

Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department Approves Crimson Trace Lasergrips

The nations largest sheriffs department, Los Angeles County, has authorized the use of laser gun-sights for their nearly 9,000 deputies. After six years of extensive field trials, competitive evaluation and durability testing, Crimson Trace Lasergrips were selected as the only system allowed for use.

Department officials concluded that adding laser sights would increase community and officer safety and reduce liability exposure to the agency.

An officer with a laser is better equipped to evaluate a subject's risk level. When using a traditional sighted gun, an officer is forced to look at the sights rather than the subject. An officer using a laser can verify accurate aim on a subject while evaluating if an object in their hand is a gun or something less menacing. We have all seen too many cases across the country where an officer using traditional sighting methods mistook a non-threatening object, like a cell phone, for a weapon; resulting in lethal consequences and costly negligence lawsuits.

Possibly the most important benefit is the lasers' deterrent effect. Lasergrips have been shown to greatly help in gaining subject compliance before higher levels of force must be used. Since a laser has been shown to increase subject compliance, there is less chance of an officer being involved in a shooting in the first place. And everyone agrees that the less shootings a department has, the better.

Authorization of the Lasergrips comes after over six years of field evaluation by LAC firearms training staff, including a complete product redesign by the manufacturer, Crimson Trace Corporation, per the agencies specifications. During the evaluation, around 20 deputies were allowed to use the lasers on-duty to substantiate the claims made by other smaller agencies around the country, as well as the manufacture. The findings were nearly unanimous, with the biggest advantage sighted as a calming effect on dangerous felons.

LASD becomes the largest municipal police agency in the nation thus far to authorize the Lasergrips system. However, they are far from the largest worldwide user. Singapore PD, known for their strict enforcement of the law, issued over 10,000 Lasergrip systems last year. Hundreds of smaller agencies in the US as well as the US Air Force and other special military units have also 'seen the light'.

Public perception has been very positive towards agencies that are using Lasergrips. "It is important to consider the fact that over 75% of police shootings happen in low light.", said Crimson Trace Law Enforcement Trainer, Jason DuVal, "Lasergrips help officers aim better, reducing the likelihood of missed shots, and the risk of injuring innocent civilians."

Crimson Trace Corporation is the leading manufacturer of laser sights for small arms.

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