

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

Expanded Course Outline

Objective: This course is designed to be introductory training for individuals who are assigned to a SWAT/tactical team. The topics address the basic concepts of SWAT, and include practical applications and problem solving simulations as effective learning methods. The course will focus on tactical and weapons skills, training in team tactics, planning and executing high-risk operations, tactical movements, and entry tactics. Course meets the POST SWAT operational guidelines and standardized training recommendations.

I. INTRODUCTION – Lecture

1 HOUR

A. Course objectives and Registration

1. Introduction of course and instructors, and students
2. Understanding of basic SWAT operations, movement and objectives
3. Evaluation and qualification of personnel for special weapons/tactical teams
 - a. Physical Assessment/qualification (Appendix A)
 - b. Shooting Assessment/qualification (Appendix B)
 - c. Proper completion of “a” and “b” allows continuation in the class.

B. Definition of SWAT

1. A Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team is any designated group of law enforcement officers who are selected, trained, and equipped to work as a coordinated team to resolve critical incidents that are so hazardous, complex, or unusual that they may exceed the capabilities of first responders or investigative units.

C. Mission and uses of SWAT

1. Increase the likelihood of safely resolving critical incidents.
2. Provide a law enforcement agency with the ability to respond to unconventional incidents in a coordinated manner without unduly depleting the agency’s ability to respond to routine calls for police service.
3. Types of incidents for which SWAT is used.
 - a. Barricaded persons
 - b. Hostage situations
 - c. Civil unrest
 - d. Hazardous warrant service
 - e. Active shooters (Generally not part of initial response unless a Counter Assault Team (CAT) is pre-planned at event)
 - f. Dignitary protection service
 - g. Pre-planned, large-scale incidents

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

- h. Providing specialized training to non-tactical personnel
- i. Local Incidents
 - (1) Lehigh Quarry (Cupertino, 2011)
 - (2) Gilroy Garlic Festival (Gilroy, 2019)

D. History

- 1. SERT progression in last 15 years/experience as a collateral team
- 2. Progression of students' agencies SWAT teams

E. POST SWAT Guidelines – POST2005TPS-0369.1 (SWAT MANUAL on USB)

II. PERFORMANCE OF TEAM MEMBERS – Lecture/Performance 1 HOUR

A. Selection and Retention of SWAT Members

- 1. Selection process must be reasonable, job related and unbiased
- 2. Minimum requirements are established by agency
 - a. Based on available resources, local needs, POST guidelines and sound risk management practices
- 3. Criteria includes core skills competency
 - a. Reasoning and decision-making ability
 - b. Physical ability (fitness level)
- 4. Using a standardized physical fitness test battery, the student will demonstrate the ability to complete the physical requirements of a basic SWAT course. (See Appendix B)
- 5. Establish policies for failure to comply with fitness standards
 - c. Psychological profile
 - d. Weapons, munitions and equipment training
 - e. Ability to work as part of a team
 - f. Previous experience/work history

B. Core Competency Training and Compliance

- 1. Basic Course completion
- 2. Departmental Policy fitness criteria
- 3. Evaluation of member performance
- 4. Establish core skills, proficiency levels, and policies for failure to comply with competency standards.

C. Training Considerations

- 1. Importance of ongoing training and the liability connected with the lack of training.

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

2. Training allows the SWAT officer to stay abreast of new trends, tactics, threats, equipment and technology.
3. Training allows SWAT members to “gel” as a team
4. Training Safety – Now and Forever
 - a. Safety Guidelines Handout
 - b. Scenario-Based Training
 - c. Realistic
 - d. Force-on-Force (Simunitions)
 - e. Desk-Top Exercises
 - f. Simulators
5. Initial and Recurrent Training Requirements
 - a. 24-hours of POST-certified SWAT update training or equivalent every two years.
 - b. Recurrent physical and operations training (team and individual)
 - c. Continual individual and team firearms training

III. POLICY ISSUES – Lecture (Separated within several blocks of instruction) 4 HOURS

- A. AB392 and SB230 / Use of Force Legal Issues
 1. Emphasis on de-escalation / Tactical repositioning
 2. Emphasis on duty to intervene
 3. Policy Considerations / Changes
 4. Duty to warn
 5. At Risk Populations
- B. Legal Issues/Civil Liability case studies and examples
 1. Cases, Actions and Consequences
 2. Liability Avoidance
 3. Ethics
 4. Activation liabilities
- C. Use of Force
 1. SWAT Escalation of Force
 2. Decision Making Tools
 - a. Command Decisions
 - b. Force Options
 3. Documentation
 - a. Personnel qualifications and training
 - b. Incidents of deployment
 - c. Equipment effectiveness and efficiency

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

- d. Use of force and departmental compliance
 4. Importance of correct terminology in operations and documentations
- D. Mutual Aid Procedures
1. Activation Requests
 2. Multi-Jurisdictional SWAT Operations
 3. Issues with multiple teams
- E. Policies and Procedures Comparison and Overview - Three minimum operational components
1. Command and Control Element
 - a. Planning, organizing, staffing and directing of the overall SWAT operation
 2. Incident command
 3. Tactical command
 - b. Command Post operations
 - c. Coordination with Crisis Negotiator(s)
 - d. Liaison with allied agencies
 - e. Mission documentation
 - f. Communications
 - g. Medical support
 - h. Mission debriefings
 4. Containment Element
 - a. Control of inner perimeter
 - b. Evacuation
 - c. Tactical deliveries (chemical munitions, equipment, etc.)
 - d. Precision long rifle/observer deployment and support
 5. Entry/Apprehension/Rescue Element
 - a. Scouting missions
 - b. Breaching
 - c. Enter, search and secure objective(s)
 - d. Rescue operations
 - e. Subject detention
- F. Specialized Functions and Supporting Resources
1. Mission and tactical contingency planning
 2. Warrant service work-ups and planning
 3. Training Simulations (scenario-based training)

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

IV. BASIC SWAT CONCEPTS – Lecture/Demonstration

4 HOURS

- A. Common SWAT Responses
 - 1. Barricaded Suspects
 - 2. Hostage Situations
 - 3. High Risk Warrant Service
 - 4. High Risk Evacuations
 - 5. Counter-terrorism and responses to WMD related incidents

- B. Incident Command and the Direct Supervision of SWAT
 - 1. Incident Commander
 - a. Can be any rank but is generally a high-ranking supervisor such as a Captain, Commander, Deputy Chief of Police Chief or Police Chief.
 - b. Is the overall operational supervisor of a critical incident.
 - c. Has total control over ALL aspects of a SWAT incident.
 - 2. SWAT Commander
 - a. Can be of any rank, but generally a ranking supervisor such as a Lieutenant, Captain or Deputy Chief.
 - b. Is the overall ranking supervisor of a SWAT Team, specifically while on the scene of an incident.

- C. SWAT Activation Criteria
 - 1. Various formulas used by local agencies.
 - a. Point System
 - b. Nature of event
 - c. On-Scene Supervisor's / Tactical Commander's decision

- D. Team Composition and Duties (May vary depending on team)
 - 1. Stick
 - a. Is comprised of all members of the entry team/members searching
 - b. All positions are interchangeable (except Team Leader unless special circumstances make it necessary)
 - c. Everyone keeps their head up
 - d. Everyone should look for work (pre-plan threats Point will call out)
 - e. Should have all needed equipment (breaching, less-lethal, K-9, etc)
 - 2. Point Position
 - a. Can be of any rank
 - b. Position is established in a hallway
 - c. Is the person at the front of the stick
 - d. Keeps head up, forward, and scanning

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

- e. Calls one threat at a time
 - f. Blocks/covers all other threats
 - g. Does not make room entries (unless “last room,” body in a room)
 - h. Calls Point replacement before relinquishing position
3. Quarterback
- a. Can be of any rank.
 - b. Sets up plans for entry (face-to-face with person behind them)
 - c. Open doors
 - (1) Waits for pinch from next person
 - (2) Pinches point
 - (3) Moves on movement of point
 - (4) First to enter the room
 - d. Closed door
 - (1) Can pinch Point past threat without waiting for next person
 - (2) Waits on opposite side of the door awaiting a second person to enter room with.
4. Team Leader
- a. Can be of any rank but is generally a lower to middle ranking supervisor such as a Lieutenant, Sergeant or Corporal.
 - b. Is the supervisor of a segment of the SWAT unit such as the Entry Team, Sniper Team, Quick Reaction Force (QRF), Counter Assault Team (CAT)
 - c. Maintains overall view of the search/incident
 - d. Responsible for team direction
 - e. Responsible for radio communications
 - f. Should avoid
 - (1) Room entries
 - (2) Point position
 - (3) Quarterback positions
5. Breacher
- a. Responsible for all tools (ram, halligan, breaching shotgun, explosives, etc) needed to gain entry/access to specified area.
 - b. Develop a plan to overcome obstacles/barriers to entry
 - c. Generally a dedicated assignment
6. Rear Guard
- a. Can be of any rank.
 - b. Designated to guard the backs of a group of officers during team movements or during assaults/entries
7. Sniper
- a. Can be of any rank
 - b. Designated as a long-rifle sniper

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

- c. An officer who utilizes a long-range, scoped, high-caliber rifle.
 - d. Can utilize deadly force against suspects from positions of cover or concealment at a long distance
 - e. Can provide cover fire for teams that are pinned down or evacuating from dangerous locations.
 - f. Can act as a counter sniper to search and eliminate other snipers.
8. Sniper Observer
- a. Can be of any rank
 - b. Charged with the responsibility of locating, identifying, measuring and/or profiling a target at long-range, for the primary marksman.
 - c. Provides cover for Sniper while Sniper I “on-gun”.
9. Less Lethal Officer / Grenadier
- a. Can be of any rank
 - b. Charged with the responsibility of inserting chemical agents into structure or at/into certain target locations
 - c. Responsible for deploying less lethal weapons on suspect(s)
10. Negotiator
- a. Charged with the responsibility of talking to the suspect(s)
 - b. Brings suspect’s actions into compliance with law enforcement’s request
 - c. Obtains and distributes intelligence
11. Intelligence Officer
- a. Charged with the responsibility of gathering intelligence information regarding the identity, background, purpose, intent etc. of the suspect(s)
 - b. Charged with gathering information regarding hostages or endangered citizens
12. Media Relations Officer (PIO)
- a. Charged with dealing with providing the media with requests for information regarding a SWAT incident
13. SWAT Medic/EMT
- a. Either sworn police officer or non-sworn
 - b. Develop medical plan for incident
 - c. Responsible for providing medical aid to officers, victims and/or suspects during a SWAT incident and/or at training exercises.
 - d. Extraction and treatment of injured parties
14. Recorder/Transcriber/Dispatcher
- a. Responsible for transcribing, in real-time, the events as they unfold for purposes of documentation
 - b. Should be tactically trained

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

- c. Responsible for radio communications with SWAT Team during operations and training

V. PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS - Lecture 1 HOUR

- A. Stress Management
 - 1. Preparing for Incidents
 - 2. During Incidents
 - 3. After Incidents and Post-Trauma Stress
- B. Mental Conditioning for Confrontation
 - 1. Pre-selection Evaluation
 - 2. Anticipating Situations

VI. PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS – Lecture/Exercise 2 HOURS

- A. Review of Fitness Standards/Personal Training
 - 1. Fitness Test preparedness
 - 2. Annual or semi-annual evaluations
 - 3. Commitment to maintenance of minimum entry requirements
 - a. Concept of Lifetime Fitness
 - b. Dietary considerations during operations and training
 - c. Physiological response on the body during stressful situations
- B. Physical Training for SWAT Members
 - 1. Basic considerations for job performance
 - 2. Training regimens: discussion of techniques and styles
 - a. Military regimens
 - b. Basic Academy Training
 - c. Other Programs
- C. Emergency Medical Procedures
 - 1. First Aid / CPR
 - 2. Tactical Casualty Care (Trauma)
 - a. Tourniquets (extremities)
 - b. Chest Seals (chest cavity)
 - c. Combat Gauze / Packing (areas where tourniquets aren't applicable)
 - 3. Self-aid and partner-aid
 - 4. Tactical considerations

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

VII. INDIVIDUAL & TEAM EQUIPMENT – Lecture/Demonstration 4 HOURS

- A. Uniformity and Identification
 - 1. Sufficient and Appropriate for Operation
 - 2. Agency Issued/Approved

- B. Individual Equipment Evaluation - uniforms
 - 1. Ballistic vests and blankets
 - 2. Ballistic helmets
 - 3. Special duty uniform
 - 4. Glasses/goggles
 - 5. Footwear
 - 6. Gloves
 - 7. Handgun
 - a. Selection criteria
 - (1) Cost
 - (2) Reliability
 - (3) Penetration capability
 - (4) Size, shape and fit
 - (5) Ability to accept attachments such as lights, night sights, etc.
 - (6) Standardization with other officers within the team and/or department
 - 8. Less Lethal
 - a. Projectile
 - b. Electronic
 - c. Chemical agents/gas
 - 9. Other Weapons
 - a. Assault/entry weapons
 - b. Shotgun
 - c. Sniper rifle

- C. Weapons, Firearms Familiarization and Maintenance
 - 1. Specialized Training/Familiarization
 - 2. Maintenance and lubrication
 - 3. Monthly Standards and Quarterly Qualifications
 - a. Weapons Training Log Books

- D. Specialized Personal Equipment
 - 1. Not all listed equipment may be an option to each SWAT unit and/or member.

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

2. Individual department policy will dictate which weapons and equipment team members will utilize

E. Accessories

1. They include but are not limited to:
 - a. Noise-flash diversionary devices
 - b. Bang poles
 - c. Low-light vision equipment
 - d. Mirrors
 - e. Surveillance equipment
 - f. Vehicles/armored vehicles
 - g. Mobile Command Centers
 - h. SWAT equipment trucks/vans, etc.
 - i. Audio/Visual
2. Recording equipment
3. Loud speakers
 - j. Night-vision equipment
 - k. Surveillance equipment
 - l. Rappelling equipment
 - m. Throw-phones
 - n. Specialized Munitions
 - (1) Noise-flash diversion devices
 - (2) Armor piercing ammunition
 - (3) Door breaching rounds

F. Chemical agents and Special Weapons

1. Overview
2. Projectile Weapons
3. Electronic weapons
4. Insertion tools

G. Team Equipment

1. Breaching Tools
2. Support Equipment and Technology
3. Personal Protective Equipment
 - a. SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus)
 - b. Gas masks and specialized suits
4. Hand and Power Tools

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

H. Communications Devices

VIII. OPERATIONAL PLANNING – Lecture/Exercises

4 HOURS

- A. Importance of Planning
 - 1. Pre-Planned vs. Non-Planned Situations
 - 2. Pre-Event Planning and Briefing
 - 3. Contemporaneous Planning/Contingencies
 - 4. Back Briefing by Operators

- B. Structured Planning Format (Operations Plans)
 - 1. Type of Mission
 - 2. Case History
 - 3. Suspect History/Information
 - 4. Location Reconnaissance/Information
 - 5. Intelligence Gathering
 - 6. Risk Assessment
 - 7. Activation Compliance
 - 8. Equipment and Personnel Evaluation
 - 9. Supporting Resources
 - a. Hostage Negotiating/Critical Incident Teams
 - b. Medical Personnel
 - c. Fire Personnel
 - d. Media Relations
 - e. School Resource Officer
 - f. Neighborhood Resource Officer
 - g. Public Works
 - h. Explosive Ordinance Device Team
 - 10. Mission Execution
 - a. Table Top Exercises
 - b. Mock Situation Responses
 - 11. Mission Debriefing

- C. Containment/Perimeter
 - 1. Inner Perimeter
 - 2. Outer Perimeter
 - 3. Scout Teams
 - 4. Arrest/React Team
 - 5. Sniper Teams

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

6. Medical Response Team

IX. SPECIALIZED SWAT FUNCTIONS - Exercises/Lecture 4 HOURS

- A. Special Units
 - 1. Sniper/Observer
 - a. Team Considerations
 - b. Specialized Training
 - 2. Canines (SKIDDS)

- B. Crisis Negotiations
 - 1. Negotiation Concepts and Strategies
 - 2. Relationship between SWAT and Negotiations Teams (HNT/CNT)
 - 3. HNT/CNT Equipment
 - a. “Throw” Phone
 - b. Video/Audio Capabilities
 - c. Intelligence Gathering
 - d. EOD Robot

- C. Special Operations
 - 1. Rescue Operations
 - 2. Mobile Assaults
 - 3. Explosive Breaching
 - 4. Airborne support and tactics
 - 5. Response to WMD related incidents
 - 6. High-Risk Warrant Service
 - 7. High-Risk Escorts
 - 8. Dignitary Protection

X. COMMAND POST OPERATIONS – Exercises/Lecture 1 HOUR

- A. Incident Command Post
 - 1. Communications, Duties, and Responsibilities
 - 2. Media Relations/ Information Considerations
 - 3. Scribe

- B. Tactical Command Post
 - 1. Communications, Duties, and Responsibilities
 - 2. Scribe

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

3. Investigations

XI. INDIVIDUAL & TEAM MOVEMENT – Exercises

8 HOURS

A. Individual Movement

1. Cover
2. Concealment
3. Noise Discipline
4. Body Positions
 - a. Standing
 - b. High Kneeling
 - c. Low Kneeling
 - d. Squatting
 - e. Prone
5. Pivots
 - a. 90 Degree
 - b. 180 Degree
6. Side-Stepping
7. Slow Tactical Walk
8. Fast Tactical Walk
9. Bilateral forward movement
10. Tactical retreat
11. Overcoming Obstacles
12. Room Entries
13. Communications
 - a. Verbal/Radio
 - b. Hand Signals
 - c. Non-verbal body positioning
14. Overcoming Obstacles
15. Fill Units (“Trailers”)

B. Team Movement

1. Cover and Concealment
2. Blocking
3. Nomenclature/Assignments
4. Communication
5. Two-Person (minimum) Room Entry
6. Open Doors
7. Closed Doors
 - a. Inward Opening

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

- (1) Knob side Opens
- (2) Hinge Side enters first
- b. Outward Opening
 - (1) Second person usually has to reach through or around 1st person.
- 8. Opposing Doors (threat prioritization)
- 9. Breach Point
- 10. Hallway
- 11. Stairs
- 12. "Last Room"
 - a. Not last room in house, just last room in hall
 - b. Point will conduct room entry

XII. BASIC ENTRY AND SEARCH TECHNIQUES – Lecture/Exercise 20 HOURS

- A. Types of Entries
 - 1. Two-Person Entry
 - 2. Three-Person Entry
- B. Entry Issues
 - 1. Announcements (PC 844)
 - a. Legal requirement depending on the operation
 - b. Primary should focus on breach point
 - c. Secondary should focus on breach point
 - d. Third person or after in should make announcement
 - 2. 360 Degree Security
 - 3. Hallway Cover
 - 4. Areas of Responsibility / Fields of Fire
 - 5. Corners
 - 6. Adjoining rooms
 - 7. Stairwells
 - 8. Immediate Threat Concepts
 - a. Obstructions
 - b. People in room / structure
 - 9. Communication
 - a. Clear and Concise
- C. Exercises and Practical Application
 - 1. SWAT Arrest and Control
 - 2. Buildings and Structures
 - a. Stealth Probe/Slow Search (to breach point, contact, etc)

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

- (1) Mirrors
- (2) Search Cameras
- (3) 3 person entries (no wedging)
- (4) Communications (Hand Signals)
- (5) Team-Leader driven
- b. Dynamic (Search Warrant)
 - (1) Minimum two-person entry per room
 - (2) Communication (Verbal)
- c. Hostage Rescue (HRT)
 - (1) Pre-Mission Rehearsal
 - (2) Possible Dedicated Teams
 - (3) Use of NFDs for room entries
- d. Room Security/Re-check
 - (1) Cover Officer
 - (2) Search Officer
- 3. Mechanical Breaching/Explosive Breaching
 - a. Mechanical
 - (1) Ram
 - (2) Halligan
 - (3) Other Tools
 - b. Explosive Breaching Program Overview
- 4. Open Area Searches / Tactical Tracking
 - a. Team Configurations
 - b. Noise Discipline
 - c. Weapon Systems
 - d. Gear Considerations
 - (1) GPS
 - (2) Plate Carrier vs. Light Armor
 - (3) Water
 - (4) Food
 - (5) Additional gear
 - (6) Uniforms/Camouflage
- 5. Building-Block Exercises
 - a. Building Diagram Review
 - b. Dry Runs (tape house, mock structures and/or like structures)
- 6. Reality-Based Exercises available
 - a. Hostage scenarios
 - b. Barricaded subject scenarios
 - c. Train/bus assaults (linear assaults)
 - d. Vehicle Assaults

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

- e. High risk warrant scenarios
 - (1) Dynamic, contain and call out, remote takedown, ruses and subterfuge
 - (2) Door breaching
 - (3) NFD Deployment
- f. Terrorist/WMD
 - (1) Equipment Considerations
 - (2) Mind-set of individuals or group
 - (3) History of events
- g. Active Shooters
 - (1) Critical Incident First Responders
 - (2) Mind-set of involved parties/suspects
 - (3) Contact Team Configuration
 - i. Diamond Formation
 - ii. Duties and responsibilities
 - (4) Rescue Task Force (RTF)
 - iii. Integrated with fire to triage, treat and remove casualties
 - (4) Corridor Teams
 - i. Force Protection for RTFs
 - (5) Evolution of Incident
 - ii. Immediate Threat v. SWAT
 - iii. Slow search v. stimulus

- D. Rappelling
 - 1. Equipment
 - 2. Practical Application

XIII. INDIVIDUAL & TEAM FIREARMS – Exercises

8 HOURS

- A. Overview
 - 1. Discussion of all Range Safety Rules
 - 2. Discussion of the Attachment: “Range Drills” used during this firearms session
- B. Handguns
 - 1. Inspection and safety check
 - 2. Uses and courses of fire
 - 3. Re-load Drills
 - a. Combat
 - b. Tactical

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

C. Rifles

1. Application and use
2. Transition drills
3. Reloading
 - a. Combat
 - b. Tactical

D. Shooting on the move (all platforms)

1. Forward
2. Backward
3. Sideways
4. Bilateral forward (Shooting over oblique)

E. Weapon Malfunctions

1. Identify malfunction
2. Malfunction Clearing Drills
3. Transition Drills

F. Communication

1. Verbal
2. Non-Verbal / Hand Signals

G. Weapon Accessories

1. Dedicated Lighting Systems
2. Optics
3. Electronic
4. Scopes
5. Sling Systems
6. Night Vision
7. Magazines
8. Grip Systems

H. Low-Light/Night Shooting

1. Target Identification and limitations
2. Light v. no light
3. Muzzle flash
4. Partner/Team movement
5. Sight washout

I. Shooting with Air Purifying Respirator (APR)/Gas Mask

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

1. Considerations
2. Rifle
3. Pistol

XIV. CHEMICAL AGENTS / LESS LETHAL – Lecture/Exercise

4 HOURS

- A. Overview of Chemical Agents
 1. Delivery Systems
 - a. Hand Held(s)
 - b. Launchers
 - c. Insertion Tools
- B. Extended Range Impact Weapons (ERIW)
 1. Bean Bag
 2. 37mm/40mm Sponge Rounds
 3. Pepper ball
 - a. Duties and Responsibilities
 - b. Medical Considerations
 - c. Notification
- C. Electronic Weapons (Tazer)
 1. Duties and Responsibilities
 2. Medical Considerations
 3. Notification
- D. Personal Protective Equipment (Gas Masks)
 1. Donning of Equipment
 2. Cover Officer
 - a. Buddy system
- E. Practical Application
 1. Exposure
 2. Searching after exposure

XV. DIVERSIONARY DEVICES - Exercises

4 HOURS

- A. Overview of Diversionary Devices
 1. Case Law (Langford v. Gates)
 2. Devices and practical applications

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

- B. Deployment Scenarios
 - 1. Hostage Rescue
 - 2. High Risk Entry
 - 3. Officer Down Rescue
 - 4. Deploy vs. Non-Deployment
 - a. “No-Bang” throw area

XVI. TRAINING SCENARIOS & PROBLEM SOLVING SIMULATIONS - Exercise
12 HOURS

- A. Officer Down Rescue
 - 1. Vehicle
 - 2. On-Foot
 - 3. Ballistic Shield/Blankets
- B. Hostage Situations
 - 1. Officer
 - 2. Public
 - 3. Notable Person(s)
 - 4. Multiple persons/locations
- C. Linear Assault
 - 1. Buses
 - 2. Sniper initiated
 - 3. Diversion Devices
 - 4. Training Bus Drivers
- D. Vehicle Assaults
 - 1. Immobilize Suspect Vehicle
 - a. Blocking Vehicles
 - b. Physical/Mechanical Immobilization
 - 2. Designated Personnel
 - a. Cover/Shooter
 - b. Rescuer
- E. Shooting Evaluation
 - 1. Timed Shooting
 - 2. Moving and Shooting
 - 3. Moving Targets

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

- F. Force-On-Force
 - 1. Suspect(s)
 - a. Compliant
 - b. Non-Compliant
 - c. Fleeing
 - d. Assaultive
 - e. Shooting
 - 2. Victims
 - a. Compliant
 - b. Non-Compliant
 - c. Hiding
 - d. Hostage situation

XVII. FINAL PRACTICAL - Exercise

3 HOURS

- A. Students will demonstrate and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes presented in this course to multiple practical force-on-force (Simunition) exercises simulating actual special threat situations. (pre-planned incident or call-out situation)
 - 1. Performance expectations:
 - a. Mission Planning
 - b. Weapon safety/discipline
 - c. Light and noise discipline
 - d. Radio discipline
 - e. Team movement and integrity
 - f. Use of appropriate tactics
 - g. Command and control integrity
 - h. Mission De-Brief
- B. Written Test (Final) - The student will demonstrate knowledge of basic SWAT principles by taking an objective written examination.
- C. Course Evaluation

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

APPENDIX A: Range Drills

Course Objectives

Through lecture, demonstrations, class discussion and live fire exercises, the student will be able to demonstrate the knowledge and ability to safely handle, load, unload and accurately fire their department issued/assigned tactical weapons from various positions while properly utilizing cover/concealment and good communication skills.

The objective of this course is to have students familiarize students with their department assigned/issued rifles, submachine guns, shotguns and handguns. Students will be exposed to firearms drills using tactical team tactics including but not limited to: tandem shooting, position shooting, covering, stacking, malfunction clearing, transitioning, shooting on the move (forward/backward/turning), reloading, communications and fields of fire.

Course Description

All courses of fire will take place on a firing line with students standing or moving side by side, firing in the same direction at a pre-determined target/backstop. Students will be briefed on muzzle discipline and weapons safety prior to any live fire drills taking place. Basic range safety rules will be discussed and strictly adhered to.

Materials Needed

All personal SWAT equipment
Duty weapons and tactical weapons
Eye and ear protection
Ammunition
Cardboard Backers
Various Picture
Barricades
Traffic cones
First Aid Kit/Trauma Kit
Cellular telephone
Steel Targets

Course Location

Santa Clara County Sheriff's Range
9600 Malech Road
San Jose, CA 95135

Safety Plan:

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

Specific descriptive regulations and requirements for all range activities are contained in the Course Safety Guidelines. Here, as a reminder, all persons participating in the training will be responsible for safety. If any member of the class feels that there may be a potential safety hazard during a training exercise, that person is to stop the training and point out the problem.

There will be several cellular phones as well as a hard line telephone for communication. If necessary, anyone can use these to call for an ambulance. If there are any accidents or injuries, no matter how small, a Range Master or Course Instructor is to be notified. The nearest hospital will be identified prior to the start of training. There is an emergency helicopter-landing pad located at the range facility.

There will be a range safety officer appointed before any live fire drills begin. There will be a trauma kit available on each pad—if needed—and its location will be announced prior to any training drills.

No drill will be conducted with live ammunition (except Simunitions, paintball and the like) which will allow or call for the muzzle of any weapon to cover on a human target or to be purposefully pointed in the general direction of another person.

Courses of Fire:

Position Shooting-Students will be familiarized on shooting from different positions: prone, kneeling, sitting, standing.

Weapon Transition-Tactical officers are often assigned a rifle, shotgun or submachine gun as their primary weapon with their handgun or sidearm becoming a secondary weapon. On the occasion where the “long gun” or primary weapon has failed, tactical officers must be trained to immediately “transition” to their second weapon.

Officers will be standing on the firing line facing the targets/backstop. Range instructors will have instructed the students to unload the primary weapon (empty chamber, weapon on safe). On command, students will attempt to fire their primary weapon simulating a malfunction. Students will control their primary weapon while transitioning to their secondary weapon and fire two rounds (with accuracy) at their target.

Reloading-Students will be on the firing line with the weapons designated by the range instructors. Upon command, students will fire two or three rounds (with accuracy) at the target. Upon completion of firing the rounds, students will drop to one knee while communicating to their partner that they are reloading. One student will reload while the other covers the target/threat. When the first student has completed the reload, they will communicate that they

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

are ready, return to a standing position to cover their partner while the second officer drops to a knee to reload.

Covering-Officers responsible for covering their partners during reloading or malfunction clearing will side step next to their partners on the firing line. The cover officer should be close enough that his/her partner can easily touch them while announcing “covering”. This will notify the second officer that they are clear to reload or clear malfunctions. When the officer has completed reloading or clearing the malfunction, the officer will notify his/her partner by announcing “clear” and tapping his/her partner on the leg prior to returning to a standing position. The covering officer will side step away from his/her partner providing room for them to return to a standing position.

Range instructors will direct officers to set up their weapons for malfunctions (empty chamber). Upon command, officers will attempt to fire simulating malfunctions. Officers will clear their malfunctions utilizing the above-mentioned drill.

Shooting on the Move-Students will be on the firing line standing side by side. Students will be given the command of the speed they are to move, the direction (forward, backward, lateral, bilateral) and the command to move (“move”). While moving, students will be given the command to shoot (“gun”, etc.) or be presented with a target at which time students will fire two – five rounds at the target (with accuracy).

Tandem Shooting-Students will be on the firing line standing side by side in teams of two. Upon the command to move, students will begin moving forward. When given the command to shoot, one officer will fire two or three rounds at a designated target. A command to fire will be given for each volley of gunfire until they need to reload. When the primary officer is reloading, the secondary officer will begin firing their weapon until they need to reload.

Fields of Fire-In tactical situations such as room entries, team movements, etc. it is essential that each team member is aware of his area of responsibility or “field of fire” so as to avoid “cross fire” situations or inadvertently shooting other officers.

Students will be briefed on “fields of fire” and how the “fields” overlap, but never cross so as to create a situation where officers are shooting at each other.

Stacking-Tactical teams will often try to gain a superior weapons advantage by “stacking” weapons toward threat areas or having multiple weapons pointed toward the threat. This is accomplished by tactical team members “stacking” or positioning themselves in various positions (prone, kneeling and standing) over or on top of each other.

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

Students will be in teams of two on the firing line. One student will be in a prone position while the other will be in a kneeling or squatting position above or over his partner. Upon command, both students will fire two or three rounds at a designated target (with accuracy).

This drill can be applied to movement drills with students moving forward to a secondary designated position. Upon moving, students will be required to change or trade positions (kneeling becomes prone and prone becomes kneeling/squatting).

Turning-Students will be standing on the firing line side by side. Students will be directed to turn and face the range instructor. Upon command (move), students will be required to negotiate ¼ or ½ turns to face their target while being cognizant of muzzle awareness. Upon facing their target, students will fire two or three round (with accuracy).

Qualification-All students will complete a current/recent SERT pistol and rifle qualification prior to gauge weapon safety and proficiency prior to other live fire drills.

****Note:** Prior to any live fire exercises taking place, all drills will be conducted and practiced with unloaded weapons that have been double checked by range instructors. Upon insuring all students are familiar with each drill, live fire exercises will be conducted.

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

APPENDIX B: Physical Evaluation

- A. Evaluation and qualification of personnel for special weapons/ tactical teams – mandatory physical qualification
- a. Physical Criteria – preliminary qualification testing. Each participant must pass **two** of the following minimum physical criteria. One retest will be allowed. Tests used will be determined at the beginning of each SWAT School.
- (1) In gym clothes, the student will perform 5 rounds of:
 - 20 Seconds max pushups (no dropping to ground)
 - 20 Seconds max flutter kicks (no dropping legs to ground)
 - 20 Seconds max squats (no standing more than 1 second)
 - Run ¼ mile / 440 yards
 - (2) In gym clothes, the student will complete 5 rounds of the following and a mile run in 30 minutes:
 - 5 Pullups / 10 Push-ups / 15 Squats
 - (3) In gym clothes or APR (gas mask) complete 10 rounds in 15 minutes of:
 - 10 pushups / 30 yard jog / 10 squats / 30 yard jog
 - (This can also be completed on gas day)
 - (4) In gym clothes, the student will complete in 4 ½ minutes:
 - Run an 880-yard course (or track)
 - 30-foot dummy drag
 - (5) In BDUs and soft vest complete the following in 6 ½ minutes at the San Jose Police Department Stables Obstacle Course:
 - Run 1 Lap
 - Run 1 lap while traversing all obstacles (except rope climb)
 - Run 1 Lap
 - (6) In SWAT uniform or 25 lbs of equipment including ballistic helmet, soft body armor and duty belt (fully assembled):
 - Perform 2 full length/palms out pull up
 - (7) In 20 Minutes the student will complete 4 rounds of the following
 - Stair Climb (1 Story)
 - 10 Push ups
 - Stair Climb (1 Story)

Office of the Sheriff
Santa Clara County
Law Enforcement Training

Basic SWAT Course, 80 Hour
2270-23000-
Rev. 01/08/2021

10 Squats
Stair Climb (1 Story)
10 crunches or 4-count flutter kicks
Stair Climb (1 Story)
10 Burpees