

Law Enforcement Patrol Rifle Course

The **Law Enforcement Patrol Rifle Course** is designed to develop officers' knowledge, safe handling practices, and proficiency with the patrol rifle. The course combines classroom instruction, demonstrations, and supervised live-fire exercises to prepare officers for responsible rifle deployment consistent with applicable law and agency policies.

Instruction begins with firearm safety, range procedures, and the officer's responsibility to account for every round fired. Officers review patrol rifle components, operating systems, ammunition considerations, equipment inspection, and routine cleaning and maintenance. Training also addresses safe storage, transportation, and securing the rifle in a patrol vehicle.

Officers develop marksmanship fundamentals, including a stable shooting platform, sight alignment and sight picture, trigger control, breathing, and follow-through. Instruction covers establishing and confirming a zero, understanding the relationship between the sights and the bore, and recognizing how distance affects point of impact. Officers practice with their assigned sights or optics to build familiarity and consistent performance.

Practical exercises reinforce loading and unloading, verifying the rifle's condition, reloading, and identifying and clearing common malfunctions. Officers practice shooting from standing, kneeling, and prone positions, along with using available cover while maintaining muzzle discipline and awareness of other personnel.

The course also emphasizes the judgment required when deploying a patrol rifle. Topics include recognizing circumstances that may warrant rifle deployment, identifying threats, assessing the background and surrounding environment, communicating with responding officers, and maintaining awareness of civilians and other potential hazards. Scenario-based discussions reinforce decision-making, de-escalation when feasible, and compliance with agency use-of-force policies.

Upon successful completion, officers should be able to:

- Demonstrate safe patrol rifle handling and follow established range procedures.
- Identify rifle components and conduct basic inspection and maintenance.
- Establish and confirm a zero with assigned sights or optics.
- Apply marksmanship fundamentals from common shooting positions.
- Perform loading, unloading, reloading, and malfunction-clearance procedures safely.
- Explain considerations for rifle deployment, threat identification, and target accountability.
- Demonstrate proficiency through a live-fire assessment and the designated qualification course.

Successful completion requires participation in all required training activities, consistent adherence to safety standards, and achievement of the established proficiency and qualification requirements.