

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**MOBILE FIELD FORCE COURSE**  
**EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE**

SUBJECT: Mobile Field Force

PURPOSE: To introduce students to the changing dynamics of contemporary acts of civil disobedience, and the tactics and application of Mobile Field Force techniques to deal with these incidents.

GOAL: The students will be able to perform as a member of a mobile field force team in live field exercises involving dismounted, mobile, and rescue techniques.

OUTLINE: 8 hours

**I. 0800 - 0810 Registration:**

- A. POST roster
- B. Introduction of instructors
- C. Introduction of students  
Name, rank, agency, years of LE, previous crowd or tactical experience
- D. Review Safety Guidelines

**II. 0810 - 0820 Crowds:**

- A. Three levels of disorder :
  - 1. Anarchy/Riotous - Urban terrorism and violence
  - 2. Active disobedience - unlawful assembly riotous behavior
  - 3. Passive disobedience - unlawful assembly nonviolent behavior
- B. Lawful Public Assembly - Protected by the First Amendment
  - 1. Lawful activities
  - 2. Public Assemblages
  - 3. Marches
  - 4. Rallies
  - 5. Labor Actions
- C. Unlawful Assembly
  - 1. Definitions:
    - a. Boisterous: Lively, animated, spirited
    - b. Tumultuous: Loud, deafening, noisy, thunderous
  - 2. Gathering lawfully but results are violent, boisterous and tumultuous
  - 3. Conduct which poses a clear and present danger of imminent violence
- D. Dispersal Order (Includes Less-Lethal Admonition):
- E. Authority to Close an Area: Section 409 California Penal Code

**III. 0820 - 0840 Media**

- A. Media Access

1. Media can be denied access to crime scenes or an area that has been secured to preserve evidence
2. The ICP can be *closed* to the media as well
- B. How should Law Enforcement deal with the media?
  1. Not paying attention to progress of the police line
  2. Trapped in a violent crowd
  3. In fear of their own safety

#### IV. 0840 – 0920 Use of Force

- A. The law and policy - general
- B. Weapons
  1. The Baton (used for crowd control)
    - a. Reporting Requirements
    - b. Medical Treatment
  2. Less-lethal Impact Munitions
    - a. 37mm / 40mm / Bean Bag /Pepper Ball
    - b. Reporting Requirements
    - c. Medical Treatment
  3. Chemical Agents
  4. All Other Less Lethal Munitions
- C. No exception to law or policy regarding “use of force” during crowd control situations
- D. The Legal Standard
  1. “Objectively Reasonable”
    - a. Established by the Supreme Court
  2. Must be based on the facts known to the officer at the time
  3. Force must be reasonable based on the situation
  4. Based on totality of circumstances
  5. Judged from perspective of a reasonable officer at the scene
- E. Law Enforcement Policy in General
- F. Authorized Use of Force
  1. Compel a person to comply with directions
  2. Overcome resistance during an arrest or detention
  3. Defend from aggressive action
- G. Unauthorized/Excessive Force
  1. Force disproportionate to resistance
  2. Unreasonable based upon the circumstances
- H. Reporting Use of Force Crowd Control
  1. Reporting Use of Force
- I. Crowd Control-Baton Use (proposed)
  1. Standard Use of Force Report not required
  2. When Officers ....Use a Baton as an extension of their hand intended to control or move the crowd (Passive Push)
- J. Supervisor’s Log-Crowd Control (proposed)
- K. OC Spray:
  1. Authorized for general field operations

- 2. Uncooperative individual behavior
- 3. Not for Crowd Dispersal
- L. Taser:
  - 1. Authorized for general field operations
  - 2. Uncooperative individual behavior
  - 3. Not for Crowd Dispersal
- M. CS (Tear Gas)
  - 1. Access denial - crowd control/riots
- N. Medical Treatment / First Aid Required
  - 1. Any arrestee taken into custody
    - a. With evidence of injury
    - b. Before Booking process
  - 2. Any subject claiming injury as result of force application
- O. Document "Officer Injuries" and complete required crime report (s)

**V. 0920-1000 Review of Cal Poly Riot Tactical Incident**

- A. Review of incident from instructor's perspective.
- B. Facilitated discussion of other student's experience with tactical incident.

**VI. 1000 – 1020 Mobile Field Force Concept**

- A. MFF Concept Objectives:
  - 1. Deputies/Officers and Supervisors will be able to demonstrate the procedures of Spontaneous Assembly :
    - a. Review of current procedures
    - b. Leadership and Organization
    - c. Staging coordination and responsibilities
    - d. Vehicle staging (double stack, diagonal stack)
    - e. Vehicle and squad identification
- B. Pre-Planned Event
  - 1. Adequate time to plan for event:
    - a. Deployment
    - b. Manpower
    - c. Staging
    - d. Mobile Field Force Tactic
- C. Spontaneous Event
  - 1. It's happening now!
  - 2. Radio Broadcast to designated units for response to a staging area (may be at the station)
  - 3. On arrival, stage MFF
    - a. Officer responsibilities
    - b. Supervisor responsibilities
- D. MFF Vehicle Identification
  - 1. Vehicle Windshields marked with white shoe polish
    - a. Front Windshield upper right area
      - 1. MFF Number

- 2. Squad and Car #
  - b. Back Windshield upper left
    - 1. Squad number only
  - c. MFF LEADER (if applicable)
    - 1. Front and back windshield marked the same i.e.
- E. Convoy driving tactics (purpose and speed)
  - 1. Response by squad
  - 2. Clearing Intersections
- F. Sector Deployment
  - a. MFF Squad Duties

**VII. 1020 – 1100 Squad Formations (Lecture)**

- A. Squad Formation objectives:
  - 1. Squad Column, Column of Two's, "T" formations
  - 2. Skirmish Line
  - 3. Re-enforced skirmish Line
  - 4. Crossbows (Left, Right and Center)
  - 5. Arrest/Rescue Circle
  - 6. Blocking Force – Containment Force

**VIII. 1100 – 1130 Mobile Tactics (Lecture)**

- A. In-trail
- B. Lights and siren
- C. On-line (2, 3 car)
- D. "Brake-Brake-Brake"
- E. On-line Skirmish
- F. Exit (front, rear, J-turn)

**IX. 1130 – 1200 Tactical Rescue (Lecture)**

- A. 3 Car (Rescue left or right)
- B. Officer Responsibilities (Cars-A, B and C)
- C. Exits (front, rear, J-turns)

**1200 – 1300 Lunch**

**X. 1300 – 1400 Squad Formation (Practical Application)**

- A. Deputies/Officers and Supervisors will be able to demonstrate the seven different squad formations:
  - 1. Squad Column, Column of Two's, "T" formations
  - 2. Skirmish Line
  - 3. Re-enforced skirmish Line
  - 4. Crossbows (Left, Right and Center)
  - 5. Arrest/Rescue Circle

**XI. 1400 – 1515 Mobile Tactics (Practical Application)**

- A. Deputies/Officers and Supervisors will be able to demonstrate the commands and formations used during Mobile Tactics:
  - 1. In-trail
  - 2. Lights and siren
  - 3. On-line (2 or 3 car)
  - 4. "Brake-Brake-Brake"
  - 5. On-line Skirmish
  - 6. Exit (front, rear, J-turn)

**XII. 1515 – 1630 Tactical Rescue (Practical Application)**

- A. Deputies/Officers and Supervisors will be able to demonstrate the procedures of a Tactical Rescue:
  - 1. 3 Car (Rescue left or right)
  - 2. Officer Responsibilities (Cars-A, B and C)
  - 3. Exits (front, rear, J-turns)

**XIII. 1630 – 1700 Debrief/Grad Certs/POST Evaluations**