

# **POST PERISHABLE SKILLS PROGRAM (PSP)**

## **I - TACTICAL FIREARMS**

### **COURSE GOAL:**

The course will provide the trainee with the minimum topics of tactical firearms and lethal force required in the POST Perishable Skills Training Program (PSP). The trainee will develop the necessary firearms tactical knowledge and skills to survive and win a realistic lethal force encounter while using off duty / back up weapons and equipment. The course consists of hands-on/practical skills firearms training for in-service officers.

### **TACTICAL FIREARMS**

#### **Minimum Topics/Exercises:**

- a. Basic Tactical Firearms Situations, Judgment and Decision Making Exercise(s)
- b. Class Exercises/Student Evaluation/Testing
- c. Safety policy/orientation
- d. Marksmanship Fundamentals - Sight Alignment, Trigger Control, Accuracy
- e. Target recognition and analysis
- f. Weapons Clearing
- g. Live Fire Tactical/or Simunitions Tactical
- h. Policy and/or legal issues
- i. Use of Force considerations (options)
- j. Moral obligations

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The trainee will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of their individual Department Use Of Force/Firearms Policy.
2. Identify the tactical analysis key points related to tactical firearms as reported in the POST Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) Studies (1994 to Present).
3. Demonstrate a minimum standard of tactical handgun proficiency with every technique, exercise, and course-of-fire, to include:
  - A. Judgment and Decision Making
  - B. Weapons Safety
  - C. Basic Presentation Technique
  - D. Fundamentals of Shooting
  - E. Target/Non-Target Identification
  - F. Speed, Accuracy and Effectiveness under stress and movement conditions
  - G. Shot Placement: Stopping Power - Multiple rounds

**Minimum standards of performance shall be tested by an instructor observing the trainee during their performance of each technique, exercise and course-of-fire. If the trainee does not meet minimum standards, as established by the presenter, remediation will be provided until the standard is met.**

### **EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE**

- I. INTRODUCTION/ORIENTATION
  - A. Introduction, Registration and Orientation
  - B. Course Objectives
    - 1. Overview
    - 2. Exercises
    - 3. Evaluation/Testing
- II. LETHAL FORCE OVERVIEW
  - A. Legal/Moral/Ethical Issues involving Use of Force/Lethal Force **I(j)**
    - 1. Civil Implications of using Force/Lethal Force
    - 2. Report Writing
    - 3. Preliminary Investigation Overview
- III. USE OF FORCE/LETHAL FORCE AND FIREARMS POLICY **I(h,i)**
  - A. Use of Force Options **I(i)**
    - 1. Lethal Force within the spectrum of force options **I(h)**
    - 2. Verbal, Hands, Less than Lethal, Lethal Force
    - 3. Escalation and De-escalation Process
  - B. Department Policy and deadly force policy **I(h,i,j)**
    - 1. Reasonable Cause to believe
    - 2. Imminent Threat
    - 3. Death or Great Bodily Injury
    - 4. Fleeing Violent Felon Specifications
    - 5. Other policy areas and issues
  - C. Supporting Case Law - **I(h,j)**
    - 1. Tennessee vs. Garner
      - a. Deadly Force
      - b. Fleeing Felon
    - 2. Graham vs. Conner
      - a. Reasonable Force
- IV. POST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED/ASSAULTED (LEOKA) STUDIES
  - A. 1994/2001 Reports **I(h)**
    - 1. Vital Statistics from LEOKA Reports
  - B. Conclusive Tactical Analysis
    - 1. Low Light Conditions
    - 2. 5 - 10 feet
    - 3. 2 rounds
    - 4. 2 seconds
    - 5. Officer Accuracy: averages 10-20 %
    - 6. Use of Cover
    - 7. Summary/Overview
- V. WEAPONS SAFETY ORIENTATION, REVIEW OF RANGE AND SHOOTING SAFETY RULES **I(c)**
  - A. (Pre-range weapons unloading procedures and lunch/extended break reload/unload rules)

1. Four Firearms Safety Rules
  - a. Treat all weapons as if they are loaded
  - b. Never point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to destroy/shoot
  - c. Keep finger off trigger until your sights are aligned, and you have made a conscious decision to fire.
  - d. Be sure of your target and background
2. Range and Tactical Safety
  - a. Follow Range Rules
  - b. Follow Instructor commands
  - c. Strict Weapon Discipline and Muzzle Control
  - d. No Lasering of personal body parts or others
3. Review of Range Safety Rules
  - a. Cover primary elements as a checklist with students
  - b. Discuss local emergency/first aid procedures – Assign roles for:
    1. Medical Aid
    2. Calling 911
    3. Guiding in the ambulance
    4. Scribe
    5. Set up unit for transport if necessary
  - c. Discuss radio/telephone procedure
  - d. List closest medical facility

**VI. CARRY OPTIONS FOR OFF DUTY AND BACK-UP WEAPONS I(c,h)**

- A. Authorized Off- Duty Weapons (Lexipol 312.2.3)
  1. Good quality and workmanship (only the following manufactures are authorized: Colt, Smith and Wesson, Sig-Sauer, Glock, Heckler & Koch, Para Ordinance, Beretta, or Springfield Armory)
    - a. Must be double action, double action/ single action or striker fired.
    - b. Must be inspected (by the Rangemaster) and qualified with prior to use.
    - c. Shall carry Sheriff's Office ID when armed
  2. Recommend features
    - a. Same operating system as your duty weapon (same manufacturer)
    - b. Same or less external safety devices
    - c. Capacity to handle a critical incident off duty /alone with no back up or partner.
  3. Recommended Modes of Carry
    - a. Primary Side Hip
      1. Inside the waistband (ridged, sturdy clip, must allow a normal re-holster)
      2. Outside the waistband (ridged, solid, robustly constructed, solid retention, Fobus/ Serpa not recommended)

- b. Appendix Carry
        - 1. Adjustability for height and cant
        - 2. Wedge, length, claw attachment
        - 3. Ability to obtain proper grip and re-holster
    - 4. Belt
      - a. Must have a solid/ stiff belt with adjustability
- B. Secondary (Back Up) Weapons (Lexipol 312.2.2)
  - 1. Good quality and workmanship (only the following manufactures are authorized; Colt, Smith and Wesson, Sig-Sauer, Glock, Heckler & Koch, Para Ordinance, Beretta, or Springfield Armory)
    - a. Must be double action, double action/ single action or striker fire
    - b. Must be inspected (by the Rangemaster) and qualified with prior to use.
  - 2. Recommended Features
    - a. Reliability
    - b. Simplicity
- C. Back Up Revolvers
  - 1. Nomenclature
    - a. Frame
    - b. Cylinder
    - c. Trigger
    - d. Trigger Guard
    - e. Top Strap
    - f. Back Strap
    - g. Stock
    - h. Front sight
    - i. Rear sight
    - j. Ejector rod
    - k. Cylinder Release
    - l. Barrel
    - m. Ejector
  - 2. Loading
    - a. Left and right handed
    - b. Unloading
    - c. Left and right handed

VII. FUNDAMENTALS OF SHOOTING

I(d)

- A. Stance
  - 1. Strong, Balanced Ready Position
    - a. Feet – shoulder width apart
    - b. Weight on balls of the feet

- c. Knees bent
    - d. Torso bent slightly forward at waist
  - 2. Review Modern Isosceles and/or Weaver
  - 3. Emphasis on Isosceles
  - 4. Hips and shoulders square to target
  - 5. Arms fully extended with slight bend in elbows
- B. Grip
  - 1. Strong, Effective two-handed grip
  - 2. Primary hand high
  - 3. Primary thumb up and forward
  - 4. Support hand underneath trigger guard
  - 5. Thumb rotates forward toward target
- C. Sight Alignment
  - 1. Determine dominate eye
  - 2. Eye Focus - Front Sight Tip
  - 3. Equal height and spacing of front and rear sights
- D. Sight Picture
  - 1. Proper sight alignment on a target
  - 2. Focus on front sight tip
- E. Trigger Control
  - 1. Finger on trigger
  - 2. Take out slack on trigger
  - 3. Press.....
  - 4. Steady pressure
  - 5. Surprise break
  - 6. Sear reset (under recoil)
- F. Breathing
  - 1. Controlled –fire during respiratory pause
- G. Follow through
  - 1. acquire secondary sight picture after each shot
  - 2. reset the sear during recoil
  - 3. recoil management

VIII. FIVE COUNT PISTOL PRESENTATION

**I(d,e)**

- A. Count One
  - 1. obtain a proper firing grip
  - 2. All retention devises deactivated
  - 3. Support hand/arm into chest position
- B. Count Two
  - 1. Draw weapon just enough to clear holster
  - 2. Wrist is positioned above holster
  - 3. Trigger finger is indexed
  - 4. Gun pointing at ground

- C. Count Three
  - 1. Rotate muzzle toward target
  - 2. Gun slightly canted outward
  - 3. Safety off
  - 4. Weapon canted outboard with magazine well indexed below pictorial muscle/ Thumb flagged
  - 5. Close contact position
  - 6. Forearm parallel to ground
- D. Count Four
  - 1. Push primary hand into support hand
  - 2. Obtain firing grip
  - 3. High compressed ready position
- E. Count Five
  - 1. Pistol raised to eye level
  - 2. Eye focus to front sight
  - 3. Sight alignment/sight picture is verified
  - 4. Push gun out
- F. Shot placement
  - 1. Thoracic Cavity
  - 2. Cranial Ocular
  - 3. Pelvic Girdle
  - 4. Responses
    - a. Controlled Pairs
    - b. Failure to Stop
    - c. Dedicated head shot
  - 5. Each shot must be justified
- F. Target Analysis **I(e)**
  - 1. Did I hit?
  - 2. Did it Work?
  - 3. Assess the Threat - Still a threat?
  - 4. Contain – no threat
  - 5. Still a Threat?
    - a. Compressed High Ready
    - b. Access the threat
    - c. Check 5 O'clock
    - d. Reassess
    - e. Check 7 O'clock
    - f. Reassess
    - g. Check weapon status
    - h. Check personal status
  - 6. De-cock to Double Action
  - 7. Tactical Reloading
- G. Re-holstering

1. ONLY when the tactical situation warrants
2. Reverse of the draw count
3. Support hand/arm into chest position
4. Additional Scan and Assessment at count 3
5. Reluctantly re-holster
  - a. Stop and access
  - b. Don't force re-holster
6. If necessary, look down to access

## XI. DRILLS AND COURSES-OF-FIRE

- I(a,c)**
- A. Range Orientation and Safety Briefing
    1. Second range safety review
    2. Command sequence
  - B. All Courses emphasize:
    1. Weapons Safety
    2. Muzzle and Fire Discipline
    3. Fundamentals of Shooting
    4. Five Count Presentation
  - C. 5 Count Presentation/ Dry Practice ( Open Carry and from Concealment)
    1. 5 count presentation with a dry press (by the numbers)
    2. 5 count presentation with a dry press (at your own pace)
  - D. 5 Count Presentation/ Live Fire ( Open Carry and From Concealment)
    1. 5 count presentation with a dry press (by the numbers)
    2. 5 count presentation with a dry press (at your own pace)
  - E. Controlled Pairs/ Bursts to the thoracic cavity( Open Carry and from Concealment)
    1. 5 count position
    2. Correct grip and stance
    3. Controlled pairs
    4. After-action
    5. Re-holster
  - F. Emergency Reload: Gun empty
    1. Mushy Trigger
    2. Finger
    3. Straight/Assess: bring gun into workspace
    4. Strip empty mag
    5. Properly index fresh mag
    6. Insert mag
    7. Charge/load weapon – release slide
    8. Assess situation
  - G. Sight Tracking
    1. Focus on front sight during recovery
    2. Track front sight up, then back, and then to target
    3. Keep eyes on front sight the whole time

- H. Combat Reload Exercise/Weapons Clearing **I(a,f)**
1. Tactically reloading (Bringing handgun back up to full capacity)
  2. When shooting has stopped
  3. Move to Cover
  4. Proper grip of fresh magazine
  5. Strip and replace in-gun magazine
  6. Used magazine in pocket, not pouch
  7. Practice and Proficiency demonstration
- I. Weapon Malfunction Exercise (split class into two groups) **I(f,g)**
1. Type I, Failure to Fire
    - a. Clearance Drill – Tap, Roll, and Rack
      - (1) Practice with Dummy rounds
      - (2) With Live Mags
    - b. Live Fire, 5 times
  2. Type II, Stove pipe
    - a. Failure to Rack
      - (1) Practice with Dummy rounds
      - (2) With Live Mags
    - b. Rack extract
  3. Type III, Double Feed
    - a. Tap
    - b. Roll rack
- J. Failure to stop suspect (Drugs/Body Armor) Drills **I(e)**
1. Theory
    - a. Target the brain, turn off the neurological switch
    - b. Different responses
  2. Shot Placement
    - a. Two rounds to thoracic cavity
    - b. One round to cranial ocular
  3. 7 yard line, 2 and 2
    - a. 2 magazines
    - b. With tactical loading/reloading
- K. Spread Fire Course – Engaging multiple threats
1. Threat Assessment/Threat Prioritization
    - a. Threat ID
    - b. Threat type, lethality, and range
    - c. Highest threat prioritization
  2. 3 Targets at the 7 yard line, 2 rounds each, 3 times
    - a. 2 magazines
    - b. With tactical reloads
- L. Pneumatic Target Drills (or Building Entry or stationary)
1. Target Identification, Threat Assessment
  2. 7 yard line, targets of varying threat w/ shoot-no shoot options



3. At least one no-shoot
- M. Moving off the X
  1. Target Identification
  2. Shooting on the move - techniques
    - a. Narrow your base
    - b. Bend knees
    - c. Low center of gravity
    - d. Walking forward
    - e. Movement from waist down only
    - f. Heel to toe walk
    - g. Go slowly
    - h. Shoot while feet are in transit.

**XII. TESTING, EVALUATIONS, WEAPONS CLEANING**

**I(b)**

- A. Testing/Remediation:
  1. Any student scoring below standard on any exercise, as established by the presenter, will be remediated and tested until standard is achieved.
- B. Weapons Cleaning
  1. Include washing hands and face
  2. Remind participants to wash clothes as soon as practical.
- C. Course Evaluations
  1. Discuss course strengths and /or weaknesses
  2. Fill out course evaluation sheet