

**La Mesa Police Department
Firearms/Tactical Rifle
20-Hour Course**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

This course will train peace officers in the function, use, and maintenance of the AR15 style semi-automatic rifle. Successful completion of this course satisfies the legislative training mandate to possess short barrel rifle as specified in PC33220(b) and the Commission training requirement to possess long barrel rifles specified in Commission Regulation 1081.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

When responding to incidents, graduates of this course will be able to safely, legally, and effectively deploy AR15 style semi-automatic rifles.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT:

Given a practical skills test, the student will be able to safely handle the weapon platform through reloading, transition, and malfunction exercises, and accurately live fire at multiple targets while stationary and while moving.

REQUIRED CONTENT:

1. Law Update
2. Review of Use of Force Issues, Agency Policies, and Mission
3. Safety Issues
4. Nomenclature, Specifications, and Capabilities
5. Firearm Care, Breakdown, and Cleaning
6. Tactical Considerations
7. Skill Development and Qualification

COURSE OUTLINE:

- I. INTRODUCTION/ORIENTATION
 - A. Introduction, Registration and Orientation
 1. Sign-in
 2. Facility briefing
 3. Emergency evacuation route and rally point
 - B. Course Objectives/Overview, Exercises, Evaluation/Testing
 1. Certification for duty use within agency policy
 2. Overview of topics to be covered
 3. Overview of courses of fire
 4. How students will be evaluated on Day 3

- C. Weapons Safety Orientation, Review of Safety Rules
 - 1. General weapons safety briefing
 - 2. Inspection of weapons (daily at start of class, after breaks, and at end of day)
 - 3. Signing and collection of safety and facility form

II. LAWS AND AGENCY POLICY

- A. Penal Code Section 32910(b)
 - 1. Possession of within scope of employment
- B. Penal Code Section 33220(b)
 - 1. Training requirement
- C. Agency Firearms Use and Use of Force Policies
 - 1. Use of Force options
 - 2. Department Policy
- D. Law Update
 - 1. Tennessee v. Garner
 - 2. Graham v. Conner
 - 3. Mullenix v. Luna

III. SAFETY AND RANGE RULES

- A. The Four Basic Safety Rules
 - 1. Treat all guns as if they are loaded
 - 2. Never point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to destroy
 - 3. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target
 - 4. Always be sure of your target and beyond
- B. Range Rules
 - 1. After weapons have been grounded and the line has been called safe by an instructor, do not touch the weapon until all students are back from their targets, and the instructor has given the okay.
 - 2. If a problem arises on the line, raise your non-gun-hand to summon an instructor
 - 3. Eye and ear protection will be worn on the range

IV. NOMENCLATURE, SPECIFICATIONS, AND CAPABILITIES

- A. Nomenclature
 - 1. Front and rear sights
 - 2. Bolt catch
 - 3. Magazine release
 - 4. Safety/Selector

5. Magazine
6. Sling and sling attachments

B. Specifications

1. Type of weapon
2. Barrel length
3. Overall length
4. Caliber
5. Magazine capacity
6. Weight (empty)
7. Type of sights/optics
8. Approximate muzzle velocity

C. Capabilities

1. Maximum range
2. Maximum effective range
3. Penetration of soft body armor
4. Full/semi-automatic

V. FIREARM CARE, DISASSEMBLY/ASSEMBLY, AND MAINTENANCE

A. Refer to manufacturer's care and operation manual

1. General maintenance and cleaning
2. How to disassemble and reassemble
3. Refer to qualified armor for troubleshooting or maintenance issues

B. Field strip

1. When to field strip
2. How to field strip

VI. BASIC SHOOTING SKILLS

A. Stance/Position

1. Standing
2. Kneeling (supported/unsupported)
3. Sitting
4. Prone
5. From behind barricade

B. Sight Alignment

1. Sight alignment
2. Top of front sight post centered in the rear peep
3. 100 percent focus is on the top edge of the front sight post. The rear peep and target are blurred
4. Instructor will illustrate proper sight alignment

C. Sight Picture

1. Defined as the relationship of sight alignment to the target
- D. Trigger Control
 1. Emphasize that this is the single most important element
 2. Shooter must apply gradual pressure on the trigger for a surprise trigger break so as to not disturb sight alignment when the shot is made
- E. Grip/Stock Weld
 1. Grip and stock types
 2. Adjusting
 3. Refer to qualified armor for replacing grip or stock weld
- F. Breathing
 1. Breath must be held at the moment the shot is made
 2. Breathing while firing will cause vertical stringing of shots
 3. Holding breath too long will cause vision to blur and muscles to tremble, so the shot must be made before this happens
- G. Follow Through
 1. Maintain all elements throughout the shot
 2. Trigger reset

VII. CLEARING MALFUNCTIONS AND STOPPAGES

- A. In close quarter confrontations, consider immediate transition to handgun
 1. Tactical necessity of transition
 2. How to transition/mechanics of transitioning
- B. Failure to fire
 1. "Tap, Rack, Assess"
 - a. Seat magazine by hitting it with heel of hand
 - b. Pull bolt to rear and release
 - c. Obtain sight picture
 - d. Assess if follow-up shots are necessary
 2. Stove Pipe
 - a. Tilt rifle so that ejection port faces the ground
 - b. Pull bolt to rear and release
 - c. Obtain sight picture
 - d. Assess if follow-up shots are necessary
 3. Feed-way Stoppages
 - a. Lock the bolt to the rear
 - b. Remove the magazine from the weapon
 - i. Discard magazine
 - c. Clear live rounds from the receiver and chamber
 - d. Insert a fresh loaded magazine
 - e. Chamber a round

- f. Obtain sight picture
- g. Assess if follow-up shots are necessary

VIII. TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Based on agency guidelines and training
 - 1. Know your agency policy
 - 2. Review of agency policy
 - 3. Training frequency
- B. Physical environment
 - 1. Positioning
 - 2. Lightness/darkness
 - 3. Type of environment (outdoors, indoors, type of structure)
- C. Be aware of cover vs. concealment
 - 1. Cover provides physical protection (barriers, threat capabilities, and penetration of ammunition from threat)
 - 2. Concealment provides element of surprise but won't stop gunfire
- D. Rifle caliber rounds will penetrate soft body armor (yours or theirs)
 - 1. Suspect's body armor and shot placement
 - 2. Suspect's weapon
 - 3. Your body armor (soft body armor vs. rifle plates)
- E. The patrol rifle afford the opportunity to maintain safe distances to adversaries
 - 1. Maximum effective distance
 - 2. Shooter's capabilities with respect to distance
 - 3. Suspect's capabilities with respect to distance
- F. The patrol rifle affords an increased effective range over the service shotgun and handgun
 - 1. Maximum effective distance of handgun
 - 2. Maximum effective distance of shotgun
 - 3. Maximum effective distance of rifle
 - 4. Distance you are comfortable at
- G. The patrol rifle affords more accuracy than a service shotgun with a rifled slug
 - 1. Accuracy rates for service shotgun with a rifled slug
 - 2. Accuracy rates for a rifle
- H. The patrol rifle is easier to load and re-load than a service shotgun
 - 1. Reloading time with loaded magazine
 - 2. Reloading time with shotgun (combat reload or magazine reload)
- I. The patrol rifle has a larger ammunition capacity than a service shotgun
 - 1. Magazine capacity of shotgun

2. Magazine capacity of rifle

IX. SHOOTING DECISION

- A. Know your abilities and limitations, and those of your weapon
 1. How often do you train with your rifle?
 2. How many rounds do you shoot? (quarterly, bi-annually, annually)
 3. What distance are you confident shooting at?
- B. Exercise fire discipline within agency guidelines and the parameters of applicable State and Federal laws
 1. Know your policy
 2. Know the law
 3. Know case law
 4. Can you legally justify every round?

X. SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- A. Dry Firing Exercises
 1. Done on the range under the direct supervision of the instructors
 2. Dry fire each position (standing, kneeling, sitting, and prone)
- B. Live Fire Exercises
 1. Done on the range under the direct supervision of the instructors
 2. Live fire each position (standing, kneeling, sitting, prone and from behind barricades)
 3. Live fire at various distances based on agency mission and environment
 4. Live fire at multiple targets
 5. Precision shooting exercises
 6. Reloading and firing exercises
 7. Malfunction exercises
 8. Move and fire exercises
 9. Close quarter tactical shooting
 10. Qualification course of fire

XI. CONCLUSION