

**SALINAS POLICE DEPARTMENT
SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS
LESSON PLAN**



SUBJECT: Door Breaching, Window Porting, Equipment Familiarization

Course Date & Time: 11/10/21 0700-1740 hours

Course Location: Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP), 31625 Highway 101 S, Soledad, CA 93960

Instructors: J. McNeil / J. Kinney

Instructional Goal: Members of the Salinas Police SWAT team will become familiar with breaching equipment, terminology, procedures and capabilities. They will also become familiar with basic breaching applications. This will include equipment used for mechanical and manual breaching. They will also practice porting windows using the proper equipment.

Training Objectives: Following instruction, students will be able to properly use the Halligan tool, Ram, K-12 Circular Saw, Reciprocating saw, bolt cutters and window porting tools. Officers will familiarize themselves with each piece of breaching equipment and what it is used for. They will also gain practical experience in conducting search warrant speed entries whilst having to defeat locked or barricaded doors. After the breach is accomplished officers will “clear” the shoot house.

Criterion Test: Students will be able to successfully breach inward and outward opening doors, safely port a window using the proper technique. They will also be able to show they can safely use each piece of equipment. Scenarios will be used as a practical test to determine competency. Officers will be able to show they can safely and effectively breach doors, while conduct search warrant speed entries. They will safely clear the assigned building after accomplishing a breach during the scenario based practical.

Materials Needed: All personal call out equipment, handgun, rifle, personal protective equipment (gloves, eye protection, ear protection, vest, and helmet), sim-munition guns (rifle bolts), sim-munitions, and protective masks. Additional equipment includes cardboard backers, 2 stands, grape sticks, aluminum bars, extra gas, batteries and chargers, wooden dowels (square and round), 4x4 wood, 2x4 wood, ratchet straps, pad locks, disc locks, gate latches, chain link fence, screws (various), chain, tarps, trash bags, break and rake tools, shield, and windows/glass.

Safety: All Officers involved in this training are responsible for safety. If anyone involved observes any unsafe action, they are to stop the training and address the issue. Prior to training with weapons, a weapon's check will be performed to ensure that all weapon(s) are unloaded, and no live ammunition is present. If any person leaves the training site a weapon recheck will be done on them prior to them resuming training.

There will be several cellular phones for communication. If necessary, anybody can use these to call for an ambulance. If there are any accidents or injuries, no matter how small, SWAT Medics and a team leader shall be notified. There is a first aid kit available if needed and its location will be announced prior to any training drills.

The nearest trauma hospital is Natividad Medical Center. The directions are as follows:

1441 Constitution Blvd., Salinas, CA 93906

From the range, take Prison Rd out towards the 101. Merge onto N.B. 101. Exit onto N. Main St. Turn right onto E. Bernal. Turn Left onto Natividad Rd. Arrive at NMC.

Course Description:

The first half of the day will consist of equipment familiarity, use and basic field application.

Upon arrival at the training facility, Officer McNeil and I will set up the range.

(Equip: Various rams, Halligan/prybars, sledgehammer)

(Materials: Wooden dowels and grape sticks)

The first type of tool we will discuss are impact tools. During this discussion we will look at the different parts of a ram and a sledgehammer, to include the face, the handles the weight and maneuverability. We will also describe the proper grip, position (related to the target), target

area, aim, swing, follow through, recovery and discard area. We will also discuss the swing radius and how to ensure proper clearance to avoid injury to cover officers. Officers will be trained on what to look for when determining if a door is inward or outward opening. There will be several different types of rams (small SPD ram, LEOC ram, and Black Hawk ram). Officer will be able to see the different sizes and weights. They will be able to manipulate each ram and utilize them on a training door. The training door will be provided by staff at SVSP. It is a FETT brand door that has the capability to be “locked” using wooden dowels in several locations. During the training, officers will be able to try to breach the door while it is locked in the center, top and bottom of the door. The purpose is to show officers how a door reacts to the force of the ram upon impact. Officers will also be able to utilize the sledgehammer in the same manner. Officers will also be instructed on how to safely place the tools to mitigate injury after a successful breach.

We will then discuss the Halligan Tool, pry tools and bolt cutters. The Halligan Tool was designed in 1948 by a NYFD firefighter named Hugu Halligan. During the discussion, Officers will become familiar with the part names (fork, fork arch, shaft/handle, pick, adze (duck bill), flat head) and versatility of the Halligan Tool. Officers will be instructed on the basic employment of the Halligan Tool (Gap, Set, Force). During this instruction, we will teach the commands used for setting the Halligan Tool (set, strike, drive, stop). Officers will become familiar with leverage and how it relates to different areas of the Halligan Tool. Officers will be able to practice utilizing the Halligan Tool to breach inward and outward opening doors. They will also be able to breach the door individual and as a team. During the team training, Officers may utilize the ram and the sledgehammer to become familiar with the advantages and disadvantages.

Officers will make entry utilizing a small team (4 Officers). They will practice calling for a breacher, allowing the breacher to breach the entry point and making entry. This will initially be done allowing for convenience (no obstacles). Once Officers become familiar with basic entry, I will create barriers that officers will need to work around. This will include recessed doors, along with corner set doors. By doing this the breacher will need to consider their positioning and try to position in the best possible tactical location for their breach. This will be simulated by using “caution tape” or temporary barriers placed in positions that create various door entryways and recesses.

Officers will have time to utilize each tool at their own pace and become comfortable using each item.

Officers will then work as a team to prepare to breach doors set up in various ways and make entry after breaching the entry point. During this training, the breacher will utilize the appropriate safety procedures, tactics and commands. Once entry is made, the breacher will allow access so the team, while using proper entry techniques, can clear the breached room.

After breaching the door, officers will employ mechanical cutting tools (i.e., circular saw, Sawzall, grinders). There will be a timed demonstration showing which technique is faster.

Officers will practice cutting locks/chain using bolt cutters and reciprocal saw. This will simulate a welded metal gate/fence. Officers will learn the components of a padlock to include the body, shackle/shank, locking bar/pawl, locking mechanism. They will attempt to use the Halligan and sledge to force the lock open. If the lock is on a chain, officers will work in pairs to take out slack and force the lock open through leverage (spreading). They will place the pike portion of the Halligan tool in the shank and use the sledgehammer to force the lock to open. During discussion, Officers will be informed that the locking bar/ pawl is the least secure/weakest point of the lock. Utilizing leverage and force the pike can defeat the locking bar. They will then place the lock on either a chain or latch. They can then use the bolt cutters to cut the shackle. (if possible, officers should cut on the open side of the lock, below the curve. They then can replace the lock and cut on the opposite side. If this training technique is used officers can defeat each lock three times.)

Window Porting

(Materials: Single pane, laminated and residential/double pane)

(Equip: Break and rake tools, 40mm)

Officers will practice porting windows. Porting windows is the process of allowing fresh clean air into a residence after CS gas is introduced. It also can be used to remove obstructions in a window to allow for better visibility into a structure. The purpose of this training is to practice safe techniques while breaking glass, clearing glass, and removing any interior obstruction.

Scenarios:

Scenario 1: This scenario will consist of a standard breach at the shoot house. Team leaders will be told there is a hostage being held captive. The hostage will have given a 1-hour countdown, and made demands requesting a vehicle and a helicopter. The team leaders will be given time to plan their breach. The scenario will begin with less than 10 minutes left in the countdown. Officers will use proper safety, technique and equipment to perform the breach and safely recover the hostage.

Scenario 2: This scenario will utilize the same incident as scenario 1. This incident will begin, and breach point 1 will be secured in a way that prevents access in a safe, timely manner. Team leaders should consider using an alternate breach point to access the shoot house.

Scenario 3: This scenario will replicate an active shooter incident, where immediate access is needed. The scenario takes place at a bank with multiple hostages and suspects. The primary suspect will become upset with HNT and their code 4 conversation and begin shooting hostages. Officers must react immediately in order to prevent further loss of life. They will then breach the shoot house and stop any threats they encounter.

Scenario 4: Swat will respond to a barricaded subject. The subject is going through a divorce and is upset his wife is leaving him. When Officers respond, Officers get shot at from the back yard. The suspect retreats into the residence and takes his family hostage. Patrol officers then set-up a perimeter and SWAT is called out. The subject will not answer phone calls and has been seen holding a gun to his in-law's head as he looked out the window to see if officers are still outside.

Scenario 5: A bank heist was foiled as it was being committed, the suspects took all customers and employees to an out of sight area, SWAT approaches and is seen by the suspects. They begin to fire at the door striking the breacher (and point man (if time permits)). Officers must tactically retreat and perform first aid on injured operators. They then must evacuate the officer placing them on the transport or the SWAT ambulance.

Schedule:

0700-0800 Gather Gear, Load, Travel to Site, Set up
0800-0900 Ram/ Impact Tools/ Sledge discussion, Use and Technique
0900-1030 Halligan, Use and Technique (inward/outward opening doors)
1030-1130 Team breach
1130-1230 Lunch
1230-1300 Team Business
1300-1530 Window porting training
1530-1630 Scenarios (competition if time permits)
1630-1700 Clean Up
1700-1730 Travel and Unload

Workout (if time permits):

Tabata (20 sec work/ 10 sec rest 8rnds each exercise)

Pushups
Air Squats
Sit-ups
Jumping pullup (if no bar: mountain climbers)