San Bernardino Police Department

Patrol Rifle Course
PURPOSE

- This course is designed to develop the functional and operational skills and knowledge necessary to deploy a patrol rifle.
- This phase of training will focus on marksmanship from different position, as well as basic weapons handling skills that will increase each student’s proficiency with the rifle.
• Successful completion of this course satisfies the legislative training mandate to possess short barrel rifles as specified in Penal Code section 33220(b) and the Commission training requirement to possess long barrel rifles as specified in Commission Regulation 1081.

• Rifle Course - 16 Hours [Short Barrel, Penal Code section 33220(b), Long Barrel, Commission Regulation 1005(i)]
OBJECTIVES

• To successfully complete this course, the student must:
• Understand and display the Four Cardinal Rules and General Rules of firearms safety.
• Exhibit proficiency by firing a satisfactory score on the rifle qualification course. Minimum score of 90%.
• Exhibit the skills necessary to disassemble, clean and assemble the patrol rifle.
• Be familiar with basic rifle nomenclature.
FOUR CARDINAL RULES

• Treat all weapons as if they are loaded
• Keep the muzzle away from anything you do not intend to engage.
• Be sure of your target and beyond.
• Keep your finger out of the trigger guard until you are on target.
GENERAL SAFETY RULES

• All live fire firearms training must be supervised by a certified Firearms Instructor.
• All safety rules will be strictly enforced. Unsafe or careless behavior will not be tolerated.
• Keep weapons pointed in a safe direction at all times.
• Upon first handling a weapon, immediately face a safe direction and perform a safety check (unload the weapon if necessary, check to make sure the weapon is unloaded).
• Never offer a weapon to or receive a weapon from another person unless the action is open, the weapon is unloaded, and the open ejection port can be seen by the person receiving the weapon.

• When transporting a weapon to and from the range, handguns should be holstered, patrol rifles should be in the patrol ready condition with the weapon on safe, chamber empty, bolt closed, loaded magazine inserted into the magazine well.
• Follow all commands from a firearms instructor as they are given. **DO NOT ANTICIPATE COMMANDS.**

• Immediately signal any unsafe condition on the range by raising a hand in the air and calling “cease fire”. **ANY PERSON ON THE RANGE CAN CALL “CEASE FIRE”**.

• All loading and unloading during training sessions will be conducted on the firing line and only when instructed to do so.
GENERAL RULES CONTINUED

• Once a course of fire has begun, do not leave the firing line for any reason unless the line has been cleared and you are instructed to do so.

• Eye and ear protection must be worn at all times when firing. Soft ear plugs should be worn in conjunction with the hard sound barriers.

• Cease fire if the report or recoil of a weapon is weak or peculiar (squib load). If this occurs, keep the weapon pointed down range and raise a hand to signal an instructor for assistance. Do not pull the trigger a second time.
GENERAL RULES CONTINUED

- No eating, drinking, or chewing of gum or tobacco products are allowed on the firing line.
- During firearms training session, dry firing will not be allowed unless under the direct supervision of a firearms instructor.
- Never permit the muzzle of a firearm to touch the ground.
- Never go in front of the firing line or bend over to pick-up dropped items without first receiving clearance from the range officer.
- Do not attempt to catch a dropped gun.
SAFTEY EQUIPMENT

• **EYE PROTECTION**
  • Always wear eye protection when shooting
  • Do not wear glass lenses

• **HEARING PROTECTION**
  • Both soft plugs and hard ear protection should be worn when shooting.
  • Damage to your hearing from shooting is permanent.

• **BALLISTIC VEST**
  • Soft body armor will be worn during all shooting exercises.
  • Soft body armor does not stop rifle rounds.
EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- First aid and trauma kits
- Communications
- Emergency phone numbers
- Local hospitals
AB 392, effective January 1, 2020, amends the language of the following statutes and includes:
The circumstances of justifiable homicide change from when "overcoming actual resistance to the execution of some legal process or in the discharge of any other legal duty" to "the homicide results from a peace officer's use of force that is in compliance with PC 835a."
Use of force authority conferred on peace officers is a serious responsibility.

Deadly force should be used only when necessary.

Use of force decisions are to be evaluated carefully and from a "reasonable officer" perspective.

Individuals with disabilities may be affected in their ability to understand or comply with peace officer commands.
PC 835a(b)

- amends reasonable force standard to "objectively reasonable force"
PC 835a(c)(1)

- amends deadly force standards to include "totality of the circumstances" when:
  - defending against imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury
  - apprehending fleeing persons for felony
    - involving threatened or actual death or serious bodily injury
    - immediate apprehension is reasonably believed to be needed
  - requires, when reasonable, that officers identify themselves and warn of intent to use force
• Force evaluation considerations
• Judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer (reasonableness standard)
• Officer with the same or similar training and experience
• Facing similar circumstances
• Act the same way or use similar judgment
• Does not have to be the best decision, only a reasonable one
GRAHAM vs. CONNOR

• Examined through the eyes of an officer on the scene at the time the force was applied

• No matter how compelling the evidence is to be found later

• Toy gun

• Based on the facts and circumstances confronting the officer without regard to the officer’s underlying intent or motivation

• Based on the knowledge that the officer acted properly under the established law at the time
• PC 835a(c)(2) includes prohibition on using deadly force against persons who pose a danger only to themselves.

• PC 835a(d) amends self-defense language to include objectively reasonable force.

• PC 835a(e) added definitions for deadly force, imminent, and totality of the circumstances.
Threatens an officer with a weapon or is believed to be armed.

Committed a crime involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical harm.
TENNESSEE vs. GARNER

LIFE THREATENING ESCAPE

- Poses significant threat to officers or others if allowed to escape.
- Deadly force may be used if reasonably necessary to prevent escape.
- Where feasible a verbal warning should be given.
SCOTT VS. HENRICH

• “Officers thus need not avail themselves of the least intrusive means of responding to an exigent situation; they need only act within that range of conduct we identify as reasonable.”

• Officers need not experiment with force by escalating (or de-escalating) from one level of force to another.

• Force must be reasonable and justified
DEPARTMENT POLICY

- Lexipol Policy 432-Patrol Rifles
- Lexipol Policy 300-Use of Force
- Lexipol Policy 310-Officer Involved Shootings
- Lexipol Policy 312-Firearms and Qualifications
- Lexipol Policy 313-Rules of the Range

Know your department policy.

Always insure your actions are within department policy.

You are not legally covered if you are out of policy.

Department Policy can be more restrictive than state and federal law (Long Beach POA vs City of Long Beach).
DEPLOYMENT OF THE PATROL RIFLE

Officers may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstance where the officer can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the patrol rifle may include, but are not limited to
Lexipol 432.6 (cont)

- (a) Situations where the officer reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.
- (b) When an officer is faced with a situation that may require the delivery of accurate and effective fire at long range.
- (c) Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.
Lexipol 432.6 (cont)

- (d) When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to deliver fire on a barricaded suspect or a suspect with a hostage.
- (e) When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.
- (f) When authorized or requested by a supervisor.
- (g) When needed to euthanize an animal
Any qualified officer carrying a patrol rifle in the field shall maintain the weapon in a patrol ready condition until deployed. A rifle is considered in a patrol ready condition when it has been inspected by the assigned officer, the fire selector switch is in the safe position, the chamber is empty,
the bolt is closed, and a fully loaded magazine is inserted into the magazine well. Rifles are not permitted in the police building at any time with the magazine inserted in the weapon or a round in the chamber.
Lexipol 432.9

Rifle Storage

(a) When not in use, patrol rifles will be stored in the department armory rifle racks or inside the officer's locker.

(b) At the start of each assigned shift, any qualified, on-duty officer may contact the Watch Commander or a patrol supervisor for access to the department armory.

(c) When not deployed, in-service patrol rifles should be secured in the vehicle in a locked gun rack or locked in the trunk.
(d) Officers shall ensure that all firearms and ammunition are locked and secured while in their homes, vehicles or any other area under their control in a manner that will keep them inaccessible to children and irresponsible adults. Officers shall be aware that negligent storage of a firearm could result in criminal prosecution under Penal Code § 25100.
RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS

- Straight line construction.
- Barrel, bolt, recoil buffer unit and stock assembled in line to disperse recoil straight back to shoulder while minimizing barrel climb.
- Carbine, standard, match grade models
- Weight loaded 6 lbs. 10 oz. = varied due to barrel length and magazine capacity
RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS

• Weight unloaded 5lbs. 8 oz. = varied due to barrel length
• Gas operated
• Air cooled
• Fires from closed bolt
• Last round open feature
• Bolt locks directly to barrel = 5200 lbs. chamber pressure
RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS

- Rotating bolt breech mechanism
- Magazine fed
- 223 Remington – 5.56 mm NATO
- 10 round civilian
- 20 round
- 30 round
- special 40/100 round
- Various designs and ballistic coefficient
RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS

- 2858 fps to 3250 fps depending on type of ammunition and barrel
- Muzzle velocity with short barrel weapons and service ammunition should be verified to be at performance level required.
RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS

• Accepted factory specifications call for 5 shot groups with maximum spread of less than three inches at 100 yards from a bench rest.
• Maximum Effective range 500 to 875 yards depending on ammunition
• Maximum range 1.6 miles
RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS

- 5 to 8 ½ pounds
- Trigger disconnector and reset
- Safe
- Automatic = 750 rounds per min.
- Burst – 3
- Semi = 45-65 rounds per min.
- Sustained rate of fire – 12 to 15 rounds per minute
RIFLE NOMENCLATURE

- Four major groups
  - Upper Receiver Barrel Group
  - Lower Receiver Buttstock Group
  - Bolt Carrier Group
  - Magazine Group
THREE MAJOR GROUPS

- UPPER RECEIVER
- CHARGING HANDLE
- BOLT CARRIER
- BOLT
- LOWER RECEIVER
- FIRING PIN
- FIRING PIN RETAINING PIN
- CAM PIN
BALLISTICS

Trace 1: 25 yard zero
Trace 2: 50 yard zero
Trace 3: 100 yard zero

Crosshair
Inches: 11.20
Yards: 250.0

Bullet Path

Inches

Range in Yards

0 25 50 75 100 125 150 175 200 225 250

-2.8 -1.4 0.0 1.4 2.8

9.8 7.0 5.6 4.2 2.8 1.4
Cocking (Before Firing)

- The weapon is cocked before firing by pulling the charging hand rearward. This pulls the bolt carrier group to the rear. As the carrier moves rearward, it cocks the hammer.
With a loaded magazine installed, the bolt carrier is driven forward. The lugs of the bolt pick up a cartridge from the magazine and feed it into the chamber.
CYCLE OF OPERATION

• Locking
  • When the forward motion of the bolt and cartridge are stopped by the chamber the bolt carrier continues forward, rotating the bolt locking the bolt in battery.
Firing

When the trigger is pulled, the hammer is released against the firing pin, which strikes the cartridge primer to discharge the chambered round.
**CYCLE OF OPERATION**

• **Extraction**

  • As the bolt is moved rearward by the carrier, the extractor withdraws the spent case from the chamber.
• **Ejection**
  
  • When the extractor has drawn the spent case out of the chamber, the spring loaded ejector pushes the spent case out of the ejection port.
Fundamentals of Marksmanship

- Sight Alignment
- Sight Picture
- Trigger Squeeze
- Follow Through
- Breathing
- Grip
- Stance
SIGHT PICTURE
AIMPOINT
SHOOTING POSITIONS

• Standing
• Kneeling
• Prone
COVER VS CONCEALMENT

- Concealment hides your body from observation.
- Cover is concealment that will stop bullets.
- Cover vs. Concealment = Sandbags vs. Tall Grass
STUDENT TESTING

• Open discussion
• Questions
• Safety Concerns
THE END