

## **Tactical Patrol Rifle Course Expanded Course Outline**

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

This course is designed to introduce the use of tactical rifles to patrol officers who are 1<sup>st</sup> responders to tactical situations.

### **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.
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.

### **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

### **I. Introduction**

- a. Instructor introductions
- b. Course Objectives
- c. History of patrol rifle
- d. Written Pre-test

### **II. Laws and Agency Policy**

1. Penal Code section 32610(b)
  - a. Possession of Within Scope of Employment
2. Penal Code section 33220(b)
  - a. Training requirement
3. Agency Firearms Use and Use of Force Policies
  - a. Use of Force options
  - b. Department Policy

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4. Law Update
  - a. Tennessee vs. Garner
  - b. Graham vs. Conner
  - c. Revisions to PC 835a

### **III. Safety and Range Rules**

1. Four Basic Range Safety Rules
  - a. Treat all firearms as if they are loaded
  - b. Laser Rule- Never point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to destroy
  - c. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on target and you have made the conscious decision to fire
  - d. Be aware of your target and beyond
2. Range Rules
  - a. 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.
  - b. If a problem arises on the line, raise your non-gun hand to summon assistance from a range officer

### **IV. Nomenclature, Specifications and Capabilities**

1. Nomenclature
  - a. Front and Rear Sights
  - b. Bolt Catch
  - c. Magazine Release
  - d. Safety/Selector
  - e. Magazine
  - f. Sling and Sling Attachments
2. Specifications
  - a. Type of weapon
  - b. Barrel Length
  - c. Overall Length
  - d. Caliber
  - e. Magazine Capacity
  - f. Weight (empty)
  - g. Type of sight
  - h. Muzzle velocity/Ammunition Types
3. Capabilities
  - a. Maximum range
  - b. Maximum effective range
  - c. Penetration of soft body armor
  - d. Full Auto/Semi Auto

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

1. Refer to the manufacturer's care and operation manual
  - a. Demonstration of proper disassembly/assembly by instructor
  - b. Demonstration of proper disassembly/assembly by student

**VI. Basic Shooting Skills**

1. Stance/Position
  - a. Standing
  - b. Kneeling
  - c. Sitting
  - d. Prone
2. Sight Alignment/Picture
  - a. Sight alignment
  - b. Top of front sight post centered in rear or peep/rear aperture
  - c. 100% focus is on the top edge of the front sight post
  - d. Rear sight aperture is blurry
  - e. Target is blurry
  - f. Instructor will illustrate proper sight alignment
3. Sight picture
  - a. The relationship of the sight alignment to the target
4. Trigger Control
  - a. Trigger press and finger placement is the most important element
  - b. Shooter must apply gradual pressure on the trigger for the surprise compression trigger break so as to not disturb sight alignment when the shot is made
  - c. Trigger reset/sear reset after shot for follow-up shot
5. Grip/Stock Weld
  - a. Shooting Hand/Master Grip wrapped around grip
  - b. Finger off trigger until conscious decision to shoot is made
  - c. Cheek weld on same spot
  - d. Demonstrate methods to achieve same spot cheek weld each time
6. Breath Control
  - a. Breath must be held at the moment the shot is made
  - b. Breathing while firing will cause vertical stringing of shots
  - c. Holding breath too long will cause vision to blur and muscles to tremble, so shot must be made before this happens
7. Follow Through
  - a. Maintain all elements throughout the shot
  - b. Trigger re-set/Sear re-set important for follow up shot
  - c. Front site focus important for follow up shot

**VII. Loading/Unloading**

1. Magazine Capacity
  - a. 20 Round Magazine load to 18 rounds
  - b. 30 Round Magazine load to 28 rounds

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- c. Do not load magazines to full capacity with AR-15/M-16 style magazines so as not to over base the top round. If the bolt is forward in battery, the extra rounds in the magazine will become damaged when the magazine is inserted into the weapon
- d. Ruger Mini 14 rifle magazines should be loaded the same way as AR-15/M-16 weapons
- d. Most H&K weapons can be loaded to magazine capacity due to their magazines having enough play inside to allow insertion into the weapon and not damage rounds

2. Loading from Open Bolt

- a. Inspect top of magazine that you are going to use to load rifle and see what side the top round is located; either left or right, and remember what side the top round is located
- b. Lock bolt to rear, using master grip/strong side hand pull charging handle to rear and with support side hand push in bolt catch locking bolt to rear
- c. Insert magazine with support side hand, push into magazine well, pull down to make sure it is seated properly
- c. With support side hand, using open palm whole hand gross motor movement, hit bolt catch to release bolt and load a round into the chamber
- d. **MAGAZINE PRESS CHECK:** Using trigger finger, push magazine release in, remove magazine. Observe magazine, compare top round position to the first time shooter observed magazine
- e. **CHAMBER PRESS CHECK:** Using master grip/strong side hand, pull charging handle back just far enough to see if “brass” or a round is in the chamber. Release the charging handle/bolt and push in the forward assist

3. Loading from Closed Bolt

- a. Inspect top of magazine that you are going to use to load rifle and see what side the top round is located; either left or right, and remember what side the top round is located
- b. With bolt closed, insert magazine with support side hand, push into magazine well, pull down to make sure it is seated properly
- c. Using support side hand, pull charging handle fully to rear using whole hand gross motor movement and release
- d. **MAGAZINE PRESS CHECK:** Using trigger finger, push magazine release in, remove magazine. Observe magazine, compare top round position to the first time shooter observed magazine
- e. **CHAMBER PRESS CHECK:** Using master grip/strong side hand, pull charging handle back just far enough to see if “brass” or a round is in the chamber. Release the charging handle/bolt and push in the forward assist

3. Reloads

- a. Speed/Emergency Reload
  - 1. During a gunfight, transition to pistol if applicable
  - 2. Reload rifle from bolt lock back
  - 3. Insert magazine into weapon

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4. Use whole hand gross motor movement to put the rifle into battery

b. Tactical Reload

1. Reload when you want to, not when you have to
2. Use time, distance and cover
3. Remove partially full magazine and retain
4. Insert fresh magazine into rifle

### **VIII. Weapon Zero**

1. Mechanical/Iron Sights
  - a. How to set windage
  - b. How to set elevation
  - c. Zero at 25 yards
  - d. Zero at 50 yards
2. Electronic Sights
  - a. Tritium (Night Sights)
  - b. Battery Operated sights
    1. Holographic
    2. Dot Scopes
    3. Variable Power Scopes
3. Must have back up iron sights that can function in the event that the electronic sight does not work
4. Co-Witness Sighting
  - a. Iron
  - b. Electronic

### **IX. Malfunction Clearing and Stoppages/Immediate Action Drills**

1. At any stoppage or malfunction, **IMMEDIATELY** perform Transition Drill.
  - a. In close proximity to the threat, transition to pistol and engage threat if still present
  - b. Do not try to initially find out what type of malfunction, perform immediate action drill
  - c. To build up muscle memory in malfunction clearing, proceed through Malfunction clearing drills until the malfunction is cleared
2. Class 1 Malfunction (Failure to Fire) **“Push, Pull, Rack & Roll, Assess”**
  - a. **PUSH** the magazine in to make sure it is seated properly
  - b. **PULL** the magazine to make sure it is seated properly
  - c. **RACK** or manipulate the charging handle of the weapon to cycle weapon
  - d. **ROLL** the rifle with the ejection port down towards the ground
  - e. **ASSESS** the threat – recover sight picture - are more shots necessary
3. Class 2 Malfunction (Stove Pipe) **“Push, Pull, Rack & Roll, Assess”**
  - a. **PUSH** the magazine in to make sure it is seated properly
  - b. **PULL** the magazine to make sure it is seated properly
  - c. **RACK** or manipulate the charging handle of the weapon to cycle weapon

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- d. **ROLL** the rifle with the ejection port down towards the ground
  - e. **ASSESS** the threat – recover sight picture - are more shots necessary?
4. Class 3 Malfunction (Failure to eject/Double Feed)“**Push, Pull, Rack & Roll, Assess**”  
Continue with repetitive muscle memory skills to ensure immediate reaction to malfunction.
- a. **PUSH** the magazine in to make sure it is seated properly
  - b. **PULL** the magazine to make sure it is seated properly
  - c. **RACK** or manipulate the charging handle of the weapon to cycle weapon
  - d. **ROLL** the rifle with the ejection port down towards the ground
  - e. **ASSESS** the threat – recover sight picture - are more shots necessary?

***IF REPETITIVE MUSCLE MEMORY SKILLS DO NOT CLEAR THE MALFUNCTION  
CONTINUE WITH:***

- a. Using master grip hand, pull charging handle to rear and lock back with support side hand using bolt catch.
- b. Forcibly pull out magazine and discard (magazine could be the problem)
- c. Using fingers from support side sweep receiver area to knock free any damaged cases or unfired cartridges that may be damaged
- e. Pull charging handle with support side hand back and forth several times
- f. Insert fresh magazine and load rifle using “**Push, Pull, Rack & Roll, Assess**”

## **X. Tactical Considerations**

- 1. Agency deployment rules and regulations
  - a. Qualified with rifle
  - b. Storage of rifle while on duty (electric rifle rack, trunk)
  - c. Storage of rifle while off duty (gun safe, department locker, etc.)
- 2. Physical Environment
  - a. Urban
  - b. Rural
- 3. Cover and Concealment
  - a. Cover hide hopefully provide some ballistic protection
  - b. Concealment will hopefully hide your position and movement
- 4. Penetration
  - a. Rifle caliber rounds will penetrate body armor
  - b. Rifle caliber rounds will penetrate your body armor and responding officers
- 5. The Patrol Rifle affords the opportunity to maintain safe distances in relation to threats from people

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6. The Patrol Rifle affords an increased effective range over a patrol shotgun firing buckshot
7. The Patrol Rifle is easier to load and re-load than the patrol shotgun
8. The Patrol Rifle has a larger ammunition capacity than the patrol shotgun
9. Most officers with the Patrol Rifle have the ability to engage multiple targets easier than the patrol shotgun.

## **XI. Shooting Positions**

1. Standing
  - a. On sling
  - b. Off sling
2. Kneeling
  - a. Speed Kneeling
  - b. Double Kneeling
  - c. Braced Kneeling
3. Prone
  - a. Off set prone
  - b. Tactical prone
  - c. From standing to prone
  - d. During prone position
4. Squat
  - a. From standing to squatting
  - b. During squatting position
5. Sitting
  - a. Hasty sitting position
  - b. Supported sitting position
6. Support Side Shooting
  - a. Reaction side shoulder position
7. Urban Prone
  - a. Strong side
  - b. Reaction side
8. One handed shooting
9. Unusual Shooting Positions
  - a. On shooters back
  - b. On shooters side

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- 10. Pivots and Turns
  - a. 90° Turns
  - c. 180° Turns

- 11. Movement
  - a. Forward
  - b. Sideward
  - c. Backwards

## **XII. Sling Positions**

- 1. Types of Slings and their use
  - a. Single point
  - b. Two point
  - c. Three point
- 2. Front Carry
  - a. Reaction side
  - b. Weapon side
- 3. Back Carry
  - a. Reaction side
  - b. Weapon side
- 4. Shooting with a Sling
  - a. Standing
  - b. Kneeling
  - c. Sitting
  - d. Prone

## **XIII. Ready Positions**

- 1. Low Ready
  - a. Depressed Muzzle
  - b. Stock in shoulder
- 2. Eye-Muzzle-Target
  - a. Muzzle in sight plane on target
- 3. Indoor Ready
  - a. Depressed Muzzle, Flat up against body
  - b. Stock in shoulder
  - c. Used for making indoor corners, good for long barrel rifles

## **XIV. Weapon Retention**

- 1. Suspect attempted weapon take away



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- a. Push weapon through subject using position of control
  - b. Violently pull weapon back to free weapon
2. If these don't work, don't get into a tug-of-war, the suspect is trying to arm himself
- a. Drop to knee for upward angle shot
    1. Minimize risk to other officers/civilians
  - b. Transition drill to sidearm
    1. Maintain control of shoulder weapon while engaging with sidearm

## **XV. Shooting Decision**

1. Know your abilities and limitations and those of your weapon
2. Exercise fire discipline with agency guidelines and the parameters of applicable State and Federal laws
3. Use of force
  - a. Is the officer in danger considering distance from threat?
  - b. What is the weapon/threat means of the suspect?
  - c. What type of situation is present?
    1. Vehicle Stop
    2. Building search
    3. Perimeter Assignment
    4. Active Shooter
    5. Hostage Situation
    6. Sniper or suspected sniper
    7. Bank Robbery
    8. Barricaded Subject
    9. Can deployment/use of the rifle be articulated as to why to use?

## **XVI. Skill Development**

1. Dry Firing/Team Movement Exercises
  - a. Performed on the range under the direct supervision of the instructors
  - b. At all times, personnel will wear approved safety equipment
  - c. Instructors will demonstrate skills sets to students then have students practice until the students can successfully complete all tasks satisfactorily
  - d. Rehearse individual movement skills with unloaded weapons
2. Live Firing Exercises
  - a. Only under the direct supervision of qualified instructors
  - b. Department provided safety equipment will be worn at all times - ballistic vest, hearing and eye protection
  - c. Live fire each position (standing, kneeling, sitting, squatting and prone)
  - d. Live fire at various distances based on agency mission and environment
  - e. Live fire at multiple targets
  - f. Precision shooting exercises (Close and Long Distance)
  - g. Low light exercises

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- h. Reloading and firing exercises
- i. Malfunction clearing exercises
- j. Move and fire exercises
- k. Close quarter tactical shooting

3. Testing

- a. Written Examination
- b. Practical Skills Application Examination