Rifle Marksmanship and Sniper
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department
Expanded Course Outline

Purpose: *The purpose of this course is to provide those officers assigned as snipers on a Special Weapons And Tactical (SWAT)/tactical team with the skills necessary to become expert sniper operators.*

I. Introduction and Orientation

A. Paperwork

1. Distribute Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) roster
2. Distribute networking or regional attendance roster

B. Housekeeping

1. Facility review and identify restrooms and emergency exits
2. Review breaks including breakroom and/or vending machines

C. Introductions

1. Instructor and staff introductions
2. Student introductions

D. Overview

1. Overview of the key learning outcomes of the class
2. Review of student and instructor expectations of the course.

E. Objectives

1. Students will be able to understand and operate long rifle weapon system as they relate to SWAT incidents
2. Students will be able to observe and communicate pertinent information during SWAT incidents
3. Students will be familiar with roles and responsibilities as they relate to different types of missions
4. Students will be able demonstrate precision marksmanship skills

II. Firearms Safety Review

A. State the four fundamental rules of firearms safety

1. Treat all firearms as if they are loaded
2. Always keep the firearms pointed in the safest possible direction
3. Always keep finger off the trigger until ready to fire the firearm
4. Be sure of the target and what's beyond it before firing the firearm

B. Sign range waiver form

C. Explain basic safety guidelines to be followed at a firing range though Tactical Safety Officer (TSO) briefing.

1. When entering the firing range
    a. Listen carefully for range commands
    b. Request clarification if a command is not clear
    c. Trauma kit location
    d. Emergency phone location
2. Wear approved eye and ear protection

D. On the firing line

a. Listen carefully for range commands
b. Request clarification if a command is not clear
c. Keep barrel pointed in a safe direction
d. Talk only when instructor speaks directly to student
e. Never proceed forward of the firing line except when commanded to do so
f. Only put finger on the trigger when ready to fire
g. Never attempt to pick up any item that has been dropped on the ground unless instructed to do so
h. Stop firing immediately on command
i. When not firing, the bolt on all firearms will be to the rear with ammunition sources removed

III. Long Rifle Weapon Systems (LRWS)

A. Describe types of LRWS including:

1. Bolt Action Rifle
    a. Nomenclature
    b. Operation
    c. Special Consideration

2. Gas Rifle
    a. Nomenclature
    b. Operation
    c. Special Consideration

3. Rotating Bolt Rifle
    a. Nomenclature
    b. Operation

c. Special Consideration

B. Describe telescopic sights for LRWS

1. Magnification
   a. Fixed
   b. Variable

2. First Focal Plane vs Second Focal Plane
   a. First Focal Plane
   b. Second Focal Plane

3. Components
   a. Nomenclature
   b. Elevation adjustment
   c. Wind adjustment
   d. Parallax adjustment

C. Ocular adjustment

D. Mounts/Rings

E. Reticles

1. Types
2. Milliradian (Mil)
3. Minute Of Angle (MOA)
4. Range estimation

IV. Aspects of Shooting Fundamentals

A. Mental and Physical Fitness

1. Selection
   a. Fitness Test
   b. Shooting Test
   c. Desire
   d. Compatibility

2. Continuing Training
   a. Monthly Training
   b. Core Competencies
   c. Record Keeping (training logs, books, ect)

3. Lethal Force Encounters
   a. Post incident
   b. Debrief
   c. Peer support

B. Shooting Fundamentals

1. Marksmanship
   a. Grip, stance (prone supported), breathing, sight picture, trigger control, cheek weld, length of pull, weapon stabilization (sand bag bipod mono pod, follow through and consistency, fitting gun optic to shooter
   b. Pre-shot checklist
   c. Natural point of aim
   d. Calling shots

2. Data Collection
   a. Data Books
   e. How to record data
   a. Cold Shot or cold shooter
   b. Observation logs
   c. Range Cards
   d. Field Sketching

3. External Ballistics
   a. Wind
   b. Temp
   c. Altitude
   d. Humidity

V. Learning Activity: Shooting fundamentals practical application

A. Practical Application of Shooting Fundamentals

1. Cold Shot
   a. Student will set up at the 100 yard line in the supported prone position and fire one round. This will be documented as their cold bore shot for the day. Along with the shot placement and call, additional information will be collected on date, time, and environment.

2. 5 shot groups
    a. Student will set up at the 100 yard line in the supported prone position and fire 5 rounds. This will be used to show the students accuracy and consistency. From here the instructor can then identify possible problems and coach the shooter in order to achieve better results. Along with the shot placement, additional information will be collected on date, time, and environment.

3. Scope tracking drill
    a. Student will set up at the 100 yard line in the supported prone position and fire three rounds to the bottom left of the back side of a target. They will then make a 5 MOA or 2.5 Mil up adjustment. They will fire three more round then make the same up adjustment. They will fire three rounds and make the up adjustment one more time and then fire three rounds. They will then make then same adjustment right and fire three. They will then make the same down adjustments three times fire three rounds at each point. Finally they will make the same adjustment left and fire a final three. At this point they should be where they started and be able to see if the scope is tracking. This will be documented, along with the shot placement, additional information will be collected on date, time, and environment.

4. Check zero
    a. Student will set up at the 100 yard line in the supported prone position and fire one round. This will be documented to see if there has been any shift from their cold bore shot. Along with the shot placement, additional information will be collected on date, time, and environment.

5. Slow fire accuracy
    a. Student will set up at the 100 yard line in the supported prone position and fire 8 shot slow fire drills for accuracy. Along with the shot placement, additional information will be collected on date, time, and environment.

6. Close distance data collection
    a. The student will step up supported prone at 10, 25, 50, and 75 yards. From each position they will fire 5 shot groups and record their close distance data.

7. Check zero
    a. Student will set up at the 100 yard line in the supported prone position and fire one round. Along with the shot placement and call, additional information will be collected on date, time, and environment.

B. Describe the materials, equipment, and environment needed to properly clean firearms

1. Solvent
    a. Used to clean parts of the firearm

2. Lubricant
    a. Reduces friction and wear

3. Cleaning patches
    a. Absorbs excess solvents, lubricants and rust inhibitors

4. Personal protection materials
    a. Eye protection and rubber gloves

5. Other materials
    a. Pipe cleaners and cotton swabs

6. Screwdriver(s)
    a. Should fit screw slots exactly to prevent damage

7. Bore brush and guide
    a. Used to remove deposits from the bore

8. Cleaning brush
    a. Used to remove powder residue

9. Cleaning rod
    a. Used with a bore brush and should be longer then the length of the barrel

10. Patch holder or tip
    a. Holds cleaning patches securely when moved in either direction through a bore brush

11. Small container
    a. Used to store small parts during cleaning

C. Apply routine procedures for cleaning firearms

1. Rifle Cleaning
   a. Support rifle so muzzle is the lowest point.
   b. Remove the bolt
   c. Insert bore guide
   d. Saturate cleaning patch with solvent and send through barrel
   e. Solvent on a bronze brush and send through barrel
   f. Send dry patches through until they come out clean
   g. Wet patch with alcohol and send through the barrel
   h. Use chamber cleaning brush for chamber
   i. Clean the bolt using the bolt disassembly tool
   j. Visually inspect to make sure all dirt and deposits
   k. have been removed.

VI. Learning Activity: Students will be using their rifles and learning different shooting positions. Shooting fundamentals practical application

A. Cold Bore

1. Cold bore
   a. Student will set up at the 100 yard line in the supported prone position and fire one round. This will be documented as their cold bore shot for the day. Along with the shot placement and call, additional information will be collected on date, time, and environment.

B. Positional Shooting

1. Standing
   a. Student will set up at the 25 yard line in the standing position and fire a total of 10 rounds. Along with the shot placement, additional information will be collected on date, time, and environment.

2. Kneeling
   a. Student will set up at the 50 yard line in the kneeling position and fire a total of 10 rounds. Along with the shot placement, additional information will be collected on date, time, and environment.

3. Sitting

a. Student will set up at the 75 yard line in the sitting position and fire a total of 10 rounds. Along with the shot placement, additional information will be collected on date, time, and environment.

4. Hawkins
   a. Student will set up at the 100 yard line in the Hawkins position and fire a total of 10 rounds. Along with the shot placement, additional information will be collected on date, time, and environment.

5. Unconventional (gas mask)
   a. Student will set up at the 50 yard line and in a gas mask fire 20 rounds from different positions. Along with the shot placement, additional information will be collected on date, time, and environment.

   b. Discussion on other possible firing positions

6. From Structures
   a. Use of different rooftop structures on the rifle range. Students will set up on the structures and fire 5 rounds from each type.

C. Tripod Shooting

1. Tripod Shooting
   a. Different positions
   b. Sling wraps
   c. Placement Considerations

VII. Equipment and procedures needed to successfully complete missions

A. Equipment

1. Individual
   a. Scoped rifle with sling
   b. Pistol
   c. Ammunition
   d. Backpack
   e. Tripod
   f. Rangefinder
   g. Armor / Load bearing vest
   h. Binoculars/Spotting Scope

i. Radio
j. Notetaking materials
k. Cellphone (on silent)
l. Hide materials
m. Night vision
n. Data book

2. Team
   a. Ladder

3. Division
   a. Deployment vehicle

B. Common Missions

1. Hostage Rescue Team (HRT)
   a. Single hostage taker and hostage
   b. Multi subject HRT
   c. Residence
   d. Business
   e. Vehicle

2. Barricade
   a. Single armed barricade

3. Intel/planning
   a. Intel gathering for upcoming missions

4. Dignitary Protection
   a. Fixed Position
   b. Mobile

5. Overwatch
   a. Public Venue
   b. Outdoor gathering|

6. Active Shooter
   a. Different locations
   b. Roles and responsibilities

7. Counter Sniper
   a. Known location
   b. Unknown location

8. Open Air
    a. Movement considerations/Overwatch

C. Deployment procedures

1. Self-deployment
    a. Single team deployment
    b. Multi team deployment

2. Predetermined deployment

3. Operational Safety Considerations
    a. Movement to Final Firing Position (FFP)
    b. Overt vs Covert FFP
    c. Other hazards (falls, animals, environmental)

D. Roles and Responsibilities

1. For common missions
    a. Deployment
    b. Job duties

2. Expectations from team and commander
    a. Intel
    b. Overwatch

3. Expertise
    a. Ongoing training

VIII. Legal issues surrounding deployment and use of force

A. Legal Issues

1. Training Records
    a. How is training recorded
    b. What is recorded
    c. How is it maintained

2. Uniforms
    a. Discussion of types of long rifle uniforms and how they play into law enforcement identification and concealment. Team identification.

3. Court and depositions
    a. Testifying and beyond
4. Equipment knowledge
    a. Knowledge of the equipment and what it does along with articulation of long rifle skill set

B. Use of Force (UOF) policy

1. Tennessee v. Garner
2. Graham v. Connor
3. Department UOF policy
4. Red light / Green light

C. Case Studies

1. Sniper Utilization Report
2. Video review
3. Long Rifle litigation

IX. Learning Activity: Shooting fundamentals practical application for ranging and estimation.

A. Cold Bore

1. Cold bore
    a. Student will set up at the 100 yard line in the prone supported position and fire one round. Along with the shot placement and call, additional information will be collected on date, time, and environment.

B. Armored Rescue Vehicle shooting

C. Long Distance

1. Data Collection
    a. The student will step up supported prone at 150, 200, 250, and 300 yards. From each position they will fire 5 shot groups and record their long distance data.

2. Range Estimation
    a. Ranging drills

D. Observation and Communication Drills

1. Shooter/Observer
   a. Ranging
   b. Atmospherics
   c. Developments
2. Small Item Observation Drill

X. Learning Activity: Shooting fundamentals as they relate to Ballistics

A. Internal

1. Discuss the factors of internal ballistics as they relate to end user
   a. Different stages
   b. Considerations

B. External

1. Review of atmospherics

2. Bullet flight paths
   a. Calculations
   b. Chronograph

3. Angle Shooting
   a. Calculations

C. Terminal

1. Ammunition effects
   a. Types of ammunition
   b. Selection
   c. Effects on targets

D. Intermediate Barrier

1. Glass
   a. American Sniper Association (ASA) DVD

2. Vehicle
   a. Vehicle considerations
   b. Vehicle shooting

XI. Basic fieldcraft fundamentals

A. Rural Fieldcraft

1. Rural Hides
   a. Final Firing Positions
   b. Movement

B. Urban Fieldcraft

1. Urban Hides
   a. Inside structure
   b. Vehicle hide

C. Stalking and Movement

1. Stalking
   a. Movement
   b. Camouflage

D. Cover and Concealment learning activity

Students will break into pairs. Each team will be given a different mission profile to discuss cover and concealment as it relates to the given profile. Each team will discuss advantages and disadvantages in regards to their deployment. Each team then present their findings to the class as a whole.

1. Operational use
   a. How to maximize during field operations
   b. Overt vs Covert Final Firing Position (FFP)

E. Intelligence Gathering

1. Pre mission
   a. Considerations for different mission profiles
   b. What information to gather

2. During mission
   a. What information to gather
   b. How to relay information to team or commander

XII. Learning Activity: Shooting fundamentals practical application for observation skills.

A. Cold Bore

1. Cold bore
   a. Student will set up at the 100 yard line in the supported prone position and fire one round. This will be documented as their cold bore shot for the day. Along with the shot placement, additional information will be collected on date, time, and environment.

B. Moving Targets

1. Moving Targets
   a. Lateral
   b. Swaying

C. Observation and Communication Skills/Drills

1. Observation skills
   a. Small object drill

2. Communication skills
   a. Shaded shape drill
   b. Simultaneous and command shots

D. Low Light/No light Shooting

1. Low light
   a. Considerations
   b. Projector scenarios

2. No light Night Vision Device (NVD)
   a. Familiarization
   b. NVD Shooting

XIII. Learning Activity: Shooting fundamentals practical application

A. Cold Bore

1. Cold bore
   a. Student will set up at the 100 yard line in the supported prone position and fire one round. This will be documented as

their cold bore shot for the day. Along with the shot placement, additional information will be collected on date, time, and environment.

B. Competency Drills

1. American Sniper Association Qualification
2. Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI) qualification

C. Qualification

1. Specialized Enforcement Divison Qualification Course
   a. List course of fire listed under required tests

D. Practical application scenarios

1. Live Fire House Scenario
   a. The scenario will take place at the live fire house and be set up as follows:

   b. The students will respond to a single armed barricade. They will be given a photograph of the suspect. They will be instructed to make an undetected approach though the hills on the South side of the house. Their guns will be unloaded until given the command to load. They will be in Long Rifle Observer (LRO) teams of two. They will establish a final firing position with a view of the number 1 side (south side) of the live fire house anywhere from 40 to 120 yards from the location. Each group will have a safety officer assigned to them. Once they arrive at their location, they will observe the situation as it plays out relaying what they see and develop a shooting solution. When and if a lethal threat is observed, the team will engage the appropriate target.

   c. Target will be suspect with a gun at the number 3 opening on the 1 side. The window will be pulled exposing the target and the shot will need to be within allotted time.

   d. SKILLS TO BE TESTED
   e. Undetected movement and hide setup
   f. Correct information relayed for shooting solution

g. Correct information detailing target location
h. Threat recognition
i. Shot placement
j. Field diagram of view

2. Dirt Range Scenario

a. The students will respond to a hostage scenario where they will set up a vehicle hide. The students will set up the hide and then drive into the range area. Once in the range area they will park the vehicle in an appropriate position to give them the ability to observe the target area. The students will be cleared to fire from the training officer and take their shot.

b. SKILLS TO BE TESTED
c. Minimal detected movement and hide setup
d. Correct information relayed for shooting solution
e. Correct information detailing target location
f. Threat recognition
g. Shot placement
h. Field diagram of view

XIV. Assessment: REQUIRED TESTS/Competency Testing

A. San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Long Rifle Team Qualification Course will be used as the test for skills competency to pass the course.

B. The course is a twenty round course in which the shooter must score 80% hits or better to qualify. The course will use standard division qualification silhouette targets.

1. **Shot # 1** – (Cold Shot) The shooter begins standing behind their rifle at the 100 yard mark with one round placed beside the rifle. On command, the shooter will have one minute to load their rifle, take their position, and fire one shot into the scoring area of the head. The cold Bore shot is Pass/Fail. If a shooter misses the cold bore shot, they will not be allowed to continue.

2. **Shots # 2, 3, 4 and 5** – (Rapid Response Shots) The shooter begins standing behind their rifle at the 100 yard mark with four rounds placed beside the rifle. On command, the shooter has two minutes to load their rifle, take their position, and fire two shots from the prone position at the scoring area of the head. The shooter will then transition to the kneeling position and fire one shot to the scoring area of the chest. The shooter will then transition to a standing position and fire one shot to the scoring area of the chest. Shooters may use their issued tripod support for the kneeling and standing shots. Shooters will have three minutes complete the course of fire.

3. **Shots # 6 and 7** – (Stress Shots) The shooter begins standing behind their rifle at the 100 yard mark with two rounds placed beside the weapon. Upon the command to move the shooters will run to the 300 yard mark and back to their rifle at the 100 yard mark. The shooters will then load their rifle and fire two rounds into the scoring area of the head. Shooters will have three minutes to complete the run and the course of fire.

4. **Shots # 8, 9, 10, and 11** – (Scope Manipulation from 200 yards) The shooters will have their rifle placed at the 200 yard mark. Shooters will be allowed to manipulate their scopes for the 200 yard shot. Once the shooters have made their adjustments they will stand behind their rifle with two rounds placed next to the rifle. Upon the command to fire the shooter will have two minutes to load their rifle and fire four shots into the scoring area of the head.

5. **Shots # 12 and 13** – (Scope Manipulation from 300 yards) The shooter will have their rifle placed at the 300 yard mark. The shooters will be allowed to manipulate their scopes for the 300 yard shot. Once the shooters have made their adjustments they will stand behind their rifle with two rounds placed next to the rifle. Upon the command to fire the shooter will have two minutes to load their rifle and fire two shots into the scoring area of the head.

6. **Shots #14 and 15** – (Gas Mask Shots) The shooter will have their rifle placed at the 100 yard mark. The shooter will be allowed to make adjustments to their scopes to set them back to "zero" prior to taking the shots. After adjustments have been made the shooters will don their gas masks and stand at their rifle with two rounds placed next to it. Upon the

command to fire the shooters will have two minutes to load their rifle and fire two rounds into the scoring area of the head.

7. **Shots #16 and 17** – (50 Yard Unsupported) The shooter will have their rifle placed at the 50 yard mark. Shooters will stand at their rifle with two rounds placed next to it. Upon the command to fire the shooters will load their rifle and fire one round from the seated position into the scoring area of the chest. Shooters will transition to a kneeling position and fire one round to the scoring area of the chest. Shooters will have two minutes to complete the course of fire.

8. **Shots #18, 19 and 20** – (25 Yard Unsupported) The shooter will have their rifle placed at the 25 yard mark. Shooters will stand at their rifle with three rounds placed next to it. Upon the command to fire the shooters will load their rifle and fire one round from the seated position into the scoring area of the chest. Shooters will transition to a kneeling position and fire one round to the scoring area of the chest. Shooters will transition to a standing position and fire one round to the scoring area of the head. Shooters will have two minutes to complete the course of fire.

C. **Scoring** – Possible 100%, minimal 80%. Shots, which touch the scoring lines, will be counted as hits.