

## **TACTICAL FIREARMS POST PERISHABLE SKILLS PROGRAM (PSP)**

### **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 firearms training for in-service officers.

### **TACTICAL FIREARMS**

#### **Minimum Topics/Exercises:**

1. Basic Tactical Firearms Situations, Judgment and Decision making Exercise(s) – expanded outline must define each exercise and its terminal objective(s)
2. Class Exercises/Student Evaluation/Testing
3. Safety Guidelines/Orientation
4. Sight Alignment, Trigger Control, Accuracy
5. Target Recognition and Analysis
6. Weapons Clearing
7. Live Fire Tactical/or Simunitions Tactical
8. Policy and/or Legal Issues
9. Use of Force Considerations (options)
10. Moral Obligations

### **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).
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. Weapons Safety
  - c. Basic Presentation Technique
  - d. Fundamentals of Shooting
  - e. Target/Non-Target Identification
  - f. Speed, Accuracy and Effectiveness under stress and movement conditions
  - g. Shot Placement: Stopping Power – Multiple Rounds

**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**

- A. Introduction, Registration and Orientation
- B. Course Objectives/Overview, Exercises, Evaluation/Testing
- C. Weapons Safety Orientation, Review of Range and Shooting Safety Rules **I (c)**  
(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
    - e. Movement and Reloading only on Double Action
  - 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 (h, i, j)****

- A. Legal/Moral/Ethical Issues involving Use of Force/Lethal Force
- B. Civil Implications of using Force/Lethal Force
- C. Report Writing and Preliminary Investigation Overview

### **III. USE OF FORCE/LETHAL FORCE AND FIREARMS POLICY **I (h, i)****

- A. Use of Force Options
  - 1. Lethal Force within the spectrum of force options
  - 2. Verbal, Hands, Less than Lethal, Lethal Force
  - 3. Escalation and De-escalation Process
- B. Department Policy
  - 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

- C. Supporting Case Law
  - 1. Tennessee vs. Garner
    - a. Deadly Force
    - b. Fleeting Felon
  - 2. Graham vs. Conner
    - a. Reasonable Force
- D. SB230 Discussion

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

- A. 1994/2001 Reports
- B. Vital Statistics from LEOKA Reports
- C. Conclusive Technical Analysis
  - 1. Low Light conditions
  - 2. 5 feet – 10 feet
  - 3. 3 rounds
  - 4. 2 seconds
  - 5. Officer Accuracy: averages 10-20%
  - 6. Use of Cover
  - 7. Summary – Overview

V. FUNDAMENTALS OF SHOOTING

**I (d)**

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

VI. FIVE COUNT PISTOL PRESENTATION

- A. Count One
  - 1. Good grip

2. Holster unsnapped
3. Support hand/arm into chest position
- B. Count Two
  1. Draw
  2. De-cocker off
  3. Pistol is rocked up and forward
  4. Wrist is positioned above holster
  5. Forearm parallel to ground
  6. Trigger finger is indexed
- C. Count Three
  1. Punch pistol outward
  2. Into support hand
  3. Isometric tension
  4. Low Ready Positioning
- D. Count Four
  1. Pistol raised to eye level
  2. Eye focus to front sight
  3. Sight alignment/sight picture is verified
- E. Count Five
  1. Finger on Trigger
  2. Press
  3. Maintain sight alignment
- F. Target Recognition and Analysis **I (e)**
  1. Did I hit?
  2. Did it work?
  3. Low Ready – Count Three
  4. Assess the Threat
  5. Scan
  6. Reassess
  7. De-cock to Double Action
  8. Tactical Reloading
- G. Re-holstering
  1. ONLY when the tactical situation warrants
  2. Reverse of the draw count
  3. Count Two
  4. Support hand/arm into chest position
  5. Additional Scan and Awareness
  6. Quick and Effective Holstering
  7. Eyes remaining forward on threat

**VII. DRILLS AND COURSES-OF-FIRE **I (a, b, c, d, e, f, g)****

- A. Range Orientation and Safety Briefing (Second range safety, and command sequence) **I (c)**
- B. All courses emphasize:
  1. Weapons Safety
  2. Muzzle and Fire Discipline
  3. Fundamentals of Shooting

4. Five Count Presentation
- C. Warm up Course
  1. Eight rounds into the 10 ring at 15 yards (Precision Shooting)
  2. Two times
- D. Combat Reload Exercise/Weapons Clearing **I (f)**
  1. Tactically reloading (bringing handgun back up to full capacity)
  2. When shooting has stopped
  3. Move to cover
  4. De-cock/Double Action
  5. Proper grip of fresh magazine
  6. Strip and replace in-gun magazine
  7. Used magazine in pocket, not pouch
  8. Practice and Proficiency demonstration
- E. Flashlight Shooting Exercise
  1. Carries (define)/Tactical
  2. Alternate flashlight shooting techniques
  3. Safety precautions
  4. Dry fire practice
  5. Reloading
    - a. Move to one knee/cover
    - b. Placing flashlight behind the knee
- F. Weapon Malfunction Exercise (split class into two groups)
  1. Group 1, Failure to Fire
    - a. Clearance Drill – Tap, Roll, and Rack
      - 1) Practice with dummy rounds
      - 2) With live mags
    - b. Live fire, five times
  2. Group 2, Double Feed
    - a. Clearance Drill – Lock, Drop, Rack, Load **I (f)**
      - 1) Practice with dummy rounds
      - 2) With live mags
    - b. Live fire, five times
- G. Ball and Dummy Drills
  1. Three mags with mix of five live rounds, three dummy rounds
  2. Proper clearance
  3. Seven yard line, six magazines
- H. Failure to incapacitate suspect (Drugs/Body Armor) Drills **I (e)**
  1. Theory
    - a. Target the brain, turn off the neurological switch
  2. Shot Placement
    - a. Ocular “T”
  3. Seven yard line, 2 and 2
    - a. Two magazines
    - b. With tactical loading/reloading
- I. Double Tap Drill **I (g)**
  1. Shot Placement
    - a. Optimum 4” spread

- b. Upper Thoracic Cavity
  - 2. Stopping Power
    - a. Maximum Shock – Stopping Power
    - b. Vs. Bleeding out
      - 1) Major artery – up to 12 seconds
  - 3. Controlled Pair
    - a. Sight Picture, Smooth Trigger Pull **I (d)**
    - b. Seven yard line and out
    - c. Two magazines
  - 4. Accelerated Pair
    - a. Flash sight picture/Front sight
    - b. Five – seven yards and closer
    - c. Double taps emphasizing speed and accuracy
    - d. Two magazines
- J. Spread Fire Course
  - 1. Threat Assessment/Threat Prioritization
    - a. Threat ID
    - b. Threat type, lethality, and range
    - c. Highest treat prioritization
  - 2. Three targets at the seven yard line, two rounds each, three times
    - a. Two magazines
    - b. With tactical reloads

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