

**San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department**  
**Patrol Rifle Instructor Course**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

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I. Course Introduction

A. Welcome Students

1. Class Agenda
2. Facility
  - a. Facility Awareness
  - b. Safety Procedures
  - c. Policies

B. Instructor Introduction

1. Administrative requirements
2. Instructors introduced by name – no need to give background

II. Range Safety

A. Safety Rules

1. Basic
2. Range

B. Local Animals/Insect awareness

1. Rattlesnakes
2. Bees

C. Weather Conditions

1. Heat
2. Wind
3. Rain

III. Legal Issues and Updates

A. Lethal Force Overview

1. Legal issues
2. Case Law

B. Tennessee v. Garner

1. Deadly Force
2. Fleeing felon

C. Graham v. Conner

1. Reasonable force
  2. Negligent discharge
  - D. Recent Case Law
- IV. Use of Force Review
- A. Use of reasonable force
  - B. Factors determining reasonable force
  - C. The use of force reporting
  - D. Use of firearms
    1. Backdrop
    2. Warning shots
    3. Negligence
    4. Agencies must be familiar with their policies and procedures as they relate to the patrol rifle.
- V. Basic Rifle/Carbine Nomenclature
- A. Common accessories
  - B. Function
    1. Gas
    2. Recoil
    3. Piston
  - C. Weapons Specifications
    1. Mini-14
    2. AR-15
  - D. Weapon capabilities
    1. Mini-14
    2. AR-15
  - E. Sights and sight adjustment
    1. Mini-14
      - a. Special tools
    2. AR-15
    3. Other
      - a. Red dot scopes
      - b. Crosshair reticle
- VI. Shooting fundamentals
- A. Low ready position
  - B. Ready position

1. Squared off at target
2. Feet shoulder width apart
3. Knees slightly bent
4. Leaning slightly forward at waist
5. Elbows pointing towards ground
6. Weapon naturally aligned on target

#### VII. Weapons Familiarization

- A. Weapon safety
  1. Muzzle discipline
  2. Action open
  3. Bolt retention
- B. Magazine release
  1. AK style
  2. AR-15 style
- C. Stock extension
  1. Standard
  2. Folding
  3. Slide out

#### VIII. Safe Handling

- A. Loading/unloading
  1. Weapon pointed in safe direction
  2. Weapon on safe
  3. Working parts locked to the rear
  4. Magazine
  5. Working parts forward

#### IX. Weapon care, Breakdown and Cleaning

- A. Weapon cleaning
  1. Barrel
    - a. Copper cleaning
  2. Bolt
    - a. Carbon scrapping tools
  3. Trigger area
    - a. Checking for debris
  4. Action
  5. Optics/lights

- a. Carbon build up
- X. Tactical Considerations
  - A. Weapons Transitions
    - 1. When to use rifle vs. handgun
      - a. Enables officers to subdue violent criminals quickly
      - b. Effective combat range rifle vs. handgun
    - 2. Long range vs. close quarter battle
      - a. Advantages of long gun
        - 1) Larger volume of rounds
        - 2) Accuracy at distance
        - 3) Penetration
      - b. Less effective in close quarters
    - 3. Auto vs. semi-automatic
      - a. Semi-automatic
      - b. Full auto mode can challenge control/training
    - 4. Mini-14
      - a. Durability
      - b. Reliability

## XI. Skills development and classroom lecture

### A. Drills

- 1. Double-tap drills
- 2. Reloading drills
  - a. Combat
  - b. Tactical
  - c. Administrative
- 3. Stoppage drills
  - a. Squib round
  - b. Light primer strike
- 4. Simple malfunctions
  - a. Failure to eject
- 5. Complex malfunctions
  - a. Feeding
  - b. Ejecting
- 6. Failure drills
- 7. Multiple target drills

8. Positional shooting
  - a. Kneeling
  - b. Prone

## XII. Skills Development on the shooting range

### A. Controlled pairs

1. Multi-shot drills
  - a. Student engage two targets with rifle, two rounds upper thoracic

## XIII. LEARNINIG ACTIVITY – Skills Development on the range, Students will be paired.

1. Multi-shot drills
  - a. Student engage two targets with rifle, two rounds upper thoracic.
2. Double-tap drills
  - a. Student engages one target with rifle, two rounds upper thoracic
  - b. Reassess threat
  - c. One round to head
3. Reloading drills
  - a. Tactical reload – Student engage target firing three rounds, remove partially expended magazine (retain on person) and insert fully loaded magazine. Student engage target firing two rounds, remove the magazine, replace with retained magazine and repeat until ammunition is depleted.
  - b. Combat reload – Student engage target firing a partially loaded magazine until depleted. On target, drop/strip empty magazine, insert new magazine, reassess threat and re-engage target firing three rounds.
4. Transition drills, Rifle to handgun
  - a. Rifle with sling, student engage target, firing partially loaded magazine until ammunition depleted. Drop/strip empty magazine, place on safe, sling off-side muzzle down.
  - b. Rifle without sling, student engage target, firing partially loaded magazine until ammunition depleted. Drop/strip empty magazine, place on safe with off-hand, press the rifle across chest, muzzle up to support, simultaneously drawing handgun with strong hand engaging the target firing three rounds.
5. Shooting from cover
  - a. Standing, Left and right – while standing, rifle on right shoulder at low ready position. Student approach barricade, engage target from right side of barricade

firing three rounds. Student then transition weapon to left shoulder, engage target from left side of barricade, firing three rounds then return to low ready.

- b. Kneeling, Left and right – Student approach the right side of barricade while standing, rifle on right shoulder at low ready position. Student will then kneel on right knee, engage target firing three rounds. Student will then stand up behind cover and transition weapon to left shoulder at low ready. Kneel on left knee, engage the target firing three rounds behind cover and return to low ready.
  - c. Prone, Left and right – student will approach the right side of barricade while standing, rifle on right shoulder at low ready. Student then assumes the prone position, engages the target firing three rounds. Student will then stand behind cover and transition rifle to left shoulder at low ready position, engages the target firing three rounds and then recover to standing position behind cover at the low ready.
6. Stoppage Drills
- a. Simple malfunctions, student engages target with rifle, magazine will contain live and “dummy” rounds. Student will fire until malfunction is encountered, with rifle pointed down range in a safe direction, tap the bottom of magazine to ensure it is seated, pull charging handle to the rear and release, chambering a new round. Reassess threat and re-engage target
  - b. Complex malfunction, student engages target with rifle. Magazine will contain live and “dummy” rounds. Student will fire until malfunction is encountered, with rifle pointed down range in a safe direction, pull the charging handle to the rear and engage the bolt lock, student will then remove magazine, again engage the charging handle, racking back and forth several times to clear the malfunction. Lock the bolt back again, visually and physically inspect rifle action to ensure it is clear. Re-insert the magazine, pull the charging handle to the rear and release, chambering a new round. Reassess the threat, re-engage target.
7. Multiple target drills
- a. Static, student engages the target at low ready position, students will then fire one round at the number on the target which is called by the instructor. (visual input/shoot don't shoot decisions)
8. Movement drills
- a. Dry fire, low speed – student engages the numbered target
  - b. Live fire, low speed – 1:1 student instructor ratio

XIV. Instructor Development/classroom

XV. Instructor Development/ Range

XVI. Qualification

### **Schedule**

#### **Day 1**

- 0800-0900** Orientation- Introduction
- 0900-0930** Facility/Range Safety Rules/Range Commands
- 0930-1130** **\*Range Proficiency Test**
- 1130-1200** Written Pre-Test
- 1200-1300** Lunch
- 1300-1400** Legal Issues/Case Law/Use of Force
- 1500-1600** Instructor's Role/Teaching Methods/Techniques
- 1600-1700** Assignments

#### **Day 2**

- 0800-0830** Administration
- 0830-0930** Mass Shootings/Rifle vs Pistol
- 0930-1100** Nomenclature/Cleaning
- 1100-1200** Sighting /Slings/Shooting Platforms
- 1200-1300** Lunch
- 1300-1400** Range Safety Brief and Range Commands
- 1400-1600** **\*Range-** Rifle Diagnostics
- 1600-1700** Scoring Procedures/Target Analysis

#### **Day 3**

- 0800-0830** Administration
- 0830-1000** Weapons Transitions/Skills Development

**1000-1100** Identifying Shooter Deficiencies /Correction  
**1100-1200** Lunch  
**1200-1600** \*Range- Fundamentals/Critical Skills  
Identifying Deficiencies /Correction  
**1600-1700** Debrief

#### **Day 4**

**0800-0900** Administration/Assignments Due  
**0900-1100** Test/Review  
**1100-1200** Lunch  
**1300-1600** \*Range- Teach-backs  
**1600-1700** Debrief

#### **Day 5**

**0800-0830** Administration  
**0830-1200** \*Range- Teach-backs  
**1200-1300** Lunch  
**1300-1500** \*Range- Teach-backs  
**1500-1700** Course Evaluations/Graduation

**\*\*\*Range schedule subject to change as weather permits\*\*\***