

POST PERISHABLE SKILLS PROGRAM (PSP)

V – Tactical Firearms

(Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office 3180)

CCN: 29501 | POST Certification II PSP | Reimbursement Plan ___ | 4 hours

COURSE GOAL:

The course will provide the trainee with the minimum topics of tactical firearms and lethal force required in the POST Perishable Skills Training Program (PSP). The trainee will develop the necessary firearms tactical knowledge and skills to survive and win a realistic lethal force encounter.

The course consists of a hands-on/practical skills as well as policies and legal issues on the topic of tactical firearms for in-service officers. ***The training may be presented in a 4, 6, or 8 hour format allowing for flexibility based upon specific agency or trainee group needs, and as long as the minimum topics are contained within each format independently.***

This course complies with the legislative content and mandates of AB 392 and PC 835a.

TACTICAL FIREARMS

Minimum Topics/Exercises:

1. Safety Policy/Orientation
2. Moral obligations
3. Use of Force considerations (options)
4. Policy and/or legal issues
5. Sight Alignment, Trigger Control, Accuracy
6. Target recognition and Analysis
7. Weapons Clearing/Manipulations
8. Live Fire Tactical/Marking Cartridges
9. Basic Tactical Firearms Situations, Judgment and Decision Making Exercise(s)
10. Class Exercises/Student Evaluation/Testing

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The trainee will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of their individual Department Use Of Force/Firearms Policy.
2. Identify the tactical analysis key points related to tactical firearms as reported in the POST Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) Studies (1994 to Present).

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3. Demonstrate a minimum standard of tactical handgun proficiency with every technique, exercise, and course-of-fire, to include:
 - A. Judgment and Decision Making
 - B. Firearms Safety
 - C. Fundamentals of Marksmanship Basic Presentation Technique
 - D. Safe Drawing and Presenting Firearms
 - E. Target/Non-Target Identification
 - F. Speed, Accuracy and Effectiveness under stress and movement conditions
 - G. Shot Placement: Combat Effectiveness
 - H. Malfunctions Clearing
 - I. Loading/Reloading

*All minimum topics shall be included regardless of whether the course is completed using live fire or simulated.

Minimum standards of performance shall be tested by an instructor observing the trainee during their performance of each technique, exercise and course-of-fire. If the trainee does not meet minimum standards, as established by the presenter, remediation will be provided until the standard is met.

EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION/ORIENTATION I (B)
 - A. Introduction, Registration and Orientation
 1. Instructor/student introductions
 2. Registration/rosters
 - B. Course Objectives/Overview, Exercises, Evaluation/Testing
 1. Overview of course objectives
 - a. Judgement and Decision Making
 - b. Firearms Safety
 - c. Fundamentals of Marksmanship
 - d. Safe Drawing and Presenting Firearms
 - e. Threat Assessment/Identification
 - f. Speed, Accuracy and Effectiveness under stress and movement
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 2. Overview of exercises/drills

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3. Evaluation/testing/remediation procedures
- C. Weapons Safety Orientation, Review of Range and Shooting Safety Rules
(Pre-range weapons unloading procedures and lunch/extended break reload/unload rules)
 1. All Weapons are to be considered loaded
 2. Never point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to shoot at
 3. Keep finger off trigger until you are ready to fire
 4. Be sure of your target and background
 5. Range and Tactical Safety
 - a. Follow Range Rules
 - b. Follow Instructor commands
 - c. Strict Weapon Discipline and Muzzle Control
 - d. No lasering of personal body parts
 6. Review of Range Safety Rules
 - a. Cover primary elements as a checklist with students
 - b. Local emergency/first aid procedures to include radio/telephone procedures, closest medical facility

II. LETHAL FORCE OVERVIEW

I (A)

- A. Legal Standards/Case Law
 1. AB 392
 - a. What has changed
 - b. How are the changes reflected in agency's Use of Force policy?
 2. Supporting Case Law
 - a. Tennessee vs. Garner
 - 1) Deadly Force
 - 2) Fleeing Felon
 - b. Graham vs. Conner
 - 1) Objectively Reasonable Force
 - 2) PC 835a
- B. Legal/Moral/Ethical Issues involving Use of Force/Lethal Force
 1. Moral obligations
 2. Ethical concerns
- C. Civil Implications of using Force/Lethal Force
 1. Department Liability
 2. Personal Liability
- D. Report Writing and Preliminary Investigation Overview
 1. Report writing and articulation
 2. What happens during preliminary investigation

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III. USE OF FORCE/LETHAL FORCE AND FIREARMS POLICY **I (A)**

- A. Use of Force Considerations
 - 1. Lethal Force within the spectrum of force options
 - 2. Verbal, Hands, Less Lethal, Lethal Force
 - 3. Escalation and De-escalation Process
- B. Department Policy/SB 230
 - 1. Reasonable Cause to believe
 - 2. Imminent Threat
 - 3. Death or Great Bodily Injury
 - 4. Fleeing Violent Felon Specifications
 - 5. Other policy areas and issues
 - 6. Shooting at vehicles after violent fleeing specifications

IV. POST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED/ASSAULTED (LEOKA) STUDIES

I (A)

- A. Current Reports and Vital Statistics from LEOKA Reports
 - 1. Line of duty deaths
 - 2. Statistics over time
- B. Conclusive Tactical Analysis
 - 1. Low Light Conditions
 - 2. 5 to 10 feet
 - 3. 2 rounds
 - 4. 2 seconds
 - 5. Officer Accuracy: Less than 20 %
 - 6. Use of Cover
 - 7. Summary Overview

V. FUNDAMENTALS OF MARKSMANSHIP

I (C)

- A. Stance
 - 1. Strong, Balanced Ready Position
 - 2. Isosceles or Weaver
- B. Grip
 - 1. Strong, Effective two-handed grip
 - 2. Isometric Pressure
- C. Sight Picture
 - 1. Sight Alignment
 - 2. Eye Focus - Front Sight

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- D. Trigger Control
 - 1. Press.....
 - 2. Straight back, steady pressure
- E. Breathing
 - 1. Controlled
 - 2. Fire on exhale
- F. Recovery / Follow through
 - 1. All elements work together
 - 2. Handle recoil
 - 3. Controlled movement back on target

VI. FIVE COUNT PISTOL PRESENTATION

I (D)

- A. Threat Assessment
 - 1. Assess the Threat
- B. Count One
 - 1. High firm grip
 - 2. Defeat retentions
 - 3. Support hand/arm into chest position
- C. Count Two
 - 1. Draw
 - 2. Pistol is pulled up toward the shooter's armpit
 - 3. Trigger finger is indexed
- D. Count Three
 - 1. Rotate pistol towards target
 - 2. Cant gun slightly outward
 - 3. This is the earliest in the draw presentation that the shooter can fire if needed.
- E. Count Four
 - 1. Punch Pistol outward
 - 2. Into support hand
 - 3. Isometric Tension
 - 4. Eye focus to front sight
- F. Count Five
 - 1. Weapon at full presentation (We do not shoot every time we draw)
 - 2. Sight alignment/sight picture is verified
 - 3. Finger on Trigger
 - 4. Press
 - 5. Maintain sight alignment
- G. Target Recognition and Analysis
 - 1. Did I hit?
 - 2. Did it Work?
 - 3. Low Ready

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4. Assess the Threat
 5. Scan
 6. Reassess
 7. Consider Tactical Reloading
- H. Reholstering
1. ONLY when the tactical situation warrants
 2. Reverse of the draw count
 3. Support hand/arm into chest position
 4. Additional Scan and Assessment
 6. Quick and Effective Holstering
 7. Eyes remaining forward on threat

VII. DRILLS AND COURSES-OF-FIRE

I (E, F, G, H, I)

- A. Range Orientation and Safety Briefing
1. Conduct second range safety briefing
 2. Review command sequence
- B. All Courses emphasize:
1. Firearms Safety
 2. Muzzle and Fire Discipline
 3. Fundamentals of Shooting
 4. Five Count Presentation
- C. Warm up Course (12 student to 2 instructor ratio)
1. 8 rounds into the 10 ring at 15 yards (Precision Shooting)
 2. 2 times
- D. Combat Reload Exercise/Weapons Clearing (12 student to 2 instructor ratio)
1. Tactically reloading (Bringing handgun back up to full capacity)
 2. When shooting has stopped
 3. Move to Cover
 4. Proper grip of fresh magazine
 5. Strip and replace in-gun magazine
 6. Used magazine in pocket, not pouch
 7. Practice and Proficiency demonstration
 8. Live Fire
- E. Weapon Malfunction Exercise (12 student to 3 instructor ratio)
1. Failure to Fire/Feed/Eject
 - a. Clearance Drill - Tap, Roll, and Rack
 - (1) Practice with Dummy rounds
 - (2) With Live Mags

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- b. Move towards cover – step left or right on the range
 - c. Live Fire
 - 2. Failure to Extract (Double Feed)
 - a. Clearance Drill – Lock, Drop, Load, Rack
 - (1) Practice with Dummy rounds
 - (2) With Live Mags
 - b. Move towards cover – step left of right on the range
 - c. Live Fire
- F. Double Tap / Failure to incapacitate suspect (Drugs/Body Armor) Drills
 - 1. Shot Placement
 - a. Optimum spread
 - b. Upper Thoracic Cavity
 - c. Ocular cavity for failure to incapacitate
 - 2. Stopping Power
 - a. Maximum Shock / Stopping Power
 - b. Vs. Bleeding Out
 - (1) Major artery - up to 12 seconds
 - c. Ocular cavity
 - 3. Controlled Pair
 - a. Sight Picture, Smooth Trigger Pull
 - 4. Accelerated Pair
 - a. Flash sight picture/Front sight
 - b. 5 to 7 yards and closer
 - c. Double Taps emphasizing speed and accuracy
 - 5. Failure to incapacitate
 - a. Theory
 - (1) Target the brain, turn off the neurological switch
 - 6. Live Fire
- G. Spread Fire Course
 - 1. Threat Assessment/Threat Prioritization
 - a. Threat ID
 - b. Threat type, lethality, and range
 - c. Highest threat prioritization
 - 2. 3 Targets at the 7 yard line – 1 target must be a no shoot target
 - a. With tactical reloads
 - b. Live Fire
- H. Testing – Department Pistol Qualification
 - 1. 50 rounds
 - 2. 80% is minimum passing
 - 3. Rounds will be considered a hit if the bullet hole hits the body of the target.
 - 4. Scoring and Remediation (if needed)

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Testing: Any student scoring below standard on any exercise, as established by the presenter, will be remediated, tested until standard is achieved.

Note: Student to Instructor ratios:

Static Line- 12 student to 2 instructor

Movement- 12 students to 3 instructor

1 additional instructor will monitor students off-line at all times