

San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office
Ballistic Shield for Patrol
Expanded Course Outline

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

This course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of the Paraclete Aspix X Ballistic Shield and how to manipulate the shield for the purpose of deployment in the field. The course will cover the nomenclature, carry positions, manipulation, and various positions in which the shield can be utilized by Sheriff's Office personnel.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The student will:

1. Demonstrate basic familiarity of the Paraclete Aspix X Ballistic Shield, including its advantages and disadvantages.
2. Develop familiarity with when to deploy the shield.
3. Demonstrate a minimum standard of tactical handgun proficiency as it applies to deployment of the shield.
4. Demonstrate, through practical application, the proper carry and deployment positions for the shield.

Instructors will observe students during the performance of each technique, exercise, and course of fire to evaluate each student's proficiency and ensure they achieve minimum standards of performance. If a student fails to meet the minimum standards, *appropriate remedial training will be provided until the minimum standards are met.*

- I. Course Introduction
 - A. Registration
 - i. Students will sign-in on a department class roster to receive a credit for attendance.
 - B. Introduction
 - i. Instructors will introduce themselves.
 - C. Course Outline and Objectives
 - i. Instructors will provide an overview of the course schedule and outline.
 - ii. Instructors will cover the course objectives.
- II. Paraclete Aspix X Overview
 - A. Features
 - i. Review of Video from Paraclete
 - B. Nomenclature
 - i. Ballistic Protection
 1. Made of highly compressed polyethylene.
 - ii. Front / Back
 - iii. Viewport

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1. Made of polycarbonate resin with the same protection level as the shield body.
 2. Easily scratched and must be protected to maintain visual clarity.
 - iv. Edging
 1. Made of a fiberglass composite.
 2. The edging protects the ballistic body of the shield.
 - v. Light
 1. Integrated into the shield.
 2. Provides operator powerful illumination to identify possible threats and disorient suspects.
 - vi. Forearm Strap
 1. Used to facilitate transitional movement, ease of carry and control.
 2. Also, facilitates use of both hands for variety of actions, including pistol reloading/malfunction clearing.
- C. Advantages
- i. Ballistic Protection
 1. Ballistic shields are rated to stop NIJ Level III (High Powered Rifle) threats.
 2. The ballistic shields are designed to be used in conjunction with department firearms, to include handgun, shotgun and patrol rifle.
 3. They can also protect officers against blunt and edged.
 - ii. Light weight
 1. The ballistic shield weighs approximately 18 pounds including lighting system, carrying straps and viewport.
 - iii. High intensity lighting system
 1. The ballistic shield is equipped with a high intensity lighting system designed to illuminate and disorient potentially armed suspects.
 2. Acts independently of weapon mounted lighting systems.
 - iv. High Mobility/Low profile
 1. The ballistic shields are intentionally designed for ease of mobility in close quarter situations, compared to those commonly used in the past.
- D. Disadvantages
- i. Focal Point Isolation
 1. Viewport provides excellent protection, but care must be given to maintaining situational awareness and to avoid "tunnel vision".
 2. Shield weight and size
 - a. No matter how compact and light a shield is, it's still heavier and bigger than no shield.
 - b. You must balance the protection afforded by the shield with the innate cumbersomeness of carrying a large object during tactical situations.
 3. Ballistic protection

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- a. Ballistic Shields, like body armor, are designed to protect the user against a certain type of ammunition fired at a certain velocity.
- b. Level III ballistic shields and body armor will not protect against armor piercing rifle rounds.

III. Range Safety Brief

- A. General safety rules and procedures for the range have been developed, reduced to writing, and will be communicated to each student before training.
- B. Rules are posted at the entrance to the range.
- C. Safety briefings will occur at the start of each day of training and will include:
 - i. The requirement to wear eye and ear protection while engaged in shooting or while in the immediate vicinity of the firing line.
 - ii. Stop action commands and communications.
 - iii. Location of first aid kit.
 - iv. Instruction regarding the hazards of lead for children and pregnant women.
 - v. Students will receive directions to thoroughly wash hands, face, and clothing after range classes conclude.
 - vi. Instructors will notify students to stop the action during any session when a possible breach of safety has occurred or is about to take place.
- D. No firearms will be manipulated outside the loading / unloading bay unless directed by an instructor.
- E. Four Firearms Safety Rules
 - i. Treat all firearms as though they are loaded.
 - ii. Never allow your muzzle to cover anything you are not willing to destroy.
 - iii. Keep your fingers off the trigger until you have made the conscious decision to fire.
 - iv. Be aware of your target and what is beyond.
- F. Medical Briefing
 - i. 5 roles to be outlined prior to any firearms training:
 - 1. Medic
 - a. Person with highest level of medical training.
 - b. Will assess patient and determine how care will proceed.
 - 2. 9-1-1
 - a. Will contact Sheriff's Dispatch and advise of a training injury at the range.
 - b. In the event of an injury resulting from an accidental gunshot, ADVISE IT WAS A TRAINING ACCIDENT.
 - 3. Driver
 - a. Should the medic decide the patient should be transported by personnel on scene, the driver will ready the designated marked or unmarked, Code 3 patrol unit for transport.
 - 4. Flagger

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- a. Should the medic decide to treat in place and summon an ambulance, the flagger will respond to Kansas Ave to flag the ambulance.

5. Scribe

- a. Will generate a timeline of the events related to the training accident.

IV. Carry Positions

A. Ground Shield

- i. Whenever not in a carry position, the viewport should always be oriented up

B. Shield Low Ready

- i. The operator holds the shield upside down with the support arm through the forearm strap and support side hand holding the handle.
- ii. This is considered an administrative rest position, designed to facilitate rest and ease of movement without fatiguing the user.

C. Shield High Port

- i. The shield, held with the support side hand, is placed on the support side shoulder so that the shield is facing away from the operator and the handle is near the support side shoulder.
- ii. This is considered a tactical rest position, designed to facilitate rest and ease of movement without fatiguing the operator.
- iii. It also is used to allow the operator better frontal visibility while moving with the shield.

D. Sling Shield

- i. With the support arm through the forearm straps, the support hand releases the handle so the strap supports the weight of the shield in the bend of the support side elbow.

V. Shooting Positions (MANIPULATIONS WITHOUT FIREARM / DRY WITH FIREARM)

A. Primary Side Combat Ready Wrap

- i. The operator holds the shield with the support side hand.
- ii. The shield is held in front of operator's face.
- iii. The inner part of the primary elbow is placed around the shield cutout.
- iv. The weapon is brought towards the centerline and displayed in front of viewport.
- v. The primary arm elbow crease presses against shield to provide stability.
- vi. The Low Ready carry position can be used in this position by lowering the weapon below the view port.
- vii. It is important to keep the weapon canted slightly away from the centerline to avoid malfunctions.
- viii. Reps without firearm, then dryfire with firearm

B. Primary Side Close Combat

- i. The operator holds the shield in the support side hand.
- ii. The shield is held in front of the operator's face.

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- iii. The weapon is presented and resting on the primary side cutout with the front or bottom of the trigger guard pressed against the cutout or side of the shield below the cutout.
 - iv. Never allow the pistol light to rest on the shield.
 - 1. If you have a pistol light use the bottom of the trigger guard as the point of contact on the shield.
 - v. The weapon / ejection port should be slightly canted away from shield to avoid a malfunction.
 - vi. The primary side elbow is tucked behind shield.
 - vii. Reps without firearm, then dryfire with firearm.
- C. Support Side Close Combat
- i. The operator holds the shield in support hand.
 - ii. The shield is held in front of operator's face.
 - iii. The weapon is indexed in the temple index position as the shield is transitioned across the shooters body.
 - iv. The weapon is transitioned and resting on support side cutout with front or bottom of the trigger guard pressed against the cutout or side of the shield below the cutout.
 - v. Never allow a pistol light to rest on the shield. If you have a pistol light use the bottom of the trigger guard as the point of contact on the shield.
 - vi. The weapon/ejection port is slightly canted away from shield to avoid malfunction.
 - vii. The primary side elbow is tucked behind shield.
 - viii. The shield is angled at about a 45 degree angle, NOT parallel to the ground.
 - ix. Reps without firearm, then dryfire with firearm.
- D. 6 O'clock Kneeling Position
- i. From any standing shield position, step forward with the support side foot and drop the primary knee down into a speed kneeling position.
 - ii. Invert the shield keeping it in front of you (not to the side).
 - 1. The top of the shield is braced on the ground.
 - iii. Release the handle to manipulate the weapon with two hands or to reload or clear malfunction while still in the strap.
 - iv. To get back up:
 - 1. From the inverted position, grab the handle.
 - 2. Start rotating the shield as you stand and move to the most appropriate standing position / firing position.
 - 3. Ensure to check to the rear before any elevation changes for situational awareness purposes.
 - v. Reps without firearm, then dryfire with firearm.
- E. 12 O'clock Kneeling Position
- i. If the operator is going to be in position for an extended period, the operator can remove the support side arm from the strap and turn the shield facing up (12 o'clock position).
 - 1. The primary side hand may brace the shield as it is being rotated.

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- a. Muzzle and finger discipline are critical.
- ii. To get back up:
 - 1. Brace the shield with the primary side hand and rotate the shield to the 6 O'clock kneeling position, re-insert the support side arm through the strap.
 - a. Muzzle and finger discipline are critical while using the primary side hand as a brace.
 - 2. Follow standing protocol from the 6 o'clock position.
- iii. Reps without firearm, then dryfire with firearm.

F. Prone Position

- i. Move to the 6 O'clock Kneeling Position as outlined above.
- ii. Lower the primary side arm to the ground with the muzzle directed forward.
- iii. Rotate the shield horizontally so the primary side of the shield is laying on the ground.
- iv. Place the primary side cutout of the shield at the bend of the primary side elbow.
- v. The weapon than can be raised into the viewing area of the shield as necessary.
- vi. To stand up:
 - 1. Grab the handle (palm up) as you get to a kneeling position and invert the shield.
 - 2. Replace the support side arm into the forearm strap and reacquire the handle.
 - 3. "Fight your way back up" to a standing position.
 - 4. Be conscious of muzzle discipline during the transition from the prone to the kneeling position.
- vii. Reps without firearm, then dryfire with firearm.

G. Transitions

- i. While transitioning, muzzle discipline and trigger discipline are critical.
- ii. When transitioning the shield, the operator's firearm should either be indexed downrange or at the temple index position.

VI. Primary Hand Only Shooting Drill

- A. Primary side arm is extended from the body, support side arm is indexed at the operator's centerline.
- B. Weapon is canted inboard with the arm bent inboard at the elbow, simulating wrapping around the shield.
 - i. The weapon should not be parallel to the ground but have a slight cant outboard to avoid malfunctions when fired.
- C. The primary side wrist should be flexed towards the primary side elbow, creating tension in the wrist for recoil management.
- D. When gripping the firearm, the primary side thumb should be flagged, which will drive the tang of the firearm into the primary side hand and drive the primary side pinky into the grip of the firearm.

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- i. Shooter should avoid over gripping the firearm, pulling rounds up.
- E. Fire Bursts to the thoracic cavity familiarize with the shooting position.

VII. Live Fire with Shield

A. Primary Side Close Contact

- i. Bring the weapon to the Primary Side Close Contact Carry Position
- ii. Use a partner to assist in generally aligning the sights.
- iii. Utilize the firearms sights / optic to cycle the slide on the edge of the shield, simulating clearing a malfunction.
- iv. Fire a series of bursts to the thoracic cavity
 - 1. Ammunition management is responsibility of the shooter

B. Primary Side Combat Ready Wrap

- i. Bring the weapon to the Primary Side Combat Ready Wrap Carry Position.
- ii. Draw the firearm from the holster and index the firearm in the viewing area of the shield.
- iii. Practice pressing the trigger and utilize the firearms sights / optic to cycle the slide on the edge of the shield, simulating clearing a malfunction.
- iv. Fire a series of bursts to the thoracic cavity.
 - 1. Ammunition management is responsibility of the shooter.

C. Support Side Close Contact

- i. From the Primary Side Combat Ready Wrap, index the firearm at the high port position, then rotate the shield inboard so the support side cutout is at about the operators centerline.
- ii. Lower the weapon to the proper index point at the support side cutout.
- iii. Practice pressing the trigger and utilize the firearms sights / optic to cycle the slide on the edge of the shield, simulating clearing a malfunction.
- iv. Fire a series of bursts to the thoracic cavity.
 - 1. Ammunition management is responsibility of the shooter.

D. 6 O'clock Kneeling

- i. From any standing shield position, step forward with the support side foot and drop the primary knee down into a speed kneeling position.
- ii. Invert the shield keeping it in front of you (not to the side).
 - 1. The top of the shield is braced on the ground.
- iii. Release the handle to manipulate the weapon with two hands or to reload or clear malfunction while still in the strap.
- iv. To get back up:
 - 1. From the inverted position, grab the handle.
 - 2. Start rotating the shield as you stand and move to the most appropriate standing position / firing position.
 - 3. Ensure to check to the rear before any elevation changes for situational awareness purposes.
- v. Fire a series of bursts to the thoracic cavity.

- 1. Ammunition management is responsibility of the shooter.

E. 12 O'clock Kneeling Position

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- i. From the 6 O'clock Kneeling, if the operator is going to be in a static position for an extended period, the operator can remove the support side arm from the strap and turn the shield facing up to the 12 o'clock position.
 - 1. The primary side hand may brace the shield as it is being rotated.
 - a. Muzzle and finger discipline are critical.
 - 2. 2 hands can be utilized to hold the firearm.
 - ii. To get back up:
 - 1. Brace the shield with the primary side hand and rotate the shield to the 6 O'clock kneeling position, re-insert the support side arm through the strap.
 - a. Muzzle and finger discipline are critical while using the primary side hand as a brace.
 - 2. Follow standing protocol from the 6 o'clock position.
 - iii. Fire a series of bursts to the thoracic cavity.
 - 1. Ammunition management is responsibility of the shooter.
- F. Prone Position
- i. Move to the 12 O'clock Kneeling Position as outlined above.
 - ii. Lower the primary side arm to the ground with the muzzle directed forward.
 - iii. Rotate the shield horizontally so the primary side of the shield is laying on the ground.
 - iv. Place the primary side cutout of the shield at the bend of the primary side elbow.
 - v. The weapon than can be raised into the viewing area of the shield as necessary.
 - vi. To stand up:
 - 1. Grab the handle (palm up) as you get to a kneeling position and invert the shield.
 - 2. Replace the support side arm into the forearm strap and reacquire the handle.
 - 3. "Fight your way back up" to a standing position.
 - 4. Be conscious of muzzle discipline during the transition from the prone to the kneeling position.
 - vii. Fire a series of bursts to the thoracic cavity.
 - 1. Ammunition management is responsibility of the shooter.
- G. Transitions
- i. Work transitions with the shield back and forth between prone and ready position.
- H. Shooting while moving
- i. Start at the 25-yard line, then work forward to the 15-yard line, engage on whistle blast.
 - ii. Focus on keeping torso erect and even.

VII. Felony Vehicle Stops / Vehicle Clearing

- A. Continue with standard practices for Felony Traffic Stops.

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- B. Upon verbally calling out all the responding occupants of the vehicle, and securing the detainees, the shield will be retrieved from the patrol car if it has not already.
- C. Before approach to the vehicle for clearing purposes begins, communication between the shield user and the rest of the clearing team must occur to define the team's roles and responsibilities (I.E. direction of travel, sectors of search / fire, and radio communication).
- D. After the team's roles are established, and when the team is ready to do so, the shield operator should begin movement to the rear of the target vehicle at a slow and steady pace. Preferably, the approach would be from the rear of the vehicle and ending at the front.
- E. Each compartment / space inside of the vehicle should be slowly cleared with a systematic approach and maximization of protective coverage the shield can give to the team.
- F. After the team has rendered the vehicle safe, the shield will be returned to the shield bag for proper storage.

IX. Vehicle Barricade

- A. For barricaded subjects in vehicles, a similar concept of vehicle clearing can be adapted. This slow and steady approach utilizing the shield offers the ability to approach a problem in a safer manner than standing out in the open.
- B. With the goal of the vehicle approach to be either breaking a window for the insertion of Peperballs, or to ultimately apprehend a suspect possibly with a Sheriff's K-9, this approach is similar in nature.
- C. Again, communication is key. Delegation of responsibilities is also extremely important as this potentially can become chaotic. The linear approach to this vehicle needs to be maintained as there is still a known suspect in the target vehicle. Approach from the rear if possible, utilizing as much cover from the target as possible.
- D. Best practice is for a dedicated shield operator and a dedicated breacher who is solely responsible for breaching the window.
- E. Be prepared for a reaction of some kind from inside of the vehicle at this time.
- F. After a successful porting of the designated window, the team should prepare to tactically retreat at a slow and steady pace. This would then begin the next phase of the operation.

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G. The rest of this mission / plan may entail the utilization of a Sheriff's Office K-9 for apprehension, or the insertion of Peperball. In either instance, this may mean the role of the shield operator is not finished. Until the scene is rendered safe, prepare to be redeployed.

X. Officer Rescue

- A. Understanding the purpose of a shield for an Officer Rescue / Civilian Rescue is vital in the mindset and deployment of this tactic. You must be mentally prepared to shield the injured from gunfire. This means you quite likely will attempt to absorb gunfire so the injured can be treated / removed from the situation. This is not a situation for hesitancy, you must commit to the action so medical aide / removal of this person can be achieved.
- B. A standardized practice for Officer Rescues for the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office is, in the event that a Deputy is injured by gun fire, assisting Deputies on scene will create separation from the threat and the injured. This is accomplished by physically putting yourself between your partner and whatever injured him/her.
- C. "Stepping Over" is a common technique utilized in team tactics when there are enough resources to do so. This places a Deputy between the threat and their partner, while a third Deputy removes the injured to safety so medical treatment can begin. The Deputy who "Steps Over" aggresses the threat in whatever manner is deemed necessary at the time. All while creating a physical barrier between the threat and the injured.
- D. If only two Deputies are in this situation, the shield may not be an advantageous tool as it may be too cumbersome to handle while removing the injured to safety.
- E. Utilizing a shield for this tactic is no different for the individual "Stepping Over". A physical barrier between the threat and the injured is created, and the utilization of the shields ballistic capabilities in conjunction with the lighting system can offer a better chance of success in this instance.
- F. This goes back to the mindset of the individual with the shield. You must be mentally prepared to distract and absorb potential gunfire to give the injured a better chance of survival. Depending on your available resources during this incident, you may choose to utilize your handgun and return fire if necessary, or utilize the shield only and allow other Deputies on scene to provide lethal coverage during this incident. Your tactics will be dictated based on your abilities and resources.