Firearms Course – 8 Hours Training Outline

Tulare County Sheriff's Office

• Introductions / Overview of Course

- Introduction, registration and orientation
 - Class preview and expectations of students
 - Student introduction and familiarization
- Use of force
 - Read aloud and discussion / emphasis on should / should not, shall / shall not, etc.
 - Policy and procedure
 - Use of force
 - Guidelines for professional, impartial and reasonable force
 - Definitions
 - Deadly force
 - o Force
- Course Objectives / Overview, Exercises, Evaluation / Testing
- Weapons Safety Orientation, Review of Range and Shooting Safety Rules, (pre-range weapons unloading procedures and lunch / extended break, reload / unload rules)
 - All weapons are to be considered loaded
 - Never point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to shoot
 - Keep finger off trigger until you are ready to fire
 - Be sure of your target and background
 - Range and tactical safety
 - Follow range rules
 - Follow instructor commands
 - Strict weapon discipline and muzzle control
 - No lasering of personal body parts
 - Movement and reloading only on double action
 - Review of range safety rules
 - Cover primary elements as a checklist with students
 - Local emergency / first aid procedures to include radio / telephone procedures, closest medical facility

Lethal Force Overview

- Legal / moral / ethical issues involving use of force / lethal force
 - Factors in determining the reasonableness of force
 - Define CA PC 149
 - Another officer with same or similar training and experience
 - Faced with same or similar set of circumstances
 - Using the same or similar judgement
 - Under the established law at the time

• Pain Compliance Techniques

- The degree to which the application is applied
- Whether the person is able to comply
- Whether the person has been given time and space to comply
- Discontinuing the pain compliance technique
 - When
 - Why
- Civil implications of using force / lethal force
- Report writing and preliminary investigation overview

• Use of Force / Lethal Force and Firearms Policy

• Use of force options

- Lethal force within the spectrum of force options
- Verbal, hands, less than lethal, lethal force
- Escalation and de-escalation process

Department Policy

- Reasonable cause to believe
 - Belief and articulation of imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death
 - Define imminent threat
 - Not mere possibility
 - Death or great bodily injury
 - Loss of consciousness
 - Bone fracture
 - Concussions
 - Wound require suturing
 - Protracted loss / impairment of a body part or organ
 - Rendering first aid
 - Activating the emergency medical services system
- Fleeing violent felony specifications
 - Believed facts at the time
 - Articulable set of observations
 - Reasonableness of fear

• Supporting Case Law

- Tennessee v. Garner
 - Deadly force
 - Fleeing felony
- Graham v. Connor
 - Reasonable force
 - Define resistance
 - Pre-assaultive indicators
- Post Law Enforcement Officers Killed / Assaulted (LEOKA)
 - 1994 / 2001 reports

- Vital statistics from LEOKA reports
- Conclusive tactical analysis
 - Low light conditions
 - 5 to 10 feet
 - 2 rounds
 - 2 seconds
 - Officer accuracy: average 10-20%
 - Use of cover
 - Summary and overview

• **Report the use of force**

- Appropriate report depending on the incident
- Factors perceived
- Why it was reasonable
- To collect data for departmental and state use

Re-Familiarization of Fundamental Firearm Drills

- Malfunction clearing
- Talk about and demonstrate "the box" and how it is useful during stressful situations
- **o Different types of malfunctions**
 - Failure to eject
 - Stovepipe
 - Failure to feed
- Combat reloads
 - Out of ammunition
 - Get back in the fight
 - Drop the magazine, do not retain
- Tactical reloads
 - Lull in the fight
 - Cover and concealment the difference between the two
 - Fresh magazine is removed prior to dropping magazine in the gun
 - Fresh magazine up to gun, manipulation to remove old and insert new
 - Stow the magazine as it may be needed later

• Fundamentals of Shooting

- Stance
 - Strong, balanced ready position
- Isosceles
 - Both feet somewhat parallel
 - Advantages with body armor
 - Ability to move from the position
- Weaver
 - Strong side, foot back at approximately 45 degree angle
 - Disadvantages with body armor
 - Comfort

- Ability to move from the position
- o Grip
 - Strong, effective two-handed grip
 - Isometric pressure
- Knees Slightly Bent
 - Not exaggerated in the hips
- Core
 - Controlled and steady, breathing through the nose
 - Firm but not exhaustive
 - Slightly forward
- Shoulders
 - Forward over the hips
 - Up but not strained
 - Ability to draw forward not back
- Sight Picture
 - Sight alignment
 - Eye focus front sight tip
- Trigger Control
 - Press....
 - Straight back, steady pressure
- Breathing
 - Controlled
 - Fire on exhale
- **Recovery and Follow Through**
 - All elements work together
 - Handle recoil
 - Controlled movement, back on target
- Five Count Pistol Presentation
 - Count One
 - Good Grip
 - Holster Unsnapped
 - Support hand / arm into chest position
 - Count Two
 - Draw
 - De-cocker off
 - Pistol is rocked up and forward
 - Wrist is positioned above holster
 - Forearm parallel to ground
 - Trigger finger is indexed
 - County Three
 - Punch pistol outward
 - Into support hand
 - Isometric tension

- Low ready positioning
- Count Four
 - Pistol raised to eye level
 - Eye focus to front sight
 - Sight alignment / sight picture is verified
- Count Five
 - Finger on trigger
 - Press
 - Maintain sight alignment

• Target Recognition and Analysis

- Did I hit?
- Did it work?
- Low ready and count three
- Assess the threat
- Scan
- Reassess
- De-cock to double action
- Tactical reloading
- **Re-Holstering**
 - Range orientation and safety briefing (second range safety, and command sequence)
 - All courses emphasize
 - Weapons safety
 - Muzzle and fire discipline
 - Fundamentals of shooting
 - Five count presentation
 - Warm up course
 - 8 rounds into the 10 ring at 15 yards (precision shooting)
 - 2 times

Combat Reload Exercise / Weapons Clearing

- Tactically Reloading (bringing handgun back up to full capacity)
 - When shooting has stopped
 - Move to cover
 - De-cock / double action
 - Proper grip of fresh magazine
 - Strip and replace in-gun magazine
 - Used magazine in pocket, not pouch
 - Practice and proficiency demonstration

• Flashlight Shooting Exercise

- Carries (define) / Tactical
- Alternate flashlight shooting techniques
- Safety precautions
- Dry fire practice

- Reloading
 - Move to one knee / cover
 - Placing flashlight behind the knee
- Weapon Malfunction Exercise (split class into two groups)
 - Group 1 Failure to fire
 - Clearance drill, tap, roll, and rack
 - Practice with dummy rounds
 - With live mags
 - Live fire, 5 times
 - Group 2 Double feed
 - Clearance drill and lock, drop, rack, load
 - Practice with dummy rounds
 - With live mags
 - Live fire, 5 times

Ball and Dummy Drills

- 3 mags with mix of 5 live rounds, 3 dummy rounds
- Proper clearance
- **7** yard line, **6** magazines
- Failure to Incapacitate Suspect (drugs / body armor) Drills
 - Theory
 - Target the brain, turn off the neurological switch
 - Shot Placement
 - Ocular
 - 7 yard line, 2 and 2
 - 2 magazines
 - With tactical loading / reloading
- Double Tap Drill
 - Shot Placement
 - Optimum 4 and spread
 - Upper thoracic cavity
 - Stopping Power
 - Maximum shock and stopping power
 - Vs. bleeding out
 - \circ Major artery up to 12 seconds
 - Controlled Pair
 - Sight picture, smooth trigger pull
 - 7 yard line and out
 - 2 magazines
 - Accelerated Pair
 - Flash sight picture / front sight
 - 5 and 7 yards and closer
 - Double taps emphasizing speed and accuracy

- 2 magazines
- Spread Fire Course
 - Threat Assessment / Threat Prioritization
 - Threat ID
 - Threat type, lethality, and range
 - Highest threat prioritization
 - 3 Targets at the 7 yard line, 2 rounds each, 3 times
 - 2 magazines
 - With tactical reloads
- Verbal Debriefing of Course

