

VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT
FIREARMS TRAINING UNIT
LESS LETHAL SHOTGUN
RECRUIT ORIENTATION AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING
COURSE OUTLINE

I. Introduction

A. Roll Call

B. Safety lecture and issue equipment and inspect weapons.

1. Who is the most dangerous person on the range?
 - a. Complacency
 - b. Law of Statistical Probability
2. **Four Universal Rules of Firearms Safety:**
 - a. **All guns are always loaded and they're to be treated as such at all times**
 - b. **Never allow your muzzle to cover anything that you are not willing to destroy**
 - c. **Keep your finger off the trigger until you've made a conscious decision to shoot**
 - d. **Be sure of your target, backstop, and everything beyond**
3. Additional Rules:
 - a. Body armor is to be worn during live fire training
 - b. LONG GUNS ON SAFE EXCEPT WHILE SHOOTING (or in live fire exercise)
4. Performance objective: This course will provide the student with an introduction to the uses of less lethal munitions, and may be used as refresher training for experienced officers. In addition, it will provide the student with the information and experience necessary to properly deploy such munitions. The course will include lecture, student manual, inert training aids and practical exercises.
5. Course requirements:
 - a. Students must attend all 4 hours and be on time
 - b. Students must pass the bean bag qualification course and written exam
 - c. Students must demonstrate the ability to safely manipulate the shotgun
 - d. 100 % compliance with all safety rules

II. Less Lethal Operations and Procedures.

1. Review Department Policy related to the use of less lethal force (See Lexipol section 303.9 and Vernon PD Field Training Manual).
2. Review Penal Code and case law related to the use of less lethal force.
 - a. 4th Amendment
 - b. 835(a)P.C.
 - c. Sample court cases:
 - Graham vs. Conner
 - Quezada vs. County of Bernalillo
 - Plakas vs. Drinkski
 - Derole vs. Rutherford
3. Less lethal munitions
 - a. Classifications
 - b. Types of fire

- c. Kinetic energy and Blunt Force Trauma
- d. Less Lethal Munitions Statistics
- e. Recommended target areas
- f. Significant deployment factors
- 4. Tactical Considerations
 - a. Ammo and weapon
 - b. Communication
 - c. Justification
 - d. Suspect Evaluation
- 5. Team Effort
 - a. Less Lethal Operator
 - b. Supervisor
 - c. Lethal cover officer
 - d. Arrest team
 - e. Other options (OC spray, TASER, baton, K-9)
- 6. Deployment guidelines
 - a. Is it safe for an officer to approach the suspect?
 - b. Would other force options likely result in greater injury?
 - c. Preventing an individual from hurting themselves
- 7. Review archived training videos.
 - a. Ask the student to put themselves in the position of the officer and call out the point at which they would deploy the bean bag shotgun.
- 8. Review training videos from recent events (YouTube and online sources)

III. Practical Application Training exercises:

A. Loading / Unloading shotgun

- 1. Visible differences between Lethal and Less Lethal Shotgun
- 2. Pre shift inspection
- 3. How to carry the shotgun in the patrol unit
 - a. Completely unloaded and locked
 - b. Department approved ammo visible in the side saddle carrier
- 4. Practical training exercise:
 - a. Using a bean bag shotgun and dummy rounds, the student will load the shotgun to capacity. Repeat as needed until proficiency is achieved.
- 5. Live fire training exercise:
 - a. Set up the unloaded bean bag shotgun with six training rounds in the side saddle.
 - b. Place six traffic cones near the bottom of the shooting range berm. Balance six empty plastic water bottles on the cones.
 - c. Instruct the student to stand near the 15-yard line with the shotgun in a low ready position
 - c. On the command to begin, the shooter will combat load the shotgun with one round at time and engage each water bottle in turn. Repeat as needed until the student can smoothly load the shotgun and hit each target.
- 6. Live fire training exercise:
 - a. Place a chair near the back of the shooting range

- b. Set up an unloaded bean bag shotgun with six rounds in the side saddle. Place the shotgun next to the chair in a manner similar to the way the shotgun is deployed in the patrol unit.
- c. Set up the less lethal qualification target near the bottom center of the shooting range berm.
- d. If there are multiple students in the class, they may act as role playing officers. If there is only student, the instructor may participate and position the Numb John impact dummy in a position to replace a live officer.
- e. Scenario: inform the student that they have been called to support officers who are dealing with an uncooperative criminal suspect who is armed with an edged weapon. The student will simulate the deployment of the less lethal shotgun from the patrol car. The student will load the shotgun to capacity while moving downrange. The student will assign a role playing officer to be lethal cover, less lethal cover, and arrest team.
- f. The student will move to the 5-yard line and issue a warning to the suspect. The student will issue a second warning advising fellow officers that the bean bag shotgun is about to be fired. The student will fire one round to each arm just below the elbow.
- h. Move back to the 10-yard line and repeat but with one round to each leg.
- i. Move back to the 20-yard line and repeat, but with two rounds to the abdomen above the groin but below the rib cage.
- j. Repeat as needed until proficiency is noted. For advanced training, repeat with the lights off.

IV. Written Exam:

Bean Bag Shotgun Examination

Officer:	Date:	Score:
Supervisor:		

1. The use of the bean bag shotgun is correctly referred to as a “less lethal” means of force.
 - A.) True
 - B.) False
2. Per the Vernon Police Department’s policy, how many additional officers must be available to cover the suspect with conventional firearms?
 - A.) One
 - B.) Two
 - C.) Three
 - D.) Four
3. What medical attention must be rendered to a suspect struck with a bean bag?
 - A.) Only if requested
 - B.) Paramedics
 - C.) Stacy Medical Center
 - D.) B and C only
 - E.) All the above
4. The bean bag shotgun can be identified by what markings?
5. What are the identifying markings or colors of the bean bag round?
6. The approved bean bag ammunition is the flat or “ravioli round.”
 - A.) True
 - B.) False

7. An officer is not required to warn a suspect before using force.
- A.) True
 - B.) False
8. What court decision states that there is no constitutional duty to use non-deadly alternatives first?
- A.) Plakas vs. Driniski
 - B.) Terry vs. Ohio
 - C.) Graham vs. Connor
 - D.) Lang Ford vs. Gates
9. List four uses for the bean bag shotgun.
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
10. Semi-auto shotguns are not recommended for less lethal munitions
- A.) True
 - B.) False
11. Whose responsibility is it to ensure the bean bag shotgun is safe and loaded with only less lethal munitions?
- A.) Watch commander
 - B.) Sergeant on scene
 - C.) Lieutenant on duty
 - D.) Officer loading/deploying the bean bag shotgun.
12. The _____ grip is defined as having the finger “off” the trigger and out of the trigger guard.
- A.) Best
 - B.) Safe
 - C.) Master
 - D.) Point
13. The bean bag round is classified as a “non-flexible” munition.
- A.) True
 - B.) False

14. The 12-gauge bean bag round weighs approximately _____ grams.
- A.) 25 grams
 - B.) 30 grams
 - C.) 35 grams
 - D.) 50 grams
15. How fast does a bean bag round travel when discharged?
- A.) 150-200 fps
 - B.) 240-300 fps
 - C.) 310-400 fps
 - D.) 400-425 fps
16. Which areas are considered lethal force or “red zone” associated with the use of the bean bag shotgun?
- A.) Head
 - B.) Chest and spine
 - C.) Groin
 - D.) Neck
 - E.) All the above
17. Which is not an example of a rear target area?
- A.) The arm below the elbow
 - B.) Lower abdomen
 - C.) The leg below the knee
 - D.) The leg above the knee
18. Which is an example of the “yellow” target area?
- A.) Arm below the elbow
 - B.) Groin
 - C.) Buttocks
 - D.) Knees
 - E.) None of the above
19. What factors may vary accurate shot placement of the bean bag round?
- A.) Shooter ability
 - B.) Suspect actions
 - C.) Weather conditions
 - D.) Bean bag characteristics
 - E.) All the above

20. What is the recommended distance for the deployment of the bean bag shotgun?
- A.) 10-15 feet
 - B.) 15-60 yards
 - C.) 20-30 yards
 - D.) 15-60 feet
21. It is okay to hit the same body area with numerous hits, as there is no increased likely hood of damage to the body.
- A.) True
 - B.) False
22. Which is consideration when preparing to deploy the bean bag munitions?
- A.) Clothing
 - B.) Weather conditions
 - C.) Suspect size
 - D.) Suspect's physical makeup
 - E.) All the above
23. Which court case requires officers to warn when possible prior to using force?
- A.) Deorle vs. Rutherford
 - B.) People vs. Gates
 - C.) Whiteley vs. Warden
 - D.) None of the above
24. Which is an example of the green or primary target area?
- A.) Groin
 - B.) Knees
 - C.) Lower abdomen
 - D.) Chest

V. Less Lethal qualification course

VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT

FIREARMS TRAINING UNIT LESS LETHAL SHOTGUN QUALIFICATION COURSE

Staging: This is a single-officer exercise. The officer will be equipped with one unloaded Less Lethal shotgun (safety engaged) and five (5) rounds of Less Lethal training ammunition. The officer will stand facing a designated Less Lethal training target.

Using the action bar forward of the trigger guard, the officer will position the bolt to the rear and load one round directly into the ejection port. The officer will close the bolt to chamber the round, before loading a second round into the magazine tube. When the shotgun is loaded with two rounds the officer will shoulder the shotgun and assume a fighting stance with safety engaged.

Before each of the following deployments, the officer will give two warnings:

The first is directed toward the suspect. It should be in the officer's own words and may be something to the effect of: "Drop the _____ or I'll shoot you with a Less Lethal munition!"

The second warning is to let the covering officers know that a Less Lethal munition is about to be fired. It should be in the officer's own words and should be something to the effect of: "Bean Bag! Bean Bag!"

Course of Fire

5 Yards: One round to each primary targeting area of each arm, just below the elbow.

Reload two rounds. Move back tactically to the 10-yard line.

10 Yards: One round to each primary targeting area of each leg just above or just below the knee.

Reload the last round. Move back tactically to the 15-yard line.

15 Yards: One round to the primary targeting area of the abdomen above the groin but below the rib cage.

Scoring

The supervisor or firearms instructor shall observe the strike of the munition on each of the primary targeting areas. The officer will be graded "**Pass**" if all rounds strike the intended target areas.

Clean shooting range and weapons, debrief, and student evaluation.