

FIREARMS TRAINING

Patrol Rifle Operator

POST Course Outline

Course Title: RIFLE OPERATORS COURSE

COURSE GOAL: The goal of this course is to provide the officer with the necessary firearm and tactical knowledge and skills to effectively deploy the rifle in situations that call for its use. The presentation format will be a 16-hour hands-on/practical skills firearm training course for in-service officers, which will cover and incorporate major components of the skills necessary for the deployment of the rifle. This course will meet the POST requirements necessary for officers to deploy a rifle with a barrel length less than 16 inches to comply with 33220 PC. The course will incorporate skills necessary to operate both an AR-15 style weapon and an M-16/M-4 style weapon.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this course, the student will know:

1. The agency's use of force and firearms policy and related case law.
2. The basic fundamentals needed for shooting a rifle.
3. The tactical considerations needed for the deployment of the rifle.
4. The proper safety procedures when using the rifle.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to demonstrate a minimum standard of tactical rifle proficiency with every technique, exercise and course of fire, to include:

1. Judgment and decision making
2. Appropriate weapon safety procedures.
3. Basic rifle operation techniques
4. Basic shooting positions
5. Fundamentals of shooting
6. Speed, accuracy, and effectiveness
7. Shot Placement

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POST Course Outline

HOURLY DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE

Day 1

- 0000 – 0030 INTRODUCTION Firearms Team
Course overview/safety guidelines/health considerations
- 0030 – 0100 LAW UPDATE/USE OF FORCE/SAFETY ISSUES Firearms Team
Illegal weapons/civil issues/Department Policy/force options
- 0100 – 0130 JUSTIFICATION AND OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES Firearms Team
Tactical Consideration
- 0130 – 0230 RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS AND NOMENCLATURE Firearms Team
- 0230 – 0300 MECHANICAL OPERATIONS AND FEATURES Firearms Team
Cycle of operation/Sling and sight systems
- 0300 – 0400 MAINTENANCE, CLEANING AND INSPECTION Firearms Team

LUNCH BREAK

- 0400 – 0430 WEAPON OPERATIONS Firearms Team
Loading/unloading/stoppages and failure to fire procedures
- 0430 – 0500 PRINCIPLES OF MARKSMANSHIP Firearms Team
Fundamental/Shooting Positions/Weapon Holds
- 0500 – 0600 RIFLE ZEROING Firearms Team
- 0600 – 0800 RANGE DRILLS Firearms Team
Threat targets/Parallax drill/Numbers drill

FIREARMS TRAINING

Patrol Rifle Operator

POST Course Outline

Day 2

0000 – 0130 RANGE DRILLS Firearms Team
Stair Drill/Multiple target drill/non-conventional shooting drills

0130 – 0230 RANGE DRILLS Firearms Team
Multiple targets

0230 – 0330 RANGE DRILL Firearms Team
Transition and Failure drills

0330 – 0400 RANGE DRILLS Firearms Team
Shooting on the move

Lunch Break

0400 – 0500 RANGE DRILLS Firearms Team
CQB drills

0500 – 0600 RANGE DRILLS Firearms Team
Low light shooting

0600 – 0700 RANGE DRILLS Firearms Team
Combat and Movement courses

0700 – 0800 TESTING Firearms Team
Written test/rifle qualification/weapon cleaning

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TOPIC: Rifle Operator

TIME FRAME: 16:00

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: II

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:

- Condition: Given a class activity, practical exercise and examination.
- Behavior: The student will demonstrate a practical working knowledge of firearms skills and safety with the rifle.
- Standard: Each student will demonstrate a minimum standard of performance with every technique, exercise, or course of fire. Minimum standards of performance will be evaluated by an instructor observing the student during performance of the technique, exercise, or course of fire. If the student doesn't meet minimum standards, individual remediation will be given until the standard is met. Firearms testing will include safety, accuracy, and competency and effectiveness with weapons.

COURSE CONTENT: 16:00 HOURS

- 1. INTRODUCTION..... 0:30
- 2. LAW UPDATE/USE OF FORCE/SAFETY ISSUES..... 0:30
- 3. JUSTIFICATION FOR RIFLE/OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES 0:30
- 4. RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS AND NOMENCLATURE..... 0:60
- 5. MECHANICAL OPERATIONS AND FEATURES..... 0:30
- 6. MAINTENANCE, CLEANING AND INSPECTION 0:60
- 7. WEAPON OPERATIONS..... 0:30
- 8. PRINCIPLES OF MARKSMANSHIP..... 0:30
- 9. RIFLE ZEROING, SKILL DEVELOPMENT, AND TESTING.....11:00

TACTICAL COURSE

Firearm Skills

P.O.S.T. Expanded Course Outline

I. Introduction

(1b,c)

A. Overview of curriculum

1. Class exercises, evaluation, and testing
2. Breaks and location of facilities
3. Instructor Introductions

B. Safety Plan

1. Follow all rules as outlined in safety plan
2. Follow instructors commands
3. Strict weapons discipline and muzzle control
4. No “lasering”
5. Movement and reloading only on double action (handgun) or “safe” (rifle).
6. Trigger finger indexed until ready to fire

C. Range Operations

D. Health considerations (lead)

II. Law update

(1h)

A. 33220 PC

1. Requires POST certified course for peace officers
2. Rifle or shotgun with barrel length less than 16 inches
3. Only while ON DUTY during scope of employment, and
4. The use of the weapon is authorized by the department.

B. Overview of illegal weapon parts

1. Auto hammer
2. Auto disconnecter
3. Bolt carrier
4. Selector switch
5. Auto trigger

III. Use of Force/Department Policy

(1h,i,j)

A. Moral and ethical issues involving lethal force.

1. Responsible for, and must justify, every shot fired.

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Firearm Skills

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2. PTSD

B. Civil implications of using force

1. 42 U.S.C., section 1983
 - a) Civil remedy for violation of civil rights
2. Department Discipline
3. State Court, civil liabilities

C. Applicable Penal Code sections

1. 835(a) PC-Authority to use force to make arrest
2. 196 PC- Justifiable Homicide by Officer
3. 197 PC- Homicide in self defense
4. 198 PC- Justifiable Homicide, sufficiency of fear
 - a) Bare fear is not sufficient to justify homicide.
 - i. Must be sufficient to excite the fears of a reasonable person in like circumstances.
 - ii. Cannot act on bare fear alone. Must be an some circumstance or overt act.
 - iii. Lethal force must be used to save you or someone else from death or GBI.

D. Using lethal force

1. Reasonable cause to believe that:
 - a) there is an imminent threat
 - b) death or great bodily injury
2. Fleeing felon specifications

E. Department Policy

1. Policy review

F. Case Law

1. Graham v. Connor 490 U.S. Supreme Court 386, 396 (1989)
 - a) Defines objective reasonableness
 - b) From the perspective of the officer at the scene, at the time of the incident.
 - c) Not based on hindsight

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Firearm Skills

P.O.S.T. Expanded Course Outline

- d) Authority to arrest includes the authority to use force
- e) Recognizes that officers are often forced to make split second decisions in circumstances that are tense and rapidly evolving.

2. Tennessee v. Garner 471 U.S. 1 (1985)

- 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 felony- "...if the suspects 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- "...the court imposes a constitutional requirement that *some warning* be given prior to the use of lethal force *where feasible*..."
- 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 of lethal force is *reasonably necessary*..."

IV. Safety Issues

(1c,h,i)

- A. The type of crime
- B. The type of criminal
- C. The resistance level observed or perceived
- D. The public safety if arrest is delayed and the suspect is to remain at large.
- E. The safety of officer engaged in the arrest attempt.
- F. The safety of officers who would attempt a subsequent contact or arrest.

V. Justification for Rifle/Capabilities

(1i)

- A. Field officer at disadvantage due to criminal element
 - 1. superior firearms
 - 2. multiple suspects
 - 3. organized groups

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Firearm Skills

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4. trained suspects (in weapon use)
 5. body armor
 6. aggressive attitude and willingness to engage with firearms
 7. mobility of suspects through different terrain
- B. SWAT operations during critical incidents.
- C. Lethal force capability beyond effective handgun and shotgun range.
- D. Provide rifle support during extended operations.
- E. Sustained rifle fire capabilities.
1. Magazine capability
 2. Multiple reload capability
- F. Ballistic Capabilities
1. exceeds both handgun and shotgun capabilities
 2. Flat shooting trajectory
 3. Low recoil resulting in fewer misses
 4. Higher impact velocity resulting in more fragmentation
 5. Less over penetration
 6. Superior terminal ballistics compared to handguns
- G. Weapon Characteristics
1. single projectile
 2. less recoil
 3. light weight
 4. better sighting system
 5. lower receiver has a smaller grip size
 6. better accuracy with longer sight radius
 7. balance points and ease of weapon handling
 8. rugged design
 9. easy assembly and disassembly
 10. easy maintenance
- H. Operator perception and attitude
1. Officer confidence in rifle capabilities
 2. Easier recoil and use than the traditional shotgun

TACTICAL COURSE

Firearm Skills

P.O.S.T. Expanded Course Outline

VI. Rifle Operator Responsibilities and Tactical considerations (1h,i,j)

- A. Understand department policy and regulations surrounding the use of lethal force.
- B. Provide rifle capability in potential lethal force situations
- C. Provide lethal force capability beyond effective and safe range of handgun and shotgun.
- D. Deployed as part of perimeter containment.
- E. Provide extended range protective rifle support of on-scene officers assigned to:
 - 1. containment positions
 - 2. evacuations
 - 3. emergency rescues
 - 4. chemical agent deployment
 - 5. other circumstances that would reasonably call for its deployment
- F. Provide immediate on-scene rifle capability until sniper team arrives.
- G. Provide support to sniper teams to cover areas not under control of the designated sniper team.
- H. Deployed in patrol team situations that require an immediate tactical response in critical situations.
- I. SWAT Team deployment
- J. The rifle operator will understand the limitations of the rifle and its capabilities under field conditions.

VII. Rifle Specifications (1d)

- A. Configuration
 - 1. Straight line construction
 - 2. Barrel, bolt, recoil buffer unit and stock assembled in line to disperse recoil straight back to shoulder while minimizing barrel climb.
- B. Operation
 - 1. gas operated
 - 2. air cooled

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Firearm Skills

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3. fires from closed bolt
 4. last round open bolt
 5. bolt locks directly to the barrel
 6. rotating bolt breech mechanism
 7. magazine fed
- C. Caliber
1. .223 remington-5.56 mm NATO
- D. Barrel Lengths
1. 11.5 inch
 2. 14.5 inch
 3. 16 inch
 4. 20 inch
 5. standard and heavy
- E. Barrel configuration (twist)
1. 1 in 12
 2. 1 in 9
 3. 1 in 7
 4. 6 grooves with right hand twist
- F. Magazine capacity
1. 20 round magazine
 2. 30 round magazine
 3. special
- G. Ammunition
1. 40 to 69 grain (55 grain for duty ammo)
 2. Various designs and ballistic coefficient
- H. Muzzle velocity
1. 3100 to 3250 ft/sec depending on ammunition and barrel
 2. Muzzle velocity with short barrel weapons and service ammunition should be verified to be at performance level required.
- I. Accuracy

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Firearm Skills

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1. Accepted factory specifications call for 5 shot groups with maximum spread of less than three inches at 100 yards from bench rest.

J. Maximum effective range

1. 500 ft/sec to 875 ft/sec depending on the ammunition and weapon

K. Trigger pull

1. 5 to 8.5 pounds
2. Trigger disconnect and reset

L. Fire selection mode

1. safe
2. semi-auto
3. full auto (M-16/M-4)

M. Stock

1. collapsible

N. Carry handle

1. fixed
2. accommodates special lights, sights, night vision, etc.

O. Sighting system

1. adjustable front post sight
2. adjustable rear peep sight
3. Holographic sights (department issue)

VIII. Rifle nomenclature

(1d)

A. Three main groups

1. Upper receiver group
 - a) flash suppressor
 - b) barrel
 - c) chamber/barrel extension and locking lugs
 - d) feed ramp
 - e) front sight post and shields
 - f) sling swivel

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Firearm Skills

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- g) upper and lower hand guards
 - h) slip ring
 - i) gas tube
 - j) carry handle/fixed removal and add-on equipment mounts
 - k) rear sight elevation knob and wind knob
 - l) rear flip sight aperture
 - m) charging handle
 - n) bolt locking area
 - o) brass deflector
 - p) forward assist
 - q) ejection port
 - r) dust cover
2. Lower receiver
- a) butt stock
 - b) buffer/buffer spring
 - c) sling swivel
 - d) takedown pin/pivot pin
 - e) trigger and trigger mechanism
 - f) trigger guard
 - g) hammer and hammer mechanism
 - h) magazine well
 - i) magazine catch release
3. Bolt carrier group
- a) bolt carrier
 - b) bolt
 - c) bolt carrier key
 - d) gas rings
 - e) ejector/extractor
 - f) extractor spring/pin
 - g) bolt cam pin
 - h) firing pin

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Firearm Skills

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i) firing pin retaining pin

IX. Mechanical features

(1d)

- A. Cycle of operation
 - 1. feeding
 - 2. chambering
 - 3. locking
 - 4. firing
 - 5. unlocking
 - 6. extracting
 - 7. ejecting
 - 8. cocking
- B. Disassembly
 - 1. Safety procedures
 - 2. Disassembly procedures
- C. Assembly procedures
 - 1. Assembly procedures
 - 2. Function check

X. Sling system

- A. Military carry straps
 - 1. Leather
 - 2. Canvas
 - 3. Nylon
- B. Types of slings
 - 1. loop sling
 - 2. Hasty sling
 - 3. Tactical
- C. Carry v. support

XI. Sighting systems

(1d)

- A. Weapon design
 - 1. A1 system
 - 2. A2 system

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Firearm Skills

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a) sight picture

3. Optics (department issue holographic sights)

a) sight picture

B. Adjustments

1. Procedures

2. Safeguards

XII. Weapons Maintenance, cleaning, and inspection

(1c)

A. Cleaning Techniques

1. Department Guidelines

2. Industry standards

3. Proven methods

B. Product selection

1. Wonder products

2. Proven products

3. Armorer duties

a) department policy

b) Industry standards

c) Liability

C. Pre-service inspection

1. A series of checks to verify that the rifle is in field operational condition.

a) weapon is in proper vehicle location

b) selector level in fire position (uncocked weapon).

c) Magazine loaded to capacity

d) Chamber condition

i. lock bolt open

ii. visual and physical check to confirm unloaded

e) check for barrel obstructions

f) sight condition (undamaged/moved)

g) Sling

i. proper adjustment

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Firearm Skills

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- ii. wrapped for quick deployment
- h) replace magazine
- i) fire position with chamber empty

XIII. Weapon Operations

(1f)

A. Loading procedures

1. Magazine Loading

- a) load by hand
- b) follower identifies proper cartridge position
- c) cartridges correspond with follower
- d) do not overload magazine
- e) tap magazine from the rear to ensure proper seating

2. Magazine unloading

- a) DO NOT use other bullets to strip magazine
 - i. may cause bullet to become loose and induce fail to fire
- b) strip by hand if necessary

3. Weapon loading procedures

- a) procedures will vary depending on condition of weapon
 - i. bolt forward and locked or held in rear by bolt catch
- b) factors that will affect magazine changing
 - i. sling carry position
 - ii. shooting position
 - iii. magazine carry position
 - iv. right side/left side operation
- c) All reloads should be accomplished with the support hand changing the magazine, keeping weapon hand on grip in ready position to control fire of weapon as soon as possible.
- d) Position of selector lever will depend on cocked condition
 - i. weapon will load in both cocked and uncocked position.
 - ii. Selector lever on safe when weapon is cocked.

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Firearm Skills

P.O.S.T. Expanded Course Outline

- e) Initial magazine loading
 - i. load magazine with bolt open or closed
 - ii. loading with the bolt to the rear reduces the chance of first round stoppages.
 - iii. push up on magazine until magazine catch engages
 - iv. tap to ensure positive retention
 - v. pull charging handle to rear and release the bolt-Do not ride the charging handle.
 - f) Press/pull check
 - g) Top round check
 - h) Magazine changes
- B. Unloading procedure
1. point in safe direction and keep finger off the trigger
 2. selector lever to safe (selector will only go to safe if weapon is cocked)
 3. remove magazine
 4. roll weapon so ejection port is facing down
 5. pull charging handle back and lock bolt open with bolt catch.
 6. Conduct visual and physical check to ensure that weapon is empty
- C. Stoppages and Malfunctions
1. Stoppage- unintentional interruption of operation cycle
 2. Malfunction- Any unexplained failure to fire due to mechanical failure of the weapon, magazine, or ammunition. Examples:
 - a) Catastrophic failure:
 - i. broken gas rings
 - ii. broken trigger group
 - iii. broken firing pin
 - iv. broken extractor
 - b) Faulty operation
- D. Failure to fire procedures (Tactical Considerations)
1. Immediate action procedure

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Firearm Skills

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- a) designed to get weapon back up ASAP due to:
 - i. Weapon capability
 - ii. Distances involved
 - iii. Other tactical considerations
2. Transition to alternate weapon
 - a) designed to get officer rearmed ASAP with secondary weapon due to:
 - i. speed of transition v. immediate action procedures
 - ii. decision to use alternate weapon as primary
3. Failure to fire procedures may be used in any order necessary.
4. Must be able to execute them in any shooting position.
5. FTF procedures should be combined with other tactics
 - a) low profile position
 - b) cover and concealment
 - c) verbal communication with other officers
 - d) other appropriate tactics
6. Immediate action procedure involving a “Stovepipe” stoppage
 - a) Tap, roll, rack and ready
 - b) Maintain primary grip on weapon
 - c) Operate charging handle with support hand
7. Immediate action procedure involving a “double-feed” stoppage

E. Transition – Tactical Necessity

1. Stationary or moving
2. Support hand control shoulder weapon
3. Strong hand to sidearm
4. Support hand establish two hand grip on sidearm

XIV. Principles of marksmanship

(1d,e)

A. Stance

1. Isosceles
2. Weaver
3. Mobility

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Firearm Skills

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- B. Grip
 - 1. Back strap
- C. Breathing
- D. Sight picture
 - 1. Sight alignment
 - 2. Mechanical and optical sights
 - 3. Theory and effects
 - a) trajectory
- E. Trigger control
 - 1. Importance
 - 2. Concepts
- F. Follow Through
 - 1. Conformation

XV. Shooting Positions

(1b,d,e)

- A. Weapon Support Systems
 - 1. Standing
 - 2. Kneeling
 - a) High kneeling – unsupported
 - b) Low kneeling – supported
 - 3. Sitting
 - 4. Prone
 - 5. Unconventional
- B. Weapon holds
 - 1. High ready/Ready gun – on threat
 - 2. Low ready – scanning for threats
 - 3. Depressed muzzle
 - 4. Off-set muzzle
 - 5. Precise, smooth and rapid movement done while stationary and moving

TACTICAL COURSE

Firearm Skills

P.O.S.T. Expanded Course Outline

XVI. Rifle zeroing – check

(1b,d,e,g)

- A. From the 25 yard line
 - 1. 5 rounds from the prone position
 - 2. Adjustments / repeat as necessary
- B. From the 50 yard line
 - 1. 5 rounds from the prone position
 - 2. Adjustments / repeat as necessary

XVII. Skill Development/Range Drills

(1a,b,d,e,g)

- A. Semi-automatic fire drills
 - 1. Threat targets
 - a. From the 25 yard line
 - b. 15 rounds from the standing position
 - 2. Parallax drill
 - a. From the 25 yard line
 - b. 15 rounds from the standing position
 - 3. Numbers drill
 - a. From the 25 yard line
 - b. 15 rounds from the standing position
 - 4. Multiple target drill
 - a. From the 25 yard line
 - b. 15 rounds from the standing position
 - 5. Reloading drill
 - a. From the 25 yard line
 - b. 15 rounds from the standing position
 - 6. Color coding drill
 - a. From the 25 yard line
 - b. 15 rounds from the standing position

B. Non-conventional shooting drills

- 1. Barricade positions

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Firearm Skills

P.O.S.T. Expanded Course Outline

- a) Palming
- b) Clawing
 - i) 25 yard line
 - ii) 2 strings, 5 rounds each
 - iii) kneeling position

2. Prone

- a) Roll in
- b) Roll out
 - i) 25 yard line
 - ii) 2 strings, 5 rounds each
 - iii) prone position

C. Multiple targets

1. Stationary target drill
 - a) 25 yard line
 - b) 3 strings, 3 rounds each
 - c) Standing
2. Moving target drill
 - a) 25 yard line
 - b) 3 string, 3 rounds each
 - c) Standing

D. Transition drill

1. Pistol transition drill
 - a) 25 yard line
 - b) 5 strings, 3 rounds each
 - c) Standing
2. Transition while moving
 - a) 25 yard line, walking to 15 yard line
 - b) 5 strings, 3 rounds each
 - c) Standing

E. Failure drills

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1. Alternative target areas
 - a) Head
 - b) Pelvic area
 - c) Critical incapacitation zone
 - i) 15 rounds total, 5 strings, 1 round each area
 - ii) Standing

F. Shooting on the move

1. Heel to toe walking
2. Static turns
3. Move to cover
 - a) Moving from 25 yard line to 15 yard line
 - b) 18 rounds total, 2 rounds each string

G. Close Quarter Battle Drills

1. Point shooting methods – no sights
 - a) Over the shoulder
 - b) Extended point shooting
 - c) Gas masks
 - d) Entry drills
 - i) 15 yard line
 - ii) 5 strings, 2 rounds each

H. Low light shooting

1. Use of sights
2. Use of mounted lights
 - a) 25 yards line
 - b) 5 strings, 2 rounds each
3. Threat target drill
 - a) 25 yard line
 - b) 5 strings, 1 round each

I. Combat/movement courses

1. Solo officer
 - a) 50 yard line- 15 rounds

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Firearm Skills

P.O.S.T. Expanded Course Outline

b) 25 yard line- 30 rounds

c) 15 yards line- 15 rounds

XVIII. Testing

(1b,d,e,g)

A. Pleasant Hill Police Department Rifle Qualification Course

B. 50 ROUNDS

C. QUALIFICATION: 80 % (2 POINTS EACH HIT INSIDE 7 RING)

D. STARTING POINT: 50 YARD LINE

1. TIME ALLOTTED: 60 SECONDS

2. On command the shooter loads the weapon and fires 5 rounds prone position, 5 rounds strong side kneeling barricade position, and 5 rounds strong side standing barricade position. Upon completing Stage I, the shooter returns to the standing Low Ready position with the selector lever on safe.

E. STARTING POINT: 25 YARD LINE

1. TIME ALLOTTED: 50 SECONDS

2. On command the shooter fires 5 rounds strong side kneeling barricade position, 5 rounds strong side standing barricade position, reloads, and fires 5 rounds weak side kneeling barricade position. Upon completing stage II, the shooter returns to a standing Low Ready with the selector lever on safe.

F. STARTING POINT: 15 YARD LINE

1. TIME ALLOTTED: 15 SECONDS

2. On command the shooter fire 5 rounds standing and 5 rounds kneeling position. Upon completing Stage III, the shooter returns to the Low Ready position with the selector lever on safe.

G. STARTING POINT: 7 YARD LINE

1. TIME ALLOTTED: 2 ROUNDS IN 3 SECONDS

4 STRINGS OF 2 ROUNDS IN 2 SECONDS

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Firearm Skills

P.O.S.T. Expanded Course Outline

2. On command the shooter moves the selector lever to semi-auto, fires 2 rounds in 3 seconds, and then returns to the Low Ready position with the selector lever on semi-auto. On command the shooter fires 4 strings of 2 rounds in 2 seconds, returning to Low Ready after each string. Upon completing Stave IV, shooter will unload and make the weapon SAFE (magazine removed, bolt open and locked back, selector lever on safe).

H. Written test

I. Weapon Cleaning