

Firearms/Tactical Rifle Course Outline

Folsom Police Department

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The Trainee will:

1. Demonstrate understanding of Department's mission and policies and guidelines regarding the deployment and use of the AR-15 Rifle
2. Demonstrate the ability to understand the rifle's mechanical operations
3. Gain specific knowledge of the rifle's ballistics and aiming process
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the rifle's nomenclature
5. Demonstrate the process of proper rifle zero
6. Demonstrate a minimum standard of tactical rifle proficiency with every technique, exercise, and course-of-fire using proper weapon safety
7. Demonstrate the proper inspection, break-down, operator maintenance, and cleaning procedures for the rifle
8. Identify key legal, case law and use of force updates regarding the use of deadly force by peace officers

FIREARMS/TACTICAL RIFLE

16 Hours

I. Introduction/ Material Handout/ Registration

- A. Handouts
- B. POST Roster

II. Safety and Course Objectives

- A. Firearms Safety Policy
- B. Range Safety Procedures
- C. Course Objectives

III. Use of Force Update, Case Law, Department Policy, and Tactical Considerations

A. LEOKA Study

B. Case Law

a) Tennessee vs. Garner

(1) Deadly Force

(2) Fleeing Felon

b) Graham vs. Connor

(1) Reasonable Force

C. Folsom PD Mission Statement

D. Folsom PD Policy

1. FPPM 300-Use of Force
2. FPPM 302-Deadly Force Review
3. FPPM 304-Shooting Policy
4. FPPM 432 Patrol Rifle Policy

E. Tactical Considerations

1. Fields of Fire
2. Backdrop
3. Lighting Considerations
4. Team considerations

IV. Rifle Characteristics

A. Nomenclature

1. Upper Receiver Group
 - (a) Barrel
 - (b) Front/ Rear sights

- (c) Hand-guards
- (d) Carry Handle
- (e) Charging Handle
- (f) Ejection Port
- (g) Brass Deflector
- (h) Forward Assist

(ii) Lower Receiver Group

- (a) Butt Stock
- (b) Take Down/ Pivot Pin
- (c) Trigger and mechanism
- (d) Trigger Guard
- (e) Hammer and mechanism
- (f) Rifle Grip
- (g) Bolt catch
- (h) Selector lever (Safe/ Fire)
- (i) Magazine well
- (j) Magazine catch/ release

(iii) Bolt Carrier Group

- (a) Bolt carrier
- (b) Bolt
- (c) Bolt carrier key
- (d) Gas rings
- (e) Ejector
- (f) Extractor

B. Specifications

1. Type of weapon
2. Caliber
3. Magazine capacity
4. Sighting system
5. Muzzle velocity

C. Ammunition Selection/ Capabilities

1. .223 Caliber (55 grain Full Metal Jacket - FMJ)
2. .223 vs. 5.56 (.223 ONLY)
3. Maximum range is approximately 3800 yards
4. Penetration considerations with FMJ – metal, glass, walls etc.

V. Rifle Maintenance

A. Disassembly

1. Upper receiver group
2. Lower Receiver Group
3. Bolt Assembly Group

B. Cleaning and Lubrication

C. Assembly

1. Bolt assembly group
2. Lower receiver group
3. Upper receiver group

D. Function checks

1. Safety
2. Trigger pull
3. Sear reset

VI. Fundamentals of shooting

A. Grips and holds

B. Sight alignment

1. Top of front post centered in rear peep sight¹³
2. Focus on front sight

C. Sight Picture

D. Trigger Control

1. Single most important factor
2. Continual and gradual pressure to the rear
3. Find sear reset

E. Breathing

1. Hold breath while firing shot/ at natural respiratory pause
2. Do not hold breath for too long

F. Follow Through

1. Maintain proper shooting technique until shot is fired
2. Threat assessment

G. Shooting Positions

1. Standing
2. Kneeling supported/ unsupported
3. Prone/ Roll-over prone
4. Sitting

VII. Zeroing Process

A. Sight adjustments

1. Windage
2. Elevation

B. Zeroing

1. Zeroing distance
2. 5 shot groups
3. Number of 'clicks' to achieve desired change

VIII. Loading and Unloading

A. Non-Combat Loading

1. Used during non-combative periods
2. Preparation for deployment

B. Combat Loading

1. Known as "Emergency – reload"
2. Magazine is empty
3. Done behind cover

C. Tactical Reloading

1. Done before magazine is empty
2. Keep partial magazine
3. Used during periods of high threat

D. Unloading

1. Safety on
2. Bolt locked to the rear
3. Magazine out
4. Visually and physically examine

IX. Movement Drills

- A. Groucho walk- crouched walk to maintain a stable shooting platform.
- B. Shuffle Step- short steps keeping a lead foot forward at all times.
- C. Pivots- alternating steps, keeping a foot on the ground at all times for stability.

D. Side Steps- lateral steps preventing crossing of legs.

X. Stoppage Drills

A. Failure to feed (Tap, Rack, Go)

B. Visual stoppages- The condition of a weapon where the stoppage can be seen from outside the weapon.

1. Double-feed- Where a casing/round has failed to eject, and a second round becomes lodged during the loading of the next round. This stoppage requires a multi-step clearance drill.

2. Stovepipe- Where a casing does not fully eject and become trapped by the bolt.

C. Transition drills to alternate weapon- Sling and non-sling securing.

XI. Shooting Courses

A. Cold shots- a single shot from a cold weapon. Used to determine first shot targeting

B. Basic drills

1. Static line shooting- Shooting from a fixed position, multiple shooters on a line, all given the same direction.

2. Shooting with movement/walking- Shooters will move, one at a time, on a designated course to practice targeting and shooting during walking.

3. Shooting from cover- Shooters will practice using cover while engaging a target with the rifle. The focus will be on effective use of cover and proper positioning.

C. Qualification Course- 20 round course from 50, 25 and 15 yards. This course is designed to test the student's ability to accurately deliver rounds with the weapon. Anyone not meeting an 80% minimum score will be remediated.

D. Distance and Position Shooting Course

1. Different distances- 10-50 yard locations, with an explanation of ballistics effects on those distances and targeting considerations.

2. Various type targets- silhouette targets as well as shoot-don't shoot targets will be used to incorporate discretionary decision making into this training.

3. Shooting from different positions- Standing, kneeling, sitting and prone, as well as strong and support side shooting will be incorporated into the static and movement drills.

XII. Oral Exam and Critique

- A. Instructor facilitated discussion
- B. Evaluation of understanding of principles
- C. Analysis of target for proficiency

XIII. Rifle cleaning, class wrap up

- A. Maintenance
- B. Range Clean up