

FIREARMS: TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

PURPOSE: To establish policies and procedures to safely train and document the firearms proficiency of Jacksonville Police Department officers.

POLICY: It is the policy of this Department that every full-time, specialized, and auxiliary law enforcement officer will be required to qualify biannually with all firearms carried or used by an officer including issued duty handgun, secondary, off-duty, rifle, shotgun, and specialized weapons. All weapon qualifications will be fired on an approved firing range, under the supervision of a certified Firearms Instructor. At least one (1) yearly duty handgun, shotgun, and rifle training will be a low light or no light course, budget and manpower permitting. The Training Section will ensure that all firearms qualification courses are certified through Minimum Standards and will maintain a record of all approved firearms training in the officers' training file. Officers will be required to wear their body armor at the firing range during training and/or qualification.

PROCEDURES:

- I. QUALIFICATION COURSES - DUTY WEAPONS (6.05)
 - A. Firearms training will be under the direct supervision of a firearms instructor assigned as the Range Officer. The Range Officer will be in command and control of the range and firearms training.
 - B. Qualification courses of fire for handgun, shotgun and rifle will be developed by Department firearms instructors and certified by Minimum Standards.
 - C. If an officer misses a scheduled firearms qualification date, the Training Sergeant will notify the officer's Lieutenant and the qualification will be re-scheduled as soon as possible.
 - D. The minimum firearms qualification score is eighty (80%) percent.
 - E. Firearms training must meet all other requirements promulgated by Arkansas Law Enforcement Officers Training and Standards Commission (3.01)

- II. QUALIFICATION COURSES- OFF-DUTY/SECONDARY/SPECIALIZED WEAPONS (6.05)
 - A. Officers wishing to carry a secondary weapon while on-duty, in conjunction with their Department issued duty weapon, must demonstrate proficiency biannually and provide their own ammunition. The qualification course for secondary weapons will be developed by a Department firearms instructor and certified by Minimum Standards.
 - B. Officers carrying weapons while off-duty, other than the Department issued duty weapon, as an off-duty weapon must demonstrate proficiency biannually and provide their own ammunition. The qualification course for off-duty weapons will be developed by a Department firearms instructor and certified by Minimum Standards.
 - C. Specialized weapons, i.e. rifles, carbines, fully-automatic weapons, shotguns, etc., other than service weapons will be authorized only for those employees who are qualified with and whose assignments require such weapons. Personnel authorized to be equipped with such specialized weapons will receive documented training and proficiency prior to carrying these weapons. If an officer fails to qualify he may not carry the weapon.
 - D. The minimum firearms qualification score is eighty (80%) percent.

III. TRAINING

- A. Prior to being authorized to carry lethal and less lethal weapons, each officer will be issued and instructed in the Response to Resistance policies.
- B. Only those employees demonstrating proficiency in the use of Department authorized weapons will be approved to carry such weapons.
- C. All proficiency training must be monitored by a certified weapons or tactics instructor. All training and proficiency must be documented.
- D. Annually, all personnel authorized to carry weapons will receive in-service training on Response to Resistance policies. In-service training for less lethal and weaponless control techniques shall occur annually.
- E. Firearms qualifications will be conducted biannually for all firearms carried and utilized by the officer, including handguns, shotguns, rifles, specialized weapons, off-duty, and backup weapons. Firearms training must meet all other requirements promulgated by Arkansas Law Enforcement Officers Training and Standards Commission (3.01)
- F. Proficiency with primary duty weapons and secondary backup weapons will be documented on the Firearms Qualification Form (JPD Form 8-2).
- G. Tactical Rifle Qualifications: There will be three (3) courses offered:
 - 1. Basic Tactical Rifle Course: The basic course is for new hires and mandatory biannual qualification. This eight to ten (8-10) hour course consists of some classroom, but consists of predominately range instruction and meets the minimum CLEST requirements.
 - 2. Intermediate Tactical Rifle Course: This course is a follow up course to the basic patrol rifle course. Officers attending this course should have already completed a recognized basic patrol rifle school. Officers should have a rifle that is zeroed and reliable. This course will emphasize intermediate range shooting, moving targets and tactical movement and search techniques. This is the next phase of the tactical rifle familiarization. This eight to ten (8-10) hour course is a physically demanding course to simulate tactical rifle deployment in the field under stressful conditions.
 - 3. Advanced Tactical Rifle Course: This course is designed to provide advanced tactical training to enhance an officer's performance when deploying a patrol rifle. Training will include classroom instruction on use of force, lethal force, and threat assessment. Intensive range training with live fire and incorporated tactical response scenarios will further enhance the officer's skills. Topics of instruction include shooting on the move, natural and unorthodox shooting positions, individual and team live fire exercises, high speed shooting drills, multiple threat assessment and engaging, strong and support side shooting, clearing malfunctions, shooting from cover and vehicles, and low light operations. This sixteen (16) hour course is a physically demanding course to simulate tactical rifle deployment in the field under stressful conditions. For enhanced range safety the class will be limited to six (6) students per course with a minimum of one (1) certified firearms instructor and one (1) range safety officer.

IV. FAILURE TO QUALIFY

- A. Qualification [minimum score of eighty (80%) percent] with the issued service weapon is a major condition of continuing employment as a police officer for the City of Jacksonville.
- B. An officer who fails to qualify during qualifications shall be referred for immediate remedial training by a certified Firearms Instructor.
- C. The officer shall remain in remedial training until such time as the officer qualifies or the Department Training Officer (DTO) determines remedial training will be futile. The DTO