

PATROL RIFLE OPERATOR'S COURSE 16 HOURS

**RIFLE COURSE**

**Penal Code section 33220(b)**

- COURSE TITLE:** RIFLE COURSE – 16 HOURS  
Includes all shoulder-fired weapons that are not a shotgun
- 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 and 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 firearms.
- II. Demonstrate the ability to field strip the weapon and to properly clean and maintain it.
- III. Be provided with and demonstrate understanding of the agency policy regarding the use of firearms.
- IV. Demonstrate the ability to properly load, unload, and fire the weapon and to clear malfunctions that might occur with the weapon.
- V. Demonstrate the ability to apply the fundamentals for rifle marksmanship to fire accurately from the prone, kneeling, sitting and standing positions.
- VI. 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

## PATROL RIFLE OPERATOR'S COURSE 16 HOURS

### I. COURSE INTRODUCTION

- A. Instructors to request all rifles be cased or grounded
1. Any loaded weapons to be identified and cleared by instructors
    - a. Introducing students to the PUSH-PULL-TILT-RACK concept
    - b. The Student will learn this procedure as the basic operating drill, for preparing the patrol rifle for live fire:
      - 1) PUSH the magazine into the magazine well, cartridge nose in the direction of the muzzle, straight up until an audible "click" is heard
      - 2) PULL on the magazine to ensure it is inserted/locked into position
      - 3) TILT the rifle to the side and downward (for gravity assist when the bolt is released forward)
      - 4) RACK the charging handle to the rear and release to allow the strength of the buffer spring to close the action.
      - 5) Place the selector on SAFE

### B. INTRODUCTIONS and COURSE REGISTRATION

1. Instructors should state the following:
  - a. Time in law enforcement
  - b. Time in firearms training
  - c. Specialty training and assignments
2. Students should state the following:
  - a. Time in law enforcement
  - b. Familiarity with rifle, if any
  - c. Any prior rifle training (i.e., military, SWAT, etc.)

### C. SAFETY DISCUSSION

1. Firearms Safety Rules (\*3):
  - a. Rule 1: All guns are considered loaded at all times and should be treated as such.
  - b. Rule 2: Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
  - c. Rule 3: Keep your finger off the trigger and out of the trigger guard until ready to fire.
  - d. Rule 4: Be sure of your target and beyond.
  - g. Safety Policy will be given as a handout to each student.

### D. BACKGROUND / COURSE EXPECTATIONS

1. All students SHOULD be able to meet the following expectations:
  - a. SAFETY AT ALL TIMES
  - b. Students should ALREADY be proficient in the use of the police pistol
  - c. Be able to identify all major parts of the rifle
  - d. Have a basic understanding of the rifle's inherent capabilities
  - e. Demonstrate proficiency in loading, unloading, clearing of malfunctions, and firing the rifle
  - f. Demonstrate proficiency in disassembly (field-stripping) and assembly of the rifle

## PATROL RIFLE OPERATOR'S COURSE 16 HOURS

- g. Demonstrate proficiency in the safe carrying, retaining and controlling the rifle via the use of the rifle sling (3-point slings and variants strongly recommended)
- h. Demonstrate proficiency in transitioning from rifle to pistol, and from the pistol back to the rifle
- i. Demonstrate proficiency in the use of the flashlight in tandem with the rifle
- j. Demonstrate proficiency with the use of the rifle at night or low-light conditions
- k. The ability to pass the FBI Rifle Qualification Course with 80%

2. The Lead Instructor will advise the students that this course is designed to provide fundamental safety and operating techniques for the AR15 variant patrol rifle. This basic course is not a SWAT Rifle Course and NOT an Advanced Rifle Course.

### E. LEGAL UPDATE (\*1)

1. Penal Code 32610(b) (\*1)
  - a. Course discussions will include all legislation as well as legal requirements, aspects and implications associated with possession and use of patrol rifles for law enforcement
2. Penal Code 33220(b) (\*1)
  - a. The course will satisfy the POST 1081 Minimum Standards for the Rifle Course Part II – 16 Hours
3. Discussion of Department(s) Policies and Mission regarding carrying and use of the rifle.
4. Discussion of Department(s) uses of force policies. (\*2)
  - a. The Garner Decision (Tennessee v. Garner, 471 U.S. 1 (1985))
  - b. Graham (Graham v. Conner, 490 U.S. 386 (1989))
  - c. CA Penal Code section 835(a)
  - d. Moral considerations (can vs. should use force)

### F. PURPOSE OF THE PATROL RIFLE (\*2):

1. The Patrol Rifle's history in law enforcement.
2. Advantages / Disadvantages of the Patrol Rifle vs. Pistol minimally to include.
  - a. Size good and bad
  - b. Concealment
  - c. Accuracy
  - d. Distance
  - e. Firepower (*defined as magazine capacity*)

## PATROL RIFLE OPERATOR'S COURSE 16 HOURS

- G. NOMENCLATURE (\*4):- Students will be able to identify, verbally and by sight, the following parts of the rifle:
1. Upper receiver group:
    - a. Rear sight
    - b. Front sight
    - c. Hand guards
    - d. Charging handle
    - e. Ejection port
    - f. Dust cover
  2. And the following if present:
    - a. Forward assist,
    - b. Carrying handle,
    - c. Brass deflector
    - d. Flash suppressor
  3. Lower receiver group: Stock, trigger group, selector lever, magazine well, magazine release, bolt lock, bolt release, and takedown pins
  4. Bolt carrier group:
    - a. Bolt, bolt carrier
    - b. Gas key
    - c. Firing pin,
    - d. Firing pin retaining pin,
    - e. Cam pin
    - f. Ejector, and extractor
  5. Magazine: Body, floor plate, follower, and spring.
- H. USE OF THE FLASHLIGHT DISCUSSION
1. Students will be familiar with the following techniques:
    - a. Flashlight Mounted on Rifle
    - b. Non-mounted Flashlight / Rifle Techniques
    - c. Side button Flashlight activation
    - d. Rear button Flashlight activation
- I. FIREARM CARE -DISASSEMBLY / REASSEMBLY / CLEANING (FIELD STRIPPING) (\*5)
1. Removal of Bolt Carrier Group from Upper/Lower Receiver Groups:
    - a. Remove Magazine.
    - b. Lock bolt to the rear.
    - c. Safety engaged.
    - d. Mechanically, Visually, and Physically (MVP) inspect the empty chamber, ejection port, and magazine well.
    - e. Release bolt forward.
    - f. Push rear disassembly pin.
    - g. Pull charging handle to the rear.
    - h. Capture the bolt carrier group.
  2. Disassembly of Bolt Carrier Group:
    - a. Remove the firing pin retaining pin.
    - b. Pull the firing pin out.

## PATROL RIFLE OPERATOR'S COURSE 16 HOURS

- c. Rotate the cam pin 90 degrees and pull out.
  - d. Pull bolt from bolt carrier.
  3. Cleaning / Lubricating of Weapon (\*5):
    - a. Clean and lightly lubricate barrel using rods, brass brush, and patches.
    - b. Clean barrel chamber using chamber brush and patches.
    - c. Clean exterior of weapon with rag and light oil can be used if needed.
    - d. Clean and lightly oil all parts of bolt carrier group using brass brush, patches, and/or a rag.
  4. Re-Assembly of Bolt Carrier Group:
    - a. Insert bolt into bolt carrier. While holding bolt carrier in the hand, turn and face bolt towards your face. Rotate bolt so the extractor is in roughly the 10 o'clock position.
    - b. Insert cam pin and rotate 90 degrees.
    - c. Insert firing pin. Press on back of firing pin to ensure it is fully inserted. (This will cause major problems if it is not!)
    - d. Insert firing pin retaining pin.
    - e. Holding onto bolt carrier, "snap" the entire mechanism so the bolt moves to its most forward position. (This is known as "cam snap" and is needed to insert the bolt carrier group back into the upper receiver group.
  5. Re-Assembly of Weapon:
    - a. Turn upper receiver so the top of the weapon is facing the floor, barrel is parallel with the floor.
    - b. Insert charging handle (if removed) and pull out roughly 2-3 inches.
    - c. Perform "cam snap" with bolt carrier group and insert into upper receiver group with bolt facing barrel (forward) and gas key inserted into the charging handle.
    - d. Push bolt carrier and charging handle forward until the charging handle "clicks" into place.
    - e. Ensure hammer is cocked.
    - f. Connect upper receiver to lower receiver and push in takedown pins.
  6. Function Check WITH EMPTY WEAPON
    - a. Charge weapon and place on "safe." Pull trigger – nothing should happen.
    - b. Charge weapon and place on "fire" (semi-automatic). Pull trigger – hammer should fall. Keeping trigger pulled to rear, cock weapon again and slowly release trigger. Noticeable trigger reset should be heard and felt.
    - c. If applicable: place selector lever on "burst" or "auto" and keep trigger pulled while charging the weapon several times. With each release of the charging handle, the hammer should fall.
- J. GUN HANDLING / SLINGS / "The Combat TRIAD"
1. "The SLING is to the RIFLE, what the HOLSTER is to the PISTOL".
  2. THE USE OF THE 3-POINT SLING IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED
  3. The Student is introduced to the meanings of the following SAFETY terms:
    - a. "TOTALLY SAFE"
    - b. "Let 'em Hang!"
  4. The 2-POINT SLING IS DISCOURAGED; however, for those students, who must use ONLY what he/she is issued – the 2-POINT sling must be used ONLY in the recommended and prescribed manner

## PATROL RIFLE OPERATOR'S COURSE 16 HOURS

- a. DISADVANTAGES of the 2-POINT sling:
    - 1) Not secured to the body during reloads
    - 2) Pistol must be fired one-handed during transitions
    - 3) Requires slinging or abandonment for two-handed pistol reloading
  5. The Student will become familiar with "The Combat Triad" (\*6)
    - a. Mindset
    - b. Marksmanship
    - c. Gun Handling
  6. The Student will be familiar with the following gun handling positions / protocols:
    - a. Low Ready
    - b. Guard Position
    - c. "Do you have the rifle? – I have the rifle!"
- K. BALLISTICS / TRAJECTORIES OVERVIEW (\*4)
1. BALLISTICS: The standard 55-grain Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) is sensitive to speed, and needs to go no slower than 2650 feet per second (fps) at the muzzle to maximize terminal ballistic potential.
  2. BARRELS SHORTER THAN 16 INCHES overall are DISCOURAGED, as special ammunition must be used to maintain accuracy, penetration, and fps.
  3. TWIST RATES AND BULLET WEIGHTS:
    - a. Rifle barrels with a twist rate of 1 rotation in 14 inches or SLOWER should use bullets NO HEAVIER than 55 grains – as tumbling (destabilization) may occur.
    - b. Rifle barrels with a twist rate of 1 rotation in 7 inches or FASTER should use bullets NO LIGHTER than 55 grains – as the bullet may come apart (pre-fragment) before striking the target.
    - c. Students should consult their Department Armorer or Firearms Instructors on any of these policy issues. Ballistic tip bullets, such as the Silvertip and TAP Round may be mentioned.
  4. TRAJECTORY (Arc of Flight for projectile):
    - a. As to the trajectory of the .223 Remington/5.56 NATO, the initial intersection at 50 yards is essentially the same point of impact at the secondary intersection at 200 yards.
    - b. While there is a nominal difference in the point of impact of approximately 1-3 inches, between 50 and 250-yards, this small difference is acceptable for the police mission.
  5. Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI) vs. NATO: NATO chambers will take SAAMI ammunition, but NATO ammunition does not function well in SAAMI chambers.
- L. MARKSMANSHIP FUNDAMENTALS (\*6)
1. Discuss the following fundamentals:
    - a. Eye Dominance Exercise: The rifle should be shouldered on the same side as the dominant eye.
      - 1) Have student made a triangle with both hands, and move back to the focused eye.
    - b. Sight Alignment: The relationship between the rear and front sights.

## PATROL RIFLE OPERATOR'S COURSE 16 HOURS

- c. Sight picture: The front sight needs to be CRYSTAL CLEAR (That's where the bullet comes out!)
  - d. Trigger Squeeze: Constant pressure to the rear of the gun – using just the PAD of the index finger – where the center of the index fingerprint is found.
  - e. Follow-Through: Maintaining sight alignment and sight picture until the shot is complete.
2. BRASS: To help maximize rifle accuracy, use the following acronym.
    - a. Breathe (hold it, then exhale slowly)
    - b. Relax
    - c. Aim
    - d. Squeeze (prelude to TRIGGER RESET done now)
    - e. Surprise! (Break of trigger)
  3. Zeroing Briefing:
    - a. Move the rear sight in the same direction as the bullet.
    - b. If electronic/optical sights are to be used, the sight's reticle should be moved in the direction of the bullet impact.
    - c. If the front sight is to be moved, it moves in the OPPOSITE direction of the bullet impact.
- M. **LOADING, UNLOADING & CLEARING PRACTICAL**
1. **LOADING**
    - a. Magazines
      - 1) The follower of the magazine has a simulated round of ammunition molded into it. Ammunition should be inserted into the magazine so it faces the same direction of the molded piece.
      - 2) Ammunition should be placed in from the top and pushed squarely downward.
      - 3) Advise on loaders and stripper clips
      - 4) 28 rounds in a 30 round magazine.
    - b. PUSH-PULL-TILT-RACK
      - 1) PUSH the magazine into the magazine well, cartridge nose in the direction of the muzzle, straight up until an audible "click" is heard
      - 2) PULL on the magazine to ensure it is inserted/locked into position
      - 3) TILT the rifle to the side and downward (for gravity assist when the bolt is released forward)
      - 4) RACK the charging handle to the rear and release to allow the strength of the buffer spring to close the action.
      - 5) Place the selector on SAFE
  2. **UNLOADING / CLEARING**
    - a. Place the selector on SAFE
    - b. PRESS the magazine release and REMOVE the magazine
    - c. RACK the charging handle – but DO NOT RELEASE IT
    - d. PRESS the bolt stop button – release the bolt SLOWLY – locking it OPEN

PATROL RIFLE OPERATOR'S COURSE 16 HOURS

3. MVP check the Chamber, Ejection Port and Magazine Well!
  - a. MECHANICALLY (Rack)
  - b. VISUALLY (Look)
  - c. PHYSICALLY (Insert finger)
  
- N. ZEROING OF RIFLES PRACTICAL:
  1. Two Teams will zero at a time. Two Teams will shoot, while Two Teams are staged for fire.
    - a. Team Leaders will advise when they are ready for further instruction.
    - b. Target retrieval occurs once all Four Teams have completed zeroing. Zeroing should occur twice.
  2. Loading and Operating the Rifle: RANGE SAFETY PROTOCOL COMMANDS:
    - a. "IS TEAM (#) READY?" (Team Leaders to give thumbs up) or respond, "TEAM (#) IS READY!" (Asked repeatedly until ALL teams are accounted for).
    - b. (Once ALL teams have responded affirmatively), "LINE IS READY!"
    - c. "FROM A SAFE RIFLE (bolt locked open, and on safe), LOAD YOUR RIFLE WITH A MAGAZINE CONTAINING THREE ROUNDS!"
    - d. "PREPARE FOR LIVE FIRE!" (Be alert, and move the selector to fire)
    - e. *TWO SHORT WHISTLE BLASTS = FIRE!*
    - f. *ONE LONG WHISTLE BLAST = CEASE FIRE!* (Lead Instructor should also say, "CEASE FIRE!")
  
- O. TRANSITIONS DRILLS: RIFLE TO PISTOL - Distance: 25 yards or CLOSER
  1. ONLY Two rounds per magazine must be loaded to maximize SAFETY.
  2. When the rifle is EMPTY, the student will assume that rifle has experienced a malfunction, and transition to his/her pistol.
  
  3. If a 3-point sling is used, the student will release the rifle in a safe fashion, using the rifle shooting support hand to guide the muzzle by the hand guards close to the student's body – taking care that the muzzle does not strike the ground. SMOOTH is BETTER than FASTER!
  4. If a 2-point sling is used, the student will release the operating hand, using the pistol shooting weak hand to guide the muzzle up – close to the student's body – transitioning to the pistol one-handed. This will be different for right-handed shooters who shoot the rifle left-handed due to left eye dominance.
  5. Pistols SHOULD be loaded with FULL magazines to simulate real world incidents.
  6. TRIGGER RESET should be used during this drill.
  7. Sidestepping during transitions should be discussed.



## PATROL RIFLE OPERATOR'S COURSE 16 HOURS

### II. PROTOCOLS FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT CLASSROOM AND RANGE

- A. Each morning “WELCOME” to make safe all weaponry
1. Students already introduced to the safe use of the carry sling will begin each class session after the first morning in a STANDING, SAFE and SLUNG position BEHIND their chairs.
  2. Instructors will ensure that all rifles are TOTALLY SAFE (No magazine, bolt locked to the rear, rifle on SAFE) BEFORE the rifles may be placed on tables.
  3. Students are henceforth expected to keep their “safe and slung” rifles upon their persons throughout the day (*except during the lunch break, OR when necessity dictates*)
- B. ON THE RANGE: THE CYCLE OF OPERATION AND MALFUNCTIONS
1. Students will be familiar with the Cycle of Operation:
    - a. Firing
    - b. Extracting
    - c. Ejecting
    - d. Cocking
    - e. Feeding
    - f. Chambering
    - g. Locking
  2. Students will be familiar with the respective Malfunctions:
    - a. Failure to Chamber
    - b. Failure to Fire
    - c. Failure to Extract
    - d. Failure to Eject
  3. The student will know remedy for two of the four Failures to Function: PUSH-PULL-TILT-RACK
  4. The student will know the remedy for a Failure to Extract or Eject: RACK-LOCK-STRIP-TILT-RACK-RACK
    - a. For a Failure to Extract, the bolt MUST BE LOCKED to the rear to relieve spring pressure on the next cartridge.
    - b. For uniformity, we refer to these issues as MALFUNCTIONS. (Schools and courses often refer to these malfunctions in different terms: Stage 1-4 Malfunctions, Stoppages, Stage 2 Malfunctions are often called “Misfires,” and Stage 3 Malfunctions are often called “Double-Feeds.”)
    - c. Students should consider addressing these malfunctions ONLY FROM BEHIND COVER, and only as reasonable distances provide reaction time. The shooter should also know as they clear a malfunction, his/her threat may have moved.
    - d. The SUPPORT HAND should be used to CLEAR the rifle.
    - e. The FIRING HAND remains on the rifle operating controls.

## PATROL RIFLE OPERATOR'S COURSE 16 HOURS

- f. The rifle stock MAY be tucked under the firing arm for additional support.
- C. SHOOTING POSITIONS (\*7) - Distances: Multiple: 100 yards to 10 feet
1. Students will become familiar with the following shooting positions:
    - a. Prone
    - b. Kneeling supported
    - c. Kneeling unsupported
    - d. Standing supported
    - e. Standing unsupported
    - f. Weak handed shooting / eye dominance
    - g. Use of the Barricade
  2. SPECIAL CONCERNS:
    - a. Instructors should EMPHASIZE that mobility must increase as distance decreases. Distance = Reaction Time = Increased Safety.
    - b. As we get closer, our rate of fire INCREASES! Get Closer = Shoot Faster!
    - c. With more distance, mobility is less necessary.
    - d. Students should take care to avoid direct elbow-to-knee (bone-to-bone) contact.
    - e. With rifles, the same side eye as the shooting hand should be used.
- D. PIVOTING MOVEMENT DRILLS - Distance: 21 feet or less
1. Standing Pivots
    - a. The student will look in the direction of the threat.
    - b. The student will control the muzzle of the rifle when moving 90 degree (right or left) towards the threat.
    - c. The students will not “sweep” his/her own feet or the feet of his/her neighbors.
    - d. Immediately after firing upon the threat, the student will scan his/her surroundings, including (head only) towards the rear.
  2. Kneeling Pivots
    - a. The student will look in the direction of the threat
    - b. The student will control the muzzle of the rifle when moving 90 degree (right or left) towards the threat.
    - c. The students will not “sweep” his/her own feet or the feet of his/her neighbors.
    - d. Immediately after firing upon the threat, the student will scan his/her surroundings, including (head only) towards the rear.
  3. TRIGGER RESET should be used during this drill.
- E. RELOADING DRILLS –
1. Distances: 25 yards or GREATER\*
    - a. Two to three rounds per magazine will be loaded to maximize reloading opportunities.

## PATROL RIFLE OPERATOR'S COURSE 16 HOURS

- b. Students will keep the operating hand on the rifle, using the support hand for reloading.
- c. Students will load the weapon using one spare magazine, which is to be carried in the rifle shooting weak-side rear pocket.
- d. Ammunition and additional magazines may be stored elsewhere, but the magazine to be loaded **MUST BE PRESENTED** from the rifle shooting weak-side rear pocket, for accessibility and consistency.

### F. QUALIFICATION SHOOTING

1. An 80% accuracy for 50 yards or less using multiple rounds such as the FBI Qualification (AKA: "FBI Q") Course.

### G. REMEDIATION PERIOD

1. Instructors will remediate deficiencies as identified.
2. Remediation to proficiency is required

### H. ADDITIONAL COURSE(S) OF FIRE

1. If no remediation is needed, the Lead Instructor may repeat any of the previously listed courses of fire.

## III. END OF COURSE ACTIONS

### A. RIFLE CLEANING

### B. COURSE EVALUATION, DISCUSSION, AND CERTIFICATION