

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to introduce, familiarize, and develop the patrol rifle manipulation and shooting skills of sworn officers with AR15 pattern rifles. This course will train personnel in the nomenclature, function, capabilities, maintenance, and use of patrol rifles. This course provides updated legislative content of Penal Code Section 835a. Successful completion of this course satisfies the legislative training mandate to possess short-barreled 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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Under the supervision of a qualified instructor and using an agency approved 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 properly clean and maintain it.
- IV. Demonstrate the ability to properly load, unload, fire the weapon, and clear malfunctions that might occur during its operation.
- V. Demonstrate the ability to apply the fundamentals for rifle marksmanship to fire accurately from the prone, kneeling, and standing positions.
- VI. Demonstrate proficiency with the weapon and obtain agency qualification.

REQUIRED CONTENT – 1081 CCR

- (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

FIREARMS/TACTICAL RIFLE COURSE (CCN:32075) 16 HOURS

(Revised July 11, 2025)

I. INTRODUCTIONS, COURSE REGISTRATION, LAW UPDATE (*1):

A. Instructors should state the following:

- 1) Time in law enforcement
- 2) Time in firearms training
- 3) Specialty training and assignments

B. Students should state the following:

- 1) Time in law enforcement
- 2) Familiarity with rifle, if any
- 3) Any prior rifle training (i.e., military, SWAT, etc.)

C. 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 sniper or an advanced rifle course.

D. Penal Code 33220(b) (*1)

- 1) 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) The course will satisfy the POST 1081 Minimum Standards for the Rifle Course Part II – 16 Hours

II. SPECIFICATIONS, BALLISTICS, CAPABILITIES (*2,4,6):

A. Brief history of the AR-15 and its role in law enforcement.

- 1) Development of assault weapons
- 2) Issues with early AR-15s.
- 3) Current trends with the platform.
- 4) Mindset

B. Advantages / Disadvantages of the Rifle vs. Pistol (*4)

- 1) Size
- 2) Concealment
- 3) Accuracy
- 4) Distance
- 5) Capacity
- 6) Modularity
- 7) Ballistic comparison .223 / 5.56 vs 9mm

C. Ballistics (*4)

- 1) Terminal Ballistics
 - a. Temporary wound cavity
 - b. Permanent wound cavity

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- 2) .223 / .556 round needs 2400 feet per second (fps) at the muzzle to maximize terminal ballistic potential.
- 3) Discussion of issues with short-barreled rifles.
- 4) Twist Rates and bullet weights
- 5) SAAMI specifications vs. NATO specifications

D. Trajectory:

- 1) Battle Zero: Intersection of arc at 50 and 200 yards.
- 2) Minute of Angle (MOA)

E. Cycle of Fire

- 1) Firing
- 2) Unlocking
- 3) Extracting
- 4) Ejecting
- 5) Cocking
- 6) Feeding
- 7) Chambering
- 8) Locking

F. Deployment Considerations

- 1) Vehicle accessibility

G. Discussion of Department(s) uses of force policies. **(*2)**

- 1) The Garner Decision (Tennessee v. Garner, 471 U.S. 1 (1985))
- 2) Graham (Graham v. Conner, 490 U.S. 386 (1989))
- 3) CA Penal Code section 835(a)
- 4) Moral considerations (can vs. should use force)

H. Policies and Mission regarding carrying and use of the rifle **(*2,6)**

- 1) Deployment
- 2) Storage

III. SAFETY DISCUSSION (*3)

A. Firearms Safety Rules **(*3)**:

- 1) Consider all guns loaded unless positively confirmed otherwise.
- 2) Never let the muzzle cover anything you are not prepared to shoot.
- 3) Keep finger off trigger until your sights are on target and you have made the conscious decision to shoot.
- 4) Be sure of your target (positive I.D.) and what is beyond it.
- 5) Do not pick up items from the ground until instructed

B. Emergency Procedures **(*3)**

- 1) Hospital Locations

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- 2) Trauma Kits

C. Suppressors (*3)

- 1) Muzzle awareness
- 2) Heat from Suppressor

IV. NOMENCLATURE (*4)

A. Students will be able to identify, verbally and by sight, the following parts of the rifle: (*4)

- 1) Upper receiver group:
 - a. Rear sight
 - b. Front sight
 - c. Fore end / Hand guards
 - d. Charging handle
 - e. Ejection port
 - f. Dust cover
 - g. Muzzle device
 - h. Brass deflector

- 2) Lower receiver group:
 - a. Stock
 - b. Trigger group
 - c. Safety selector
 - d. Magazine well
 - e. Magazine release
 - f. Bolt lock
 - g. Bolt release
 - h. Takedown / pivot pins
 - i. Buffer tube and buffer spring

- 3) And the following if present:
 - a. Forward assist
 - b. Carrying handle

- 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:
 - a. Body
 - b. Floor plate
 - c. Follower

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d. Spring

B. Operation of flashlights

1) Toggle switch activation

V. FIREARM CARE - MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING (*5)

A. Field Stripping

1) Removal of Bolt Carrier Group from Upper/Lower Receiver

2) Disassembly of Bolt Carrier Group

3) Cleaning / Lubricating of Weapon

4) Re-Assembly of Bolt Carrier Group

5) Re-Assembly of Weapon

6) Function check

VI. GUN HANDLING / SLINGS / TARGET RECOGNITION (*3,6)

A. Explanation of types of slings

1) Single point

2) Two-point

3) Three-point

B. Demonstration of Sling Positions (*6)

1) Around the neck

2) Administrative sling

3) Behind the back

C. The student is introduced to the meanings of the following terms and gun handling positions. (*3)

1) "On Safe, Let 'em hang!"

2) Low Ready

a. Officers need to perform a threat assessment on the target they have acquired.

b. Primary focus on the belt line and hands.

c. If the target presents a threat, engage target with the appropriate level of force to minimize the threat.

d. Track the target to the ground

3) Actuating the safety

VII. LOADING, UNLOADING, & CLEARING

A. Loading

1) Ammunition is pushed straight down into top of magazine toward the taper

2) 28 round maximum, advise some mags hold 31 rounds

3) Reload magazine stored on support side with rounds pointing towards spine

4) Beer can grip, pinky support

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- 5) PUSH magazine into mag well, PULL to make sure it is seated.
- 6) Press bolt release or rack charging handle to chamber a round

B. Unloading

- 1) Place the selector on SAFE
- 2) Press the magazine release and remove the magazine
- 3) Pull back the charging handle, while holding bolt catch
- 4) Push charging handle back into place

C. Clearing

- 1) Mechanical (Rack)
- 2) Visual (Look)
- 3) Physical (Insert finger)

VIII. ZEROING AND MARKSMANSHIP FUNDAMENTALS (*6, 7)

A. Stance/Position

- 1) Standing
- 2) Kneeling
- 3) Prone

B. Optics

- 1) Reflex
- 2) Telescopic – if present
- 3) Iron sights

C. Sight Alignment / Sight Picture

- 1) Look at the target be aware of the dot, or front sight focus
- 2) Dot should be in center of optic, or equal height equal light

D. Grip

- 1) Support hand placement
- 2) Strong hand placement

E. Trigger Control

- 1) Steady pressure straight to the rear

F. Breathing

- 1) Natural respiratory pause

G. Follow Through

- 1) Release trigger as shot breaks
- 2) Ride trigger until it resets, don't slap trigger
- 3) Dot should return to original position on target – confirm position

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IX. SHOOTING POSITIONS (*6, 7) - Distances: Multiple: 7 yards to 150 yards

A. Students will become familiar with the following conventional shooting positions:

- 1) Standing unsupported
- 2) Kneeling unsupported
- 3) Kneeling supported
- 4) Prone

B. Environment dictates tactics (*6):

- 1) Mobility should increase as distance decreases.
- 2) Rate of fire should increase as distance decreases.
- 3) Students should avoid (bone-to-bone) contact.

C. Reloading Drills (*7)

- 1) In-battery
- 2) Out-of-battery
 - a. Students will keep strong hand on grip, use the support hand to reload.
 - b. Students will load the weapon using one spare magazine, which is carried in an area accessible using support hand.
 - c. Activate bolt release with thumb
- 3) Tactical reload
 - a. L-shape
 - b. V-shape

X. MALFUNCTIONS (*7)

A. In close quarter confrontations (25 yards and closer), consider immediate transition to the handgun. (*6,7)

- 1) lower rifle to centerline, back of support hand facing out
- 2) While lowering rifle, acquire grip of handgun with strong hand
- 3) Acquire two-handed grip of handgun

B. Failure to Fire

- 1) "Tap, Roll, Rack, Assess"
- 2) Seat Magazine by hitting it with the heel of hand
- 3) Pull bolt to the rear and release
- 4) Obtain sight picture

C. Stove pipe

- 1) Turn rifle so that ejection port up
- 2) Grab magazine with support hand, eject it.
- 3) Hit stovepipe with base of magazine

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- 4) Reinsert magazine and rack

D. Double-feed Stoppages

- 1) Tap, rack, assess
- 2) Lock the bolt to the rear
- 3) Remove the magazine from the weapon
- 4) Clear live rounds from the receiver and chamber
- 5) Insert a loaded magazine
- 6) Chamber a round

XI. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (*7)

H. Shoulder to Shoulder transitions (*7)

- 1) Weapon on safe
- 2) Pull away from shoulder
- 3) Bring strong hand to magazine well
- 4) Transfer shoulders
- 5) Support hand to grip
- 6) Strong hand to fore end

I. Shooting on the move (*7)

- 1) Crouch and load quadriceps
- 2) Step heel to toe, toe to heel
- 3) Minimize side to side movement, sights track up and down

J. Target to target Transitions

- 1) Look at a point on the target
- 2) Do not look through the sight
- 3) Naturally drive gun to vision

K. Unconventional / Barricade Shooting (*6,7)

- 1) Palm / Claw
- 2) Braced kneeling
- 3) Rollover prone
- 4) Canted rifle

XII. Qualification (*7)

A. Agency Qualification course (*7)

B. Remediation

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

C. Additional course(s) of fire (*7)

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

XIII. COURSE DEBRIEF

A. Course Evaluation and Discussion