

Basic Training Module Specifications

<u>Functional Area</u>	IV. Police Skills
<u>Subject Area:</u>	B. Firearms
<u>Module Title:</u>	4. PATROL RIFLE
<u>Hours:</u>	Not less than 12 hours

Notes to Instructor:

MCOLES designed this material to be taught by an instructor with expertise in patrol rifle or long rifle training. Completion of a firearms instructor course in this content area, or similar course, is recommended.

MCOLES intends for these training objectives to be taught at the introductory level for basic recruit training. In other words, the objectives are essentially an introduction to patrol rifle competencies. It should be emphasized that the objectives do not fulfill any statewide patrol rifle “certification” requirements. Accordingly, it is expected that local law enforcement agencies will provide the necessary and relevant in-service training in this topic to their officers depending on individual needs, organizational policies and procedures, and equipment.

Module Objectives start on the next page:

IV.B.4.1 Participate in a Classroom Facilitated Discussion of a Critical Situation that Includes the Decision to Use the Patrol Rifle.

- a. Using a table-top scenario (see session I of the Facilitator Guide), actively participates in a facilitated discussion of a reality-based critical situation, by discussing:
 - (1) the nature of the problem;
 - (2) the skills or knowledge necessary to handle the situation;
 - (3) various possible responses to the situation; and
 - (4) how effective the selected responses are in handling the situation.

Notes to Instructor:

The purpose of the facilitated discussion is to give the students an opportunity to evaluate a real-life incident using critical thinking skills. The class discussion is not meant to be a substitute for practical exercises on the range. Instead, instructors, as facilitators, are urged to use class discussion to enhance the participants' critical thinking and decision-making competencies.

Placing this objective as the first training objective in the patrol rifle module is intentional. Understandably, the students will not have had specific training in patrol rifle, but they will still be able to make contributions to the discussion. Note sub-objective (2) above. Through brainstorming, elicit from the students what skills will be needed to handle a situation that calls for the use of a patrol rifle. The scenario provides context for the subsequent training objectives and "sets the stage" for the continued learning.

A relevant video may be used as a substitute for the table-top scenario; however, instructors must ensure that a meaningful discussion takes place in the classroom.

[See Facilitator Guide]

IV.B.4.2 Identify Common Characteristics of Patrol Rifles.

- a. Defines patrol rifle, or carbine, as used by many law enforcement agencies, as a weapon with the following common characteristics:
 - (1) semi-automatic;
 - (2) magazine-fed (usually external);
 - (3) gas operated;
 - (4) intermediate power;
 - (5) .223 or .30 caliber (on average);
 - (6) 18-to-24-inch barrel length (on average).

- b. Identifies the common types of rifles:
 - (1) semi-automatic;
 - (2) bolt action, where the shooter manually chambers a round;
 - (3) pump action, where a hand-grip pump chambers a round;
 - (4) lever operated, where a lever located under the trigger guard chambers a round;
 - (5) selective fire, including the ability to shoot auto and semi-auto;
 - (6) pistol caliber v. rifle caliber.

- c. Recognizes the common models of semi-automatic rifles used by law enforcement agencies, including:
 - (1) Colt AR-15;
 - (2) Remington .223;
 - (3) Ruger Mini-14 .223;
 - (4) Heckler-Koch G36; and
 - (5) other common types of patrol rifles.

- d. Identifies the major components of a typical patrol rifle and the functions of each:
 - (1) barrel, as the metal, cylindrical part of the firearm through which the bullet travels;
 - (2) butt, as the larger end of the rifle that enables placement against the shoulder when shooting;
 - (3) chamber, as the enclosed space at the bore of the rifle that holds the round;
 - (4) charging handle, as the device that withdraws the bolt to chamber a round;
 - (5) extractor, as the mechanism that pulls spent round from the chamber;
 - (6) ejector, as the mechanism that causes an empty shell or live round to be expelled from the rifle;
 - (7) magazine, as the device that holds the live rounds;
 - (8) safety, as the device that prevents the rifle from firing;
 - (9) sights, as the devices used to aim the rifle (front and rear);
 - (10) trigger, as a lever, when pulled manually by the finger, will fire the weapon; and
 - (11) trigger guard, as the part of the rifle that protects the trigger.

IV.B.4.2 Identify Common Characteristics of Patrol Rifles (continued).

- e. Describes the basic operations of the patrol rifle, including:
 - (1) administrative loading/unloading;
 - (2) emergency reloading;
 - (3) tactical reloading;
 - (4) adjusting sights; and
 - (5) use of sling.

IV.B.4.3 Determine When to Deploy the Patrol Rifle.

- a. Lists the potential advantages of using a patrol rifle on the scene, including:
 - (1) extended range;
 - (2) faster reloading capability;
 - (3) greater long-range accuracy;
 - (4) increased stability;
 - (5) mild recoil and ease of operation;
 - (6) increased penetration (into body armor, e.g.); and
 - (7) the potential for reduced liability (one round v. buckshot, e.g.).
- b. Lists the potential disadvantages of using a patrol rifle on the scene, including:
 - (1) longer ballistic range in close quarters;
 - (2) potential increased danger to bystanders;
 - (3) additional training needed;
 - (4) departmental expense and logistics; and
 - (5) inability to deliver special munitions (non-lethal, e.g.).
- c. Evaluates the use of the patrol rifle in certain critical situations, including:
 - (1) hostage incidents;
 - (2) extended perimeters;
 - (3) sniper incidents;
 - (4) armed encounters;
 - (5) calls involving weapons; and
 - (6) other critical incidents.
- d. Recognizes how local agency policies and procedures or departmental standard operating procedures affect the decision to deploy a patrol rifle by a responding officer.

IV.B.4.4 Demonstrate an Understanding of the Fundamentals of Marksmanship.

- a. Defines the fundamentals of marksmanship as:
 - (1) sight alignment, as the relationship of the front and rear sights, where the shooter looks through the notch of the rear sight and centers the front sight into the notch by using a proper stock/cheek weld;
 - (2) sight picture, as the connection among the rear sight, front sight, and the target, where the shooter focuses the sights on the target using the dominant eye;
 - (3) trigger control, as the steadily pulling the trigger without disturbing the perceived aim;
 - (4) breath control, as preventing the rifle from moving up and down by breathing normally during shooting, including using a normal respiratory pause;
 - (5) follow-through, as maintaining the sight picture momentarily even after the round has been fired to ensure that there is no undue movement; and
 - (6) concentration, as paying special attention to the fundamentals of marksmanship, particularly during shootings in real-life situations.

- b. Demonstrates the common shooting positions when firing the patrol rifle, by assuming a:
 - (1) standing position, by
 - (a) placing feet shoulder width apart in an upright position;
 - (b) placing the stock high against the shoulder;
 - (c) holding the support hand under the stock (fore-end);
 - (d) properly aiming the weapon from the position;
 - (2) high-kneeling position, by
 - (a) dropping the dominate knee to the ground;
 - (b) extending the weak leg toward the target;
 - (c) shouldering the weapon;
 - (d) keeping the back straight; and
 - (e) properly aiming the weapon from the position;
 - (3) prone position, by
 - (a) lowering the strong elbow onto the ground so shoulders are level;
 - (b) positioning the rifle to attain proper sight alignment;
 - (c) placing the ankles flat on the ground with legs spread; and
 - (d) bending the strong-side leg slightly; and
 - (e) keeping the body positioned behind the rifle; and
 - (4) barricade position, by
 - (a) stepping behind a barricade to make a smaller target; and
 - (b) not letting the rifle touch the surface of the barricade.

- c. Considers that sight alignment, trigger control, and breath control must be maintained while shooting in various positions and that the selection of the position will be determined by the facts of each individual situation.

IV.B.4.4 Demonstrate an Understanding of the Fundamentals of Marksmanship (continued).

- d. Considers that marksmanship is a “perishable” skill and may degrade over time unless practiced and honed.

IV.B.4.5 Demonstrate an Understanding of the Operations of the Patrol Rifle.

- a. Prepares for firing by loading the patrol rifle or carbine:
 - (1) grips the rifle properly and safely, pointing the muzzle in a safe direction;
 - (2) places the safety in the “on” or “safe” position;
 - (3) inserts a loaded magazine into the magazine well (projectile toward barrel);
 - (4) cycles the bolt to feed a round into the chamber;
 - (5) places the safety in the “off” position; and
 - (6) assumes a ready position.
- b. Unloads the patrol rifle or carbine:
 - (1) points muzzle in safe direction;
 - (2) places safety in the “on” or “safe” position;
 - (3) activates the magazine release button;
 - (4) ejects the magazine;
 - (5) cycles or withdraws the bolt fully to the rear;
 - (6) locks bolt to rear; and
 - (7) inspects the chamber visually to ensure it is clear of all ammunition.
- c. Explains that combat loading includes:
 - (1) releasing the empty magazine;
 - (2) inserting a fully loaded magazine;
 - (3) cycling the bolt; and
 - (4) continuing to fire under stressful conditions, if necessary.
- d. Explains that tactical loading includes:
 - (1) releasing a partially loaded magazine;
 - (2) inserting a fully loaded magazine;
 - (3) continuing to fire, if necessary; and
 - (4) retaining the partially expended magazine.

IV.B.4.5 Demonstrate an Understanding of the Operations of the Patrol Rifle (continued).

- e. Performs a safety or function check of the patrol rifle, by:
 - (1) pointing the rifle in a safe direction;
 - (2) unloading rifle and visually and physically checking the chamber;
 - (3) pulling the charging handle to rear and releasing;
 - (4) pulling the trigger while on safe (nothing should happen);
 - (5) pulling the trigger while safe is off (click should be heard);
 - (6) holding trigger to rear, pulling and releasing handle (click should be heard);
and
 - (7) releasing and pulling trigger (click should be heard).

- f. Explains sight adjustment, which includes:
 - (1) adjusting the rear sights of the rifle;
 - (2) ensuring proper elevation and windage;
 - (3) placing shots accurately in the center of the target from a known distance.

- g. Clears malfunctions by initiating common techniques;
 - (1) fail to feed – tap magazine, rack action, and continue;
 - (2) fail to fire – tap magazine, rack action, and continue;
 - (3) fail to eject – take magazine out, cycle bolt, visually check chamber, continue;
 - (4) fail to extract – remove magazine, cycle bolt, load chamber, continue; and
 - (5) makes a transition to handgun if unable to clear malfunction in a timely manner.

Notes to Instructor:

For sub-objective (f), the students are not required to *zero* or *sight* the rifle. However, the students should understand the concept and be prepared to follow the procedures of their individual agencies, per departmental policies and procedures.

IV.B.4.6 Demonstrate a Working Knowledge of Rifle Ammunition.

- a. Identifies the types and functions of various ammunition:
 - (1) describes the components of a round as:
 - (a) projectile or bullet;
 - (b) case or casing
 - (c) primer;
 - (d) rim; and
 - (e) powder charge;
 - (2) describes the size of ammunition as its caliber, as measured in inches (e.g., .223) or millimeters (e.g., 5.56);
 - (3) describes the types of rounds as:
 - (a) jacketed lead, composed of a solid lead bullet with a rounded nose;
 - (b) full metal jacket, which includes a fully encased bullet producing increased muzzle velocity;
 - (c) soft point, consisting of exposed soft lead with slower expansion capabilities on impact; and
 - (d) hollow point, meant to expand when entering the target;
 - (4) describes terminology related to external and terminal ballistics:
 - (a) range, as the total distance a round can travel;
 - (b) drop, as gravity causing the projectile to dip below the line of sight;
 - (c) terminal effects, as what happens when the round hits the intended target;
 - (d) muzzle velocity, as the speed of a bullet exiting the muzzle, as measured in feet-per-second;
 - (e) line of sight, as a conceptual line from the eye through the sights to the target; and
 - (f) line of trajectory, as the slightly curved path of a projectile in flight; and
 - (5) considers that some patrol rifle ammunition has the capability of piercing protective body armor.

IV.B.4.7 Employs Sound Tactics When Responding to Critical Situations.

- a. Evaluates when to use the patrol rifle by considering:
 - (1) officer safety and the safety of others;
 - (2) the totality of circumstances;
 - (3) whether the use of deadly force may be justified;
 - (4) the nature and seriousness of the situation;
 - (5) the presence of bystanders or innocent onlookers;
 - (6) whether their actions will be considered objectively reasonable;
 - (7) the ability to place an effective shot; and
 - (8) the backdrop, including low-light conditions.

IV.B.4.7 Employs Sound Tactics When Responding to Critical Situations.

- b. Recognizes the importance of cover and concealment when responding to a dangerous firearms situation:
 - (1) concealment, which refers to not being seen by a suspect, but offers little physical protection in a shooting; concealment may include:
 - (a) bushes;
 - (b) brush;
 - (c) small trees; and
 - (d) shadows;
 - (2) cover, which pertains to physical protection from hostile fire and may include:
 - (a) vehicles;
 - (b) cement curbs;
 - (c) patrol vehicles;
 - (d) concrete utility poles; and
 - (e) various barricades;
 - (3) low profile, used when cover and concealment are not available; and
 - (4) tactical retreat from the situation, when appropriate.
- c. Demonstrates the importance of being able to change cover or concealment while armed with a patrol rifle, and being able to reload under fire, depending on the rapidly changing nature of the circumstances.

Notes to Instructor:

Officer safety is an essential component of any law enforcement training session. What may be missing from skills training, however, is the idea that making proper officer safety decisions can also slow a rapidly evolving situation into a time frame that allows for improved decision making. For instance, appropriate positioning on a felony traffic stop not only provides a level of officer safety, it also slows the situation itself to a manageable level and causes things to happen one step at a time. By performing as trained, the officers can greatly improve their ability to read the intentions of the suspects. Remember, the idea is to emphasize what officers can do *before* they encounter a suspect by performing as trained. Students must be made aware of this concept.

IV.B.4.8 Secure a Rifle at a Scene.

- a. Requests assistance from a knowledgeable officer when securing an unfamiliar rifle.
- b. Makes visual assessment of the rifle to be secured:
 - (1) inspects for mechanical safety device; and
 - (2) pays attention to live, empty, and fired rounds.

IV.B.4.8 Secure a Rifle at a Scene (continued).

- c. Takes physical control of a rifle with due regard for its potential as evidence:
 - (1) points rifle in safe direction;
 - (2) places the safety in the “on” position;
 - (3) activates the magazine release;
 - (4) ejects the magazine;
 - (5) cycles the bolt to the rear; and
 - (6) inspects chamber visually and physically.
- d. Removes ammunition and again inspects the chamber visually and physically.
- e. Secures the rifle physically (e.g., locked containers).

IV.B.4.9 Satisfactorily Completes the MCOLES Patrol Rifle Course of Fire that Meets or Exceeds an Established Standard.

- a. Passes the MCOLES patrol rifle proficiency course that includes:
 - (1) three shooting positions, including:
 - (a) standing;
 - (b) kneeling; and
 - (c) prone;
 - (2) fixed distances of 25 yards, 15 yards, and 5 yards;
 - (3) a discussion of movement during target engagement;
 - (4) precision shooting, used when:
 - (a) the suspect is not in close proximity;
 - (b) there is little stress to shoot;
 - (c) time is not a factor; and
 - (d) no active engagement is involved;
 - (5) reactive shooting, used when:
 - (a) the suspect is in close proximity;
 - (b) the suspect is actively engaging the officer;
 - (c) high stress levels are present; and
 - (d) quick, but appropriate, decision-making is necessary.
- b. Demonstrates compliance with general range safety rules:
 - (1) obeys all commands immediately;
 - (2) points the rifle down range when loading or unloading;
 - (3) observes “cease fire” command;
 - (4) handles rifle on the range only at the direction of the instructor;
 - (5) secures firearm properly before scoring the target; and
 - (6) places finger in the trigger guard only when intending to pull the trigger.

Module History

Reviewed 12/22