

CHAPTER 7
TACTICAL RIFLE
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CHAPTER 7

TACTICAL RIFLE

1. POLICY.

a. Purpose of the Rifle. The tactical rifle is provided as a supplemental firearm to the pistol. It may be utilized at all distances, ranging from close quarters to 300-plus yards. Deployment of the rifle should be based on the following factors:

(1) Immediacy of the Threat. The employee deploys whichever firearm is immediately available to them at the moment of the encounter.

(2) High-Risk Encounters. In a high-risk situation, the employee is encouraged to use sound judgment in deploying the appropriate weapon, taking into consideration their abilities, the weapon's capabilities, and the circumstances surrounding the situation.

(3) Individual Capabilities. The employee, knowing their individual capabilities with each weapon, will deploy the one with which they have the greatest accuracy and confidence.

b. Additional Rifles. Commanders who identify the need for additional rifles may request approval for additional rifles from the appropriate Commissioner. Once approval has been obtained, additional rifles will be issued pending rifle availability.

2. USE OF THE TACTICAL RIFLE.

a. General. Tactical rifles shall be fired only in accordance with departmental policy as outlined in Highway Patrol Manual 70.6, Officer Safety Manual, Chapter 1, Use of Force.

b. Type of Firearm and Equipment. Only rifles, optics, ammunition, and magazines which have been provided by the Department are authorized for use by employees unless the temporary conditions for carrying the special purpose firearms exist as outlined in Chapter 1, Firearms Classification and Registration, of this manual.

3. COMMANDERS' RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. Security. Commanders shall ensure compliance with the security of the tactical rifle and optic. Optics may only be removed from rifles by a departmental range officer during inspections or during the course of their range officer duties.

(2) On Duty. When in the patrol vehicle, the rifle shall be secured in the vehicle's Lektro-Lok. Whenever the patrol vehicle is unattended and/or not under the immediate observation of the employee, the patrol vehicle shall be locked with the rifle in the Lektro-Lok.

(4) Special Assignments. Officers assigned to special enforcement units shall follow the same procedures as officers assigned to Resident Posts.

b. Supervision. Commanders shall designate a supervisor to ensure completion of the following:

(1) Required training sessions and qualifications.

(2) Quarterly inventory, inspection, and cleaning of all tactical rifles. All routine maintenance and operational checks, other than those described in paragraph 4.a. of this chapter, shall be accomplished in a manner and place specified by the commander.

(3) Quarterly rotation of ammunition.

(a) Ammunition in the magazines shall be replaced at the time of the quarterly inspection and cleaning.

(b) The ammunition removed is to be used during training shoots.

(4) Proper accounting of ammunition use and accurate documentation on the CHP 416, Record of Shoots, (refer to Chapter 3, Shooting Qualification and Training, Annex A, of this manual) and CHP 269, Record of Ammunition, (refer to Chapter 3, Annex B, of this manual).

(5) Rifles not assigned to patrol vehicles shall be stored in a secure area as outlined in paragraph 3.a. of this chapter.

(6) Facility Safety.

(a) Clearing Tube. All loading and unloading, other than at a tactical incident or at a range, shall be done at a clearing tube.

(b) Nonuniformed Training. Automotive technicians should be trained in the safe handling and clearing of the rifle.

4. OPERATING PROCEDURES.

a. Prior to beginning patrol, all personnel to whom tactical rifles are issued or assigned shall perform the following pre-patrol safety check.

(1) Safety. Ensure the safety is ON.

(2) Magazine. Remove the magazine from the rifle.

(3) Chamber. Check the rifle chamber. If the rifle is found to be loaded, the employee shall immediately proceed to the clearing tube and safely remove the round from the chamber.

(4) Condition. Inspect the condition of the rifle. If the rifle is dirty, corroded, or defective, report the condition to a range officer. The range officer shall take

the rifle out of service and take the necessary steps to have the discrepancies corrected.

(5) Function. Once the rifle has been cleared of all ammunition, check its operation.

(6) Magazines and Ammunition. Check each magazine to determine if it is loaded to capacity and that the rounds are in good condition.

(7) Check that the optic is tightly mounted to the rifle. Ensure the optic window is clean and the reticle is visible. Set the optic to the desired setting.

b. Carrying Requirements. While on duty, the rifle shall be carried with the safety ON, the bolt closed on an empty chamber, and a fully loaded magazine seated in the magazine well.

(1) All magazines assigned to the rifle shall be fully loaded. If the rifle has a buttstock pouch, the magazines shall be properly placed within the pouch.

(2) If it becomes necessary to load a round into the chamber, the employee, at the termination of the situation, shall do the following: with the safety ON, remove the magazine, unload the chambered round, and reload the magazine before returning the rifle to the vehicle. Special attention shall be taken to ensure nothing enters the trigger guard area and the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction.

c. Muzzle. No device shall be placed over or attached to the muzzle of the rifle.

5. MALFUNCTION CLEARING PROCEDURES.

a. If a malfunction occurs while in a combat shooting or in training, the following procedures may be used (acronyms: SPORTS/LR8):

(1) **S**lap the bottom of the magazine to ensure it is seated properly.

(2) **P**ull the charging handle to the rear.

(3) **O**bserve that the chamber is clear. If a double feed or failure to extract has occurred, follow the guidelines referred to in paragraph 5.b.(1) of this chapter.

(4) **R**elease the charging handle.

(5) **T**ap the forward assist.

(6) **Shoot** the rifle if necessary.

(7) If the rifle continues to malfunction, transition to another weapon.

b. Double Feed/Failure to Extract. This occurs when two rounds, or a round and a casing, are simultaneously in the chamber. Use the following method to clear the malfunction:

(1) **Lock** the bolt to the rear by pulling the charging handle and depressing the bolt catch/bolt release lever. Return the charging handle to the closed position.

(2) **Remove** the magazine from the magazine well.

(3) Visually inspect the chamber. **Remove** any obstructions observed through the ejection port and allow them to fall free. It may be necessary to physically remove obstructions through the magazine well.

(4) **Rack, Rack, and Rack** using the charging handle to allow the extractor to remove any casing within the chamber.

(5) **Reinsert** a partial or fully loaded magazine.

(6) **Rack** the rifle by pulling the charging handle rearward and releasing it, allowing the bolt to chamber a round. Tap forward assist if necessary.

(7) **Reassess** the scene.

(8) If the rifle continues to malfunction, transition to another weapon.

6. CARE OF THE RIFLE.

a. Inspection. Tactical rifles that are routinely fielded or used for live-fire training shall be inspected and cleaned with a departmentally approved cleaner/lubricant quarterly. One of these inspections is required to be a full tear-down that will include test-firing with ten rounds of departmental ammunition. The other three inspections will require the firearm to be "field stripped" and checked for obvious defects and cleanliness. Care and maintenance of the rifle will, as needed, be adjusted to the variety of conditions encountered. Commands experiencing unusual climatic conditions such as salt in the air or a high concentration of dust or sand may find it necessary to make more frequent inspections and cleanings.

b. Magazines. In conjunction with the quarterly cleaning and inspection of the tactical rifle, an Area range officer shall disassemble and clean each rifle magazine. Additionally, the sling and magazine pouch should be inspected at this time. If any

of these items are found to be defective, the Academy, Weapons Control Unit, should be contacted for a replacement.

c. Optic. The optic shall be inspected during quarterly field strips and during the annual full tear down inspection. The optic must be tightly secured to the rifle. The optic window and lens must be checked for defects or cracks, and cleanliness. Check battery life by ensuring the reticle is visible on all applicable brightness settings. During the annual inspection, the battery shall be changed. After the optic is inspected, zero must be confirmed. If an optic is found to be defective or requires repair, the Academy, Weapons Control Unit, shall be contacted for repair or replacement information.

7. DEPARTMENTAL RIFLE QUALIFICATION.

a. Requirements.

(1) Uniformed personnel at the rank of captain and below shall train with the departmental rifle on a quarterly basis and complete an annual qualification. A minimum of 40 rounds, but not more than 60 rounds, shall be fired during quarterly shoots. Missed quarterly shoots may be satisfied by completing a make-up shoot. The annual qualification course will be conducted during daylight hours using the Task Oriented Qualification Course (TOQC)–Rifle Course. At least one shoot should be conducted during the hours of darkness and at least one shoot shall incorporate a component of tactically moving while firing.

(2) Personnel at the rank of Assistant Chief and above are encouraged to shoot the rifle quarterly, and, at a minimum, shall shoot the rifle at least once annually to demonstrate proficiency.

b. Task Oriented Qualification Course–Rifle. The target used will be the CHP 241, Target, Combat Silhouette (refer to Chapter 3, Annex C, of this manual). A CHP 243R, Task Oriented Qualification Course–Rifle (refer to Chapter 3, Annex F, of this manual) shall be used for all rifle qualifications. The qualification score achieved with the departmental rifle shall be entered into the Employees Training Record System. The completed forms shall be filed in the employee's training folder and retained for the current year plus two.

(1) A minimum of 20 rounds of current duty ammunition and one magazine are needed to complete the course of fire.

(2) Each task in this course is individually graded and must be successfully completed to receive a passing score. Shooters who fail to meet the standards

in any single task may reshoot that individual task without having to reshoot the entire course.

- (3) Some form of vertical cover, if available, may be used when firing Tasks 1 through 6.
- (4) All employees firing the TOQC–Rifle shall wear a duty belt with the primary duty weapon. Tasks 6 and 7 require the employee to complete the transition drill to the primary duty weapon after firing the rifle.
- (5) In Task 1, all shots must be placed within a 6-inch diameter circle located in the upper right-hand corner of the target from 50 yards. Overtime shots are scored as misses.
 - (a) Areas that do not have access to a 50-yard range may modify the distance for Task 1 to 25 yards. If firing from 25 yards, all shots must be within a 3-inch diameter portion of the circle located in the upper right-hand corner of the target.

(6) In Task 2, all shots must be placed within the white or gray area of the target. Overtime shots are scored as misses.

- (a) Areas that do not have access to a 50-yard range may modify the distance for Task 2 to 25 yards. If firing from 25 yards, all shots must be within the white portion of the target.

(7) Task 1–Slow fire (50 yards).

- (a) Weapon: Eight-round magazine in rifle.
- (b) Distance from target: 50 yards.
- (c) Rounds fired: Eight rounds.
- (d) Shooting position: Position of choice–prone, sitting, kneeling, or standing.
- (e) Rifle starting position: On target, optic on desired setting, safety on.
- (f) Accuracy Standard: Eight hits with a spread no greater than the 6-inch diameter circle of the TOQC target. If firing from 25 yards, all shots must be within a 3-inch diameter portion of the 6-inch circle on the TOQC target.

NOTE: Holding a 6-inch grouping simulates proficient marksmanship abilities at distances greater than 100 yards.

(g) Time Standard (in seconds): 60.

1 Shooter prepares for live fire and is allowed time to achieve the shooting platform of their choice with the safety on.

2 On the fire command, remove the safety, fire eight rounds into the 6-inch diameter circle of the TOQC target.

(8) Task 2–Rapid fire (50 yards).

(a) Weapon: Six-round magazine in rifle.

(b) Distance from target: 50 yards.

(c) Rounds fired: One round (twice).

(d) Shooting position: Kneeling supported.

(e) Rifle starting position: Ready position, optic on desired setting, safety on.

(f) Accuracy Standard: Two consecutive hits in the white and gray portion of TOQC target.

(g) Time Standard (in seconds): Two (per shot).

1 Shooter prepares for live fire and is allowed time to achieve a kneeling supported shooting platform with the safety on.

2 On the fire command, remove the safety, fire one round into the white or gray portion of the TOQC target.

3 The safety is placed in the on position.

4 On the second fire command, remove the safety, fire one round into the white or gray portion of the TOQC target.

(9) Task 3–Reactive kneeling unsupported (15 yards). (Begin Tasks 3-7 with a 20-round magazine in rifle).

(a) Distance: 15 yards.

(b) Rounds fired: Two rounds.

(c) Shooting position: Kneeling unsupported.

(d) Rifle starting position: Ready position, “downed-optic” must use irons on large aperture, safety on.

(e) Accuracy Standard: Two hits in the white or gray portion of the TOQC target.

(f) Time Standard (in seconds): Two (both rounds fired).

(10) Task 4–Reactive standing unsupported (15 yards).

(a) Distance: 15 yards.

(b) Rounds fired: Two rounds.

(c) Shooting position: Standing unsupported.

(d) Rifle starting position: Ready position, “downed-optic” must use irons on large aperture, safety on.

(e) Accuracy Standard: Two hits in the white or gray portion of the TOQC target.

(f) Time Standard (in seconds): Two (both rounds fired).

(11) Task 5–Reactive kneeling unsupported (ten yards).

(a) Distance: Ten yards.

(b) Rounds fired: Two rounds.

(c) Shooting position: Kneeling unsupported.

(d) Rifle starting position: Ready position, optic on desired setting, safety on.

(e) Accuracy Standard: Two hits in white or gray portion of the TOQC target.

(f) Time Standard (in seconds): 1.5 (both rounds fired).

(12) Task 6–Reactive standing unsupported (ten yards).

(a) Distance: Ten yards.

(b) Rounds fired: Two rounds.

- (c) Shooting position: Standing unsupported.
- (d) Rifle starting position: Ready position, optic on desired setting, safety on.
- (e) Accuracy Standard: Two hits in the white or gray portion of the TOQC target.
- (f) Time Standard (in seconds): 1.5 (both rounds fired).

(13) Task 7–Reactive standing unsupported (five yards).

- (a) Distance: Five yards.
- (b) Rounds fired: Two rounds.
- (c) Shooting position: Standing unsupported.
- (d) Rifle starting position: Depressed muzzle, optic on desired setting, safety on.
- (e) Accuracy Standard: Two hits in the white or gray portion of the TOQC target.
- (f) Time Standard (in seconds): 1.5 (both rounds fired).

(14) Remediation. Employees who fail to qualify shall be given remedial training until a qualifying score is attained. The range officer shall refer to the Departmental Range Officers Instructor Lesson Plan to conduct remedial training. Any uniformed employee who fails to qualify with the departmental rifle shall demonstrate proficiency prior to resuming official duties.

8. DESCRIPTION OF TERMS.

- a. Shooting Positions. Four basic shooting positions used: prone, sitting, kneeling, or standing.
- b. Rifle Starting Position. Where the rifle is pointed.
 - (1) On Target. Rifle pointed at target and shooter with full sight alignment at center mass of target.
 - (2) Ready Position. Rifle pointed at lower edge of target and shooter looking just over the front and rear sights.

(3) Aperture. Rear peep sight on the rifle switchable to a large or a small aperture by folding forward or rearward.

c. Depressed Muzzle. Rifle shouldered, muzzle depressed, and pointed at the ground in front of the shooter.

d. Transition Drill. After the rifle task has been fired, the rifle is held in the support hand with the muzzle pointed up or down toward the ground; the shooter then draws the primary duty weapon (pistol) standing ready to engage the target (threat) if necessary. The range officer may opt to allow the shooter to utilize the two-point sling while firing the rifle and allow the weapon to hang from the sling while engaging the target with the pistol to allow two-hand control of the pistol.

e. Precision Shooting. The ability to place one or more rounds in a relatively small, designated area at a distance. Elements of precision shooting are:

- (1) Precise alignment of rifle sights.
- (2) Proper sight picture/point of aim.
- (3) Correct shooting position.
 - (a) Stability.
 - (b) Comfort.
 - (c) Bone support.
 - (d) Muscular relaxation.
- (4) Natural point of aim.
- (5) Target focused. Front sight focus if using iron sights.
- (6) Natural respiratory pause.
- (7) Controlled breathing.

f. Trigger Management.

(1) Reactive Shooting. The ability to place one or more rounds in a designated area in close quarters as rapidly as possible. Elements of this type of shooting are:

- (a) Startle response.

- (b) Aggressive body posture.
- (c) Focus on threat (binocular vision).
- (d) Utilizes combined motor skills.
- (e) Convulsive grip.

9. MAGAZINES.

b. Replacement or Repair of Magazines.

(1) Replacement of magazines is only available through the Academy, Weapons Training Unit (WTU), and requires a requisition which shall include the command for which the replacement is being made. All damaged or defective magazines shall be returned with the requisition to the Academy, WTU.

(2) Repairs to magazines shall only be performed by the departmental Gunsmith at the Academy.

(3) Requests for additional magazines or changes in the authorized allotment of magazines shall be approved by the appropriate Commissioner.

c. Personally Owned Rifle Magazines.

(1) The Office of the Commissioner has approved the use of personally owned rifle magazines for on-duty use. The approval to allow uniformed employees to carry personally owned rifle magazines on duty provides uniformed employees with a greater ability to defend themselves and others during a critical incident.

(2) Personally owned rifle magazines may be utilized on-duty only under the following guidelines:

(a) Personally owned rifle magazines shall be purchased and replaced solely at the expense of the uniformed employee electing to carry such magazines.

(b) Personally owned rifle magazines shall be inspected by an Area range officer to ensure proper function with the departmental rifle prior to on-duty use; they shall be inspected annually thereafter. The range officer will document this inspection in the comments section of the uniformed employee's annual CHP 311, Annual Officer Safety/Protective Equipment Inspection, which is accessible in the Employee Training Record System (ETRS) computer network application.

(c) Personally owned rifle magazines will not be stored in, or attached to, the departmental rifle while in the Lektro-Lok.

(f) Only departmentally issued ammunition may be utilized in personally owned tactical rifle magazines while carried on duty. Area range officers shall provide departmental ammunition for personally owned magazines carried on duty. Ammunition allocated for personally owned tactical rifle magazines shall be documented on a CHP 269, including the receiving officer's name and ID number, and shall be initialed by the receiving officer.

d. Rifle Magazine Pouches.

(1) Personally owned rifle magazine pouches may be worn on the duty belt only under the following guidelines:

(a) Personally owned rifle magazine pouches shall be purchased and replaced solely at the expense of the uniformed employee electing to carry such pouch.

(b) Only departmentally approved magazines may be utilized in personally owned rifle magazine pouches while carried on duty.

(c) Personally owned rifle magazine pouches shall be inspected by an Area range officer to ensure proper function with the rifle magazine prior to on-duty use. The range officer will document this inspection in the comments section of the uniformed employee's annual CHP 311.

(d) Personally owned rifle magazine pouches shall:

- 1 Be specifically designed for a 20- or 30-round polymer rifle magazine;
- 2 Be thermal molded with a tension device;
- 3 Be black in color with a basketweave finish; and,
- 4 Have a belt loop, clip, or slots on its back to prevent the unintentional loss of the pouch.