

# **SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE AMBUSH COURSE**

## **Course Goals**

The purpose of this course is to train the Officer in the proper reactionary techniques to successfully survive an ambush incident, while physically inside or around a patrol vehicle or any other close by vehicle.

Officers will be trained to immediately react to an ambush incident, effectively engage an immediate threat, then move and fight to a position of advantage (cover), while using a variety of common shooting positions, techniques, and weapons platforms (rifle and pistol).

## **Course Objectives**

Trainees will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of their Department Use of Force/ Firearms policy, and approved tactics and techniques.
2. Demonstrate a minimum standard of tactical skills proficiency with every technique, exercise, and course-of-fire, to include:
  - a. Judgment and decision making
  - b. Weapons safety and proper handling
  - c. Fundamentals of shooting
  - d. Speed, accuracy and effectiveness
  - e. Basic and advanced techniques
  - f. Movement and engagement techniques

## **Range Safety Rules**

- A. Primary Safety Rules
  1. Treat ALL weapons as if they are loaded.
  2. Never point the weapon at anything you don't intend to destroy.
  3. Do not put your finger on the trigger until you are ready to fire.
  4. Keep the weapon pointed in a safe direction at all times.

## B. General Safety Rules

1. Once training starts the range will be considered a HOT RANGE. Which means pistols, rifles, and magazines will be kept loaded.
2. Because it is a hot range, **ALL pistols WILL remain in their holster**, with holster retention devices in use, except when on the firing line under the supervision of the range masters and/or at a designated safe handling area. **All rifles WILL remain slung with the safety on**, except when on the firing line under the supervision of the range masters and/or at a designated safe handling area.
3. Officers will be allowed to administratively load their pistol magazines when off the firing line but they must keep their pistols holstered. Officers will be allowed to administratively load their rifle magazines when off the firing line but they must keep their rifles slung with the safety on.

## C. On the Firing Line Safety Rules

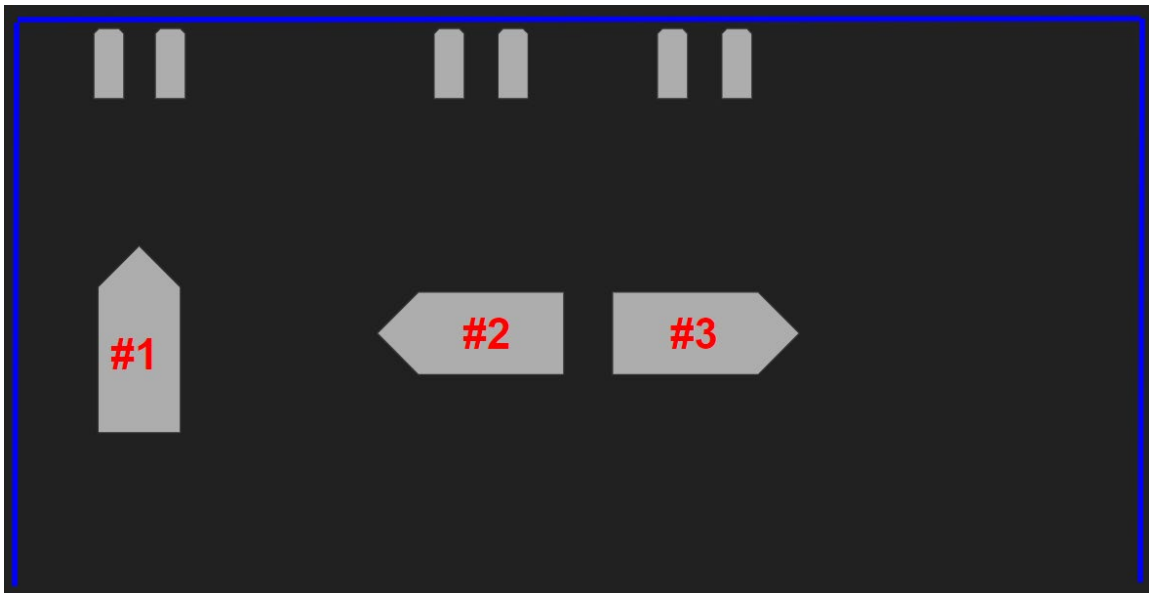
1. Refer to General Safety Rules, keep all firearms pointed in a safe direction.
2. All malfunctions shall be handled by the student. If they can not fix the malfunction then (keeping the weapon pointed down range) they shall raise their off hand and request a range masters assistance.
3. Never draw a handgun from the holster on the range unless instructed to do so.
4. Never leave your firing position unless cleared by the range master.
5. Never go forward of the firing line unless instructed to do so.
6. Never bend over to retrieve dropped articles (i.e., magazines, ammunition) on the firing line unless instructed to do so or cleared by the range master first.
7. If hot brass comes in contact with your skin, keep your weapon pointed down range, de-cock and holster, or place the safety on. Once the weapon is safely holstered or slung with the safety on, you may take care of the hot brass.
8. All students will wear eye & ear protection and bulletproof vests while on the firing line and/or in the immediate vicinity of the firing line.
9. There will be no smoking, chewing tobacco, eating, or drinking on the firing line.

## I. Lecture

- A. Review of department policy
  - 1. Discussion of proper use of equipment
  - 2. Discussion of improper use of equipment
- B. Ballistics lecture regarding vehicles
  - 1. Vehicle ballistics in general
  - 2. Ballistics specific to SPD armored patrol vehicles
  - 3. Ballistics in relation to shooting out of or into vehicles

## II. Range Drills

### A. CLOSE RANGE



- #1 - Range car – no windshield or windows
- #2 - Range car – with windows rolled down
- #3 - Academy UV – with windows rolled down

## 1. **Weapon Retrieval Familiarization drill**

### a. No Fire Drill – Timed for reference only

1. From a seated position inside the vehicle, shooters will practice unholstering and coming up on target while seat belted. Shooters will be taught to address threats from both driver's side, passenger side, and in front of the vehicle.

This drill is a NO FIRE drill. Shooters will NOT FIRE rounds when coming on target. The purpose of this drill is for the student to gain repetition of unholstering with and without the seat belt on while addressing threats from various positions.

### b. Live Fire Drill – Pistol – 30 rounds per student

1. From a seated position inside the vehicle, shooters will practice unholstering and coming up on target while seat belted. Shooters will LIVE FIRE 3-5 rounds per threat target.

Shooters will utilize Vehicle #1 (range car no windshield) to address threats from the front. Both driver and passenger side shooters can shoot solo or at the same time for this specific drill.

Shooters will utilize Vehicle #2 and #3 simultaneously and will address threats from both driver's side and passenger side, respectively.

Shooters will be seated inside each vehicle by themselves when given the command to address any threats. Both the shooters in Vehicle #2 and #3 will shoot down range in the same direction at the same time.

This will allow the shooters to also be able to address threats from different vehicle platforms (Crown Vic and patrol UV)

c. Live Fire Drill – Rifle- 30 rounds per student

1. From a seated position inside the vehicle, shooters will practice retrieving their rifle and coming up on target while seat belted. Shooters will LIVE FIRE 3-5 rounds per threat target.

Shooters will utilize Vehicle #1 (range car no windshield) to address threats from the front. Both driver and passenger side shooters can shoot solo or at the same time for this specific drill.

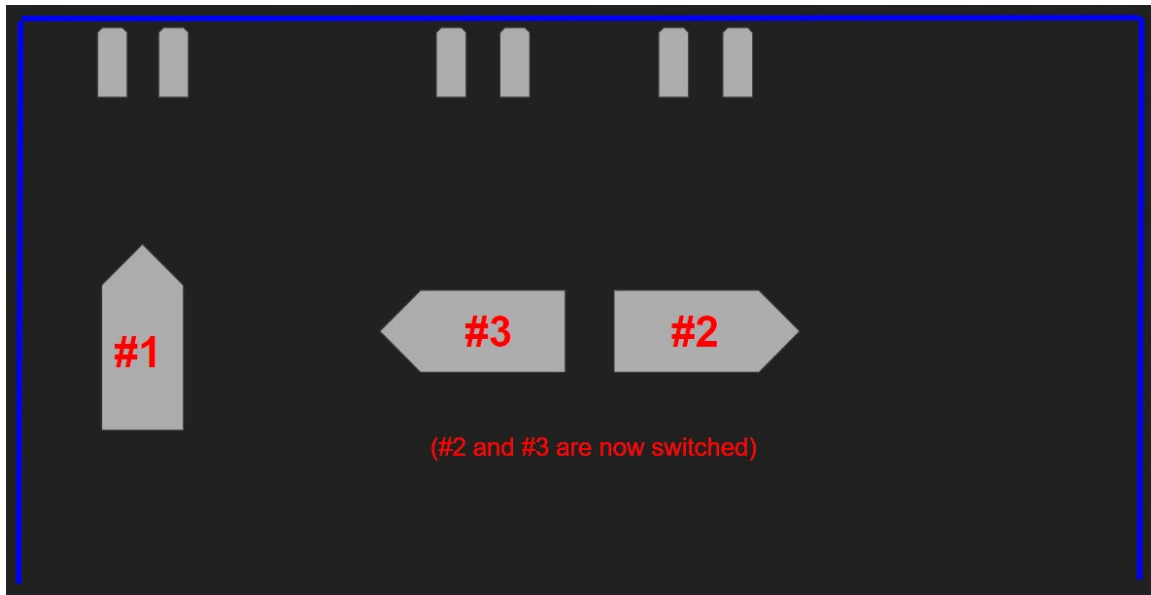
Shooters will utilize Vehicle #2 and #3 simultaneously and will address threats from both driver's side and passenger side, respectively.

Shooters will be seated inside each vehicle by themselves when given the command to address any threats. Both the shooters in Vehicle #2 and #3 will shoot down range in the same direction at the same time.

This will allow the shooters to also be able to address threats from different vehicle platforms (Crown Vic and patrol UV)

d. Live Fire Drill – Opposite side, Pistol and Rifle – 30 rounds pistol, 30 rounds rifle per student

1. Vehicle #2 and Vehicle #3 will be switched in terms of their positions so that shooters can address threats from the opposite side of each vehicle platform as shown below. Shooters will conduct the same shooting drill as before with both pistol and rifle.



- #1 - Range car – no windshield or windows
- #2 - Range car – with windows rolled down
- #3 - Academy UV – with windows rolled down

## 2. Vehicle Ambush while seated inside the vehicle

### a. No Fire Drill – Lecture on tactics

1. Discussion on proper tactics for two-man patrol units in terms of movement out of vehicle while addressing threats.

Shooters will be taught to address threats from both Driver side and Passenger side while riding as a two-man unit.

For the purposes of this drill, the Shooter closest to the threat will be the “PRIMARY” Shooter, and the opposite side Shooter will be the “SECONDARY” Shooter.

If the threat is on the DRIVER side, the Driver becomes PRIMARY and will immediately address the threat. The Passenger becomes SECONDARY and will exit the vehicle.

If the threat is on the PASSENGER side, the Passenger becomes PRIMARY and will

immediately address the threat. The Driver becomes SECONDARY and will exit the vehicle and also engage the threat.

Shooters will be taught how to exit their vehicle effectively and safely while under fire in a coordinated manner.

This drill is a NO FIRE drill. Shooters will NOT FIRE rounds when coming on target. The purpose of this drill is for the student to gain repetition of movement and coordination with their partner while addressing threats from various positions.

b. Live Fire Drill – Pistol only – three full magazines (32 rounds per shooter, 64 total)

1. Both Driver and Passenger will be seated in either vehicle #2 OR vehicle #3. Only one set of shooters will conduct live fire shooting at a time for this exercise. Shooters will LIVE FIRE 3-5 rounds per threat target.

On the THREAT command, the PRIMARY Shooter closest to the threat (Driver or Passenger, respectively) will engage the targets immediately while the opposite side SECONDARY Shooter exits the vehicle and engages the targets.

2. Once the pair of shooters finish the drill, they will switch sides of the SAME vehicle. Once the pair of shooters is finished with both sides, they will move to the OTHER vehicle and complete two rounds of the same drill.

Ammunition management is on both Shooters to maintain their weapons in working order.

b. Live Fire Drill – Pistol and Rifle – 30 rounds pistol, 30 rounds rifle per student.

1. Both Driver and Passenger will be seated in either vehicle #2 OR vehicle #3. Only one set of shooters will conduct live fire shooting at a

time for this exercise. Shooters will LIVE FIRE 3-5 rounds per threat target.

On the THREAT command, the PRIMARY Shooter closest to the threat (Driver or Passenger, respectively) will engage the targets immediately while the opposite side SECONDARY Shooter retrieves their patrol rifle.

The SECONDARY shooter will exit the vehicle and engage the targets.

2. Once the pair of shooters finish the drill, they will switch sides of the SAME vehicle. Once the pair of shooters is finished with both sides, they will move to the OTHER vehicle and complete two rounds of the same drill.

Ammunition management is on both Shooters to maintain their weapons in working order.

### **3. Vehicle Ambush while outside the vehicle**

#### **a. No Fire Drill – Lecture on tactics**

1. Discussion on proper tactics for an ambush when standing outside of a patrol vehicle, either stationary or while walking to/from the vehicle. Discussion of cover vs concealment, how to quickly identify where the threat is coming from, and quick movements to get behind cover while addressing the threat.

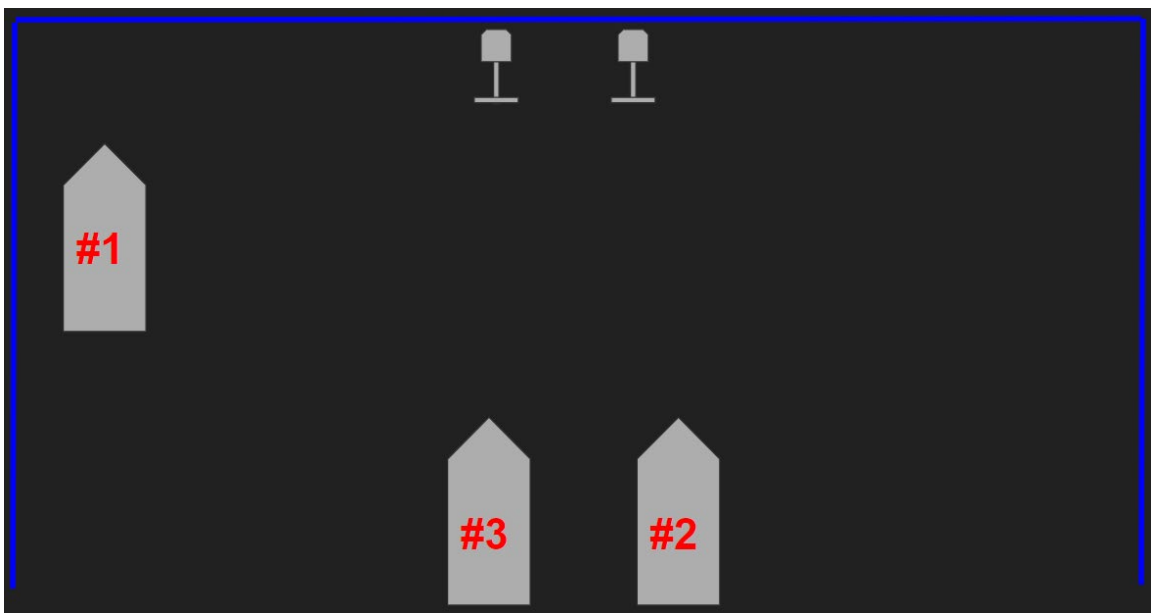
#### **b. Live Fire Drill – pistol only – 32 rounds per shooter for each scenario**

1. Shooter will be standing by the front of the patrol vehicle, on the same side as the threat. Shooter will unholster and engage the threat while simultaneously moving to cover.
2. Shooter will be standing by the rear of the patrol vehicle, on the same side as the threat. Shooter will unholster and engage the threat while simultaneously moving towards cover.
3. Shooter will be walking towards the patrol vehicle and will get ambush from the side.



Shooter will continue moving while engaging the threat and moving towards cover.

**B. MEDIUM RANGE**



- #1 - Range car – no windshield or windows
- #2 - Range car – with windows rolled down
- #3 - Academy UV – with windows rolled down

## **1. Discussion on Distance and Driver/Passenger Responsibilities**

### **a. No Fire Drill – Lecture on tactics – 35 yard line**

1. Discussion on how distance give you time and dictates what weapon system should be used if you are able to stop the vehicle and engage the threat from a stationary position.
2. Discussion on DRIVER vs PASSENGER responsibilities when vehicle is in motion or coming to a stop when being fired upon.
3. Couple that topic with a reiteration of our Use of Force General Orders on shooting at or from moving vehicles (580.02).

Peace officers shall not discharge a firearm at or from a moving vehicle unless one of the following circumstances exists:

The peace officer reasonably believes that there is an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to a peace officer or another person, by means other than the moving vehicle.

The peace officer reasonably believes that the driver is using or is attempting to use the vehicle as a means to cause imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or another person.

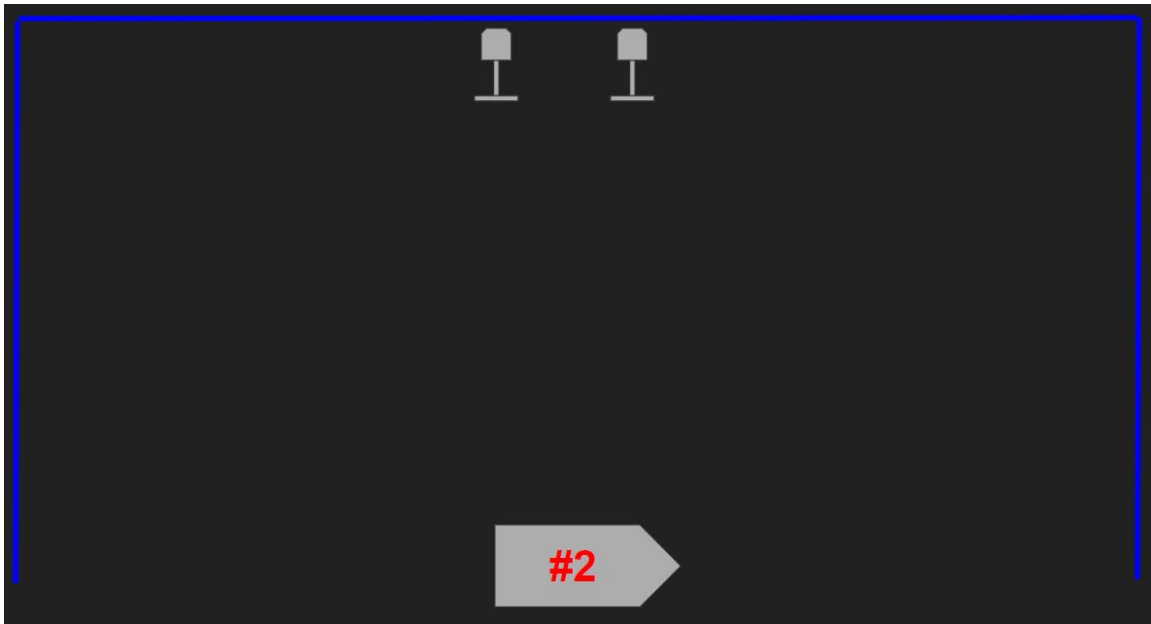
This drill is a NO FIRE drill. The purpose of this drill is for the student to gain a further understanding of our General Orders when it deals with moving vehicles, and various tactics for threat engagement and weapons retrieval.

b. Live Fire drill – stationary patrol vehicle - Pistol and Rifle  
– 30 rounds pistol, 30 rounds rifle per student.

1. Primary and Secondary Shooters will be seated inside the patrol vehicle, with their seat belts on, when a THREAT command is given. Shooters will exit their vehicle and engage the targets. After using communication, one will retreat to the rear of their vehicle as the other continues to engage. Once there, that Shooter will communicate and the other Shooter will then also retreat to the rear of their vehicle.
2. Once the pair of Shooters goes through the course, they will switch positions and conduct the same course in the opposite seating position.

Ammunition management is on both Shooters to maintain their weapons in working order.

### C. LONG RANGE – 50 YARDS



#1 - Range car – no windshield or windows

#2 - Range car – with windows rolled down

#3 - Academy UV – with windows rolled down

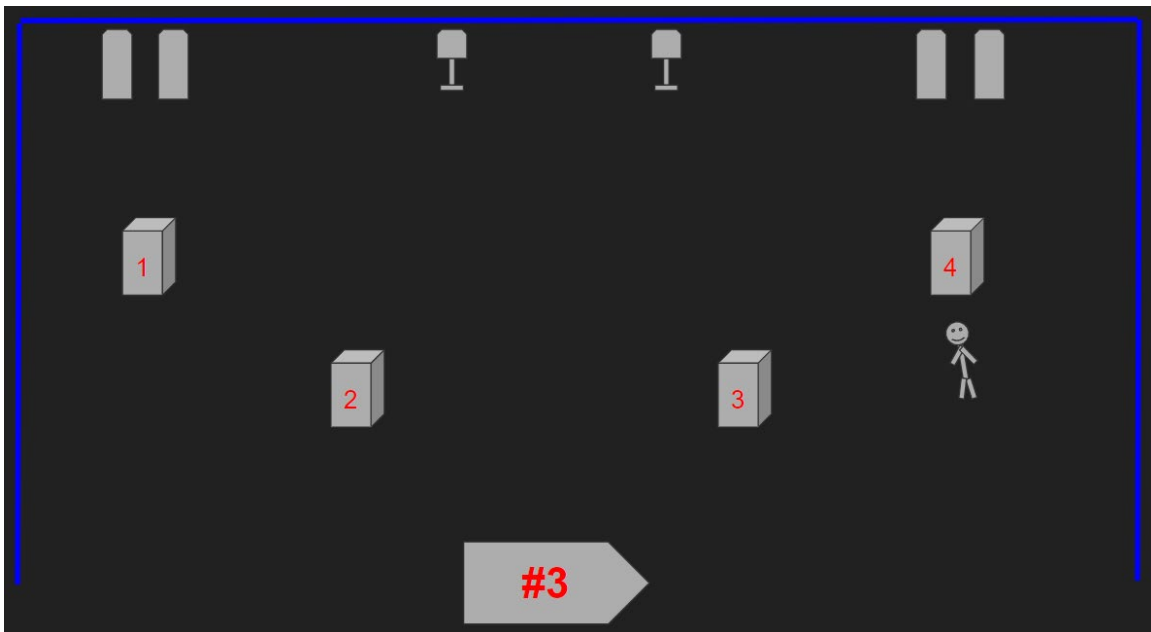
## 1. Long Range Tactics and Shooting Platforms

- a. No Fire Drill – Lecture on Positions and Shooting Platforms
  1. Discussion on the difference of “Counter Engagement” vs. “Bunkering” mentality.
  2. Discussion on proximity to your vehicle, and the orientation of it to your threat.
  3. Stationary vehicles offer braced shooting platforms, especially when the threat is in a bunkered position.
  4. Reiteration on shooting positions in and around a vehicle. How to get into them, how to get out of them quickly, and how to maneuver around a vehicle.
  
- b. Live Fire drill – stationary patrol vehicle - Rifle – 30 rounds per student.
  1. One shooter at a time. Shooter will engage the two steel targets at 50 yards, and will need to shoot at 5 different positions from around the vehicle.

2. The Shooters will need to transition as quickly as possible while maintaining their position behind cover. Also, while transitioning they will need to keep their eyes on the targets to make sure they do not move.

Ammunition management is on the Shooter to maintain their weapons in working order

- c. Live Fire drill – Counter Ambush – Officer Rescue Drill – Pistol and Rifle – 30 rounds pistol, 30 rounds rifle per student.



- #1 - Range car – no windshield or windows
- #2 - Range car – with windows rolled down
- #3 - Academy UV – with windows rolled down

1. One shooter at a time. The scenario is that the Shooter and partner are responding to a 927P call of two subjects in a park. The shooter will walk into the park to speak with

- the two subjects. The subjects ambush the Shooter at the 1-3 yard line.
2. Shooter will engage both targets from various barricades and positions around their patrol vehicle while moving back to cover (1<sup>st</sup> Barricade at 15 yard line)
  - ~~3.~~ The Shooter will then retrieve their rifle, and engage both steel targets.
  4. That is when you notice your partner has retreated behind a barricade and is injured. A two man team arrives to assist and becomes your rescue team.
  - ~~5.~~ Shooter will move forward to various barricades and engage steel and paper targets to provide cover for the rescue team in rescuing the downed officer and bringing them back to the 50 yard line behind cover.
  6. The shooter will tactically retreat as the rescue team applies a tourniquet and the course ends.

END OF COURSE