

California State University
NORTHRIDGE
Department of Police Services
University Police Department



FIREARM/TACTICAL RIFLE
6930-32075
EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE

DAY ONE

I. Registration and Firearms Safety Briefing 0700-0715

A. Introduction

1. Instructor introduction and background
 - a. Lead instructor
 - b. Co-instructor(s)
 - c. Safety officer (if needed)

2. POST roster and TRRs

3. Course structure

- d. Purpose
- e. Scope
- f. Goal
- g. Objective

B. Firearms Safety Briefing

1. General firearms safety
 - h. Treat all firearms as if they are loaded at all times
 - i. Always keep firearms pointed in the safest possible direction
 - j. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to fire
 - k. Be sure of your target and backstop

II. The Tactical Rifle 0715-0745

A. Why use the tactical rifle

1. Provided to supplement the pistol and shotgun
2. When to deploy the tactical rifle
 - a. Immediacy of the threat
 - b. High-risk encounters
 - c. Individual capabilities
 - d. Advantages and disadvantages of the rifle

B. Ammunition

1. Characteristics
 - a. Projectile
 - b. Muzzle velocity
 - c. Muzzle energy
 - d. Use of only department-issue ammunition
 - e. Concerns of over penetration
 - f. Concerns of down-range impacts

III. Ballistics and Incapacitation 0745-0800

A. Ballistics

1. Internal ballistics
 - a. Projectile behavior within the weapon
2. External ballistics
 - a. Projectile behavior while in flight to target
3. Terminal ballistics
 - a. Projectile behavior upon impact with target

B. Incapacitation

1. Achieved through wounds to the central nervous system
2. Massive disintegration of tissue
 - a. Physiological factors of wounding
 - b. Components of wounding
 - c. Bullet penetration
 - d. Permanent cavitation
 - e. Temporary cavitation
 - f. Bullet fragmentation
 - g. Wound cavity
 - h. Psychological factors

IV. The AR-15 Rifle, Nomenclature, Care and Cleaning 0800-0845

A. The AR15-style rifle

1. History
 - a. Design
 - b. Development
 - c. Cycle of operation
2. Nomenclature
 - d. Barrel
 - e. Handguard/stock/grip
 - f. Front and rear sights
 - g. Trigger and trigger guard
 - h. Ejection port/brass deflector/dust cover
 - i. Magazine release/magazine port/magazine
 - j. Bolt catch
 - k. Safety selector switch
 - l. Sling
 - m. Charging handle/forward assist
3. Care and cleaning
 - a. Field strip
 - b. Bolt disassembly and cleaning
 - c. Safety and function check
4. Loading and unloading the rifle
 - a. Loading the magazine
 - b. Loading the rifle
 - c. Unloading the rifle

Break 0845-0900

V. The Short Barrel Rifle 0900-0930

A. Short Barrel Rifle (SBR) Characteristics

1. SBR defined
 - a. BATFE regulations require any rifle with a barrel length of less than 16 inches to be registered as a “short barreled rifle”
 - b. Includes any rifle with a barrel under 16” long or an overall length under 26”
 - c. Overall length is measured from extended buttstock to tip of barrel (excluding any removable thread-on muzzle device)
 - d. Barrel length is measured from start of chamber to tip of barrel (excluding any removable thread-on muzzle device)
2. SBR restrictions
 - a. Calif. Penal Code 33220(b) training requirements
 - b. Calif. Penal Code 33220(b) law enforcement SBR exemption
 - c. Federal felony to possess SBR unless lawfully registered or exempt
3. Advantages
 - a. Provides compact firepower as compared to rifle or carbine-length weapons
 - b. Easier to use within confines of patrol car
 - c. Easier to secure in smaller vehicles (motor unit)

4. Disadvantages
 - a. Loss of bullet velocity due to shorter barrel
 - b. Loss of terminal performance due to lower velocity
 - c. Increased bullet drop at distant targets
 - d. More difficult to align iron sights due to shorter sight radius
 - e. Increased muzzle flash and report
5. Safety Concerns
 - a. Must maintain increased muzzle awareness due to shorter length
 - b. Must be attentive to keep hands / arms behind muzzle
 - c. Negative effect of firing in close proximity to fellow officers due to increased muzzle flash and report

VI. Zeroing 0930-1000

- A. Zeroing the tactical rifle
 1. Trajectory
 - a. Bore centerline/line of departure
 - b. Line of sight/point of aim
 - c. Zero range
 2. Minute of angle
 - a. One MOA equals one inch at 100 yards
 - b. 1/60th of a degree of a circle
 3. Mechanical zero
 - a. Establishing MZ
 4. Zero procedure
 - a. Zeroing target
 - b. Initial sight settings/sight adjustment
 - c. Front sight elevation
 - d. Rear sight elevation
 - e. Rear sight windage

VII. Accuracy and Fundamentals of Marksmanship 1000-1030

- A. Critical elements of accuracy
 1. Consistent performance of weapon
 - a. Military-grade weapon with accuracy within one MOA
 2. Consistent performance of ammunition
 - a. Law enforcement ammunition manufactured to highest standards
 3. Consistent performance of shooter
 - a. Shooter must possess understanding of fundamentals of marksmanship
- B. Fundamentals of marksmanship
 1. Fundamentals are the foundation of all shooting
 - a. Grip
 - b. Stance
 - c. Sight alignment

- d. Sight picture
- e. Arc of movement/wobble area
- f. Trigger control
- g. Breath control
- h. Follow through
- 2. Distance and the fundamentals
 - a. Distance equals time
 - b. Time allows for better decision-making
- C. Mental discipline and the fundamentals
 - 1. Mental discipline and knowledge of fundamentals is critical to winning
 - a. Clear the mind and concentrate on the task at hand
 - b. Have confidence, positive thoughts, and self-control
 - c. Know you can win
 - d. Aim small, miss small

Lunch 1030-1115

VIII. Range Briefing and Rifle Handling, Demonstration and Practice 1115-1200

- A. Range orientation/preparation and safety review
 - 1. Four basic rules of firearm safety
 - a. Treat all firearms as if they are loaded
 - b. Keep firearms pointed in the safest possible direction
 - c. Keep finger off trigger until ready to shoot
 - d. Be sure of your target and backstop
 - 2. Other safety considerations
 - a. Ear, eye, and cap protection required on range
 - b. No bending over on the range
 - c. Advise instructor if you must leave the firing line
 - d. No ammunition allowed in cleaning area
 - e. Report any injuries, no matter how slight
 - 3. The prime directive -I will keep my handgun secured in my holster and my rifle slung at all times unless specifically directed otherwise. This applies to the range and classroom environment and not on the street.
 - 4. Range commands
 - a. Cease fire – Immediately stop firing. Await further instructions.
 - b. Anyone may call “cease fire” if dangerous situation is observed
 - c. Is the line holstered/slung?
 - 5. Hot range concept
 - a. Firearms remain holstered or slung
 - b. Firearms remain loaded
 - c. All loading/unloading is done at firing line
 - d. Emphasis on ammunition management
- B. Rifle handling conditions

1. Demonstration and practice
 - a. Unloaded condition - Action open, chamber empty, magazine removed
 - b. Shoulder ready - Butt in shoulder, two hands on gun, muzzle depressed, head up, stock weld broken
 - c. High tuck – Butt dismounted from shoulder, stock under armpit, barrel straight out or angled down 45 degrees. Always maintain control of gun with shooting and. Good for administrative loading/unloading.
 - d. Patrol ready
 - e. Safety circle

- C. Use of sling
 1. One-shoulder slinging/unslinging demonstration and practice
 - a. Rifle is always slung on shoulder opposite the handgun
 - b. Muzzle down for muzzle control
 - c. Support hand controls the rifle
 2. Administrative slinging/unslinging
 - a. Head goes through the sling
 - b. Butt end up on the handgun side
 - c. Do not use technique when instant access to rifle may be necessary

IX. Shooting Positions and Dry-Fire Exercises 1200-1230

- A. Shooting positions – demonstration and practice
 1. Standing position
 - a. Squared off against target
 - b. Elbows tucked in
 2. Kneeling position
 - a. Supported
 - b. Unsupported
 3. Sitting position
 - a. Supported
 - b. Unsupported
 4. Prone position

- B. Dry-firing exercises
 1. Trigger control exercise
 - a. Dry-fire while maintaining proper sight picture and sight alignment
 2. Reset exercise
 - a. Dry-fire with emphasis on trigger reset

X. Marksmanship Exercises 1230-1300

- A. Basic marksmanship exercises
 1. Fire 5 rounds in each position at B-27 target at 50 yards (30 rounds)
 - a. Standing position
 - b. Kneeling position – supported and unsupported

- c. Sitting position – supported and unsupported
- d. Prone position

XI. Zeroing Exercises 1300-1400

- A. Zeroing and sight adjustment
 - 1. Zero rifle by firing 5 rounds each at four zeroing targets (20 rounds)
 - a. Prone position, untimed,
 - b. Targets checked after each set of 5 rounds
 - c. Make sight adjustment as necessary

XII. Loading/Reloading and Live-Fire Exercises 1400-1430

- A. Loading/reloading
 - 1. Reloading considerations - Reload when you want to, not when you have to
 - a. Natural tendency to over-estimate the number of rounds remaining in gun
 - b. Plan to reload when you think 50% of your ammunition has been fired
 - 2. Tactical reloading – Replenishing ammunition supply with a round in the chamber.
 - a. Draw new magazine
 - b. Exchange magazines
 - c. Secure removed magazine
 - d. Re-establish support hand grip
 - 3. Speed loading/empty weapon reload
 - a. Depress muzzle out of line of sight
 - b. Draw full magazine/release empty
 - c. Insert and chamber
 - d. Re-establish support hand grip
 - 4. Reloading considerations
 - a. Always try to save the magazine if it still contains ammunition
- B. Live-fire loading/reloading drill (20 rounds)
 - 1. Tactical reloading
 - a. Fire two rounds and exchange magazine
 - b. Repeat 10 times
 - 2. Emphasize
 - b. Finger off trigger
 - c. Secure removed magazine
 - d. Re-establish support hand grip

XIII. Clearing Stoppages and Malfunctions Exercises 1430-1500

- A. Stoppages and malfunctions (dummy rounds)
 - 1. Immediate action drill
 - a. Tap rack ready
 - b. Feed-way clearance

- 2. Unusual malfunctions
 - a. Hard case extraction
 - b. Case head separation
 - 3. Stoppage considerations
 - a. Transition to handgun
 - b. When to transition
 - c. When not to transition
- B. Live-fire stoppage and malfunction drill (20 rounds)
- 1. Weapon set for stoppage/malfunction. Two magazines - Each loaded with three dummy rounds and 10 live rounds
 - a. Instructor gives command to fire at target until empty
 - b. Student performs immediate action or transition as necessary

XIV. Live-Fire Verbalization and Decision-Making Exercise 1500-1530

- A. Challenge drill (30 rounds)
- 1. Student learns verbalization and decision-making skills in live-fire exercise
 - a. Instructor gives command for student to challenge armed suspect
 - b. Suspect will either comply or not comply
 - c. Student may only shoot target when justified to do so

XV. Directed Fire Exercise 1530-1545

- A. Stance directed fire drill (30 rounds)
- 1. Student will shoot targets at close range (5 - 10 yards) using their trained-in, normal shooting stance.
 - a. Drill begins with shooter in the standing ready position
 - b. Upon instructor's command, student will fire at designated area of target
 - c. Depending upon command, student will fire either with proper sight picture or without proper sight picture
 - d. Depending upon command, student will fire either one or two shots

XVI. Review and Remediation 1545-1600

- A. Questions
- B. Other concerns
- C. Remediation (if necessary)

DAY TWO

I. **Weapon Inspection, Maintenance and Function Check** **0700-0730**

- A. Weapon Inspection
 - 1. Internal and external inspection
 - a. Broken/missing parts
 - b. Unusual wear
- B. Weapon maintenance
 - 1. Rifle is disassembled
 - a. Magazine assembly
 - b. Lower receiver/buttstock assembly
 - c. Upper receiver/bolt assembly
 - d. Bolt carrier and bolt
 - 2. Rifle is cleaned and inspected
 - a. Any unusual wear or damage shall be reported to the instructor
 - 3. Rifle is reassembled
 - a. Functional check performed

II. **Policy Review** **0730-0830**

- A. Policy review - Department use of force and firearms policy
 - 1. Objective
 - a. Provide guidelines on the authorized use of force
 - 2. Policy
 - a. Officers will use only minimal force necessary to affect an arrest or protect the officer or a citizen
 - 3. Procedure
 - a. Philosophy: Ethics and the use of force
 - 4. Policy
 - a. Reasonableness of the use of force
 - b. Judged from the perspective of an objectively reasonable officer
 - 5. Definitions
 - a. Less-lethal force
 - b. Lethal force
 - c. Use of force continuum
 - 6. Situation-based use of force continuum
 - a. Officer/subject factors (age, size, relative strength, skill level)
 - b. Influence of drugs or alcohol
 - c. Proximity to weapons
 - d. Availability of weapons
 - e. Seriousness of the offense in question
 - f. Other exigent circumstances
 - 7. Actions of subject (based on officer's reasonable perception)
 - a. Cooperative
 - b. Cooperative, non-responsive or uncooperative

- c. Passive or low level resistance
- d. Active resistance or aggression
- e. Assault or threat of assault
- f. Life threatening assault or assault likely to cause great bodily harm
- 8. Officer response options
 - a. Professional presence, verbalization, and restraining and detaining
 - b. Compliance techniques
 - c. Intermediate force
 - d. Lethal force
- 9. Reporting and reviewing individual use of force incidents
 - a. Reportable force defined
 - b. Officer responsibilities
 - c. Supervisor responsibilities
 - d. Department responsibilities

Break 0830-0845

III. Training, Use of Force, Legal Issues and California Firearms Laws 0845-0930

- A. Legal issues
 - 1. Accidental shootings
 - a. Medeiros v. O’Connell
 - 2. Failure to train
 - a. Zuchel v. City of Denver
 - 3. Less-lethal Force
 - a. Deorle v. Rutherford
 - 4. Use of force
 - a. Tennessee v. Garner
 - b. Graham v. Conner
- B. California firearms laws
 - 1. Roberti-Roos Assault Weapons Control Act of 1989
 - a. Firearms prohibited by category
 - 2. Assault weapon defined
 - a. Calif. Penal Code 30600
 - b. Calif. Penal Code 30510
 - 3. Assault weapon penal code sections
 - a. Calif. Penal Code 12280
 - b. Calif. Penal Code 12285

IV. Policy Review 0930-1000

- A. Policy review - Use and storage of patrol rifles
 - 1. Objective
 - a. To establish procedures for maintenance, storage, and use of patrol rifles
 - 2. Policy

- a. It is the policy of this department that officers be issued and trained to appropriately use the patrol rifle
- 3. Procedure
 - a. Purpose of patrol rifle
 - b. Deployment of patrol rifle
 - c. Magazines/load bearing vests
 - d. Sign-out sheet
- 4. Storage
 - a. Armory
 - b. Patrol vehicles
- 5. Miscellaneous
 - a. Maintenance
 - b. Repairs
 - c. Malfunctions
- 6. Patrol rifle qualification and training
 - a. Officers must be certified prior to deploying patrol rifle
 - b. Qualification must be at least semi-annually

Lunch 1000-1045

V. Range Briefing and Preparation 1045-1100

- A. Range orientation/preparation and safety review
 - 1. Four basic rules of firearm safety
 - a. Treat all firearms as if they are loaded
 - b. Keep firearms pointed in the safest possible direction
 - c. Keep finger off trigger until ready to shoot
 - d. Be sure of your target and backstop
 - 2. Other safety considerations
 - a. Ear, eye, and cap protection required on range
 - b. No bending over on the range
 - c. Advise instructor if you must leave the firing line
 - d. No ammunition allowed in cleaning area
 - e. Report any injuries, no matter how slight
 - 3. The prime directive – I will keep my handgun secured in my holster and my rifle slung at all times unless specifically directed otherwise. This applies to the range and classroom environment and not on the street.
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 - a. Cease fire – Immediately stop firing. Await further instructions.
 - b. Anyone may call “cease fire” if dangerous situation is observed
 - c. Is the line holstered/slung?
 - 5. Hot range concept
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 - b. Firearms remain loaded
 - c. All loading/unloading is done at firing line
 - d. Emphasis on ammunition management

VI. Cover and Concealment Exercises 1100-1130

- A. Tactical use of cover and concealment (20 rounds)
1. Demonstration and practice in use of cover and concealment
 - a. Tactical awareness
 - b. Cover vs. concealment
 - c. Effective use of cover for right-handed and left-handed officers
 2. Students fire at target using cover/concealment
 - a. Right-hand cover/concealment
 - b. Left-hand cover/concealment
 - c. Over cover/concealment

VII. Directed Fire Exercise 1130-1200

- A. Head and groin drill (20 rounds)
1. Student learns decision-making skills in live-fire exercise
 - a. Student fires only upon the appropriate command from instructor.
 - b. Instructor gives command for target area (head or groin) and number of shots
 - c. Student performs a down and scan for other threats and to break tunnel vision
 - After immediate threat is over
 - Muzzle down to ready position
 - Visually check rifle's condition
 - Get ready for next encounter

VIII. Directed Fire Exercise 1200-1215

- A. Pivot and turn drill (20 round)
1. Shooter learns to safely and tactically turn to face a threat
 - a. Instructor gives command for direction of movement and number of shots
 - b. Shooter pivots/turns, conscious of muzzle, according to command
 - c. Shooter fires at target's center mass or groin according to command

IX. Directed Fire Exercise 1215-1230

- A. Step drill (30 rounds)
1. Student learns to safely and tactically use lateral movement
 - a. Instructor gives command for all movement and shots
 - b. Student moves either left or right together, according to command
 - c. Student fires at target's center mass or groin according to command

X. Directed Fire Exercise 1230-1300

- A. Movement with rifle (30 rounds)
1. Student learns to move safely and fire accurately while moving
 - a. Instructor accompanies student and gives commands for movement and shots

- b. Slow walking
- c. Forward
- d. Rearward
- e. Side Step

XI. Rifle Assembly and Directed Fire Exercise 1300-1330

- A. Run-down drill (20 rounds)
 - 1. Rifle is disassembled into the four major sub-assemblies
 - a. Magazine assembly
 - b. Lower receiver/buttstock assembly
 - c. Upper receiver/bolt assembly
 - d. Bolt carrier and bolt
 - 2. Accompanied by an instructor, the student must:
 - a. Reassemble weapon
 - b. Perform functional check
 - c. Load and fire at target under timed conditions

XII. Transition Techniques 1330-1345

- A. Transition drills (20 rounds)
 - 1. Muzzle up (magazines loaded with two rounds each)
 - a. Instructor gives command to fire at target until empty
 - b. Student transitions to handgun - rifle muzzle up
 - c. Student fires two rounds at target with handgun
 - 2. Muzzle down (magazines loaded with two rounds each)
 - a. Instructor gives command to fire at target until empty
 - b. Student transitions handgun – rifle muzzle down
 - c. Student fires two rounds at target with handgun

XIII. Rifle Course Qualification 1345-1445

- A. Qualification course (20 rounds)
 - 1. Task 1
 - a. Distance – 50 yards
 - b. Start with rifle on target
 - c. Choice of position
 - d. Eight rounds in 60 seconds
 - 2. Task 2
 - a. Distance – 50 yards
 - b. Ready position to kneeling supported
 - c. Two rounds in four seconds
 - 3. Task 3
 - a. Distance – 15 yards
 - b. Ready position to kneeling unsupported

- c. Two rounds in four seconds
- 4. Task 4
 - a. Distance – 15 yards
 - b. Ready position to standing unsupported
 - c. Two rounds in four seconds
- 5. Task 5
 - a. Distance – 10 yards
 - b. Ready position to kneeling unsupported
 - c. Two rounds in 1.5 seconds
- 6. Task 6
 - a. Distance – 10 yards
 - b. Ready position to standing unsupported
 - c. Two rounds in 1.5 seconds
- 7. Task 7
 - a. Distance – 5 yards
 - b. Low ready position (muzzle depressed) to standing unsupported
 - c. Two rounds in 1.5 seconds

XIV. Rifle Course Written Exam, Course Summary and Remediation 1445-1545

- A. Written exam
 - 1. Closed-book
 - 2. 28 multiple-choice questions
 - 3. Must score 80% or better to pass
- B. Final summation
 - 1. Comments/questions/concerns
 - 2. Course evaluations
- C. Remediation (if necessary)

XV. Weapon Inspection, Maintenance and Function Check 1545-1600

- A. Weapon Inspection
 - 1. Internal and external inspection
 - a. Missing/broken parts
 - b. Unusual wear
- B. Weapon maintenance
 - 1. Rifle is disassembled
 - a. Magazine assembly
 - b. Lower receiver/buttstock assembly
 - c. Upper receiver/bolt assembly
 - d. Bolt carrier and bolt
 - 2. Rifle is cleaned and inspected
 - a. Any unusual wear or damage shall be reported to the instructor
 - 3. Rifle is reassemble
 - a. Functional check performed