

POST PERISHABLE SKILLS PROGRAM (PSP)
RED DOT PISTOL TRANSITION / TACTICAL FIREARMS COURSE
Folsom Police Department (5990)
CCN:32067 | POST Certification II | Reimbursement Plan N/A | 10 hours
Rev. 7-16-2025

COURSE GOAL:

The purpose of this course is to provide Law Enforcement Officers with the knowledge and capabilities to understand and deploy micro red dot optic systems on handguns. This course will assist the officer to develop the necessary tactical knowledge, awareness, and skills to safely and effectively utilize the micro red dot sight (MRDS) and all of its capabilities.

The course includes updates to PC835a and will provide the trainee with the minimum topics of tactical firearms and lethal force required in the POST Perishable Skills Training Program (PSP).

The course consists of hands-on/practical skills firearms training for in-service officers.

TACTICAL FIREARMS:

Minimum Topics/Exercises:

- a. Safety Policy/Orientation
- b. Moral Obligations
- c. Use of Force considerations
- d. Department Policy and/or Legal Standards
- e. Optic Zeroing, Sight Picture/Alignment, Trigger Control, Accuracy
- f. Target Recognition and Analysis
- g. Weapons Clearing/Manipulations
- h. Live Fire Tactical
- i. Basic Tactical Firearms Situations, Judgment and Decision-Making Exercise(s)
- j. Class Exercises/Student Evaluation/Testing

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The trainee will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the Folsom Police Department Use of Force and Firearms Policy.
2. Identify the tactical analysis key points related law enforcement killed in the line of duty as a result of the use of firearms.
3. Safely and effectively use pistol mounted MRDS's in the course of their duties.
4. Demonstrate a minimum standard of tactical handgun proficiency with every technique, exercise, and course-of-fire, to include:
 - a. Judgment and Decision Making
 - b. Firearms Safety/Nomenclature/Maintenance
 - c. Fundamentals of Marksmanship

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- d. Safe Drawing and Presenting Firearms
- e. Threat Assessment/Identification
- f. Speed, Accuracy and Effectiveness; Under Stress, From Cover, Movement
- g. Zeroing of MRDS – in exercise(s)
- h. Shot Placement: Combat Effectiveness
- i. Capabilities and limits of the MRDS
- j. Understanding Parallax of the MRDS – in exercise(s)
- k. Malfunctions Clearing with MRDS – in exercise(s)
- l. Loading/Reloading – in exercise(s)
- m. MRDS Optic Failure – in exercise(s)
- n. Low Light Shooting/Flashlight Manipulation with MRDS

Minimum standards of performance shall be tested by an instructor observing the trainee during their performance of each technique and exercise. If the trainee does not meet minimum standards, remediation will be provided until the standard is met.

EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE
(10 Hours)

- I. INTRODUCTION/ORIENTATION (a)
- A. Introduction, Registration and Orientation
 - 1. Instructor/Student Introductions
 - 2. Registration/Rosters
 - B. Course Objectives/Overview, Exercises, Evaluation/Testing
 - 1. Overview of course objectives
 - a. Judgment and Decision Making
 - b. Firearms Safety
 - c. Fundamentals of Marksmanship
 - d. Safe Drawing and Presenting Firearms
 - e. Threat Assessment/Identification
 - f. Speed, Accuracy and Effectiveness under stress and movement conditions
 - g. Shot Placement: Combat Effectiveness
 - h. Optic Failure
 - i. Malfunctions Clearing
 - j. Loading/Reloading
 - k. Low/Light Shooting/Flashlight Manipulation
 - 2. Overview of exercises/drills
 - 3. Evaluation/testing/remediation procedures
 - C. Weapon Safety Orientation, Review of Range and Shooting Safety Rules (Pre-range weapons unloading procedures and lunch/extended break reload/unload rules)

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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
- D. Range and Tactical Safety
1. Follow range rules
 2. Follow instructor commands
 3. Strict weapon discipline and muzzle control
 4. No “lasering” of personal body parts
 5. Movement and reloading only on double action
- E. Review of Range Safety Rules
1. Cover primary elements as a checklist with students
 2. Local emergency/first aid procedures to include radio/telephone procedures/closest medical facility

II. LETHAL FORCE OVERVIEW

(b, c, d)

- A. Legal Standards/Case Law
1. AB 392
 - a. Changes to Law Enforcement requirements and need to document
 - b. How are the changes reflected in the agency’s Use of Force policy?
 2. Supporting Case Law
 - a. Tennessee vs. Garner
 - i. Deadly Force
 - ii. Fleeing Felon
 - b. Graham vs. Conner
 - i. Objectively Reasonable Force
 - ii. PC 835a
- B. Moral/Ethical Issues involving Use of Force/Lethal Force
1. Moral obligations
 2. Ethical concerns
- C. Civil Implications of using Force/Lethal Force
1. Department liability
 2. Personal liability
- D. Report Writing and Preliminary Investigation Overview
1. Report writing and articulation
 2. What happens during preliminary investigation

III. USE OF FORCE/LETHAL FORCE AND FIREARMS POLICY

(c, d)

- A. Use of Force Options

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1. Lethal force within the spectrum of force options
 2. Verbal, hands, less lethal, lethal force
 3. Escalation and de-escalation process
- B. Department Policy/SB
1. Reasonable cause to believe
 2. Imminent threat
 3. Death or great bodily injury
 4. Fleeing or violent felon specifications
 5. Other policy areas and issues
 6. Shooting at vehicles after violent fleeing specifications

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

- A. Current Reports and Vital Statistics from LEOKA Reports
1. Line of duty deaths
 2. Statistics over time
- B. Conclusive Tactical Analysis
1. Decision making and “OODA LOOP”
 2. De-Escalation and contestant re-evaluation of tactics
 3. Use of cover or concealment no “flat range” mentality
 4. Summary – overview

V. RED DOT PISTOL SIGHT FAMILIARIZATION (Lecture)

- A. Design
1. Electronic sight uses LED to project red dot onto viewing lens
 2. Dot is used to aim independent of sights
- B. Nomenclature
- C. Operator controls
1. On/Off buttons
 2. Brightness setting
 3. Auto/Manual Adjust Toggle
- D. Sight Picture/ Sight Alignment
1. Sight picture and alignment differs from iron sights
 2. Sight picture – Constant target focus
 3. Sight Alignment - Dot centered on target
- E. Addressing Optic Failure
1. Emitter failure
 - a. Battery failure
 - b. Electronic failure
 2. Occluded optic
 - a. Fogged optic
 - b. Debris blockage

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- c. Cracked optic glass
 - 3. Supplemental aiming/reference point considerations
 - a. Rear plate method
 - b. Corner method
 - c. Slide method
- F. Low-Light Considerations
 - 1. Dot brightness setting
 - 2. Use of white light
- G. Maintenance
 - 1. Lens cleaning and care
 - 2. Battery changes and intervals
 - 3. Mounting Screws staking

VI. FUNDAMENTALS OF MARKSMANSHIP

(e, f)

- A. Stance
 - 1. Athletic stance, balanced, ready position
 - 2. Weight shifted slightly forward
 - 3. Head upright, not ducked
 - 4. Torso squared toward target
- B. Grip
 - 1. High firm grip
 - 2. Two hands on firearm
- C. Sight Alignment/Sight Picture
 - 1. Target focused
 - 2. Bring optic to eye level
 - 3. Both eyes open
 - 4. Target Focus v. Front sight focus
 - 5. Train to ignore iron sights
 - 6. Parallax issues
- D. Trigger Control
 - 1. Smooth, continuous pressure straight to the rear
 - 2. Without disturbing sight picture
- E. Follow through
 - 1. Manage recoil
 - 2. Reset the trigger during recoil to the ready position and obtain another sight picture

VII. PISTOL DRAW / THREAT ASSESSMENT / RE-HOLSTER

(f)

- A. Draw
 - 1. Establish high firm grip of firearm while in holster

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2. Defeat retentions
3. Support hand/arm into center line
4. Draw
5. Trigger finger placement along frame, outside of trigger guard
6. Meet both hands for two-handed grip
7. Present pistol for a two-handed grip and establish visual cues for red dot acquisition
8. Pistol pressed out to target
9. Prep trigger

B. Threat Assessment

1. Assess the Threat
2. De-cock to Double Action (if applicable)
3. Tactical Reloading
4. Reassess

C. Holstering

1. ONLY when the tactical solution warrants
2. Reverse of the draw steps
3. Gently place firearm back into holster
4. Secure all holster retention

VIII. DRILLS AND COURSES-OF-FIRE

(a, e, f, g, h, i)

A. Range Orientation and Safety Briefing

1. Conduct second range safety briefing
2. Review command sequence

B. All Courses emphasize:

1. Firearms safety
2. Muzzle and fire discipline
3. Fundamentals of marksmanship
4. Safe Drawing and Presenting Firearms

C. Zeroing of pistol

1. Confirm weapon optic zero: 10-yard start, final 25-yard zero
2. Confirm back-up iron sights zero: 25-yard zero
3. As many times as needed to observe student proficiency

D. Mechanical off-set drill

1. Point of aim impact from 3, 7, 12 then 25 yards
2. Analyze results

E. Presentation drills

1. Present from low ready position
2. Compressed high-ready position
3. Full draw from holster
 - a. Analyze natural point of aim and acquisition of red dot

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- F. One shot draws from holster drill
 - 1. Natural point of aim
 - 2. Threat/Target Focus Sight Picture
 - a. Proper threat focus with both eyes open
 - b. Overlay dot on target with focus on target
- G. Transition Drill
 - 1. Proper technique transition from one threat to another
 - 2. Focus on body positioning
- H. Optic Failure Drill
 - 1. Emitter failure
 - a. Turn optic off, utilizing iron sights
 - 2. Occluded optic
 - a. Tape optic front lens to occlude optic
 - 3. Obstructed optic
 - a. Tape optic rear lens
 - b. Utilize one of three techniques
 - i. Top edge of slide
 - ii. Optic Shroud
 - iii. Pistol backplate
- I. Parallax Demo
 - 1. Perform at 5 and 15-yard lines
 - 2. Analyze parallax at 12, 3, 6 and 9 o'clock
- J. Single hand Shooting drill (Dominant and Support)
 - 1. Threat/Target Focus Sight Picture
 - 2. Focus on proper body positioning
- K. Speed/Emergency Reload
 - 1. Drop magazine as bringing weapon to workspace and grabbing new magazine
 - 2. Properly index the magazine
 - 3. Insert fresh magazine
 - 4. Send slide home either by slide stop or overhand grip
- L. Tactical Reload
 - 1. Handgun to workspace
 - 2. Index a fresh magazine
 - 3. Replace partial magazine with fresh magazine from workspace
 - 4. Retain partial magazine
 - 5. Handgun back on target
 - 6. Utilize cover if possible
- M. Malfunction Drills
 - 1. Failure to Fire
 - a. Failure to fire/eject
 - b. Bring handgun to workspace
 - c. Tap magazine to support hand to ensure fully seated

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- d. Roll to right (for left or right-handed to orient the ejections port to the ground) and rack slide
- 2. Double Feed Drill
- N. Flashlight Shooting Drills
 - 1. Red dot “wash-out” demonstration
 - 2. Muzzle flash demonstration
 - 3. Weapon Mounted
 - a. Use support side thumb to activate light or use grip activated switch
 - b. Deactivate when no longer necessary
 - 4. Handheld Flashlight Tech
 - a. Alternate flashlight shooting techniques
 - b. Safety precautions
 - c. Dry fire practice
 - d. Reloading/flashlight retention
 - e. Handgun presentation with a secondary light

IX. Non-Stationary Shooting Drills

(a, e, f, g, h, i)

- A. Positions
 - 1. Seek support (situational dependent)
 - 2. Wide base
 - 3. Be aware of your ejection port
 - 4. Supported/unsupported position
- B. Shooting from Cover
 - 1. Don't crowd behind cover
 - 2. Solve one problem at a time
 - 3. Muzzle awareness
 - 4. Don't present yourself in the same position
 - 5. Reload behind cover
- C. Movement - Shooting on the move
 - 1. Review safety protocol
 - 2. Conduct a dry run
 - 3. Walk heel to toe, knees bent
 - 4. Shoot only when sights are on target
 - 5. Only move as fast as you can assess, adjust gait as necessary
 - 6. If moving to the rear - toe to heel
- D. Multiple target engagements
 - 1. Students engage their target
 - 2. Students establish a sight picture on second target
 - 3. Drive the gun to second target, hips facing new target

X. TESTING/REMEDIATION

(j)

- A. Qualification

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1. Students will shoot the current version of the department's qualification course at the time of the class
 2. Students will pass when at or above the minimum score
 3. Student's ability to safely handle the weapons and follow range safety rules will be taken into account with qualification.
 4. Unsafe students or students with negligence will fail immediately and will be allowed to remediate at a predetermined time.
- B. Certificates and Evaluations
1. End of course certificates/evaluations
 2. Weapon inspection
 - a. Ensure optics are still mounted securely
 - b. Pre-shift weapon inspection reminders.