

TACTICAL COURSE

Tactical Firearms

P.O.S.T. Expanded Course Outline

Course Title: TACTICAL HANDGUN

COURSE GOAL: The goal of this course is to provide officers with the necessary firearm and tactical knowledge and skills to survive and win a lethal force encounter and to provide officers with the tactical skills to respond effectively to critical incidents. The presentation format will be a 4 hour hands-on/practical skills firearm training for in-service officers, which will cover and incorporate major components of tactical firearms and lethal force issues.

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

1. The agency's use of force and firearms policy.
2. Important case law as it relates to the use of firearms and the use force.
3. Important officer survival concepts.
3. The basic fundamentals of combat shooting.

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

1. Judgment and decision making
2. Appropriate weapon safety procedures.
3. Basic combat tactics
4. Target/non-target Identification
5. Speed, accuracy, and effectiveness under stress and movement conditions

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COURSE CONTENT: 4:00 HOURS

- 1. PQC AND INTRODUCTION 0:30
- 2. USE OF FORCE, FEAR AND OFFICER SURVIVAL 0:30
- 3. COMBAT SKILLS AND TACTICS 1:00
- 4. COMBAT COURSE(S) OF FIRE 2:00

HOURLY DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE

Combat Skills Course

0000 – 0030 INTRODUCTIONFirearms Team
PQC/Course overview/safety guidelines/health considerations

0030 – 0100 USE OF FORCE/FEAR/OFFICER SURVIVALFirearms Team
Moral/Ethical/civil issues/Department Policy/force options/officer survival

0100 – 0200 COMBAT SKILLS AND TACTICS.....Firearms Team
Cover and concealment/moving/multiple and moving targets

0200 – 0400 COMBAT COURSEFirearms Team
Multiple officers/multiple targets/moving targets/no-threat targets

TOPIC: Tactical Firearms

TIME FRAME: 4:00

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, combat tactics and safety.
- 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.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Targets with backing (Speedwell B-27FSA)
Target patches
Water
Ammunition
Clipboard
Safety equipment
Trauma kit

I. Introduction

(1c)

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
6. Trigger finger indexed until ready to fire

C. Range Operations

D. Health considerations (lead)

II. Use of force

(1h,i,j)

A. Moral and ethical issues involving lethal force.

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

B. Implications of using excessive force

1. 42 U.S.C., section 1983
 - a) Civil remedy for violation of civil rights
2. Title 18 U.S.C., section 241, 242
3. Department Discipline
4. 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

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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 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
2. Preliminary investigation overview

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
 - 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 circumstance- “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 were 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...*"
- e) Things to consider:
 - i. the type of crime
 - ii. The type of criminal
 - iii. The resistance level observed or perceived
 - iv. The public safety if arrest is delayed and the suspect is to remain at large.
 - v. The safety of officer engaged in the arrest attempt.
 - vi. The safety of officers who would attempt a subsequent contact or arrest.

III. Fear

(1b)

- A. A normal emotional response to a perceived threat
 - 1. Not a problem until it effects the ability to perform effectively.
- B. Changes with time and experience.
 - 1. Courage is not the lack of fear, but the control of it.
- C. Physiological reactions to fear
 - 1. Increased adrenaline, heart rate, and breathing
 - 2. Body releases blood-clotting enzymes.
 - 3. Tunnel vision, tunnel hearing
 - 4. increased muscle tension and perspiration
 - 5. raised pain threshold

6. time distortion
7. impaired fine motor skills
8. Defenses: Practice combat breathing
 - a) breath in 4 count
 - b) hold 4 count
 - c) exhale 4 count
 - d) hold 4 count
 - e) 3 cycles
 - f) Before, during and after combat

D. Reasonable fear

1. A controlled and legitimate fear
2. A mechanism that is necessary for officer survival as it is based on true circumstances.

E. Unreasonable fear

1. Generated in the officers mind with no direct correlation to facts and circumstances.

F. Officer Survival:

1. State of mind and physical reaction to assault or attack
2. Requires trained responses through:
 - a) mental preparation (e.g. "what if scenarios?")
 - b) training, drills and practice
 - c) physical conditioning
 - d) life experiences
 - e) self confidence
3. "The will to live"
 - a) mental commitment to never give up

IV. Combat**(1b,d,e,f,g,i)****A. Fundamentals of Combat Shooting**

1. Sight Alignment/Sight Picture
 - a) Controlled Breathing
2. Trigger Control

- a) Trigger reset
- 3. Accuracy
 - a) Consistently place projectile where aimed
 - b) Shot Placement
 - c) Target Analysis
- B. Weapons Clearing
 - 1. Malfunctions
 - a) Failure to Fire
 - b) Double Feed
 - 2. Time/Distance/Cover
- C. Combat conditions may include:
 - a) rapid threat assessment
 - b) shoot/no-shoot decisions
 - c) multiple targets
 - d) moving targets
 - e) varying target distances
 - f) multiple shooting positions
 - g) movement
 - h) use of cover and concealment
- D. Considerations
 - a) shoot quickly without compromising accuracy
 - b) threat assessments
 - a) Surroundings
- E. Cover and Concealment
 - 1. Cover- Provides concealment from view and protection from gunfire.
 - 2. Concealment- Object or condition that hides you from view.
- F. Communication
 - 1. With other officers; "red/green" "moving/covering"
 - 2. With suspects (commands when feasible/if possible)
 - 3. Theory: shoot, move and communicate
- G. Scanning and presentation

1. Low-ready: muzzle down
2. High-ready: on threat
3. Ready-gun: muzzle high but below threat line

H. Moving

1. Without cover, don't move faster than you can hold a sight picture.
2. With cover, move quickly
3. Move on double action only and index
4. Tactical walking; "Groucho/Duck walk"
5. Keep eyes on threat
6. Drill: one magazine from 25 yard line with reload.
 - a) walking in while holding sight picture and firing on threat
 - b) providing commands to suspect
 - c) communicating with other officers during reload.
 - d) Moving in and moving out (advancing and retreating)
 - e) Alternative: Box drill with multiple targets

I. Static turns

1. Provide good base for shooting
2. Don't cross feet
3. look, turn, present weapon.
4. Drills:
 - a) six rounds on left turn, 90 degrees
 - b) six rounds on right turn, 90 degrees
 - c) six rounds on turn to the rear, 180 degrees

J. Multiple targets

1. spread fire
 - a) Threat identification
 - b) Threat prioritizing
 - c) Stun and return
2. Drill:

- a) three targets firing in order of threat (i.e., center, right, left)
- b) 2 rounds at each target
- c) two magazines

K. Moving Targets

1. At pistol combat range
 - a) on target lead only
 - b) keep suspect in sights when firing
2. Drill:
 - a) 6 rounds moving target left to right
 - b) 6 rounds moving target right to left

L. Low light shooting

1. Limitations:
 - a) limited depth perception
 - b) limited target identification
 - c) flash disorientation:
 - i. perception of movement becomes difficult
 - d) officer limitations
 - i. age (40+)
 - ii. medications
 - iii. poor physical condition
 - iv. illness
2. Use available ambient or back light
3. Night sights
 - a) provide for easier sight alignment
 - b) does not provide complete sight picture
 - c) does not identify a threat
4. Flashlights
 - a) Ayoob technique
 - b) Harries technique
 - c) Chapman technique

- d) Controlling flashlight during reload
- e) Weapon lights
 - ii. directed at area to be searched for threat
 - iii. not directed at non-threats
 - iv. indirect lighting of non-threat

5. Drills:

- a) 6 rounds from the 10 yard line using night sights
- b) 1 magazine from the 25 yard line using flashlight techniques, including reload.

M. Weak hand techniques

- 1. due to injury/incapacitation of strong side
- 2. drawing with weak hand
- 3. reloading with weak hand
- 4. practice
 - a) identify safety precautions
 - b) practice with empty weapons

V. Combat Course of Fire

(1a,b,g,i)

- A. Starting from the 25 yard line
- B. One or two officers
- C. Multiple target (options)
 - a. Threat targets
 - b. No threat targets
 - c. Bystanders
 - d. Moving targets
- D. Moving laterally and advancing
 - 1. from the 15 yard line
 - a) 3 rounds each target
 - 2. from the 10 yard line
 - a) 3 rounds each target
- E. At least two magazines
- F. Utilizing cover and concealment

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G. Communication with officers

H. Commands to suspect

I. Multiple shooting positions

1. Standing

2. Kneeling

3. Prone

VI. Pistol Qualification Course

(1b)

A. 37 Rounds

B. 80% Passing Score (miss 7)

C. 1 yard line to 3 yard line

1. 3 rounds in 10 seconds

a. On command, shooter stutter steps laterally, fires 2 rounds from the hip

b. Shooter steps backwards, evaluates threat, fires 1 round supported, scans for threats

2. Tactical Reload and holster

D. 3 yard line to 7 yard line

1. 10 rounds in 15 seconds

a. On command, with firearm holstered, shooter moves to the 7 yard line

b. On command, shooter steps laterally, fires 5 round strong side unsupported

c. Shooter transitions to the off-hand, fires 5 rounds unsupported, scans for threats

d. Tactical reload and holster

E. 7 yard line to 10 yard line

1. 12 rounds in 15 seconds

a. On command, with firearm holstered, shooter moves to the 10 yard line

b. On command, shooter steps laterally, fires 6 rounds strong side supported

- c. Shooter transitions to the off-hand and fires 6 rounds supported, scans for threats
 - d. Tactical reload and holster
- F. 10 yard line to 15 yard line
- 1. 10 rounds in 18 seconds
 - a. On command, with firearm holstered, shooter moves to the 15 yard line
 - b. On command, shooter steps laterally, fires 2 rounds in 6 seconds, low ready
 - c. On command, shooter fires 4 more strings of 2 rounds each in 3 seconds, low ready between each string, scan for threats
 - d. Emergency reloads as necessary, holster
- G. 15 yard line to 25 yard line
- 1. 2 rounds in 10 seconds
 - a. On command, with firearm holstered, shooter moves to the 25 yard line
 - b. On command, shooter steps laterally, fires 1 round strong side supported standing/barricade
 - c. Shooter the fires 1 round strong side supported kneeling/barricade
 - d. Emergency reloads as necessary, holster an empty firearm