

## **POST RIFLE COURSE**

- COURSE TITLE:** FIREARMS/TACTICAL RIFLE  
Includes all shoulder-fired weapons that are not a shotgun
- COURSE NUMBER:** 32075
- COURSE HOURS:** 16
- COURSE GOAL:** Provide students with the information and hands-on experience needed to effectively use a Rifle.
- AUDIENCE:** Sworn Peace Officers, including Level I and Level II Reserve Officers who are being introduced to a rifle and will qualify and carry it on duty in the scope of their employment
- NOTE:** Successful completion of this course satisfies the legislative training mandate to possess short barrel rifles as specified in Penal Code section 33220(b) and the Commission training requirement to possess long barrel rifles as specified in Commission Regulation 1081.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Under the supervision of a qualified instructor, and using an approved law enforcement rifle, each student will:

- I. Demonstrate their understanding of the Four Basic Safety Rules for handling firearms.
- II. Demonstrate the ability to field strip the weapon and to properly clean and maintain it.
- III. Be provided with and demonstrate understanding of the agency policy regarding the use of firearms.
- IV. Demonstrate the ability to properly load, unload, and fire the weapon and to clear malfunctions that might occur with the weapon.
- V. Demonstrate the ability to apply the fundamentals for rifle marksmanship to fire accurately from the prone, kneeling, sitting and standing positions.
- VI. Demonstrate proficiency with the weapon and obtain agency qualification.

### **REQUIRED CONTENT**

Commission Regulation 1081

- (1) Law Update
- (2) Review of Use of Force Issues, Agency Policies, and Mission
- (3) Safety Issues
- (4) Nomenclature, Specifications, and Capabilities
- (5) Firearm Care, Breakdown, and Cleaning
- (6) Tactical Considerations
- (7) Skill Development and Qualification

## EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
  - A. Course Overview and Schedule
    - 1. Instructors will review the schedule with students.
    - 2. The student's cooperation in adhering to the schedule will be required so that all personnel will obtain the most benefit from the course.
  - B. Course Objective
    - 1. To provide personnel with the information and hands-on experience needed to effectively use the Patrol Rifle to defend his or her life, or the life of another from violent attack.
    - 2. Mission Statement and the Patrol Rifle
  
- II. Safety and Range Rules
  - A. The Four Basic Safety Rules include
    - 1. Treat all guns as if they are loaded.
    - 2. Never point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to destroy.
    - 3. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target.
    - 4. Always be sure of your target and beyond.
  - B. Range Rules
    - 1. After weapons have been grounded, and the line has been called safe by an instructor do not touch the weapon until all students are back from their targets, and the instructor has given the okay.
    - 2. If a problem arises on the line, raise your non-gun-hand to summon an instructor.
  
- III. Laws and Agency Policy
  - A. Inquiry of Reasonableness
    - 1. Severity of crime
    - 2. Threat of suspect to officer /citizens
    - 3. Active resistance of suspect to arrest/escape
  - C. Penal Code section 32610(b)
    - 1. Possession of Within Scope of Employment
  - D. Penal Code section 33220(b)
    - 1. Training requirement
  - E. Agency Firearms Use and Use of Force Policies
    - 1. Use of Force options
    - 2. Department Policy
    - 3. Training and Experience
    - 4. Similar circumstances
    - 5. Use of similar judgment
  - H. Law Update
    - 1. Tennessee vs. Garner (deadly force)

- a. Life threatening escape – “where the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect poses a threat of serious physical harm, either to the officer or others...”
  - b. Life threatening escape felony “...if the suspect threatens the officer with a weapon or there is probable cause to believe that he has committed a crime involving the infliction of serious bodily harm...”
  - c. Give warning where feasible – “Halt, police! Stop or I’ll shoot!”
  - d. If necessary to prevent escape – “in order for lethal force to be constitutionally permissible, there must be probable cause to believe that the use is reasonably necessary...”
2. **Graham vs. Conner**
- a. The reasonableness of a particular use of force must be:
    - 1. Judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer
    - 2. Examined through the eyes of an officer on the scene at the time the force was applied.
    - 3. Based on the facts and circumstances confronting the officer without regard to the officer’s underlying intent or motivation.
    - 4. Based on the knowledge that the officer acted properly under the established law at the time
  - b. Reasonable Officer Standard
3. **Forrett v. Richardson**
- a. Deadly force may be used to prevent the escape of an individual when an officer has “probable cause to believe that the infliction or threatened infliction of serious harm is involved.”
  - b. “Officers are not required to exhaust every alternative before using justifiable deadly force”
4. **Forrester v. San Diego**
- a. Addresses Level of Force
  - b. Officers do not necessarily need to use the least intrusive force
  - c. Force must be reasonable and justified
5. **Deorle v. Rutherford**
- a. Where feasible a warning should be given before deploying force that could cause substantial injury
  - b. Pertains to all less lethal weapons
6. **Long Beach v. Long Beach POA**
- a. Agency can have more restrictive policy than state/federal law
7. **Long Beach v. Peterson**
- a. Officer can be held liable for violating agency policy

8. Facilitated Discussion
  - a. Instructors and students will discuss case law(s) and use of force applications in various situations that a rifle is likely to be deployed.
  - b. The discussion will include de-escalation strategies as well as alternatives to deadly force.

#### IV. Nomenclature, Specifications and Capabilities

- A. Weapon Specifications
  1. Type: Air cooled, gas operated, magazine fed, .223 caliber, semi-automatic, shoulder fired weapon.
  2. 16.1 inch barrel.
  3. 38 inches overall length.
  4. Weight approximately 6.75 pounds with fully loaded 20 round magazine. Muzzle velocity, 55 grain bullet is approximately 3,100 feet per second
- B. External Nomenclature:
  1. Front and Rear Sights
  2. Charging Handle
  3. Bolt Catch/Bolt Release
  4. Magazine Release
  5. Safety (Selector Lever)
  6. Trigger
  7. Take Down Pin
  8. Ejection Port
  9. Dust Cover
  10. Forend
  11. Buttstock
  12. Pistol Grip
  13. Magazine
  14. Carrying Handle
- C. Internal Nomenclature
  1. Bolt Carrier
  2. Bolt
  3. Bolt Locking Lugs
  4. Firing Pin Retaining Pin
  5. Firing Pin
  6. Cam Pin
  7. Key
  8. Extractor
  9. Extractor Retaining Pin
  10. Extractor Spring Assembly
- C. Capabilities
  1. Maximum Range
  2. Maximum Effective Range
  3. Penetration of Soft Body Armor
  4. Full/Semi-Automatic

## V. Firearm Care, Disassembly/Assembly, and Maintenance

- A. Refer to the manufacturer's care and operation manual.
- B. Disassembly of Rifle:
  - 1. Ensure magazine is removed and weapon is cleared.
  - 2. Starting with the action closed and the safety selector lever on "safe," press the takedown pin out as far as it will go.
  - 3. Pivot the upper receiver from the lower receiver.
  - 4. Pull back the charging handle and bolt carrier.
  - 5. Remove the bolt carrier and bolt.
  - 6. Remove the charging handle.
  - 7. Remove firing pin retaining pin.
  - 8. Push in on bolt to put in the locked position.
  - 9. Drop the firing pin out through the rear of the bolt carrier.
  - 10. Rotate cam pin  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn and lift it out.
  - 11. Remove bolt assembly from the carrier.
  - 12. While compressing the extractor spring with the thumb, use the firing pin to remove the extractor pin. Be careful not to damage the firing pin.
- C. Reassembly of rifle: The rifle is reassembled by following the disassembly procedures in reverse order.
- D. Cleaning:
  - 1. When cleaning the barrel and chamber, use a nitro powder solvent, such as Hoppe's #9, or comparable product. Give special attention to the chamber, and use the special chamber brush as it is shaped to fit only the chamber.
  - 2. The military has found that over half of the malfunctions with the weapon are caused by dirty or improperly cleaned chambers.
  - 3. Use a bore brush soaked in solvent to clean the barrel bore. Push the brush through, from the chamber end, to reduce the risk of damage to the barrel crown.
  - 4. After brushing the bore and chamber, follow with dry patches until the patches come out clean.
  - 5. All other parts should be cleaned with solvent and a plastic bristle tooth brush.
  - 6. Remove all solvent and apply a thin coating of lubrication on all metal parts prior to reassembly.

## VI. Fundamentals of Rifle Marksmanship/Basic Shooting Skills

- A. Stance/Position
  - 1. Standing (Least stable)
  - 2. Kneeling
  - 3. Sitting
  - 4. Prone (Most stable)
- B. Sight Alignment/Picture
  - 1. Top of front sight post centered in the rear peep.
  - 2. 100 percent focus is on the top edge of the front sight post. The rear peep and target are blurred.
  - 3. Instructor will illustrate proper sight alignment.

- C. Sight Picture: Defined as the relationship of sight alignment on the target.
- D. Trigger Control
  1. Emphasize: this is the single most important element.
  2. Shooter must apply gradual pressure on the trigger for a surprise trigger break so as not to disturb sight alignment when the shot is made.
- E. Grip/Stock Weld
- F. Breath Control
  1. Breath must be held at the moment the shot is made.
  2. Breathing while firing will cause vertical stringing of shots.
  3. Holding breath too long will cause vision to blur and muscles to tremble. The shot must be made before this happens.
- G. Follow through
  1. Maintaining all of the elements throughout the shot.
  2. Hold the trigger to the rear and place sights back on target.

## VII. Clearing Malfunctions and Stoppages

- A. In close quarter confrontations, consider immediate transition to the handgun.
- B. Malfunction:
  1. A temporary stoppage of the weapons operation.
  2. It can be diagnosed and corrected by the operator.
  3. The operator's ability to diagnose and correct a malfunction quickly is crucial to their survival.
- C. Malfunction drills:
  1. Must become an instinctive action.
  2. If you have to think about what to do, it will take too long.
  3. You will be way behind in the fight.
  4. Therefore, they must be trained and reinforced constantly
- D. Failure to fire - Malfunctions are referred to as Type I, Type II and Type III. Each one has to be diagnosed and a particular course of action taken to correct it.
  1. "Tap, Rack, Assess" - TYPE I: This malfunction can occur when the magazine is not seated, a round has not been chambered, or the round in the chamber has a bad primer. Symptom: when the trigger is pressed, the weapon goes "click" instead of "bang". To correct a Type I malfunction, the shooter must:
    - a. Seat magazine by hitting it with heel of hand
    - b. Pull bolt to rear and release
    - c. Obtain sight picture
    - d. Assess if follow-up shots are necessary
  2. Stove pipe - TYPE II: This malfunction is commonly referred to as a "Stove-Pipe," and happens after the shooter has fired at least one round. It can be caused by numerous problems such as, the magazine is not seated, the weapon is extremely dirty, or the extractor spring is weak. Symptom: when the trigger is pressed, it feels "Mushy" and does not fire. Anytime a mushy trigger is felt the operator must diagnose further to determine the problem. To correct a Type II malfunction, the shooter must:
    - a. Tilt rifle so that ejection port faces the ground
    - b. Pull bolt to rear and release
    - c. Obtain sight picture

- d. Assess if follow-up shots are necessary
- 3. Feed way stoppages - TYPE III: This malfunction is commonly referred to as a “Double-Feed,” and happens after at least one round is fired. It can be caused by numerous problems such as a bad magazine, or an extremely dirty weapon. Symptom: when the trigger is pressed it feels “Mushy,” and the rifle will not fire; the operator must diagnose a mushy trigger pull and determine the problem. To correct a Type III malfunction, the shooter must:
  - a. Tilt the weapon and look into the ejection port. (*Will see two rounds jammed into the chamber, trapped in place by the bolt.*)
  - b. Lock the bolt to the rear
  - c. Remove the magazine from the weapon
    - 1. Discard magazine
  - d. Clear live rounds from the receiver and chamber.
  - e. Insert a fresh loaded magazine
  - f. Chamber a round
  - g. Obtain sight picture
  - h. Assess if follow-up shots are necessary

#### VIII. Tactical Considerations

- A. Based on agency guidelines and training
- B. Physical environment
- C. Be aware of cover and concealment
  - 1. Seek substantial cover (something that will stop high power rifle rounds).
  - 2. If cover is not available, choose something for concealment (anything that will partially or completely hide you from view).
  - 3. If cover or concealment is not available, make yourself as small a target as possible.
  - 4. Avoid standing upright while looking for the sniper.
  - 5. Stay out of light doorways. Avoid being silhouetted.
  - 6. Barricade vs. Mobile suspect.
- D. Rifle caliber rounds will penetrate soft body armor...(yours or theirs!).
- E. The Patrol Rifle affords the opportunity to maintain safe distances to adversaries.
  - 1. Exploit capabilities of rifle
  - 2. General Considerations
    - a. Deploy with stealth
    - b. Deploy in teams
  - 3. Target Indicators
    - a. Think like suspect
    - b. Open or broken windows
    - c. Muzzle flashes
    - d. People running/hiding
    - e. Unusual activity
- F. The Patrol Rifle affords an increased effective range over the service shotgun and handgun.

- G. The Patrol Rifle affords more accuracy than a service shotgun with a rifled slug.
- H. The Patrol Rifle is easier to load and re-load than a service shotgun.
- I. The Patrol Rifle has a larger ammunition capacity than a service shotgun.
- J. Combat Mind Set
  - 1. Definition: A conscious realization that there exists an individual who may try to kill law enforcement personnel and innocent bystanders during the commission of violent crimes.
    - a. When the unprepared officer meets a violent attack from such a person, disbelief and delay are often the first reaction.
    - b. A prepared mind is the key to a winning performance under the stress of life and death consequences.
  - 2. The Patrol Rifle is a tool the prepared officer can use to deal with such a threat.
- K. Completion of the call:
  - 1. Rifleman stays in cover position while others approach.
  - 2. Suspect is still a threat even if shot.
  - 3. Unload and secure rifle and gear as soon as feasible to avoid undue attention from the media.
  - 4. If shots are fired, follow Deadly Force policy.

## IX. Shooting Decision

- A. Know your abilities and limitations and those of your weapon.
  - 1. May not be life or death to you: Will you still fire?
  - 2. Fire must be aimed and controlled
  - 3. Firearms safety rule #4 must be considered.
  - 4. Moral/legal responsibility to take action.
- B. Exercise fire discipline within agency guidelines and the parameters of applicable State and Federal laws.

## X. Skill Development

- A. Dry Firing Exercises
  - 1. Done on the range under the direct supervision of the instructors.
  - 2. Dry fire each position (standing, kneeling, sitting, and prone).
- B. Live Firing Exercises
  - 1. Done on the range under the direct supervision of the instructors.
  - 2. Live fire each position (standing, kneeling, sitting, and prone).
    - a. Supine Prone
      - 1. Lay flat on back.
      - 2. Bring rifle across chest.
      - 3. Hold fore-end with support side hand, palm up.
    - b. Urban Prone
      - 1. Lay on belly with primary side elbow under chest.
      - 2. Hold rifle up with support side hand forming a “Bridge” as though shooting pool.
  - 3. Live fire at various distances based on agency mission and environment.
  - 4. Live fire at multiple targets.
  - 5. Precision shooting exercises.

6. Reloading and firing exercises.
  7. Malfunction exercises.
    - a. In some cases, trying to clear a malfunction with your rifle may not be feasible.
    - b. The adversary may be at close range or you may be caught out in the open.
      1. In these situations, it is best to forget about fixing the rifle and quickly transition to your handgun.
      2. Remember “Fight now, Fix later!”
  8. Move and fire exercises.
    - a. Fast Tactical Walk
      1. Turn hips toward direction of travel and bring feet under body
      2. Lean forward and bend at the knees.
      3. Walk with small rapid steps heel to toe as if peddling a bicycle.
    - b. Slow Tactical Walk
      1. Start toward threat with lead foot.
      2. Trail with rear foot, stopping back in your fighting stance.
  9. Close quarter tactical shooting.
- C. Failure Drills
1. A Failure Drill is conducted when the controlled pair is not effective.
    - a. After assessing the threat following a controlled pair, if the adversary is still a threat, a failure drill is conducted.
    - b. It is called a failure drill because it is done when the primary response failed to stop the adversary.
  2. After the second round of the pair, the shooter fires one additional round (more if needed) into the Cranio-Ocular Cavity

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