

FIREARMS QUALIFICATION & TRAINING – TACTICAL PATROL RIFLE

9455

(No.26 June 2016)

QUALIFICATION

Tactical patrol rifle qualification courses are intended to test the proficiency of CAL FIRE peace officers in the handling, reloading and shooting of the rifle to provide for the safety of the public and CAL FIRE personnel. The firearms instructor having charge of the range will have the option to choose the qualification course desired and is encouraged to rotate approved courses from one qualification day to the next.

Qualification shall be documented upon the Individual Firearms Qualification Record.

CAL FIRE peace officers shall qualify with the tactical patrol rifle twice per year, with one qualification occurring between January 1 – June 30 and another occurring between July 1 – December 31. At least one qualification shall be a low light qualification.

TRAINING

Tactical patrol rifle training is used to develop officer skill and proficiency with the tactical rifle, coupled with the various handgun(s) and handgun retention systems they have been issued or intend to use. Qualification courses can be used as training; however, the firearms instructor having charge of the range may develop alternative courses to assist in developing necessary skills.

CAL FIRE peace officers who are issued and carry a tactical patrol rifle (Handbook Section, 9452.3) shall attend and participate in tactical rifle training once per quarter. For officers not issued and not carrying a rifle, training is at the option of the applicable Unit, Region or Program. During tactical patrol rifle training, the officer need not shoot a qualification course, but may do so at the option of the firearms instructor having charge of the range.

Range days shall be scheduled at least once each quarter:

January 1 - March 31

April 1 - June 30

July 1 - September 30

October 1 - December 31

Range days may be scheduled on a more frequent basis at the discretion of the firearms instructor designated by the Unit, Region, Academy or Law Enforcement Program. Monthly range days are recommended to facilitate qualifications and rifle training. Officers are encouraged to attend as many range days as possible to improve upon their handling, reloading and shooting skills.

RANGE SAFETY

(No.26 June 2016)

9455.1

All persons participating in rifle training and qualification shooting, and within 50 yards of a firing point, shall wear hearing protection and wear a brimmed or baseball style cap. This includes the firearms instructor(s), students/officers, and spectators.

All persons participating in rifle training and qualification shooting, present upon the range shall wear body armor consistent with Handbook Section 9457.1

All shooters shall wear eye protection.

The firearms instructor(s) will conduct a range safety briefing (documented upon an IIPP6) and an equipment and safety check prior to conducting any live firing. The officer will, on command, conduct a safety check of his/her tactical patrol rifle. The safety check will consist of the following:

While pointing weapon down range:

1. Remove magazine from rifle.
2. Action-open, safety on.
3. Check for ammunition (rounds) in the chamber and ensure weapon is empty.
4. Check the barrel and breech for obstruction.
5. Cycle the action several times to check function.
6. Close action and check safety.
7. Check trigger for smoothness.

TACTICAL PATROL RIFLE QUALIFICATION COURSES

(No.26 June 2016)

9455.2

The course fired for official score shall consist of one of the courses outlined in this section.

All qualifications and training shall be conducted with new factory loaded service ammunition.

Weapon loading must be from the location where ammunition is normally carried.

B27/B21 type targets or equivalents shall be utilized.

All qualification courses can be used for low light shooting. "Low light" is defined as subdued light with target still identifiable to the shooter. Use of a weapon mounted light during the firing sequence is optional.

The firearms instructor having charge of the range may choose to change the sequence of fire within approved courses. The firearms instructor may also choose to change the firing position (standing, kneeling, prone) or add additional targets for each shooter.

QUALIFICATION COURSE 'A'
(No.26 June 2016)

9455.2.1

A total of 50 rounds will be fired for the qualification course.

Rifles shall begin “patrol ready” (action closed, safety on, loaded magazine inserted into the rifle). All reloading will be done during the sequences unless the firearms instructor directs differently.

50 YARD LINE-- Total 30 Rounds – Timed Sequences

Upon command, fire 5 rounds, slow fire, at the target. 60 seconds will be allowed for this sequence. When finished, engage the safety and cover the target.

Upon command, assume a kneeling position and fire 5 rounds, slow fire, at the target. 60 seconds will be allowed for this sequence. When finished, engage the safety, stand and cover the target.

Upon command, assume a sitting position and fire 5 rounds, slow fire, at the target. 60 seconds will be allowed for this sequence. When finished, engage the safety, stand and cover the target.

Upon command, assume a prone position and fire 5 rounds, slow fire, at the target. 60 seconds will be allowed for this sequence. When finished, engage the safety, stand and cover the target.

Refill the magazine(s) if necessary.

Upon command, fire 5 rounds at the target in 20 seconds. When finished, engage the safety and cover the target.

Upon command, assume a prone position and fire 5 rounds in 20 seconds. When finished, engage the safety, conduct a tactical reload with a fully loaded magazine and cover the target.

100 YARD LINE-- Total 20 Rounds – Timed Sequences

Upon command, assume a prone position and fire 10 rounds, slow fire, at the target. 90 seconds will be allowed for this sequence. When finished, engage the safety, stand and cover the target.

Upon command, assume a prone position and fire 10 rounds in 40 seconds. When finished, engage the safety, remove the magazine, eject the round from the chamber, and close the bolt on an empty chamber.

QUALIFICATION COURSE 'B'
(No.26 June 2016)

9455.2.2

A total of 50 rounds will be fired for the qualification course.

Rifles shall begin “patrol ready” (action closed, safety on, loaded magazine inserted into the rifle). All reloading will be done during the sequences unless the firearms instructor directs differently.

10 YARD LINE -- Total 10 Rounds – 15 Seconds

Upon command, fire 5 rounds at the target. When completed, engage the safety and assume a kneeling position, then fire 5 more rounds at the target. When finished, engage the safety, stand and cover the target.

15 YARD LINE -- Total 10 Rounds – 20 Seconds

Upon command, assume a prone position and fire 10 rounds at the target. When finished, engage the safety, stand, and cover the target.

25 YARD LINE -- Total 20 Rounds – Timed Sequences

Upon command, fire 5 rounds at the target, engage the safety, kneel and fire 5 rounds. Total time allowed is 30 seconds for this sequence. Engage safety, conduct a tactical reload, stand and cover the target.

Upon command, assume a kneeling position and fire 5 rounds at the target. Engage the safety, move to a prone position and fire 5 more rounds at the target. Total time allowed is 40 seconds for this sequence. When finished, engage the safety, stand, and cover the target.

50 YARD LINE -- Total 10 Rounds – 40 Seconds

Upon command, fire 5 rounds at the target. Engage the safety, move to a kneeling position and fire 5 more rounds at the target. When finished, engage the safety, stand and cover the target.

Prior to leaving the 50-yard line, remove the magazine, eject the round from the chamber and close the bolt on an empty chamber.

QUALIFICATION COURSE 'C'

9455.2.3

(No.26 June 2016)

A total of 50 rounds will be fired for the qualification course.

Rifles shall begin “patrol ready” (action closed, safety on, loaded magazine inserted into the rifle). All reloading will be done during the sequences unless the firearms instructor directs differently.

50 YARD LINE -- Total 20 Rounds – Timed Sequence

Upon command, fire 5 rounds at the target, engage the safety, and assume a kneeling barricade position. Fire 5 more rounds, engage the safety, stand, and cover the target. Total time allowed will be 40 seconds for this sequence.

Upon command, advance toward the targets. On command, kneel, fire 2 rounds at the target, engage the safety, stand, and cover the target. Repeat the procedure 4 more times (total of 5) while advancing toward the targets.

25 YARD LINE -- Total 20 Rounds – Timed Sequence

Upon command, fire 5 rounds, engage the safety, assume a kneeling position and fire 5 more rounds. Total time allowed is 30 seconds for this sequence. When finished, engage the safety, stand and cover the target.

Upon command, advance toward the targets. On command, fire 2 rounds at the target, engage the safety and continue walking. Repeat the procedure while advancing toward the targets. When empty, reload, engage the safety and cover the target.

10 YARD LINE -- Total 10 Rounds – Timed Sequence

On command, fire 5 rounds, engage the safety, assume a kneeling position and fire 5 more rounds. Total time allowed is 15 seconds for this sequence. When completed, engage the safety, stand and cover the target.

On command remove the magazine, remove the chambered round and close the bolt on an empty chamber.

QUALIFICATION COURSE 'D'
(No.26 June 2016)

9455.2.4

A total of 30 rounds will be fired for the qualification course.

Rifles shall begin “patrol ready” (action closed, safety on, loaded magazine inserted into the rifle). All reloading will be done during the sequences unless the firearms instructor directs differently.

10 YARD LINE -- Total 10 Rounds – 30 Seconds

Upon command, fire 5 rounds at the target, engage the safety and assume a kneeling position, then fire 5 more rounds at the target. When finished, engage the safety, assume a standing position and cover the target.

15 YARD LINE -- Total 10 Rounds – 60 Seconds

Upon command, fire 10 rounds at the target. When finished, engage the safety, and cover the target.

25 YARD LINE -- Total 10 Rounds – 60 Seconds

Upon command, fire 10 rounds at the target. When finished, engage the safety and cover the target.

On command remove the magazine, remove the chambered round and close the bolt on an empty chamber.

SCORING

9455.2.5

(No.26 June 2016)

All scoring shall be done at the completion of the qualification course at the command of the firearms instructor, once the instructor has confirmed all weapons have been safely secured.

A hit is defined as anything in the scoring area of the target. Officers shall achieve a total score of 80% to qualify, based on the number of hits out of the total number of rounds fired.

FAILURE TO QUALIFY DURING QUALIFICATIONS

9455.3

(No.26 June 2016)

Officers who have failed the weapons qualification course will not carry the tactical patrol rifle with which they have failed, other than for retraining purposes, until they have re-qualified.

The firearms instructor will give written notice to all officers that fail the qualification course. Officers shall provide a copy of the written notice to their respective supervisor, notifying them of their inability to carry the rifle, other than for retraining purposes, until they have re-qualified.

FAILURE TO MAINTAIN QUALIFICATIONS

9455.3.1

(No.26 June 2016)

Officers who fail to maintain qualifications during a qualification period will be notified in writing by their Unit or Staff Chief. Officers at the rank of Unit or Staff Chief and above who fail to qualify, will be notified in writing by their immediate supervisor. The officer will not carry their weapon, other than for retraining purposes, until they have qualified (See Failure to Maintain Qualifications Memo). Copies of the notice will be provided to the Unit Fire Prevention Bureau Chief, Region Law Enforcement Coordinator or Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement, depending on the officer's assigned location.

Unit and Staff Chiefs are responsible for ensuring that all peace officers assigned to their Unit/Program maintain qualifications. Region Chiefs and Deputy Directors are responsible for ensuring all peace officers at and above the rank of Unit or Staff Chief, assigned to their Regions/Programs, maintain qualifications. Failure to maintain qualifications will result in appropriate administrative action being taken against the officer.

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[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)