

FIREARMS/TACTICAL LOW-LIGHT

Santa Clara County, Office of the Sheriff – 2270

CCN: 21646 | POST Certification II | Reimbursable Plan IV | 4 Hours

GOAL:

This 4-hour course is designed to teach experienced law enforcement personnel to safely and effectively operate a duty handgun with a light attached. The course will include: the legal aspects, department policy governing the use of a handgun mounted light, and review of the approved equipment. Practical application will include general shooting fundamentals, proper use, tactical considerations and moving through structures with a handgun mounted light. For satisfactory completion students must pass a written exam and demonstrate safe weapon handling during a weapon qualification exercise. The course also includes the minimum topic areas to satisfy the Category I (Firearms) perishable skills training requirement - POST Regulation 1005 (d)(4). This course provides updated legislative content of Penal Code Section 835a.

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

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 Santa Clara County - Office of Sheriff'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

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- F. Speed, Accuracy and Effectiveness under stress and movement conditions
- G. Shot Placement: Combat Effectiveness
- H. Malfunctions Clearing
- I. Loading/Reloading

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 / Orientation**
 - A. Completion of registration forms
 - 1. Student sign-in roster
 - 2. Emergency Contact Form
 - B. Course Objective / Student Evaluation / Testing
 - 1. Learning Objectives
 - a. Review proper and safe weapon handling
 - b. Review use of force policy
 - c. Introduce proper and safe weapon handling - with a mounted light attached
 - 2. Requirements for course completion
 - a. Successfully pass a written exam
 - b. Demonstrate safe weapon handling skills
 - c. Demonstrate proficient use of a pistol - equipped with a weapon mounted light.
 - d. Successfully complete the Low-light Pistol Qualification exercise.
 - C. Introductions
 - 1. Instructors
 - a. Law Enforcement experience
 - 2. Students
 - a. Law Enforcement experience
- II. **General Firearms Safety Review**
 - A. General Firearms Safety Review and Range Briefing
 - 1. Standard Range Safety Rules
 - 2. Emergency Action Plan
 - 3. Safety Equipment
 - a. Ballistic vest
 - b. Hearing protection
 - c. Eye protection

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4. Methods to summons Emergency Medical Services to the shooting range
 - a. Cell phone
 - b. Land line (Designated emergency line and office phone)
 - c. Police radio
5. Trauma kits
 - a. Locations
 - b. Contents necessary to treat gunshot wounds
 - c. Review the use of trauma equipment
6. First aid kits
 - a. Locations
7. Identify personnel with additional medical training/expertise
8. Identify emergency transportation vehicle
9. Safety considerations for low-light training
 - a. ***Redacted per Government Code 6254(f)***
 - b. ***Redacted per Government Code 6254(f)***
 - c. Whistle="Cease Fire"

III. Legal Aspects of Weapon Mounted Lights

- A. Handheld flashlight
 1. Functions
 2. Approved use
- B. Weapon mounted light
 1. Functions
 2. Permanently attached
 3. An extension of the weapon
- C. Case Law
 1. Inadequate training-Popow versus City of Margate
 2. Documentation-Whitney versus Warden
 3. Training records

IV. Department Policies and Procedures

- A. General Order / Policy
 1. Use of Force Considerations (options)
 - a. Legal, Moral, Ethical Issues
 - b. Verbal, Hands, Less than Lethal, Lethal Force
 - c. Escalation and De-escalation
 - d. Supporting Case Law
 2. Who is authorized to use a weapon mounted light
 3. Authorized use
 4. Assignment
 5. Possible penalty for misuse
 6. Training Requirements
 7. Report Writing

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8. Qualification
 - B. Approved Equipment
 1. Weapon mounted light
 2. Holster
 - C. AB 392 and SB230/Use of Force Legal Issues
 1. Emphasis of de-escalation/tactical repositioning
 2. Emphasis on duty to intervene
 3. Policy considerations/changes
 4. Duty to warn
 5. At risk populations
 - D. PC 835a
 1. Legal requirements of 835a
 2. When is a use of force justified?
 3. Shall use other available resources and techniques when safe and feasible
 4. Totality of the circumstances includes officer conduct leading up to the use of force
 5. Definition of imminent
 6. Definition of deadly force
 7. Definition of feasible
 8. Definition of necessary force
- V. **Fundamentals of Shooting in Low-Light**
- A. Target Recognition and Analysis
 1. How light affects the eye
 - a. Rods and cones of the eye
 - b. Eye adjustment
 - B. Grip / Stance
 1. Improper grip
 - a. Can cause weapon malfunctions with a weapon mounted light
 2. Proper two-handed
 - a. Strong hand grip
 - b. Support hand grip
 - c. Isometric tension
 3. Proper one-handed grip
 4. Balance
 5. Trigger Control
 - a. Breathing
 - C. Sight picture
 1. Point of aim- Properly aligned sights on the target
 2. Do not focus on the light beam
 - D. Sight alignment
 1. The relationship of the front sight to the rear sight.
 2. Ambient light for alignment

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- VI. **Semi-automatic Handguns - with Weapon Mounted Light Attached**
- A. Advantages
 - 1. Beam of light in line with the barrel
 - a. Light pointed directly at the threat
 - 2. Bright light can disorient a subject
 - 3. Accuracy
 - a. Ability to shoot with a two-handed grip
 - 4. Activation of the light
 - a. Switch may be activated with the support hand
 - 5. Same ability for right and left hand shooters
 - B. Possible disadvantages
 - 1. Flex in polymer frames
 - 2. Requires a proper grip
 - C. Attachment of handgun mounted light
 - 1. Equipment check
 - D. 5 Step Weapon Presentation Process - Live fire shooting exercises
 - 1. Drawing from the holster with a weapon mounted light attached
 - 2. Draw, sight picture, engage target, re-holster
 - E. Loading procedure
 - 1. The difference between shooting in daylight, with a flashlight and weapon mounted light
 - 2. Combat reload
 - a. Conducted when the weapon runs out of ammunition
 - 3. *****Redacted per Government Code 6254(f)*****
 - F. Malfunctions
 - 1. The difference between shooting in daylight, with a flashlight and weapon mounted light
 - 2. Type 1-Tap, Rack, Reassess
 - 3. Type 2-Strip, Cycle, Reload, Reassess
- VII. **Tactical Considerations**
- A. Cover versus Concealment
 - 1. Accounting for the additional height of the weapon with the light attached
 - 2. Backlighting from cover
 - a. *****Redacted per Government Code 6254(f)*****
 - b. *****Redacted per Government Code 6254(f)*****
 - B. Use of the Light
 - 1. Constant on
 - a. Advantages
 - b. Possible disadvantages
 - 2. Intermittent use
 - a. Advantages

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- b. Possible disadvantages
 - 3. Tracing back to your position
 - a. ***Redacted per Government Code 6254(f)***
 - C. Movement through structures
 - 1. Similar to shooting around cover
 - 2. Get the weapon around the wall or corner before activating the light
 - D. Take your time
 - 1. Allow your eyes times to adjust to light or dark
 - 2. Use you other senses
 - E. Low-light communication
 - 1. Language-Department Specific
 - a. ***Redacted per Government Code 6254(f)***
 - b. Moving
 - c. Emergency
 - 2. Affirmative response

VIII. Evaluation / Testing

- A. Written Exam
- B. Low-light Qualification Exercise
 - 1. Students must pass the pistol qualification exercise utilizing the weapon mounted light
 - 2. Students will demonstrate:
 - a. The ability to switch from a handheld light to the tactical weapon light.
 - b. The ability to search using the weapon mounted light, then engage target.
 - c. The skill to light, shoot, and move in darkness.
 - d. The skill of proper light discipline while shooting from cover.
 - e. The ability to use their tactical light to validate the need for lethal force.
 - f. The ability to draw and re-holster their weapon with mounted light.
 - 3. All reloads, malfunctions must be accomplished while utilizing the light.

IX. Conclusion / Evaluations / Certificates

- A. Complete POST and STC course evaluations
- B. Course Evaluations
- C. Certificates of Completion
- D. Open discussion about course content and methods of delivery
 - 1. Use student feedback for future changes to course content