

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

(Firearms Qualifications)

Course Outline

2 Hours

Course Title: Rifle Qualification

Course Goal: To qualify law enforcement first responders on the rifle.

Audience: Sworn Peace Officers authorized to carry a rifle.

Core Competencies: Under the supervision of an instructor and using each weapon system each student will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of Range safety rules.
2. Demonstrate the ability to load and unload the weapon.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of applicable Office policies
4. Demonstrate knowledge of considerations for deployment
5. Demonstrate knowledge of duty ready weapons configuration.
6. Pass a qualification course, both shooting and written, with passing score of 80% or greater.

Dates: 1/19/26

Total Hours of Instruction: 2 hours

Location: San Benito County Sheriff's Office Range, 1456 Bolsa Road, Hollister, CA 95023

Instructors: Deputy E. Engelhardt / Deputy S. Ramirez

Mandated Training: YES, SCSO Policy 311.6

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(Firearms-Rifle (Carbine))

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Method of Presentation: Instructor will lead a class discussion to review the safety plan and office policies.

I. Orientation /Instructor / Overview

1. Class Orientation

- a. Instructor introductions
 - i. Course Outline / Overview
 - ii. Breaks / Meals
 - iii. Ratio of staff instructors to students (self-imposed, no regulations for how many)

II. Safety Plan

1. Weapons Safety Orientation, Review of Range and Shooting Safety Rules
 - i. All weapons are to be considered loaded
 - ii. Never point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to shoot at
 - iii. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to fire
 - iv. Be sure of your target and background
 - v. 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
 - vi. Local emergency/first aid procedures to include radio/telephone procedures, closest medical facility:

Natividad Medical Center
1441 Constitution Blvd
Salinas, CA 93906

- Assign 2 people to call 911
- Assign 2 people to guide ambulance to injured person
- Assign 2 people with the most medical training to administer first aid
- Assign 2 people to drive a marked patrol car to the hospital if needed.

III. Range qualification

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1-1 Policy and Procedure Review

1. Lexipol 300 – Use of Force. Review of policy with emphasis on use of deadly force.
2. Procedures:
 - a. Command to fire – “Threat”
 - b. Challenge – “Sheriff’s Office – Don’t move”
 - c. If malfunction occurs, clear it; Do not call for ceasefire or notify instructor of malfunction unless safety hazard to self or other students occurs
 - d. Instructor will not direct when to reload – students should attempt to be aware of ammo remaining; reloading at some time other than engaging a threat is preferred

1-2 Qualification Course (60 rounds – 2 magazines with transitions)

- i. 80% is minimum passing
- ii. Rounds will be considered a hit if the bullet hole hits the body of the target
- iii. Headshots must hit the head (above the line) to count as a head shot. (16 rounds)
- iv. Qualification course will be graded from 50 to 5 yards
- v. The shooter must only shoot the course as commanded. Shooting more rounds will be an **automatic fail**.
- vi. Any student who fails the qualification will be given remedial training and then another chance to qualify.
 - A. Course of fire
 1. 50 yards – kneeling
 - a. 3 rounds for accuracy to the head
 2. 25 yards – kneeling
 - a. 2 rounds for accuracy to the head
 - b. 4 rounds for accuracy to the body
 3. 25 yards – standing
 - a. 3 rounds for accuracy to the head
 - b. 3 rounds for accuracy to the body
 4. 20 yards – standing
 - a. 2 rounds to the body
 - b. 3 rounds to the body, 1 round to the head
 5. 15 yards – standing
 - a. 4 rounds to the body
 - b. 2 rounds to the body
 - c. 3 rounds to the body
 6. 10 yards – standing
 - a. 3 rounds to the body
 - b. 4 rounds to the body, 1 rounds to the head
 - c. 5 rounds to the body, 2 rounds to the head
 7. 7 yards – standing
 - a. 4 rounds to the body
 - b. 2 rounds to the head
 8. 5 yards – standing
 - a. 3 rounds to the body, 2 rounds to the head
 - b. 4 rounds to the body

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1-3 Less Lethal Qualification Course

1. Lexipol Policy 302.8 – Kinetic Energy Projectile Guidelines
 - a) No lethal ammunition anywhere
 - b) Circumstances appropriate for deployment include but are not limited to, situations in which:
 - a. The suspect is armed with a weapon and the tactical circumstances allow for the safe application of approved munitions.
 - b. The suspect has made credible threats to **harm himself/herself** or others. (Only others due to recent case law.
 - c. The suspect is engaged in riotous behavior or is throwing rocks, bottles or other dangerous projectiles at people and/or deputies.
 - d. There is probable cause to believe that the suspect has already committed a crime of violence and is refusing to comply with lawful orders.
 - c) Deployment considerations
 - a. Distance and angle to target.
 - b. Type and thickness of subjects clothing
 - c. The location of the subject.
 - d. Whether the subjects actions dictate the need for an immediate response and the use of control devices appears appropriate.
 - d) A verbal warning of the intended use of the device should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of deputies or when it is not practical due to the circumstances.
2. Target zones
 1. Primary (green)
 - a. Upper legs
 2. Secondary (yellow)
 - a. Lower abdomen
 - b. Extremities
 - c. Upper back
3. Non-target (red) zones
 1. Face & head
 2. Neck
 3. Upper abdomen (Large vital organs with lots of blood can be seriously damaged by blunt force injury)
 4. Groin
 5. Spine
 6. Lower back (kidneys can be seriously injured)
4. Less-lethal devices will not be deployed without lethal cover present/immediately available from a deputy other than the less-lethal operator (transition to higher level of force might be immediately necessary)
5. Formulate a plan for handling incident prior to making suspect contact (if circumstances allow time for predeployment planning) (fail to plan, plan to fail; at the very least, make sure everyone knows everyone's role. If time is available, brief on roles, deployment/contact plan, contingency plan, post-event actions, and have everyone brief back their role.)
 1. Minimally, designate less-lethal operator, lethal cover and suspect control (handcuffing) deputy
6. Prior to firing less-lethal launcher, the operator will loudly call out the word "Device"
 1. Review this procedure prior to making suspect contact

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- a. Prevent sympathetic fire
 - i. Even more important if other agencies are present
 - b. Load chamber prior to making suspect contact
 - c. If operator attempts to fire device and failure occurs due to empty chamber, resulting delay could negatively alter outcome of incident (assume that the suspect is going to move and you will be in contact before expected)
 - d. If projectile is fired, immediately rack slide to place fresh projectile in chamber
 - e. Be prepared for immediate followup shots (suspect's size, alcohol, drugs, emotional state, accuracy of shot could cause munition to be ineffective)
 - f. Remain prepared to launch projectiles until suspect is secure and possibility of threat is confirmed to no longer exist (make independent decision for each shot)
 - g. Return to patrol safe configuration prior to returning device to patrol car
 7. Actions following less-lethal device firing
 - a. Medical treatment/clearance for suspect (even if no obvious injuries and suspect says he's okay – blunt force injuries might not be visible, drugs/alcohol/adrenaline might mask pain)
 - b. Supervisor notification (as soon as practical when Code 4)
 - c. Documentation (report written by every deputy who used force in accordance with policy; consult Lexipol 302.8 for wording re less-lethal device)
 - d. Evidence collection (retain expended projectiles and shell casings unless directed by supervisor that it isn't necessary. If so, document in report.)
2. Qualification course of fire (80%)
- Rounds must hit in an approved target area to be considered a hit.
 - 80% passing (6 out of 8 rounds)
- a. 7 yards
 - i. Load with 4 rounds in magazine and 4 in sidesaddle
 - ii. Fire 2 rounds
 - iii. Fire 1 round
 - b. 15 yards
 - i. Fire 1 round
 - ii. Challenge – Suspect complies – De-escalate
 - iii. Fire 2 rounds
 - c. 20 yards
 - i. Fire 1 round
 - ii. Fire 1 round

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1-4 PepperBall

A. Loading

- a. Safety on
 - I. Verify trigger safety is on.
 - II. Verify that the air tank toggle is set to OFF.
- b. Gas tank
 - I. Visually inspect air tank gauge (3000 PSI)
- c. Hopper:
 - I. Feed the Hopper. Hopper holds up to 180 rounds.
- d. Charging handle:
 - I. Pull and lock charging handle to the rear.
- e. Activate air tank by toggling the tank from OFF to ON.

B. Unloading

- I. Trigger Safety on
- II. Toggle gas tank to OFF (kill air intake)
- III. Safely remove rounds from Hopper (1 round remains in the chamber.)
- IV. Toggle Hopper lever to expose barrel opening and remove the round in the chamber.

C. Target zones

- 1. Primary (green)
 - a. Upper legs
- 2. Secondary (yellow)
 - a. Lower abdomen
 - b. Extremities
 - c. Upper back
- II. Non-target (red) zones
 - 1. Face & head
 - 2. Neck
 - 3. Groin
 - 4. Spine
- III. Less-lethal devices will not be deployed without lethal cover present/immediately available from a deputy other than the less-lethal operator (transition to higher level of force might be immediately necessary)
- IV. Formulate a plan for handling incident prior to making suspect contact (if circumstances allow time for predeployment planning) (fail to plan, plan to fail; at the very least, make sure everyone knows everyone's role. If time is available, brief on roles, deployment/contact plan, contingency plan, post-event actions, and have everyone brief back their role.)
 - 1. Minimally, designate less-lethal operator, lethal cover and suspect control (handcuffing) deputy
- V. Prior to firing less-lethal launcher, the operator will loudly call out the word "Device"
 - 1. Review this procedure prior to making suspect contact
 - a. Prevent sympathetic fire
 - i. Even more important if other agencies are present

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D. Qualification course of fire

- a. 10 yards
 - I. Fire 3 round
 - II. Challenge – Suspect complies – De-escalate
 - III. Fire 3 rounds
- b. 15 yards (For the first course of fire at the 15 yard line, instructors have students toggle air tank to OFF and send the charging handle home, in order to simulate a malfunction for the next course of fire. Do not rack charging handle to the rear in order to simulate a user created malfunction).
 - I. Fire 4 rounds
 - II. Fire 3 rounds
- c. 20 yards
 - I. Fire 3 rounds
 - II. Fire 2 round
- d. 25 yards
 - I. Fire 2 rounds

1-5 Range Clean-Up

- A. Clean up brass, targets, and any other trash.
- B. Report any injuries to the range staff and Sergeants.
- C. Found Equipment
 - 1. Turned into one of the instructors