

**FORCE OPTION-SIMULATOR**  
**Santa Clara County, Office of the Sheriff – 2270**  
**CCN: 21065 | POST Certification II | Reimbursement Plan IV | 4 hours**

**GOAL:**

The course will provide the trainee with the minimum topics of tactical firearms and lethal force required in the POST Perishable Skills Training Program (PSP). The trainee will develop the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively improve decision making skills related to Use of Force. This includes increasing knowledge in current use of force law and improving skills in tactics/selection of appropriate force options by utilization of simulator.

The course consists of hands-on/practical skills training for in-service officers.

**FORCE OPTION-SIMULATOR/TACTICAL FIREARMS**

**Minimum Topics/Exercises:**

- a. Safety Policy/Orientation
- b. Moral obligations
- c. Use of Force considerations
- d. Policy and/or Legal Standards
- e. Sight Alignment, Trigger Control, Accuracy
- f. Target Recognition and Analysis
- g. Weapons Clearing/Manipulations
- h. Live Fire Tactical/Marking Cartridges
- i. Basic Tactical Firearms Situations, Judgment and Decision-Making Exercise(s)
- j. Class Exercises/Student Evaluation/Testing

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The trainee will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of Department's Use of Force/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 to Present).
3. Demonstrate a minimum standard of tactical handgun proficiency with every technique, exercise, and course-of-fire, to include:
  - A. Judgment and Decision Making
  - B. Firearms Safety
  - C. Fundamentals of Marksmanship
  - D. Safe Drawing and Presenting Firearms
  - E. Threat Assessment/Identification
  - F. Speed, Accuracy and Effectiveness under stress and movement conditions
  - G. Shot Placement: Combat Effectiveness
  - H. Malfunctions Clearing
  - I. Loading/Reloading

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***Minimum standards of performance shall be tested by an instructor observing the trainee during their performance of each technique, exercise, and course-of-fire. If the trainee does not meet minimum standards, as established by the presenter, remediation will be provided until the standard is met.***

**EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE**

- I. Introduction** **I. (a), (c)**
  - A. Goals and objectives
    - 1. Improve decision making skills related to Use of Force.
    - 2. Increase knowledge in current use of force law
    - 3. Improve skills in tactics/selection of appropriate force options by utilization of simulator
    - 4. Improve documentation of use of force incident
  - B. Classroom use/safety issues
    - 1. Classroom schedule
    - 2. Simulator schedule
    - 3. Safety issues
  
- II. Legal Standards** **I. (h), (i), (j)**
  - A. Core Transactions
    - 1. Consensual Encounter
    - 2. Detention
    - 3. Arrest
  - B. Objectively Reasonable Force PC § 835a / AB392
    - 1. When may peace officer use objectively reasonable force?
    - 2. Conditions of retreat and aggression
    - 3. Seriousness of Uses of Force
    - 4. Physical, mental health, developmental and intellectual disabilities
    - 5. Deadly force defined
    - 6. Imminent defined
    - 7. Totality of Circumstances and tactics used
    - 8. PC § 196 amended
  - C. Case Law and their impact on objectively reasonable force and deadly force
    - 1. Graham v. Connor (now codified within PC § 835a)
    - 2. Tennessee v. Garner
    - 3. Forrett v. Richardson
    - 4. Hayes v. San Diego (creating exigency)
    - 5. Alexander v. San Francisco (creating exigency, type of crime involved)
  - D. Supporting Case Law Decisions

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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)
  4. Scott v. Mcpherson – duty to warn
- E. 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 circumstances known to the officer at the time of his/her actions
  3. Means, Motive and Opportunity
- E. Department Policy/ Changes / SB230
1. Officers must know and follow their department policy.
  2. Failure to follow department policy can lead to civil and administrative liability.
  3. Specific policy issues; for example shooting at:
    - a) Moving vehicles
    - b) Juveniles
    - c) Non-violent fleeing felons
    - d) Warning shots
    - e) Shooting from a moving vehicle
    - f) Impact weapon limitations
    - g) Duty to intervene

**III. Force Options and their use**

**I. (a), (i), (j), (k)**

- A. Listed options available:
- a) Uniform Presence
  - b) Verbal /De-escalation
  - c) Hands / Control Hold
  - d) Chemical agents
  - e) Impact weapons
  - f) Less lethal weapons
- B. **\*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\***
1. **\*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\***
  2. **\*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\***
  3. **\*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\***

**IV. Officer Safety**

**I. (e), (i)**

- A. Recognizing "Pre-Assaultive Behavior"
1. Constantly reassess the suspect for signs of pending aggressions.

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2. Verbalizations.
  3. Body language.
  4. Often more indicative than verbalizations
  5. Overly compliant.
- B. Officer response to “Pre-Assaultive Behavior”
1. Gain distance (equates to more options).
  2. Deploy a reasonable force option in preparation for the suspect’s most likely attack; gives officer an advantage on the reactionary gap
  3. Communicate with suspect
  4. Processing of emotions and stress response (fight, flight, freeze)
  5. Maintaining mental toughness

**V. Force Options Simulator**

**I. (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f)**

- A. Weapons Safety
1. Four Basic Safety Rules
    - a) Guns are always loaded, and should be treated that way.
    - b) Never allow muzzle to cover anything you are not willing to destroy.
    - c) Keep finger off trigger until ready to shoot (indexing).
    - d) Be sure of your target background, and foreground.
- B. Simulator weapons familiarization
1. Safety Briefing
  2. Weapons Check
  3. Weapons Clearing
    - a. Point the weapon in a safe direction
    - b. Engage safety if applicable
    - c. Remove the source of ammunition
    - d. Manually run the action several times
    - e. Lock the action open
    - f. Visually check the chamber and magazine (well)
    - g. Physically check the chamber and magazine (well)
  4. Describe the proper weapon malfunction clearing procedure
    - h. Simple Malfunction
      - i. Re-seat the magazine (Tap)
      - ii. Run the action (Tap)
      - iii. Reassess both weapon and possible threat
    - i. Complex
      - i. Complete Tap, Rack, Reassess
      - ii. Lock action open
      - iii. Remove the magazine
      - iv. Run the action several times
      - v. Re-insert magazine

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vi. Run the action, loading the firearm

**C. Fundamentals of Shooting**

1. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
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  - b. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
2. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
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  - b. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
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  - b. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
  - c. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
  - d. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
- e. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
4. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
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- b. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
5. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
  - a. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
  - b. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
6. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
  - a. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
  - b. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
  - c. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*

**D. Target Acquisition**

1. Center of mass
2. Responsible for all rounds down range
3. Pick-up front sight

**E. Target Analysis**

1. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
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3. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
4. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
5. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*

**F. Exercise demonstration**

1. Exercise participants responsibilities
2. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
  - a. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
  - b. \*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(f)\*\*\*
3. Timing
4. De-brief procedure

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G. Tactical Over-view

1. Surroundings
2. Familiarity with equipment
3. Lateral movement
4. Cover
5. Concealment
6. Distance to enhance tactical advantage

H. Communications

1. Communicate with fellow officers.
2. Communicate with suspect.
3. Communicate with dispatch, however only when safe to do so.

**VI. Judgment and decision making exercises: Student participation portion.**

I. **\*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(g)\*\*\***

A. **\*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(g)\*\*\***

1. **\*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(g)\*\*\***
2. **\*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(g)\*\*\***
3. **\*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(g)\*\*\***
4. **\*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(g)\*\*\***

B. **\*\*\*Redacted per to Government Code 6254(g)\*\*\***

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