

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Municipal Police Training Committee

RESERVE OFFICER FIREARMS TRAINING



Instructor Manual

Revision 2.1
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Course: MPTC Recruit Firearms Training Program

Lesson: Reserve Intermittent Firearms

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Time Allocation: 20 hours of classroom and range time

Target Population: Reserve Intermittent Recruit Officers

Recommended Class Size: Varies with facility but smaller classes are more efficient

Course Goal

To teach the firearms safety and the fundamentals of tactical marksmanship to MPTC Reserve Intermittent Academy recruit officers.

Instructor Provided Training Aids & Supplies

Classroom & Range with adequate backstop and room to conduct planned activities

Q targets with optional Good/Bad Guy targets

First Aid Kit including A.E.D.

Student Manual on CD or access information for online access

Reserve Intermittent Firearms Power Point presentation

LCD projector & screen

Sanitary Facilities

Communications (radio or cell phone)

Student Equipment Requirements

600 rounds duty pistol ammo (full metal jacket training ammo permissible)

Service Pistol w/minimum of three (3) pistol magazines

Duty Belt including security holster, magazine pouch, handcuffs, Inert OC w/pouch, baton

Body Armor (MPTC has limited quantities for loan)

Personal Protective Equipment (eye & hearing protection and cap with visor)

Student Performance Objectives

- State the Cardinal Rules for Firearms Safety
- Demonstrate the ability to safely manipulate the duty pistol in a tactical environment
- Demonstrate the ability to safely load, reload and unload their duty pistol
- Demonstrate the ability to clear a malfunction and reengage the threat/target
- Demonstrate a level of proficiency to qualify to MPTC minimum standards
- Achieve a passing score on the written Final Exam

Testing Procedures

- Minimum score of 80% for all live fire qualification
- Minimum score of 80% on all written exams and quizzes

References

MPTC Recruit Firearms Program ver 1.3 2010

Introduction

For the first time, the MPTC Reserve / Intermittent Academy will offer a firearms training program as part of the recruit curriculum. In line with the abbreviated nature of the R/I Academy, this firearms program dedicates 20 hours to building a base level of proficiency for the recruit. As with all recruit level training, the assumption is the recruit has no prior experience with firearms so safety is our paramount concern. The recruit(s) will be walked through the basics before they are expected to handle tactical exercises. In order to maximize the available classroom and range time, it is strongly suggested that the Student Manual be distributed in advance to the recruit with instructions to become as familiar with as much of the material as possible. The included Review Questions serve as a self-test mechanism so the recruit can gauge their progress. The recruit is not expected to teach himself or herself to shoot. They are expected to learn basic concepts such as safety rules and nomenclature. This material will all be reviewed in the classroom however any time saved here can be devoted to trigger time.

The MPTC Recruit Firearms Manual (RFM) is the “student manual” for this program. This instructor manual is designed to provide the Advanced Instructor or Instructor Trainer with required topics and teaching points presented in a logical order. It is the instructor’s responsibility to stay on track so that all the material is covered in the limited amount of time allocated. Our full time academy dedicates over twice the training time for this topic, which makes this program a challenge for the instructor. It would be to the instructor’s advantage to front load any administrative component. It should be understood that this program is merely the first step in what must be continuous training. Twenty hours is only sufficient to give the new officer the basics in safety and marksmanship. It is not enough to turn out a proficient marksman. Building the officer’s proficiency to a higher level will be the joint responsibility of the officer and his/her department firearms training staff.

The 20-hour program is a minimum requirement. There is nothing to prevent the individual agency from expanding this program to better prepare their officer.

Thank you for your good work!

Sgt. William Leanos
Statewide Firearms Coordinator
Chairman, Firearms Training Advisory Group
January 2011

MPTC Reserve / Intermittent Recruit Firearms Training Lesson

Outline

Instructor Notes

Block 1 amplifies the online material the recruit has been instructed to study prior to this block of training. Because there is a great deal of material to cover here, the instructor should stress the importance of making full use of the online self-study program. It may be necessary to carry over part of this Block into Day 2.

Block 1 – 4 Hours (Classroom only)

Course Intro

Review course content and expectations

Safety is paramount in this course

Testing & Qualification standard (80%)

Safety (follow safety protocols in Recruit Firearms Manual)

Safety is everyone's responsibility

Equipment check

Locked container

No live ammo present

“Weapon Clearing” area designated

All weapons checked - “safe & unloaded”

By staff instructors

Includes instructors

Anyone leaving the room is checked for live ammo on return

Staff instructors reminded no live ammo in classroom

Sign posted on door

Cardinal Rules of Firearms Safety

Test material

Review & demo each safety rule

1. All firearms are always treated as if loaded – always

Operative word here is ALWAYS

2. Muzzle never pointed at anything we don't intend to shoot

We never point at anything we can't afford to pay for

Demo depressed muzzle techniques

Low Ready

3. Finger stays off the trigger until decision to fire is made

Demo how index finger on side of frame

4. Know your target and what is beyond

Morally obligated to identify target before pressing trigger

Necessary to know what is behind target in case you miss

Firearms Safety off the Range

Test material

Home Firearms Safety & Storage (MGL c.140§131L)

Recruits should be familiar with this

Children & unauthorized adults

No exemption for law enforcement

Carrying a Weapon in a Vehicle (MGL c.140§131C)

There is a law enforcement exemption here

Range Safety Rules

Recruits will read and sign Range Safety Rule form

Distribute prior to class

Personal Protective Equipment

Eye protection, Hearing protection

Body armor, Hat w/ bill

Instructor will review range commands and what they mean

Low Ready

Cease fire

Command to fire

Prepare magazines

Load weapon

Make "Street Ready"

Administrative Load (Unload)

Make safe and show empty

Instructor will briefly review range safety equipment

Assisting personnel are

First Aid Kit, Radio, AED, etc.

briefed in advance

Lead Contamination & Safety Precautions

Refer to RFM

Source – primers and bullet core

Hands and face

Wash with soap and cool water

Airborne particles on clothing

Wash contaminated clothing separately

Avoid contact with family members until clean

Especially if you have children

Lead exposure can occur on both indoor and outdoor ranges

Indoor usually more severe

No eating, drinking or smoking on the range

Case Law

MPTC Use of Force Review

Refer to RFM

Tennessee v. Garner – Deadly force and fleeing felons

Test material

Graham v. Connor – Force must be objectively reasonable

Test material

Julian v. Randazzo – Established criteria for use of

deadly force by police in Massachusetts via Section 120.7

Model Code of Pre-arraignment Procedure (1975)

Test material

Commonwealth v. Klein – Deadly force by a citizen

Nomenclature

Basic parts common to all pistols

Keep this basic

Frame and associated parts

Slide and associated parts including sights

Barrel

Magazine

All this is test material

Semi-auto function

Tie in with malfunctions

Feed

Fire

Extract

Eject

Field Stripping

Ammo components

- Case
- Bullet
- Propellant
- Primer

Equipment Selection & Set Up

Duty Belt Set Up

- Issued duty holsters
 - Proper operation of security aspects

If agency policy dictates duty belt set up, this will be suggestion only.

Note TASER position mandated by EOPSS.

Magazine Pouch

Horizontal or Vertical?

- Left or Right of centerline?

Explain advantages

Duty belt set up

- Preferences vs. tactical sensibility

Routine Maintenance

- Keep in clean
- Lubricate snaps

Fundamental Skills

Draw

- Five Steps of the Draw

Test material

Grip

- Establish proper grip
 - Web of hand high on backstrap
- Support hand stays at mid-chest level
- Unlock retention devices

Draw

Weapon is withdrawn from holster

Muzzle just clear of holster

Rotate

Rotate muzzle towards target

Drop elbow - muzzle rotates up

Pistol may be fired from this point on

Together

The weapon is brought to mid-chest level and

comes together with the support hand

Up

The weapon now held in two hands is brought
to eye level.

The weapon may be fired if required

Recovery to the Holster – Reverse of the Draw Steps

Bring pistol back to mid-chest keeping muzzle towards threat

Finger off trigger!

Scan for additional threats

Scan 360° - Scan again

It is the unseen threat that will kill you

Instructor emphasis

Test material

Emphasize scanning

Breathe

Take a moment to get some oxygen back into your system

Recover

Support hand stays at mid-chest level for DT if needed

Weapon hand bring pistol down to holster

Weapon placed in holster

Eyes stay directed on threat axis

Don't look at holster!

Secure

Engage all retention devices

Practice the draw by the numbers

Minimum of 30 reps

Load / Unload

Loading ammo into magazines

Dummy rounds only

Preparing weapon for firing

Magazine loaded with slide forward

Magazine loaded with slide back

Tactical reload (aka reload with retention)

Practice w/ empty mags.

Magazine still has rounds remaining

Performed from behind cover during a lull in the action

Finger off trigger

Partial magazine ejected and retained

Do NOT place back in magazine pouch

Full magazine inserted

Emergency Reload

Practice w/empty mags.

Magazine empty – slide locked back

Eject magazine to the ground

Fresh magazine pulled from pouch and inserted

Release slide

Support hand pulls back on slide (preferred)

Slide lock lever depressed (not preferred)

Administrative reload

Practice w/empty mags.

Pistol remains in holster

Remove magazine from pistol

Insert fresh magazine

Unloading the Pistol

Remove magazine

Retract slide to eject round from chamber

Lock slide to rear

Visually and physically check that chamber is empty

Fundamentals of Marksmanship

Grip

Finger pressure

Finger placement

Thumb placement

Stance

Balance & mobility

Square to threat / target

Foot placement

Sight Picture

Proper sight alignment

Tactical sight picture

Sometimes we need to sacrifice a perfect sight picture
in order expedite a shot on target

Aim for “Center Mass”

Test material

Describe center of available mass

Trigger Press

Target shooters “squeeze” trigger

Combat shooters PRESS the trigger

Shoot to Stop vs. Shoot to Kill

Test material

Describe what “stop” means

The range will bring all these together

Dry Fire Drills (“Snapping In”)

Safety Check

Instructor double checks

All weapons empty

to ensure no live ammo.

No live ammo in duty belts or in the area

Wall Drill (dry)

Accomplish as much

Weapon aimed at point on wall (slide closed)

as possible in classroom

Place coin on front sight

and balance can be done

Student will press trigger without knocking coin off

at the range.

Tests smooth trigger press

Minimal movement of weapon

Repeat until student can perform this routinely

Draw, Fire & Recover

Follow proper steps to draw, dry fire and recover

Insure recruit scans BEFORE re-holstering

Scan 360°

Multiple repetitions to build “muscle memory”

Instructor to check

30 Reps if possible

Malfunction Drills (w/Dummy Ammo)

5 Reps each

Evaluate problem – Fix problem – Finish the fight

Failure to Fire

Dud round or mechanical failure

Pistol doesn't go “bang”

Tap – Rack – Evaluate

Failure to Feed

Round hung up on ramp

Normally associated with a damaged magazine

Tap – Rack – Evaluate

Remove magazine and replace if necessary

Failure to Extract

Case remains in chamber

Possible broken extractor or blown case

Possible wrong ammo (9mm in .40 or .40 in .45)

Weapon out of commission

Failure to Eject (Stovepipe)

Case extracts but remains in ejection port

Slide fails to go into battery

Possible broken ejector or dirty weapon

Tap – Rack – Evaluate

“Wipe” empty case out of ejection port

MPTC Reserve / Intermittent Recruit Firearms Training

Lesson Outline

Instructor Notes

Block 2 – 4 hours (Conduct at the range)

Range safety review

Cardinal Rules

Recruits read rules

Personal protective equipment

Equipment check

Handgun Retention

About 10 minutes

Secure weapon

Lower center of gravity

Pin & Spin

Live fire exercises

Marksmanship fundamental drills

1 Hole drill

Emphasize fundamentals

Increase distance as proficiency increases

Admin reload

Pistol stays in holster, magazine swapped out

Emergency reload

Slide at lock back, empty magazine discarded

Tactical reload

Partial magazine removed and retained

Malfunctions

Phase I – Tap, Rack, Evaluate

Fail to fire (ex. Dud round)

Fail to feed (ex. magazine not fully inserted)

Fail to eject (ex. stovepipe)

Phase II – Rip, Rack, Rack, Reload, Reassess

Fail to extract (ex. Double feed)

Phase III – Mechanical failure

Emphasize don't try to fix

Go to alternate weapon

Cleaning & Maintenance

MPTC Reserve / Intermittent Recruit Firearms Training

Lesson Outline

Instructor Notes

Block 3 – 4 hours (Conduct at the range)

Range safety review

 Cardinal Rules

 Personal protective equipment

Handgun Retention (10 minutes)

 Secure weapon

 Lower center of gravity

 Pin & Spin

MPTC Pistol Qualification Course stages taught as individual modules

 CQB - One hand, point shooting, etc.

 Point shoulder w/movement

 Movement to right, left & to the rear

 Barricade, shooting from cover

 Move to cover

 Cover vs. concealment

 Proper Use of Cover

 Pivoting

 Right, left, 180 degrees

 Reloading w/communication

 Reload behind cover

 Non-conventional shooting positions

 Prone and other drills

MPTC Reserve / Intermittent Recruit Firearms Training

Lesson Outline

Instructor Notes

Block 4 – 4 hours (Conduct at the range)

Range safety review

 Cardinal Rules

 Personal Protective Equipment

Handgun Retention (10 minutes)

 Secure weapon

 Lower center of gravity

 Pin & Spin

MPTC Pistol Qualification Course w/Movement

 Qualification for score

Point Shooting

 One hand

 Two hands

Support side shooting

 One hand

 Two hands

Tueller Drill

MPTC Reserve / Intermittent Recruit Firearms Training

Lesson Outline

Instructor Notes

Block 5 – 4 hours (Range or Simulator)

This block of instruction is flexible. The goal is to develop tactical shooting skills. If ammunition is limited or range availability is an issue, Airsoft or Simunitions® can be substituted. If a simulator is available, that can be used although class size may limit the effectiveness of the training.

Safety review

Cardinal rules

Personal protective equipment (if necessary)

Handgun Retention (10 minutes)

Secure weapon

Lower center of gravity

Pin & Spin

Reduced light (if possible)

Flashlight techniques

*May be done in daylight if
necessary*

Weapon mounted light (if so equipped)

Multiple targets

Multiple threats

Threat / Good Guy

Judgmental Shooting Exercises

Shooting on the move

Shooting at moving target (if possible)

HANDGUN RETENTION APPENDIX

RESERVE INTERMITTENT RECRUIT FIREARMS TRAINING

The Handgun Retention portion of this training is designed to be an extension of the Defensive Tactics segment which the recruit will have received prior to starting Firearms training. It is a review of the techniques which have already been taught to the recruit. Since this is a technique review, the instructor does not have to be a DT Instructor although that is the preferable scenario. We are not “teaching” new techniques, only reviewing what has already been taught and learned.

Red or Blue guns SHALL be used for handgun retention training.

Foundations of Handgun Retention

Stance – The officer’s stance can deter or at the very least, make it more difficult for a threat to access the officer’s weapon. When the officer positions him/herself with their feet spread shoulder width apart and the weapon side angled away from the threat, they make it difficult for the subject to grab their weapon from the front.

Balance – A balanced position (when performed correctly) gives the officer an increased ability to defend against a gun grab.

Positions – When confronting a subject, the officer must assume a proper position to make it more difficult for the subject to access the officer’s gun. Moving outside of the “Inside Position” to at least Position #1 will enable this.

Distance – The further the officer is away from a subject, the more difficult it will be for the subject to access the officer’s gun. Inversely, the closer the officer is, the easier it becomes for the subject to access the officer’s gun. Stress proper distance when interviewing subjects. We can call this “Tactical Gap”. At the very least, a distance of 4 to 6 feet should be maintained during any police/subject interaction. As the threat level (or potential for attack) increases, so should the Tactical Gap.

Knowledge of the holster – It is critical that the officer understand how the retention devices work on their holster. The devices are designed to keep the weapon in the holster and will assist the officer in maintaining control of the weapon.

Use of Force

If a subject grabs onto the officer’s weapon, that subject has now become ASSAULTIVE, possibly with the potential of serious bodily harm and or death. The officer’s response will depend entirely on the totality of the circumstances and their perception of situation and may include any appropriate force option up to and including deadly force.

Although the officer may be justified in using deadly force, their primary concern should be retaining the weapon in the holster. As long as the weapon remains in the holster, it cannot be fired or used against the officer. Once this has been established, the officer's objective should be to get the subject off the weapon and to neutralize the attack. Kicks, strikes and punches are less effective when the subject is in very close proximity to the officer so we must look to an alternative.

Techniques

The first step in preventing a gun grab is to make it difficult for the subject to access your weapon. This is best accomplished by how you position yourself in relation to the threat and the shielding techniques you employ to prevent easy access to the weapon. You can shield the weapon with your elbow, forearm or gun hand.

The 4 Step System

Step 1: Secure your weapon in the holster. The technique used will vary with the weapon and type of holster you are issued. Use your knowledge of your holster's retention systems to best secure it.

Step 2: Step to the outside of the attack

Step 3: Effect some type of release technique such as a strike or kick

Step 4: Perform a follow up technique to increase distance and gain control

Pin & Spin

When a subject grabs the officer's gun with one or both hands –

Step 1: Officer secures the weapon with BOTH hands;

Step 2: Officer lowers their center of gravity;

Step 3: Officer pivots slightly turning the weapon towards the subject then quickly pivots the upper body, elbow and shoulders in the opposite direction away from the subject keeping the feet planted. Continue this back and forth pivoting until the subject's grip is broken.

When using the Pin & Spin technique, pivot on the balls of your feet and be prepared to follow up with another force option when the subjects grip is broken.