

San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department Electronic Weapons Course Outline

I. Introduction / Registration

A. Registration

1. Departmental paperwork (assignment of TASER/Cartridge serial)
2. POST paperwork
3. Liability waiver from Taser International

B. Facility Safety Guidelines

1. Equipment
2. First aid supplies
3. Weapon safety
4. Location of nearest hospital
5. Communication devices in the classroom

C. Introduction

1. Instructors
2. Students
3. Course overview
4. Facility overview
5. Weapons safety guidelines
 - a. No live firearms in classroom

II. History and Definitions

A. Definitions

1. Handheld devices
2. Projectile devices

B. Origins of Electronic Weapons

1. Primer-driven weapons (1973)
2. Firearm (BATF classification)
3. Non-firearm TASER (1994)
4. Advanced TASER (1999)
5. Stinger (2005)
6. Others

C. Electronic Incapacitation vs. Pain Compliance Devices

1. Pain compliance / Stun systems
 - a. Affects sensory nervous system
 - b. Affects communication from the muscles to the brain

2. Electronic incapacitation
 - a. Affects sensory and motor functions of nervous system
 - b. Affects communication from brain to muscles

III. Legal / Ethical Considerations

A. Statutory and Case Law

1. Federal statutes
2. State statutes
3. Civil law considerations
4. Relevant case law

B. Department policy

1. Force Guidelines policy
2. Less-Lethal policy
 - a. Less-Lethal review policy
3. Documentation
4. Medical clearances
 - a. Patrol guidelines
 - b. Detention Services guidelines

IV. Exposures

A. Individual Exposures

1. Recommended
2. Not required

B. Group Exposure

1. Recommended
2. Not required

C. Safety Procedures

1. Environmental precautions
 - a. Mats
 - b. Personnel movement
2. Proper Spotters for exposure
3. Post-exposure care
4. Safety equipment

V. Electronic Weapons and Nomenclature

A. Nomenclature

1. Manufacture specifications and safety guidelines
2. Weapon specifications
3. Holster specifications

4. Cartridge specifications
5. Battery specifications

B. Pros and Cons

1. Never 100%
2. Reduce injuries to subjects and officers
3. Accessibility
4. Comparison with other force options
5. Environmental restrictions
6. Compatibility with other force options

VI. Medical Aspects

A. Medical considerations

1. Method of delivery
2. Electrical output
3. Physiological effects
4. Known pre-existing medical conditions

B. Subject Risk Factors

1. Drug and alcohol consumption
2. Excited delirium
3. Positional / restraint / compression asphyxia
4. Preventative measures

VII. Deployment and Documentation

A. Pre-deployment

1. Modes of deployment
2. POST recommended weak-side carry
3. Communication / contact-cover
4. Deadly force considerations
5. Scene assessment / environmental considerations
 - a. Height (fall risk)
 - b. Body of water
 - c. Flammable conditions
6. Force options considerations
 - a. Alternative / back-up plan
 - b. Department policy
 - c. Multiple applications
 - d. Multiple electronic weapons used on subject
 - e. Use on handcuffed subject
7. Known pre-existing medical considerations
 - a. Age of subject
 - b. Pregnant female
 - c. Pacemaker

d. Obviously frail

B. Deployment

1. Recommended distance from subject
2. Target areas
3. Communication
 - a. Other officers
 - b. Subjects (warnings / direction)
4. Evaluate effect after each application
5. Application of additional or different force option
6. Control / cuff under power
7. Cover officer considerations in an arrest situation

C. Post-deployment

1. Medical assessment for subject or officers
2. Supervisor notification
3. Probe removal
4. Transportation / medical clearance
5. Evidence collection

D. Documentation

1. Subject's behavior and actions
2. Independent witnesses
3. Documentation of the facts (injuries, medical care, etc.)
4. Data downloads
5. Audio, video, etc.

VIII. Practical Application and Testing

A. Scenario Training

1. Static drills
2. Scenario-based exercises

B. Written Test

1. Students will complete a written test on material covered
2. Students will have test graded and will go over results
3. Remediation will be provided for any student that fails
4. Passing score of 80% or better required

C. Practical Test

1. Students will perform a practical test to demonstrate learning
2. Students will demonstrate competency with the electrical weapon
3. Students will be allowed to remediate if necessary
4. Course evaluations will be provided and certificates distributed