

LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RIFLE COURSE

Penal code section 33220(b)

COURSE TITLE: RIFLE COURSE – 16 HOURS

Includes all shoulder-fired weapons that are not shotguns

COURSE GOAL: To 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 an carry it on duty in the scope of their employment

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 a rifle
- II. Demonstrate their ability to field strip a rifle and to properly clean and maintain it
- III. Be provided with and demonstrate their understanding of the agency policy regarding the use of rifles
- IV. Demonstrate their ability to properly load, unload and fire the rifle and to clear malfunctions that might occur
- V. Demonstrate their ability to apply the fundamentals for rifle marksmanship to fire accurately from the prone, kneeling, sitting and standing positions
- VI. Demonstrate proficiency with the rifle an 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) Rifle care, breakdown and cleaning
- (6) Tactical considerations
- (7) Skill development and qualification

EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Introduction and Orientation
- II. Laws and Agency Policy
 - A. Penal Code section 32610(b)
 1. Possession of Within Scope of Your Duties
 - B. Penal Code section 33220(b)
 1. Training Certified by P.O.S.T.
 - C. Agency Patrol Rifle Use and Use of Force Policies
 1. Use of Force Options
 2. Department Policy, 300.1 and 432.1
 - D. Law Update
 1. Tennessee vs. Garner
 2. Graham vs. Conner
- III. 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

IV. 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

B. Specifications

1. Type of Weapon
2. Barrel Length
3. Overall Length
4. Caliber
5. Magazine Capacity
6. Weight (Empty)
7. Type of Sights
8. Approximate Muzzle Velocity

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 manufacture's care and operation manual
- VI. Basic Shooting Skills
- A. Stance/Position
 1. Standing
 2. Kneeling
 3. Sitting
 4. Prone
 - B. Sight Alignment/Picture
 1. Sight Alignment
 2. Top of front sight post centered in the rear peep
 3. 100% focus is on the top edge of the front sight post. The rear peep and target are 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
 - E. Grip/Stock 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
- VII. 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

- VIII. Safety and Range Rules (Review from day 1, 0930 – 1000)
- IX. Tactical Considerations
 - A. Based on agency guidelines and training
 - B. Physical environment
 - C. Be aware of cover and concealment
 - 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
 - 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 shotgun
 - I. The patrol rifle has a larger ammunition capacity than a shotgun
- X. 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.
- XI. Skill Development
 - A. Dry Firing Exercises
 - 1. Done at 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)
 - 3. Live fire and 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
8. Move and fire exercises
9. Close quarter tactical shooting

XII. Review and Conclusion

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