

# PATROL RIFLE COURSE OUTLINE

## EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE REDLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT RIFLE COURSE

- I. Introduction & Orientation
  - A. Introduction of Instructors
  - B. Course Objectives
    - 1. Demonstrate their understanding of the Four Basic Safety Rules for handling Firearms.
    - 2. Demonstrate the ability to field strip the weapon and to properly clean and maintain it.
    - 3. Be provided with and demonstrate understanding of the agency policy regarding the use of firearms and the department's use of force policy.
    - 4. Demonstrate the ability to properly load, unload, and fire the weapon and to clear malfunctions that might occur with the weapon.
    - 5. Demonstrate the ability to apply the fundamentals for rifle marksmanship to fire accurately from the prone, kneeling, sitting and standing positions.
    - 6. Demonstrate proficiency with the weapon and obtain agency qualification.
    - 7. Demonstrate the ability to place the rifle in Patrol Ready capacity with the bolt closed on an empty chamber and a loaded magazine in the magazine well.
    - 8. Be provided with and demonstrate understanding of the Penal Code regarding safe storage of firearms at home as well as department weapon storage policy.
  
- II. Laws and Agency Policy
  - A. Penal Code section 32610(b)
    - 1. Possession of Within Scope of Employment
  - B. Penal Code section 33220(b)
    - 1. Training requirement
  - C. Agency Firearms Use and Use of Force Policies
    - 1. Instructors will pass out printed Redlands Police Department's Use of Force policy and read each section.
    - 2. Department Policy Section 300 Includes the Use of Force, Use of Deadly Force, Supervisor Responsibilities, Factors in Determining the Reasonableness of Force, and Medical Considerations.
    - 3. Students Attending From Outside Agencies will be instructed to refer to their respective Department's policy regarding the Use of Force.
  - D. Law Update
    - 1. Tennessee vs. Garner
    - 2. Graham vs. Conner
  
- 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. Nomenclature, Specifications and Capabilities

A. Nomenclature

1. Front and Rear Sights
2. Bolt Catch
3. Magazine Release
4. Safety/Selector
5. Magazine
6. Sling and Sling Attachments
7. Bolt Carriage Assembly
8. Bolt
9. Cam and Caulder Pins
10. Firing Pin

B. Specifications

1. Type of Weapon
2. Barrel Length
3. Overall Length
4. Caliber
5. Magazine Capacity (Practice loading 28 rounds)
6. Weight (empty)
7. Type of Sights
8. Red-dot type optics
9. Approximate Muzzle Velocity

C. Capabilities

1. Maximum Range
2. Maximum Effective Range
3. Penetration of Soft Body Armor
4. Full/Semi-Automatic

IV. Firearm Care, Disassembly/Assembly, and Maintenance

- A. Instructors will teach how to safely disassemble the weapon for cleaning, and will demonstrate how to apply lubricating oil to the bolt, and bolt carriage assembly.
- B. Students will perform a disassembly on the weapon, will demonstrate they know how to clean and oil the weapon, and that they can successfully reassemble the weapon.
- C. Instructors will teach students how to safely perform a function check on the weapon, testing the charging handle, bolt lock-up, safety, trigger release, and trigger reset. Instructors will stress the safety importance of having a safe and empty weapon, and having a safe backdrop.
- D. Students will demonstrate their understanding of performing a weapon function test.

## V. Basic Shooting Skills

- A. Stance/Position
  - 1. Standing
  - 2. Kneeling (Both unsupported and supported styles)
  - 3. Sitting
  - 4. Prone
- B. Sight Alignment/Picture
  - 1. Sight Alignment
  - 2. Top of front sight post centered in the rear peep.
  - 3. 100 percent focus is on the top edge of the front sight post. The rear peep and target are slightly blurred.
  - 4. Instructor will illustrate proper sight alignment.
- C. Sight Picture
  - 1. Defined as the relationship of sight alignment to the target.
- D. Trigger Control
  - 1. Emphasize that this is the single most important element.
  - 2. Shooter must apply gradual pressure on the trigger for a surprise trigger break so as to not disturb sight alignment when the shot is made.
  - 3. Demonstrate the use of Trigger Reset and have the students demonstrate their understanding.
- E. Grip/Stock Weld
  - 1. Students will be instructed on the proper hand positioning on the rifle, both the rear stock and forend.
  - 2. Students will be instructed to bring the rifle up to their eye line and place the rear stock under their cheek, creating a proper stock/cheek weld.
- F. Breathing
  - 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, so the shot must be made before this happens.

- G. Follow Through
  - 1. Maintain all the elements throughout the shot.

## VI. Clearing Malfunctions and Stoppages

- A. In close quarter confrontations, consider immediate transition to the handgun
- B. Failure to fire
  - 1. "Tap, Rack, Assess"
    - 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
    - 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
    - a. Lock the bolt to the rear
    - b. Remove the magazine from the weapon
      - 1. Discard magazine
    - c. Clear live rounds from the receiver and chamber
    - d. Insert a fresh loaded magazine
    - e. Chamber a round
    - f. Obtain sight picture
    - g. Assess if follow-up shots are necessary

## VII. Tactical Considerations

- A. Based on agency guidelines and training
  - 1. Students will review Redlands Policy 417.6 which states that Officers may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstance where the officer can articulate reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed.
- B. Physical environment
  - 1. Officers will be instructed to take the weather, lighting, and physical scene/background into consideration when deploying the rifle.
- C. Be aware of cover and concealment
  - 1. Officer will be instructed on the differences and benefits to cover and concealment.
- D. Rifle caliber rounds may penetrate soft body armor
  - 1. Officers will be shown examples of soft body armor that have been penetrated by rifle rounds.
- E. The Patrol Rifle affords the opportunity to maintain safe distances to adversaries.
  - 1. Students will be reminded that the rifle enables the user to engage at greater distances and with fewer potential rounds being fired.

- F. The Patrol Rifle affords an increased effective range over the service shotgun and handgun.
  - 1. Due to the enhanced sight radius and better sight picture, the rifle extends the potential range beyond that of the shotgun and handgun.
- G. The Patrol Rifle affords more accuracy than a service shotgun with a rifled slug.
  - 1. Students will be instructed on the potential accuracy potential of the rifle based off the bullet being stabilized due to the rifling of the barrel compared to the smooth bore of the shotgun.
- H. The Patrol Rifle is easier to load and re-load than a service shotgun.
  - 1. Students will be instructed on the differences and benefits of magazine fed rifles vs a fixed tubular magazine of the shotgun.
- I. The Patrol Rifle has a larger ammunition capacity than a service shotgun.

#### VIII. Shooting Decision

- A. Know your abilities and limitations, and those of your weapon.
- B. Exercise fire discipline within agency guidelines and the parameters of applicable State and Federal laws.

#### IX. Skill Development

- A. Dry Firing Exercises
  - 1. Done on the range under the direct supervision of the instructors.
    - a. Instructors will instruct students the proper live fire techniques including the use of trigger reset.
    - b. Students will demonstrate their understanding of dry firing techniques including safety considerations.
  - 2. Dry fire each position (Students will demonstrate dry firing from the standing, kneeling, sitting, and prone positions).
- B. Live Firing Exercises
  - 1. Done on the range under the direct supervision of the instructors.
  - 2. Students will demonstrate their understanding of each shooting position by firing the rifle in each position (standing, kneeling, sitting, and prone).
  - 3. Instructors will demonstrate shooting from various distances based on agency mission and environment.
    - a. Students will demonstrate understanding by live fire exercises at varying distances including the 50 yard line, 25 yard line, 15 yard line, 10 yard line, 7 yard line, 5 yard line and 3 yard line.
    - b. Students will be instructed on the need for Mechanical Offset of their open sights and red-dot sights within close range.
      - 1. Students will demonstrate understanding of Mechanical Offset at varying distances.

- c. Live fire exercises will be conducted at different distances to ensure the students will understand the point of impact differences between the different ranges.
- 4. Students will perform controlled round, precision shooting exercises.
  - a. Live fire exercises will be conducted at extended ranges and students will be instructed on precision shooting techniques such as positioning, breathing, and trigger control.
    - 1. Students will fire controlled rounds utilizing trigger reset.
- 5. Instructors will demonstrate different reloading and firing exercises.
  - a. The different reloading techniques will include speed reloads, and combat reloads (where a partially loaded magazine is retained during a lull, and a fully loaded magazine is placed in the magazine well).
    - 1. Students will practice speed reloads, and combat reloads without ammunition and with ammunition.
    - 2. The speed reload will consist of the shooter depressing the magazine release button, allowing the empty magazine to fall under gravity to the floor. The student will then insert a fully loaded magazine into the magazine well, will press the bolt release, causing the bolt to travel forward and the shooter to continue firing.
    - 3. The combat reload will consist of the shooter having a partially loaded magazine. The shooter will eject the partially loaded magazine and will retain possession of the partially loaded magazine, placing it somewhere on their person. The shooter will then retrieve a fully loaded magazine, will insert it, and place the bolt release allowing them to fire from the fully loaded magazine.
- 6. Instructors will demonstrate how to overcome common weapon malfunctions.
  - a. Students will demonstrate their understanding by performing weapon malfunction exercises using dummy rounds.
    - 1. Instructors will teach the “Tap, rack, assess” method for common failure to fire, failure to extract, and failure to eject malfunctions.
    - 2. Students will demonstrate understanding of the “Tap, rack, assess” method with both dummy rounds and with live rounds.
- 7. Instructors will demonstrate common shooting on the move techniques including “Heel to Toe” walking techniques.
  - a. Students will perform Move and fire exercises.
  - b. Students will perform this exercise one at a time and with an instructor at their side.
    - 1. Instructors will ensure the students are utilizing the “Heel to toe” technique and that the shooters are only moving as fast as they can accurately place rounds on the target.
      - a. The “Heel to Toe” technique consists of the shooters walking in a straight line by placing each foot in front of

the other. The students will place the heel of the footwear against the toe of their footwear as they take one step at a time while moving towards the target.

2. Students will move at both fast paces and slower paces and will be given opportunities to see the accuracy of the rounds fired to determine what speed they can comfortably move while still firing accurate shots.
8. Instructors will demonstrate close quarters shooting techniques and their individual safety concerns. Students will perform dry fire exercises in the close quarter positions prior to firing the sequence with live ammunition.
    - a. Students will fire exercises of facing to both the left and right of the target at 90 degrees. Upon the fire command the students will turn toward the target with their guns pointed downward and will only raise the weapon once they are facing the target.

## X. Testing

### A. Qualification

1. Students will complete a qualification course
  - a. The Qualification will consist of a 30 round course shot from the 50 yard line up to the 7 yard line.
  - b. The Qualification course will include the different shooting platforms, and will include a magazine change.
    1. Students will fire a total of 6 rounds from the 50 yard line.
    2. The first 3 rounds from the 50 yard line will be from a kneeling or sitting position, the students will then transition and fire 3 rounds from the prone position.
  - c. The qualification will include the students firing head shots from the 7 yard line. The rounds must remain in the head portion of the target to ensure students comprehend the necessity to utilize their mechanical offset under close quarters.
  - d. During the final portion of the qualification course, students will be required to demonstrate a working knowledge of the nomenclature of the weapon system and be able to identify cleaning techniques.
    1. Students will be required to disassemble the weapon system, verbally describe to instructors where the points of interest are for cleaning and oiling.
    2. The students will then reassemble the weapon and perform a function test.
    3. The function test will include ensuring the safety selector works both in the safe and fire positions, that the bolt lock is functional, that the bolt release is functional, and that the trigger reset is functional.

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