

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

PATROL RIFLE UPDATE COURSE

COURSE TITLE:	Patrol Rifle Update Course
OVERVIEW:	<p>This Course is an update for the use of the Patrol Rifle. It is designed for law enforcement personnel that have completed a course in the use of the Patrol Rifle. (AR-15 Patrol Rifle or equivalent). Students will fire live ammunition.</p> <p>The lecture, hands on practical exercise, and student hand out will ensure students retain the appropriate level of proficiency in this perishable skill. Upon completion of the course, graduates will have training and experience that will greatly enhance their ability to protect the public they are sworn to serve.</p>
OBJECTIVE:	At the conclusion of this training, students will have honed skills learned in the basic course, and gained new skills and techniques for using the Patrol Rifle that will enhance the safety of the public, fellow officers, and themselves.
CLASS SIZE:	12
COURSE LENGTH:	4 hours
MATERIALS REQUIRED:	Eye, ear, and body protection for each student. Live fire range 200 rounds live ammunition per student 5 B27 targets per student 10 TGSB-1 targets per student 5 VTAC targets per student Steel reactionary targets Classroom with overhead projector Patrol Rifle with Light and 2 magazines

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EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Instructor introductions.
 - 1. Overview of course.
 - 2. Explain objective(s).
 - 3. General Range Safety Rules will be read to and signed by participants

- B. Review of Department Shooting Policy
 - 1. Review Department Use of Force
 - 2. Moral Issues/Ethical Use of Force Issues
 - 3. Case Law(s)

II. Functioning of Patrol Rifle

- A. Sight System/back-up system
 - 1. Explain proper uses
 - 2. Explain adjustments
- B. Weapon mounted and optical sighting light system - as installed on department owned rifles
 - 1. Operation
 - 2. Maintenance
 - 3. Battery replacement
- C. Loading and unloading rifle
 - 1. Explanation and demonstration
 - 2. Practice and manipulation on range – multiple times
 - 3. Stoppage/malfunction drills will be demonstrated and practiced.

III. Fundamentals of Rifle Marksmanship

- A. Sight Picture: Correct sight picture is when the front sight, rear site, and target are all perfectly in line ensuring the fire will hit the target. It consists of two basic elements; sight alignment and placement of aiming point.
 - 1. Sight alignment: to obtain correct sight alignment, place the top center of the front sight post exactly in the center of the rear sight aperture. If imaginary horizontal and vertical lines were drawn through the center of the rear sight aperture, these lines would bisect the top of the front sight post. The fire's eye should be focused on the top of the front sight post, leaving the rear sight and target blurred.

 - 2. Placement of aiming point: Ensure that the aiming point (target) is in proper relation to sight alignment. An imaginary vertical line drawn through the center of the front sight post will split the aiming point.

- B. Red Dot Optical Aiming System - Aim Point (or equivalent) –
 - 1. Correct sight picture with both eyes open.
 - 2. Placement of red dot on target.
 - 3. Discussion and practice mechanical offset drills.
 - 4. Co-witness of optic with backup sights
 - 5. Parallax.

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- C. Steady Hold Factors: It is essential that deputies consistently hit their target. To do that, the rifle must be manipulated EXACTLY the same for each shot. Properly executing the Steady Hold Factors will ensure proper manipulation of the rifle. The Steady Hold Factors are:
1. Steady Position; there are four basic fundamentals involved in holding a steady position.
 - a. *Non-firing hand.* The rifle handguard rests on the heel of the hand in a “V” formed by the thumb and fingers. The non-firing hand is relaxed, and slight rearward pressure is applied. The elbow is directly under the rifle receiver.
 - b. *Rifle butt.* The toe of the stock is placed firmly in the pocket of the firing shoulder and heads up operation to lessen the effect of recoil and insure a steady position.
 - c. *Firing hand.* Grasp the pistol grip so it fits in the “V” formed by the thumb and fingers. The forefinger is placed on the trigger so that the lay of the rifle is not disturbed when the trigger is squeezed. A slight rearward pressure is exerted to keep the butt firmly against the shoulder. The pistol grip is held with a handshake firmness.
 - d. *Firing elbow.* The location of the firing elbow is important because it balances the weapon. The exact location of the elbow will be dependent on the firing position used.
 - e. *Stock/ cheek weld.* The stock weld is formed when the firer’s cheek is placed against the stock of the rifle. It is important that the fire develop a consistent stock weld, because this directly affects how the target is viewed through the sights. A good stock weld places the nose in line with the charging handle and as close to it as possible.
 2. Natural Point of Aim. After mastering the technique of holding the rifle steady, the deputy learns to align the rifle with the target. His steady position should place the aiming eye close to and directly behind the rear sight. Looking through the rear sight, focus on the front sight post. While keeping sights aligned, place front sight post on target. The shooter should be standing in a position so that he can close his eyes, take and release a deep breath, open his eyes and still be on target. This is known as “Natural Point Of Aim.”
 3. Breath control. It is impossible to maintain a steady position while breathing normally. The deputy must stop breathing before the moment of firing. The fire must take a breath, exhale normally and hold his breath to fire during the respiratory pause. The fire should not hold his breath until it becomes uncomfortable.
 4. Trigger press. The three fundamentals already discussed, put the shooter in a steady position with rifle pointed at target. If the trigger is jerked, it will undo all the prior training and cause the shooter to miss the target. The finger should be positioned so the trigger hits the finger between the last digit and fingertip. To fire, the trigger should be slowly and steadily pulled directly to the rear until the weapon fires.
 5. Follow Through. Immediately after the rifle fires, the shooter should maintain the pressure on the trigger and bring the sights back on target. This both stabilizes the rifle reducing the effects of internal ballistics and enables the shooter to quickly assess the situation to see if another shoot is needed.
- D. Firing Positions - Describe firing positions and advantages/disadvantages of each.
1. Standing Least stable
 2. Kneeling Shooting
 3. Sitting

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| 4. | Prone | Most Stable |
| 5. | Urban Prone | For shooting under or around low cover |
| 6. | Supine Prone | For shooting over or around low cover |
| | CQB | Used for close quarters and while on the move |

IV. Night Fire Techniques

- A. Quick-Fire Sighting: This technique is used at close quarters when there is not sufficient light to see the front sight post.
1. The shooter should adjust the intensity of the red dot optic for ambient light conditions and whenever possible use the red dot optic as the primary aiming system.
 2. If the red dot systems fails, the shooter holds the weapon to the shoulder and looks at the front sight assembly over the rear sight. The entire front sight assembly is used as the front sight and is aligned with the rear sight. The aiming point should be low as this technique will cause the round to strike slightly high.
- B. Use of Lights: Whenever feasible, the attached light system should be used.
1. The pressure switch is used to temporarily illuminate a target or search for a threat.
 2. The full time on switch is used when a flooding of light is desired as in a dynamic entry.
 3. How and when the light is used will be dictated by the tactical situation.

V. Live Fire Training

- A. Reduce a Stoppage Drill:
1. Students will have magazines loaded with a random mixture of live and inert ammunition.
 2. When the inert ammunition is chambered, the weapon will not fire or cycle.
 3. The student will then apply immediate action to clear the stoppage and continue shooting.
 4. The technique will be:
 - a) Slap/pull on magazine
 - b) Pull charging handle to rear
 - c) Release Charging handle
 - d) Fire
- B. Qualification Course: Students will fire a course from 50 yards, using 20 rounds. Course will be fired as follows:
1. 5 rounds standing
 2. 5 rounds kneeling
 3. Reload
 4. 5 rounds sitting
 5. 5 rounds prone
 6. Course will be completed within 5 minutes.
- C. Close Quarter Battle Drills: Students will participate in several drills fired from 7 to 10 yards that will simulate close quarter deadly force scenarios.
1. Drills will include vital skills such as loading, reloading, shooting on the move,

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- multiple targets etc.
 - 2. Drills and their complexity will be determined by the progress of the students.
 - 3. Students will not progress to more difficult tasks until they are competent at simple ones.
 - 4. Drills will be done in daylight first and repeated during hours of darkness.
- D. Quick-Fire Drills
- 1. Drills will be conducted using same guidelines as stated for the CQB Drills.
 - 2. Focus will be on proper technique of the students.
- E. Failure Drills
- 1. Failure drills are designed to ensure students stay focused on a deadly threat.
 - 2. It is imperative that deputies not assume a suspect is no longer a threat simply because he has been shot.
 - 3. Suspects wearing body armor or under the influence of controlled substances may not immediately respond to shots placed into the body.
 - 4. Drills will have students firing initially at the body, reassessing and firing to the head if needed.
- F. Shooting on the move: Students will practice this skill to include tactical applications of movement.
- G. Artificial Light Drills: Drills will focus primarily on the proper mechanical and tactical use of the weapon mounted lights, but will also include use of other lights such as spot lights on units, street lights, etc.
- H. Weapon Retention: Students will review previous instruction of weapon retention skills for the Patrol Rifle.
- VI. COURSE REVIEW/TEST/CRITIQUE:** Following the Live Fire period
- A. Students will review covered topics
 - 1. Successfully complete and pass the standard patrol rifle qualification course of fire.
 - 2. Thoroughly clean rifles.
 - B. Complete course evaluations.