

LAW ENFORCEMENT HANDGUN REFLEX SIGHT (RED DOT)

Instructor Course

COURSE LEARNING GOALS

Students will obtain the skill and knowledge to instruct other law enforcement officers in the use of reflex sights (red dot) as a primary sighting instrument for their duty handguns.

Students will obtain the knowledge to create, implement and assess a reflex sight transition program and develop an in-service training program for their agencies.

Course hours: 16

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Understand the Reflex Sight
- Identify Equipment Available
 - Guns
 - Sight
 - Holsters
- Explain/Demonstrate/Evaluate:
 - Presentation / Draw
 - Recoil Management
 - Low Light / Flashlight Issues
 - Sight Failure Drills
 - Maintenance
 - Zeroing
- Firearms Program Development
 - Develop Transition Training Program
 - Plan, Develop and Assess In-Service Training
 - Develop Maintenance Program



Student Must Provide:

- 1,000 rounds, handgun ammunition
- 5 handgun dummy rounds
- Duty handgun w/ reflex sight
- Hat, ear protection, eye protection
- Duty Belt, holster, three (3) magazines
- Notebook/pen
- Lunch/water
- Rain/Cold weather gear

Course Completion Requirements:

- 100% Attendance
- Pass Handgun Qualification @ 100% (two attempts)
- Pass written test @ 80%
- Demonstrate ability to safely and effectively instruct skills, manage and run ranges, and develop courses of fire
- Demonstrate safe weapons handling at all times (four firearms safety rules)

REFLEX SIGHT INFORMATION

Short History: Using slide mounted optics on law enforcement handguns is relatively new. Red dot optics are not new and have been used for many years. Red dot optics on handguns have been used by competitive shooters for decades. Law enforcement has integrated red dot optics onto patrol rifles with successful results. These sights allow the shooter to aim with both eyes open, allowing the shooter to remain focused on the target / threat. This greatly enhances correct decision making, judgement and ultimately accurate shot placement.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1 (Classroom)

0800 – 1200 hrs. Registration, Welcoming remarks, Introductions, Orientation

Safety

- Range safety rules
- First Aid/Trauma Kits
- Emergency Action Plan
 - Communication
 - Evacuations
 - Higher level of care
- Personal Safety
 - Hydrate / Food / Breaks
 - Cell Phone use on the range
 - Eye/ear protection, body armor

Use of Force / Deadly Force

- Statutes / Dept Policy
- Human factors under stress
- Brain function
 - Fight, Flight Freeze
 - Cognitive Brain
- Vision
 - Focus on the threat – Single focal plane shooting
- Stress Mitigation
 - BASE-R / Cycle of Doom

Introduction to Handgun Optic:

- History – comparison to rifle optics
- Types of Reflex Sights
 - Advantages & Disadvantages
 - Dot Sizes
 - Back Up Sights / Co-witness
- Mounting / Maintenance
- Presentation / Draw
- Recoil Management
- Equipment
- Fundamentals
- Failure Drills
- Low Light Issues



Coaching the Shooter

- Reading Targets
- Diagnosing shooter errors
- Correction Drills

Admin Issues / Transition Program

1200 – 1300 hrs. **Lunch**

1300 – 1330 hrs. (Range)

Familiarization with Optic / Zeroing (25 yards using rest)

- Trigger Drills
- Both eyes open (tape over optic)
 - Occluded vision

1330 - 1400 hrs. Presentation Fundamentals (tape over optic)

- From holster
- From ready
- One hand presentation
- Dry Fire Trigger Manipulation (watch the dot – no movement)

1400 – 1700 hrs. Live fire exercises (tape over optic)

- Multiple shot drills (recoil management)
- Multiple target areas (chest/face drills | RE-Factor target)
- Various distance to target drills
- Multiple target drills
- Debrief. Discuss Day 2

Day 2 (Range)

800 – 1000 hrs. Reactive Exercises (no tape)

- Ready Position
- Holster

1000 – 1200 hrs. Various Positions / Barricade / Use of Cover (no tape)

- 9-hole drill
- Inside/outside 9-hole drill
- Any barricade drill
- Unconventional shooting positions

1200 – 1300 hrs. Lunch

1300 – 1400 hrs. Optic Failure Drills

- Clear optic – no dot (framing or iron sights)
- Obstructed objective lens (tape over)
- Obstructed ocular lens (framing)
- Moisture on lens

1400 – 1500 hrs. Movement-Lateral / forward & back / various directions / Natural movement

- Barrel Drills
- Draw – move - shoot
- Focus Drill
- 3 / 4 / 5 Drill

1500 – 1645 hrs. Qualification

- POST Qualification
- Written Test

1645 – 1700 hrs. De-Brief

REFLEX SIGHT FACTORS

Human Factors: Vision Under Stress – loss of near vision, loss of depth perception, tunnel vision. We tend to focus on the threat.

Advantages:

- Allows shooter to keep both eyes open and focus on the threat
- Opens up the field of view to observe the threat's actions
- Increases correct decision making / judgment
- Mirrors what human's naturally want to do under stress – vision
- Increase accuracy and ability to engage threats from a greater distance
- No need to align iron sights – various shooting positions become easier
- Aids in low light shooting
- Generational understanding

Disadvantages:

- Battery operated – must be maintained
- Electronics can break – expensive
- Optic can become obstructed and/or fogged
- Another duty holster / off duty holster
- Verifying Zero on a regular basis – note any loss of zero
- Astigmatism issues

DOT sizes: (smaller / more movement | larger / covers more of threat)

1 MOA thru 12 MOA (delta/triangle)

6 MOA most practical

Holsters: limited holsters available. Safariland RDS/ALS, Blackhawk T-Series holster covers optic and protects optic from varying weather conditions. Holsters that protect optic are suggested.

Back Up Sights:

- Good foundation to check zero of optic
- Necessary? If we train to find the dot, do we train if there is no dot. We become very dependent on the technology and expect it to work. Shooter will spend valuable time attempting to find the dot before noticing the optic isn't working. Operational verification every day. Practice iron sights/optic failure.
- One idea with optic sights – allows the shooter to have a larger field of view. Adding back up sights blocks that expanded view.
- Many different ideas on this.
 - Remove the iron sights to learn the dot.
 - Front sight / rear sight / dot
 - No need to align dot with iron sights. (as you progress, see all three)
 - Dry fire presentation drills

Optic Failure ideas: There may be many reasons the optic “fails”.

- Obstructed Objective Lens: both eyes open – Occluded Aiming technique
- Obstructed Ocular Lens: both eyes open – framing threat around optic
- Obstructed Emitter: both eyes open – framing threat inside optic
- Water / snow on lens or emitter: typically solved after first shot/recoil. Some diffusion of dot but still able to determine the “hot” spot or center of dot. Use options above for the first shot.

Presentation:

Proper grip provides the foundation for all other fundamentals of shooting. Bring the gun up to your dominate eye. Emphasis on using the non-firing hand to clamp down on grip and pull weapon to the threat. The firing hand is firm but agile, providing smooth trigger manipulation. From the holster, raise the handgun/optic to the eyes sooner and pull the dot into view.

Recoil:

- Emphasize support hand, pressure at the bottom of the grip
- Both eyes stay open
- See the sights through recoil

Trigger Manipulation:

Like a laser equipped handgun, you can see your trigger “jerk” with the DOT. Avoid “jumping” the trigger because the dot is on target. The trigger manipulation is the same. The optic does not fix poor trigger manipulation. It may allow the shooter to focus on proper trigger manipulation versus spending time aligning the sights.

Follow Thru: Avoid eye sprinting – looking at the target / looking for the dot. Stay focused on the threat and let the recoil return the dot into your vision. See the sights through recoil

SHOOTING EXERCISES

Zero 10 yds - 25 yds

5-Shot Drill

Surprise Drill

Dot Torture

Focus drill – focus on dot / focus on threat: 10 yds

Tape-Over Sight – both eyes open

Ready Drills / Draw

- Hands meet – 10 yds 2 shots, 3 shots, 4 shots, 5 shots
- Ready Drills – 7 yds (.5 sec – 1 sec)
- Holster Drills – 7 yds (1.5 sec – 2.25 sec)

Multiple Hits

- 2552 Drill

Long Distance

- 25 – 50 - 25 yd steal

Optic Failure Drills:

- Use of back up sights
- Centering target in optic
- Misting the lens and/or emitter
- Mystery drill (optic on/off surprise)
- obstructed optic – tape over muzzle side of optic – 7 yds
- obstructed optic – tape over shooter side of optic – 7 yds

Multi-Target Drills

- 3 Second Stop Light Drill
- 1-5 Drill
- 3-3-3- Drill
- Combat V (Steal)
- Fast Five (Steal)
- Jerry

Multi-Distance Drills

- 3 Second Walk back
- Multi-Targets / Multi-Distance

Movement Drills

- Draw Move Shoot
- Barrel Drill
- Quadzilla
- 3/4/5/ Drill

Use of Cover

- Roll-over prone
- Curb
- Nine - hole drill

Stress Drills

- SOB (draw make 6 hits on index card in 8 seconds 5 - 25 yds)
- 2 One 2 (2 to center one to left one to right)
- Focus Drill - from 5 yd, run back to 20 yd, five shots. Run up to 10yd, five shots. Run up to 5 yd, 5 shots.

Qual Course

- POST Double Qual

Competition

- Big Kahuna
- Six hit Drill

Low-light / Flashlight

- Various Flashlight Techniques
- Tac Light
- Barricade Drill
- Patrol vehicle overhead lights
- Walk Back Drill