

Use of Force Committee Meeting 16 April, 2014

Prepared by: Jason Williams, Training Coordinator

Members Present: Sheriff Donald Keeler, Captain Drew Bloom, Corporal Michael Akerlind, Chief Lianne Tuomey, Officer Scott Fisher, Lieutenant Robin Hollwedel, Sergeant George Crowe, Lieutenant Michael Henry

Other persons present: None

Academy Representatives: Director of Training Cindy Taylor-Patch, Training Coordinator Jason Williams

Members Absent: Warden Russell Shopland, Sergeant Matthew Murano, Sergeant John Young, Chief Chris Brickell

Meeting called to order: 10:15

Old Business

ISSUE 1: Update on the progress on the proposed shotgun qualification course recommendation to the Council

- Lieutenant Hollwedel told the Committee that he and Warden Shopland had completed the final touches on the proposed shotgun qualification courses to recommend to the Council as minimum annual qualification standards. Lieutenant Hollwedel indicated that they had created three separate courses for the use of less lethal munitions, shotgun slugs and buck shot because not all agencies use all three types of munitions. It was decided upon by the Committee that these would be minimum standards that an officer would have to meet in order to be considered qualified with their shotgun; however it would not limit additional



training/qualifications that an agency may impose for their officers at their discretion. The three courses were discussed and voted upon as separate recommendations:

1. **Less lethal:** Lieutenant Hollwedel said that the subcommittee had decided that there were so many different types of less lethal munitions available that it would be impossible to put together a standardized course of fire to encompass all of them. Lieutenant Hollwedel stated that the recommendation be that each agency follow the recommendations of the manufacturers of the munitions that they use. Lieutenant Henry inquired as to whether a user would be able to qualify at their home agency, and it was decided that they could. Chief Tuomey asked about a definition of “less lethal munitions” in regards to this course, and the Committee asked her to author a definition to be added to the course.

Officer Fisher entered a motion to accept the less lethal course as presented for recommendation to the Council

Motion seconded by Sergeant Crowe

Motion passed unanimously

2. **Slugs:** Lieutenant Hollwedel told the Committee that these courses for live munitions were not designed to train the shotgun end user, but rather as a minimum standard to test proficiency. Lieutenant Hollwedel said that the course was designed to be a 25 yard course because the academy range is 25 yards.

Officer Fisher entered a motion to accept the slug course as presented for recommendation to the Council

Motion seconded by Sergeant Crowe

Motion passed unanimously

3. **Buckshot:** Some discussion arose around the fact that some departments require a 100% hit ratio for buckshot pellets in order to qualify. It was decided after some discussion that a 100% hit ratio would not be required for this course; however agencies would have the option to make it a 100% hit ratio on their own if they choose.

Lieutenant Henry entered a motion to accept the buckshot course as presented for recommendation to the Council

Motion seconded by Chief Tuomey

Motion passed unanimously

ISSUE 2: Patrol rifle certification course

- T.C. Williams distributed a proposed statewide minimum qualification standard course of fire for patrol rifle users. T.C. Williams noted that the classroom portion of the course was nearly complete and once a course of fire was decided upon the range portion could be created. Some discussion ensued regarding the specifics of the way that the course would be administered, and some modifications were made.

Officer Fisher entered a motion to accept the patrol rifle course as amended for recommendation to the Council

Motion seconded by Lieutenant Hollwedel

Motion passed unanimously

ISSUE 3: Conducted Energy Weapon bill report

- Captain Bloom and Lieutenant Henry gave the Committee an update on their testimony before the Legislature regarding the CEW bill.

No action taken

New Business

ISSUE 1: Women in Law Enforcement course curriculum

- T.C. Williams reported to the Committee that he had been approached by the Women in Law Enforcement group and had been asked to create a one day firearms refresher course for their group. T.C. Williams had submitted copies of the curriculum to the Committee via email for review approximately one week prior to the meeting. Sheriff Keeler expressed a concern about offering training at the Academy targeting only a select audience.

Captain Bloom entered a motion to accept the curriculum for the Women in Law Enforcement course as presented

Lieutenant Hollwedel seconded the motion

Motion passed 7-1

ISSUE 2: New member solicitations

- T.C. Williams distributed an email that was sent by Sergeant Murano regarding the suggestion that a lawyer from one of the State's Attorney offices be added to the Committee as a member. A discussion ensued and the suggestion was made that the State's Attorney's offices should be consulted as advisors but they should not necessarily be a member of the Committee. Additionally, there is a State's Attorney on the Council already, and that the Committee is merely advisory to the Council. A suggestion was made that the legal representative that would be appointed be a member of the Attorney General's office; however the idea that there may be conflicts of interest raised in the event of a use of force incident prosecution.

Captain Bloom entered a motion that the current status quo be maintained for Committee membership

Officer Fisher seconded the motion

Motion passed unanimously

ISSUE 3: 2014 Firearms Instructor Course

- T.C. Williams informed the Committee that the 2014 Firearms Instructor Course has been posted on the Academy website, and that the testing dates will be the 12th and 13th of August. Members of the Committee were invited to attend the entrance testing.

No action taken

Meeting Adjourned: 12:03

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Williams
Training Coordinator
Vermont Police Academy

Shotgun Slug Qualification

Target: Same as for handgun qualification.

Ammunition: 9 rounds slug.

20 Yards:

Start with magazine loaded to capacity with slug rounds, action closed on empty chamber with safety on, in low-ready position.

Cycle action and fire 3 rounds in 15 seconds standing offhand.

Tactical reload 3 rounds. (no time limit)

Engage safety and tactical move forward to 15 yards.

15 Yards:

Start in low ready position.

3 rounds in 15 seconds standing offhand.

Engage safety and tactical move rearward to 25 yards.

25 Yards:

Kneeling behind cover.

3 rounds in 20 seconds.

Weapon empty, action open, safety on.

Scoring:

20 yards: 3/3

15 yards: 3/3

25 yards: 3/3

Less Lethal

Requirements:

Officers who carry less lethal impact rounds* shall annually provide documentation that they have completed the following course:

1. Inspect all of their less lethal impact rounds for expiration date.
2. Review the manufacturer's recommendations and instructions for use for each type of less lethal impact round they carry.
3. Following the manufacturer's recommendations and instructions, fire a minimum of three rounds of each type of less lethal impact round they carry to ensure officer familiarization and proper performance of the round, (point of aim, point of impact, etc.).

Target: Same as for handgun qualification.

*Does not include gas

Buckshot Qualification

Target: Same as for handgun qualification.

Ammunition: 9 rounds buckshot.

15 Yards:

Start with cruiser loaded shotgun (magazine loaded with buckshot, action closed on empty chamber with safety on) in low-ready position.

Cycle action and fire 3 rounds in 15 seconds standing offhand.

Tactical reload 3 rounds. (no time limit)

Engage safety and tactical move forward to 10 yards.

10 Yards:

Start in low ready position

3 rounds in 12 seconds standing offhand.

Engage safety and tactical move forward to 7 yards.

7 Yards:

Start in low ready

3 rounds in 10 seconds standing offhand.

Weapon empty, action open, safety on.

Scoring:

15 yards: 20 hits of possible 27

10 yards: 20/27

7 yards: 27/27

Annual Patrol Rifle Qualification Course

Course synopsis: This is the course of fire recognized by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council as the course to be successfully completed by each officer wishing to carry a patrol rifle in the course of performing their duties as a law enforcement officer within the state of Vermont on an initial and annual basis. This course must be administered by a Patrol Rifle Instructor who is currently certified by and in good standing with the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council. The strings of fire within this course must be followed exactly, and no waivers or permission for deviation from this course will be granted. **adhered to as a minimum standard, but shall not limit an agency from exceeding this standard at their discretion.**

Equipment: Patrol rifle that is regularly carried by the officer in the performance of their duties, or a weapon of the same make, model and caliber as the rifle carried by the officer while on duty, with ~~34~~ **42** rounds of ammunition for that rifle. **Officers must qualify with the same sighting system that is mounted on the weapon when regularly carried on duty.**

Two rifle magazines and a magazine pouch or holder that has a capacity of at least one magazine.

The duty leather that is regularly carried by the officer while on duty.

The handgun regularly carried by the officer while on duty with at least two rounds of ammunition for that handgun.

Shot timer/stopwatch.

Target: Any type of target may be used. The scoring area of that target will be the same area defined in the course of fire for annual handgun qualifications under Rule 13 as set forth by the Council.

Range: Minimum 100 yards **or a 25 yard range with approved reduced targets**

Items to use as cover

Course overview: For this course of fire, the entire course is scored and the shooter must obtain a hit ratio of 34 out of 42 shots fired. ~~Shooters will load one rifle magazine with 27 rounds and one magazine with 13 rounds. The 27 round magazine will be the first magazine used in the rifle.~~ **Instructors should ensure that the shooter's rifle magazines are loaded appropriately to complete the strings within the allotted time frame, and to facilitate the reload string.** The shooter must also have their handgun loaded with at least two rounds in the handgun. In order to successfully complete the course the shooter must complete the strings within the allotted time frame as well as obtain a passing score ratio. Two targets will be utilized for each shooter for this course. The targets will be placed at the same level and approximately 3 feet apart. It is within the instructor's discretion to determine what type of cover the shooter will use; however there should be no simulations associated with the use of the cover and it should be utilized by the shooter "as is".

COURSE OF FIRE:

Distance	Time limit	Shooting Position	Total rounds	Description of string
100 Yards	45 seconds	Prone	6	On the command to fire, the shooter will assume a prone position and fire 6 rounds into the scoring area of the target within the allotted time.
50 yards	30 seconds	Sitting	4	On the command to fire the shooter will take a sitting position and fire 4 rounds into the scoring area of the target within the allotted time.
50 yards	30 seconds	Kneeling	4	On the command to fire the shooter will take a kneeling position and fire 4 rounds into the target within the allotted time.
25 yards	8 seconds	Standing	4	On the command to fire the shooter will fire 2 rounds into each of two targets.
25 yards	15 seconds	Standing	6	Shooters will begin at the 18 yard line from behind a cover item at the 25 yard line. On the command to fire, the shooter will fire 3 rounds into the scoring area of 1 target. The shooter's weapon should lock back. The shooter will retreat to and reload behind cover, then fire 3 more rounds into the second target.
15 yards	None	Standing	2	Shooter will begin facing 90 degrees to the right. On the command to fire, the shooter will pivot towards the target and engage with 2 rounds.
15 yards	None	Standing	2	Shooter will begin facing 90 degrees to the left. On the command to fire, the shooter will pivot towards the target and engage with 2 rounds.

15 yards	None	Standing	2	Shooter will begin facing 180 degrees from the target. On the command to fire, the shooter will pivot towards the target and engage with 2 rounds.
10 yards	15 seconds	Standing	4 rifle/ 2 handgun	On the command to fire the shooter will fire 2 rounds HCOM and 1 round to the head of one of their targets. The shooter will then fire 1 round HCOM to the second target, and once in lock back will transition to their handgun and fire one more round to HCOM and 1 round to the head of the second target.