

**EL CERRITO POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Tactics-Foot Pursuit**  
**Expanded Course Outline**  
**4 Hour**

**Instructional Goal:** To provide the student an opportunity to review and apply issues related to foot pursuit, including tactics, communications, firearms, use of force, perimeters

**Performance Objectives:** Using learning activities and practical application the students will:

- ❑ Work as a team to develop a plan for engaging in a foot pursuit, including risk assessment
- ❑ Identify and develop a flexible tactical approach to the pursuit situation
- ❑ Participate in a foot pursuit and successfully apprehend the suspect
- ❑ Articulate the suspects behavior and why they chose the specific force option

**I. FOOT PURSUIT OVERVIEW**

**A. Introduction**

1. Instructor
  - a. Name, assignment
  - b. Experience
2. Brief overview of training schedule
  - a. Practical application exercises
  - b. Debrief and critique

**B. Introduction to tactical exercise**

1. Department's goal – to provide officers practical experience in foot pursuits and the reporting of use of force incidents
2. Benefits of training – refreshes perishable tactical skills and develops new skills in the areas of describing and documenting a use of force incident
3. Safety guidelines – promotes student and staff awareness in areas involving psychomotor skills training and helps reduce the potential risk for injuries

**C. Safety Guidelines Overview**

**(PSP III a, k)**

1. Overview Safety Plan: Illness and Injury Prevention Program (IIPP)
  - a. Distribute and discuss safety guidelines handout
  - b. IIPP safety guidelines apply to all training given by the Department. These guidelines ensure that staff and participants are aware of potentially hazardous situations and how to avoid them
  - c. All personnel should be instructed that a copy of the IIPP is located in the training manager's office at the Public Safety Building.
  - d. Anyone participating in the training, whether student, observer, or instructor, has the authority to "STOP" the exercise if they observe an unsafe act or condition that may cause imminent injury or death and/or damage to the facilities
  - e. Students shall immediately notify an instructor(s) or the training staff of any injury sustained during training, and use the following steps in the event of a serious injury
    - 1) Render first aid and obtain appropriate medical assistance. Notify the Fire Department rescue ambulance (510-237-3233) via telephone, cellular phone, or police radio. Give specific directions to the location of the incident
    - 2) In case of a serious injury, all IIPP notifications and protocol shall be followed

- 3) The supervisor will ensure that the necessary worker compensation forms and other reports, and notification to the Administrative Lieutenant are completed in a timely manner
  - 4) Transport to the local hospital for a minor injury
2. Remind students that during the Practical Application portion
    - a. No live weapon or ammunition in the training area
    - b. No OC spray
    - c. No batons
    - d. No Live TASER Cartridges
  3. **NOTE:** Students participating in scenario training shall be required to be on full duty status
  4. A pre-training inspection shall be conducted to ensure that students brought the correct clothing and equipment. This inspection will also provide an opportunity to check for the presence of watches, rings, necklaces, earrings and other jewelry which may cause injury
  5. Clothing worn for physical training should allow for flexibility of movement. Students wearing glasses should use shatter resistant lenses and eyeglass retainers (or remove them if possible)
  6. A safety check of all weapons used in scenario training shall be conducted not only prior to training, but also following any break in training, or when students or role players have been allowed to leave the training site. Inert training weapons (Red Guns) shall be used
  7. A systematic physical warm up procedure shall be initiated prior to commencement of defensive tactics
  8. The foot pursuit course shall be inspected for hazards prior to each use and safety personnel shall be positioned along the course
  9. The role-playing suspect shall wear protective padded equipment or gear (i.e. fist suit) and groin protection
  10. Instructors shall maintain an appropriate level of discipline over students at all times

**D. ICEBREAKER:** Key Issues

**Procedures:** Large group

1. **ASK** What are some of the key issues that need to be considered when going in foot pursuit?

Expected Responses

- a. Officer safety
- b. Communications
- c. Is the suspect armed
- d. Setting up the perimeter
- e. Potential for use of force

2. **ASK** Has any one been involved in a foot pursuit that went side ways?
  - a. Have the student explain the incident if they volunteer
  - b. Have the student identify the key lesson learning from the incident
  
3. Point out that this block of instruction will provide the students an opportunity to discuss the issues in more detail and have an opportunity to practice in a controlled setting
  
4. **DISTRIBUTE:** Foot Pursuits Policy (Section 458)
  - a. Briefly overview the handout
  - b. Reinforce the key learning points
    - 1) Discussion Points
      - a) Behaviors seen resulting from the release of chemicals (primarily adrenaline) into the blood stream as a consequence of involvement in a prolonged, threatening, stimulating and/or abnormal situation
      - b) The result of the naturally occurring “fight/flight” syndrome
      - c) Behavioral response may include:
        - (1) Excessive use of force
        - (2) Verbal and physical aggression that is out of proportion to the situation
        - (3) Reactions that are out of character for police officers in general
    - 2) WHAT MIGHT IT OCCUR?
      - a) Typically during and after intense field incidents (vehicular pursuit, foot pursuit, altercations, demonstrations, shootings) and/or
      - b) Situations with prolonged anticipation of potential danger
      - c) Stressful confrontations with suspects
      - d) Endangerment to involved officers, suspects and/or innocent third parties
    - 3) WHAT CAUSES LOSS OF CONTROL/OVERREACTION?
      - a) Failure to understand and identify the adrenaline rush
      - b) Heightened levels of awareness and vigilance
      - c) Movements of suspect(s) may be perceived as greater than they really are
      - d) Officer is “primed” to engage in aggressive action; lower threshold of tolerance toward suspect actions
      - e) Anger: perception that suspect holds “contempt” for the officer
      - f) Mindset that suspect must be taught a lesson
      - g) Mob mentality/feeding frenzy – everybody’s doing it – no one is stopping it
    - 4) WHAT CAN BE DONE TO CONTROL/AVOID OVERREACTION?
      - a) Understand that this fight/flight reaction will occur
      - b) Pre-incident planning: Communicate with partner(s) about plans for all types of pursuit driving radio calls**
      - c) Assertively communicate/verbalize with your partner en route in order to talk each other down – defuse or deescalate the aggression

- d) Avoid letting ego dictate actions
  - e) Selectively choose battles:
    - (1) Some are not worth fighting
    - (2) Use available resources
    - (3) Tactically re-deploy
    - (4) Release the situation to someone else
  - f) Step in when you see another officer overreacting; you can be held responsible for not taking appropriate action when observing improper conduct
  - g) When all else fails: Assume you are being videotaped
- 5) **REMEMBER:** These signs and symptoms can occur during and after your altercation or pursuit. Work with your partner

## II. FOOT PURSUIT TACTICAL EXERCISE

### A. PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

(PSP III b)

**Procedures:** small group exercise

1. Emphasize, Foot pursuits are inherently dangerous, and require officers to think, rather than blindly succumb to the natural urge to give chase
2. Officer must be physically and mentally prepared to apprehend a fleeing suspect. Blindly chasing a suspect can give away any tactical advantage that might be developed and greatly increase the likelihood of injury
3. The rapidly changing nature of these encounters requires that officers develop a flexible tactical approach to each pursuit situation
4. **Facilitator instructions:**

a. **Scenario overview: Do not advise students of the outcome**

*Foot Pursuit Use of Force*

(PSP III g)

*Two officers responding to a radio call of a "459 there now." As the officers approach the call location, a suspect walks out from between the buildings carrying a bag of property. A foot pursuit occurs on a pre-designated course and the officers will chase the suspect on foot to the termination point in the backyard of a residence. A reportable use of force will occur*

- b. Reinforce the safety guidelines and ensure that all involved parties have the necessary safety equipment
- c. This is meant as a low key, coach teams through their mistakes and demonstrate appropriate behavior when necessary. This should be a positive learning experience for all involved
- d. As a facilitator your goal is to determine from the students input what worked, what didn't and if the students are able to process what they have learned and be able to build on the information to enhance their performance in the field

- e. This block is **more show** than tell limit the lecturing, let the students debrief their own performance when ever possible and show them what to do to improve
5. Gather the students in a stand by location where they can obtain the necessary equipment to participate in the scenario
  - a. Patrol Vehicle
  - b. Radios
  - c. Inert weapons
6. The divide the class into work teams (driver officer and passenger officer)
7. Advise the teams that each team will have an opportunity to role-play a foot pursuit scenario
8. One team at a time will be provided the patrol vehicle and radios and be given a radio call of a “459 suspect there now at (the predetermined location)”
  - a. The team is advised to respond and handle the call as they would in a real field situation
  - b. What ever is available to them in the field is available at the scenario
9. The remaining teams wait at the stand by location. They can begin developing their plan for when it is their turn to handle the radio call. The plan should include their communication cues **(PSP III f)**
10. One facilitator can remain at the stand by location to provide resource information for the awaiting teams
11. **Role Play instructions:**
  - a. **Burglar:** As the officers approach the call location, walk out from between the buildings carrying a bag of property. Look in the officer’s direction, throw the bag down and run on the pre-designated course. The course will require officers to use body balance and to interpret movement patterns of the suspect. Run at a pace that will encourage the officers to chase you. Once you enter the back yard become involved in a reportable use of force with the officer. The facilitator will call for suspect to stop the aggressive behavior once a minor use of force occurs. Allow the officer to take control and handcuff and search **(PSP III d, e, h, i)**
  - b. **Facilitator:** Observe the incident, call stop at anytime if the incident is not following the pre-designated course or script. Once a minor use of force has occurred advise the suspect to stop resisting and the officer to handcuff the suspect
  - c. If available utilize an additional instructor/facilitator to complete the Foot Pursuit/Use of Force Critique form and critique each teams performance and assist in the debrief
12. Utilize the below information to debrief the scenario, not every point has to be addressed in every scenario debrief as each team will remain and watch all debriefs of the team that participate after. At the conclusion of the exercise an over all debrief will be conducted to ensure that all students obtained all of the necessary information

- a. Ensure to point out issues specific to the audience, i.e.:
    - 1) Tenured patrol officers
    - 2) Detectives
    - 3) Administrative Personnel
  - b. This information is consistent with recruit officers basic instruction and is provided in totality as a resource to clarify current training
- B. At the completion of each drill ask the participants questions based on their performance and conduct a facilitated discussion
1. Reinforce the Debrief Points:
    - a. Response to radio call
      - 1) Deployment
        - a) Did officers drive right to the front of the location?
        - b) If suspect was in view, did the officers stop too close/too far?
        - c) Was Communications notified that they were at scene?
      - 2) Legal Justification **(117c, e) (PSP III j)**
        - a) Did the officers eventually verify that a crime occurred?
        - b) Officer can clearly articulate the reason they chose to initiate the foot pursuit
          - Issues of 4<sup>th</sup> or 14?
        - c) Individual may attempt to flee from an officer for reasons, which are unknown to the officer. The implication that “only a guilty person would run from the police” may not always be true. In some cultures, law enforcement officers are feared and an individual may simply be afraid<sup>1</sup>
      - 3) Contact/cover
        - a) Did the officers employ the contact/cover concept?
        - b) Did the contact officer give clear and concise commands?
        - c) Did the cover officer seek and use a good position of cover?
    - b. Foot pursuit initiation
      - 1) Prior to engaging in a foot pursuit, the involved officers should make a quick risk assessment. The danger to the community, the suspect and officers should be outweighed by what will be gained by engaging in the pursuit. Officer safety is the primary concern for all officers involved in a foot pursuit
      - 2) The rapidly changing nature of these encounters require that officers develop a flexible tactical approach to each pursuit situation
        - a) Have a plan!!!
        - b) Plans should include<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> POST Workbook LD 22 Patrol Techniques, Foot Pursuits

<sup>2</sup> POST Workbook LD 22-Patrol Techniques-Foot Pursuits

- (1) Actions they would take if a fellow officer is wounded and suspect flees on foot
- (2) Coordination of who will transmit radio traffic
- (3) Appropriate use of or escalation of force

### 3) Communication

- a) Radio broadcast (primary officers responsibility)
  - (1) Officer's location
  - (2) request for back-up/air unit
  - (3) number and location of suspects
  - (4) direction of travel
  - (5) suspect description
  - (6) type of crime
  - (7) where additional units should respond
  - (8) type of weapon, if armed
- b) Partners- Don't forget to communicate with each other
  - (1) Your partner may not have seen what you saw
  - (2) If officers determine that their radios are not functioning properly, or there is no response from Communications Division, officers should strongly consider discontinuing the foot pursuit

### 4) Officer Responsibilities

- a) Primary unit involved in the foot pursuit must take a leadership role and give direction to responding units
- b) Lead officer
  - (1) Should focus on the suspect, his location and actions.
  - (2) Must be able to draw and holster as necessary
  - (3) Running with a firearm in hand can increase an officer's chance of having an unintentional discharge
  - (4) Officers should have their firearms holstered when involved in a foot pursuit
  - (5) However, the drawing and exhibiting of an officer's firearm is based solely upon the officer's reasonable belief that the situation may escalate to the use of deadly force
  - (6) Finger off the trigger and indexed along the slide
- c) Trailing officer
  - (1) is the most logical to broadcast periodic updates of their location, since the lead officer is most at risk for immediate contact with the suspect
  - (2) Cover
    - (a) Any object that is believed to be capable of stopping a bullet fired by the suspect

- (b) Depending on the type of weapon the suspect is believed to be armed with, cover might include large trees, block walls or parked cars

## 5) Tactics

- a) Officer safety is the primary concern
- b) Vehicle Pullovers<sup>3</sup>

(1) If a foot pursuit begins with the suspect fleeing from a vehicle the officer has just stopped, officer need to consider

- (a) The vehicle may contain additional suspects
- (b) Items that would identify the fleeing suspect, and/or
- (c) Other evidence of criminal activity

(2) If officer choose to pursue the fleeing suspect they should safely clear the vehicle prior to engaging in the foot pursuit

- c) An important tactical concept during a foot pursuit is for partner officers to work as a team
- d) Be flexible
- e) Splitting up

- (1) generally, officers should not split up during a foot pursuit and are strongly discouraged from doing so
- (2) Officers are considered split up when either their distance is so great from one another, or barriers exist that would unreasonably delay an officer's ability to assist his or her partner when confronted by a suspect
- (3) In the event officers do split up, the involved officers must be able to maintain contact by voice or radio.
- (4) Officer should reevaluate the level of risk before continuing the pursuit without a partner<sup>4</sup>
- (5) In the rare instance where it may be tactically permissible for officer to split up, the involved officers must be able to articulate the facts to justify their actions
- (6) Remember, the specific facts must be what is known by the officer at the time they decided to split up

### f) Path

- (1) When sight of a suspect is lost, danger to officers increases dramatically
- (2) Before climbing obstacles, officers should **Stop, Look and Listen**
- (3) Don't go over obstacles at the same location as the suspect

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<sup>3</sup> POST Workbook LD 22, Patrol Techniques, Foot Pursuit

<sup>4</sup> POST workbook LD 22, Patrol Techniques, Foot Pursuits

- (4) When rounding corners, go wide, slice the pie, around the corner to expand the field of vision
- (5) quick peek is also effective, since it gives an officer a glimpse to what is on the other side of the obstacle, without allowing the suspect time to react to the officer's momentary exposure
- (6) Be aware of backyard hazards (swimming pools; clotheslines; dogs, etc.)
- (7) If the suspect is believed to be armed with a weapon other than a firearm, officer should not attempt to close the distance or run directly behind the suspect
- (8) Officers should use alternate routes to keep themselves in position to monitor the suspect but where they are not susceptible to an attack

c. Termination

- 1) Assess situation
- 2) Dynamic: rapidly unfolding; react now
- 3) Static: Remains the same or unchanging/have time to formulate a plan
  - Static situations will typically be more closely scrutinized. Time allows officers the opportunity to communicate with the suspect, plan tactics and if necessary call for additional resources
- 4) Distance + Cover = Time to make a decision
  - When time allows, a Combative Suspect Control Team should be formed and utilized
- 5) Deployment / approach to suspect – assess:
  - a) Knowledge
    - Was the officers decision making process in accordance with the knowledge they had of the suspect?
  - b) Verbalization
    - Did the officers continue to verbalize with the suspect to gain compliance?
  - c) Communication with partner
    - Did the officers plan/communicate?
  - d) Force options
    - Did the officers react properly to the suspect's threat level and utilize the appropriate force options?

d. Situational Use of Force Options **(117e)** **(PSP III g)**

- 1) Use of force incidents are fluid and ever changing. Officers should use any of the options or combinations listed below in order to gain control of the situation
- 2) Individual's actions are cooperative (willingly complies, agreeable)
  - a) Nonverbal
  - b) Verbalization
  - c) Professional appearance
  - d) Control, search and handcuff

- 3) Individual's actions show no response to commands (does not respond, does not answer)
  - a) Verbalization
  - b) Firm grip
- 4) Individual's actions are uncooperative (unwilling to comply, not agreeable, does not do as told)
  - a) Verbalization
  - b) Joint locks and take downs
  - c) Baton assisted joint locks
  - d) OC spray (3-12 feet)
- 5) Individual's actions are aggressive combative (has gone beyond uncooperative, vigorously energetic, ready or inclined to fight, belligerent, pulls away from an officer and assumes a fighting stance, actively prevents officers from taking control)
  - a) Verbalization
  - b) Distraction strikes
  - c) TASER and less lethal munitions (0-21 feet)
  - d) Beanbag (30-45 feet)
  - e) Impact devices
  - f) Team takedowns; ground grappling, joint lock takedowns
- 6) Individual's actions may cause serious bodily injury or threat of death (situation that would result in serious bodily injury: unconsciousness, concussion, bone fracture, protracted loss or impairment of function of any bodily member or organ, a wound requiring extensive suturing and serious disfigurement<sup>5</sup>)
  - a) Verbalization
  - b) Neck restraint
  - c) Firearm
- 7) An officer shall give a verbal warning **when feasible**, in situations which require the use of TASER
  - a) Beanbag Shotgun
  - b) Less lethal munitions or impact device to control an individual

e. Custody

- 1) After the suspect has been taken into custody, the route of the pursuit should be retraced to locate any discarded evidence
- 2) Verify the element of the original crime, or others that may have occurred at location foot pursuit was initiate

f. Perimeters

- 1) A perimeter is used to contain a suspect in a specific area, thus making apprehension more likely
- 2) By establishing a perimeter the suspect will be contained, and when combined with discontinuing the foot pursuit, removes the inherent risks associated with pursuing

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<sup>5</sup> 2004 California Penal Code 243 (f)(4)-Serious Bodily Injury defined

- 3) When an armed suspect flees on foot, using a perimeter rather than chasing a suspect through unfamiliar territory greatly decreases the likelihood of an ambush
  - 4) When a perimeter is established, the Four Cs are tactical guidelines that can ensure a safe and successful apprehension of the suspect
  - 5) The Four Cs
    - a) Control
    - b) Communicate
    - c) Coordinate
    - d) Contain
- g. Use of Force Reporting
- 1) Notify a supervisor without delay
  - 2) Report the full details of the Use of Force in the related Department arrest report
  - 3) The accurate reporting and documentation enhances the reputation of the individual and/or the Department, and improves prosecution
  - 4) Accurate terminology in all the reports
  - 5) Consistency between all reports
- h. Evaluation of a Use of Force: Non-categorical
- 1) Tactics
    - a) Before
    - b) During and
    - c) After
  - 2) UOF
    - a) Each occurrence
    - b) Action taken
2. Once each team has had an opportunity to become involved in the foot pursuit and use of force, debrief the entire exercise
  3. Ensure to clarify any issues the students may still have on tactics for conducting a foot pursuit

### III. CLOSING: Reinforce the key learning points

- A. Foot pursuits are inherently dangerous, and require officers to think, rather than blindly succumb to the natural urge to give chase
- B. Officer must be physically and mentally prepared to apprehend a fleeing suspect. Maintain perishable skills, i.e. defensive tactics
- C. Communicate with your partner and have a flexible tactical approach to foot pursuit situations