duty to intercede, rendering medical aid, proportional use of force, interactions with vulnerable populations
 3. Use-of-force policies and training may be considered in legal proceedings
 4. Increase transparency by setting detailed, standardized requirements for reporting use-of-force instances.
- D. Case Law and their impact on reasonable force and deadly force
 1. Graham v. Connor

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2. Tennessee v. Garner
3. Forrett v. Richardson
- E. Supporting Case Law Decisions
 1. "Officers need not avail themselves to lesser alternatives of force. The test is one of reasonableness, not escalation."
 2. Scott v. Henrich (9th Circuit 1994)
 3. Reed v. Hoy (9th Circuit 1989)
- F. Basis of Deadly Force
 1. Objective and reasonable belief his/her life is or another's is in imminent danger of death, or serious injury
 2. Based on the totality of the facts known to the officer at the time of his/her actions
- G. Department Policy
 1. Officers must know and follow their department policy.
 2. Failure to follow department policy can lead to civil and administrative liability.Use of Force Considerations
- H. Santa Clara County Active Shooter Policy
 1. Solo-Officer Response
 2. Priority of Life
 3. Moral Obligations

III. Break

10 Minutes

IV. Active Shooter Trends and Lessons Learned

40 Minutes

- A. Pulse Night Club (6/12/2016, Orlando, FL)
 1. LE stabilized victims and removed from Warm Zone without EMS
 2. Breached to clear attack site
 3. IED threat awareness
 4. Hostage Barricade vs. Active Shooter Awareness
- B. Rt. 91 Harvest Music Festival (10/1/2017, Las Vegas, NV)
 1. Citizen support and training helped mitigate loss of life
 2. LE response must be swift when stimulus/driving force exists
 3. Unified response (LE, FD, & EMS)
 4. Early establishment of Unified Command
- C. Marjory Stoneman Douglas HS (2/14/2018, Parkland, FL)
 1. Identification of and appropriate response to stimulus/driving force
 2. Solo Response
 3. ICS for appropriate management of resources
 4. LE adapt when communications infrastructure is overtasked
- D. 2016-2018 Data to increase preparation
 1. Many A/S suspects are heavily armed and highly motivated
 2. 41 LE responders injured or killed
 3. Suspects used rifles, ambush techniques, body armor & explosive devices

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4. LE responders neutralized threats in 38 incidents
5. LE provided life-saving care
- E. Operation Goals
 1. Stop the Killing
 - a. Isolate
 - b. Distract
 - c. Neutralize
 2. Stop the Dying
 - a. Stabilize
 - b. Transport
 3. Priority of Life
- F. Hostage/Barricade vs. Active Shooter
 1. A/S has signs or information indicating active killing
 2. Hostage/Barricade has no signs or information indicating active killing 5 C's
 - a. Contain
 - b. Control
 - c. Communicate
 - d. Call SWAT & Negotiators
 - e. Create an Immediate Action Plan (QRF, Arrest Team, etc)
- G. Response to A/S
 1. Solo with no threat stimulus/driving force
 - a. Wait for additional resources in a position close enough for immediate response
 - b. Communicate pertinent information establish ICS
 2. Solo with stimulus/driving force
 - a. Move toward driving force and stop threat
 - b. Communicate pertinent information establish ICS
 3. Team Response with no stimulus/driving force
 - a. Slow/systematic search
 - b. Communicate pertinent information and establish ICS
 - c. Direct resources to casualties/provide medical care
 4. Team Response with stimulus/driving force
 - a. Move toward driving force and stop the threat
 - b. Communicate pertinent information and establish ICS
 - c. Direct EMS to casualties encountered while driving toward the threat
 5. Discovery of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)
 - a. Driving Force/Stimulus
 - b. No Driving Force/Stimulus
- H. Encountering Suspects and Victims
 1. Target Recognition and Analysis
 - a. Compliant victim
 - b. Compliant suspect/suspect blending in with crowd
 - c. Non-compliant victim (possible shock or other issues)
 - d. Non-compliant/Lethal-threat suspect

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2. Non-Lethal threat (Solo and Team)
 3. Lethal Threat (Solo and Team)
 - a. Post-Engagement Status Check (PESC)
 - b. Security, Incident Command, Medical (SIM)
 - I. Steps after suspect is contained, distracted, or neutralized
- V. Demonstration (Solo Response) 10 Minutes**
- A. Movement toward stimulus
 - B. Threshold evaluation
 - C. Encountering suspects
 - D. Post Engagement Status Check
 - E. ICS
- VI. Break 10 Minutes**
- VII. Simunitions Tactical Scenarios 10 Minutes**
- A. Weapon Safety
 1. Handle all firearms as if they are loaded
 2. Never point your firearm at anything you do not intend to destroy
 3. Keep your finger indexed and outside the trigger guard until you have a target and have made the conscious decision to shoot
 4. Know your target, between and beyond
 - B. Target Acquisition
 1. Center of Mass
 2. Responsible for all rounds down range (Accuracy)
 3. Front sight focus (sight alignment)
 4. Trigger control
 - C. Weapon and gear familiarization
 1. Safety Briefing
 2. Weapons Check
 3. Weapons Clearing
 - D. Exercise demonstration
 1. Exercise participants responsibilities
 2. Students not participating locations and responsibilities
 3. Timing
 4. De-brief procedure
 - E. Tactical Over-view
 1. Surroundings
 2. Familiarity with equipment
 3. Lateral movement
 4. Cover
 5. Concealment
 6. Distance to enhance tactical advantage

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- F. Communications
 - 1. Establish/update Incident command
 - 1. Communicate with fellow officers.
 - 2. Communicate with victims.
 - 3. Communicate with suspect.
 - 4. Communicate with dispatch, however only when safe to do so.

VIII. Judgement and Decision Making Exercises (Group Scenarios) 50 Minutes

- A. In teams of 3-4, students will participate in 2 or more exercise(s) below (one lethal, one non-lethal)
 - 1. Hostage Scenario
 - 2. Active Shooter with No Stimulus/Driving Force
 - 3. Active Shooter with Stimulus/Driving Force
- B. Each exercise can be constructed to be a lethal or non-lethal incident
- C. In each exercise students should:
 - 1. Identify whether an incident is an A/S or hostage situation and respond accordingly.
 - 2. Identify and address threats accordingly.
 - 3. Justify, based on law and policies, the reasonableness of whichever force option was chosen.
 - 4. Implement Security, Incident Command, and Medical

IX. Student Evaluation and Testing (Solo Scenario) 50 Minutes

- A. Each Student will be dispatched to an active shooter. Upon arrival there will be no stimulus/driving force. When Student advises they will wait for additional partners, an instructor will provide driving force to initiate a Solo Response.
- B. In each exercise students should
 - 1. Demonstrate awareness of threats as they move toward stimulus
 - 2. Identify the suspect and assess what level of force is needed (suspect will present a lethal threat to the officer or other victim)
 - 3. Demonstrate weapon proficiency
 - 4. Perform a Post Engagement Status Check
- C. After all students have completed the scenario, we will conduct a debrief of the scenario.
- D. Failures requiring remediation will include
 - 1. Failure to identify and address the suspect
 - 2. Shooting any victims/other role players not presenting a lethal threat

X. Clean Up and Conclusion 10 Minutes

- A. Clear all weapons of marking ammunition under TSO instruction/supervision
- B. Return Gear

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- C. Clean any mess
- D. Debrief with any questions or concerns
- E. Complete Course Evaluation Forms

Additional Information:

Instructors: 4

Student Max: 20

Location:

TBD

Topics not covered/assessed in this class to be covered in additional classes:

Breaching

Movement to the location

Team Movement

Parking

RTF

Casualty Care