

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

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CONSTABLES' TRAINING BULLETIN

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New for 2005 – Firearms Highlights

Qualification Course of Fire

In 2005, there are no differences between the initial, basic qualification course and the annual re-qualification course. Constables are required to score a minimum of 75% on the first half of the course (Stages 1-3) and a minimum of 75% on the second half (Stages 4-6).

Targets and Scoring

The new qualification course consists of a 60-round course fired on an NRA B-27 target. Five-shot revolver shooters will fire a 50-round course. A hit in the X, 10, 9, or 8 ring is worth five points. A hit in the 7 is worth four points. A hit on the silhouette outside the scoring rings is worth three points. Hits outside the silhouette are worth zero points.

Judgmental Shooting

For the first time, judgmental shooting employing a firearms simulator will be incorporated in the firearms curriculum. Marksmanship drills and various scenarios involving shoot or no-shoot situations will be run on the simulator. Runs on the simulator will not be graded and will be on a time-available basis.

Scoring the Qualification

The shooter is required to achieve a 75% or higher on the first half of the course (Stages 1-3) and on the second half (Stages 4-6). A minimum score of 112 is required on each half of the course. A minimum score on each half totals 224. When figured for percentage score it equals 74.6% rounded to 75%, the minimum passing score. A shooter must pass both halves to qualify during a single course of fire.

A 5-shot Revolver must fire a minimum of 94 on each stage (75 Percent of 125 = 93.75 which when rounded off equals 94). A combined score of 188 to qualify. A shooter must pass both halves to qualify during a single course of fire.

If a shooter fails to pass one of the stages, they are permitted to repeat the stage on which they did not meet the 75% threshold. A shooter must pass (75%) Stage I in order to fire Stage II. If a shooter fails to pass Stage I, on their second attempt, they have failed the entire course and will not fire Stage II.

Changes in the Qualification Course

A change has been made to the NRA B-27 target for scoring purposes.

Constables are now required to provide 60 rounds (50 rounds for 5-shot revolvers) of duty ammunition for the actual qualification.

As in the past, Constables will fire the course once for practice using site ammunition and must provide their own factory duty ammunition for the actual qualification.

Constables must qualify with their primary duty weapon before they will be permitted to use a second weapon. A Constable is only permitted to fire the entire qualification course twice. The only exception to this is if a weapon failure occurs. Then the Constable will be permitted two attempts to qualify with a second weapon.

Constable who has only one weapon and wishes to attempt to better their score by firing a second time may do so at the discretion of the Range Master if time permits. However, the second score will be the final score. This applies even if the score is lower than the initial qualification.

The new qualification course consists of a 60-round course fired on a NRA B-27 target.

If a shooter is using a 5-shot revolver, the shooter will fire the normal course of fire with the exception that they will only fire five-round strings. For example, a semi-automatic shooter on Stage 1 will fire 12, the 5-shot revolver will fire 10. The 5-shot shooter will run the course with the other shooters. This is designed to improve range efficiency.

2005 Constables' Training 40-Hour BASIC FIREARMS

BASIC FIREARMS TRAINING will include firearms safety, nomenclature, handling the weapon, fundamental shooting skills including grip, stance, sight picture, alignment, breathing and follow-through, shooting positions, malfunctions, and reduced-light shooting. Passing scores of at least 75% on the written exam and both halves of the range qualification are required for certification. Board policy regarding failures can be found in the Constables' Legal Reference Guide, Title 37 Law §431.44.

2005 Constables' Training 20-Hour ADVANCED FIREARMS

ADVANCED FIREARMS TRAINING will include a review of marksmanship, the draw, sight alignment, trigger control, holstering, loading and unloading. Additionally, constables will practice tactical movements and reloads, malfunctions, barricade shooting, reduced-light shooting, non-dominant hand and body armor drills. Constables will be required to pass a written exam and will shoot for qualification. Passing scores of at least 75% on the written exam and both halves of the range qualification are required for certification. Board policy regarding failures can be found in the Constables' Legal Reference Guide, Title 37 Law §431.44.

All Constables should take note that the training times for most firearms classes have been changed from the past. These changes were made so the low light firearms training could be as realistic as possible.

STAFF REPORT ON FIREARMS MONITORING

As many of you are aware staff from the PCCD have been monitoring firearms class across the state. The purpose for monitoring the classes was to assure consistence in training across the state. Between the end of June and the beginning of August, staff visited all six training providers and reviewed all of the firearms training records from the last three years. Some minor issues regarding record keeping were discovered, but no major issues were found. Beginning in August, PCCD Staff began unannounced monitoring visits to all six training providers. Staff showed up unannounced and remained for 16-20 hours of the firearms training. Below is a summary of the issues found while observing firearms training:

Total Number of firearms classes monitored:

Basic Firearms	2
Advanced Firearms	8

Classes Monitored by Training Provider:

Temple: 2	Mansfield: 1
Mercyhurst: 1	Lackawanna: 2
Penn State – Fayette: 2	HACC: 2

General Observations – Constables:

- Most constables attending the training were on time, prepared (proper equipment and ammunition) and had a positive attitude towards the training.
- The average firearms skill level of constable has increased over the last 8 years.
- 84% of constables are carrying semi-automatic pistols as a primary weapon.
- Constables displayed a professional attitude towards the instructors and were receptive to the training.
- Most constables demonstrated safe gun handling and followed all range instructions.
- Approximately 75% of questions directed at staff by constables were not related to the overall training program or Act 44. Many of the questions were regarding legal authority or local rule.
- In each class there was at least 1 constable that was not prepared for the training (not enough magazines for their weapon, no hearing protection, ill fitting, old or improper equipment).

2005 Constables' Training OPTIONAL TRAINING

For the first time in 2005, Constables will be able to sign up for voluntary optional training. This training is in addition to the mandatory continuing education and basic training. It will not take the place of any part of the mandatory curriculum. Constables can choose to participate in either one or both eight-hour modules. They will be offered on a For the first time in 2005, constables will be able to sign up for voluntary first come, first served basis. Because of the hands-on nature of the modules, class sizes will be strictly enforced. Participation is limited to constables who are current with their training, insurance, and certification. Only constables and deputy constables who are currently in office and who have achieved certification through the basic training or the waiver examination will be allowed to attend any optional training course. Current, valid certification is required before any constable or deputy constable can be enrolled or admitted to any optional class. In order to maintain current, valid certification, a constable must be current with his or her Act 1994-44 Training and have current professional liability insurance on file with the county clerk of courts office.

Optional training Subjects for 2005

Oleoresin Capsicum Spray/Expandable Baton: This eight-hour block of instruction will cover four hours of OC and four hours of expandable baton. The course is divided equally between lectures and practical exercises. Lectures will cover the characteristics, effects, proper usage, and decontamination of OC spray, as well as a review of the use-of-force continuum (including a discussion of both verbal and nonverbal indications of attack and submission). The practical exercises will review proper carrying, drawing techniques, body positioning, proxemics, patterns of movement, and spraying. The scenarios cover spraying a combative subject in a variety of settings, including single-constable, contact/cover, and constable-down situations. Successful completion will result in OCAT and MEB certification.

Defendant Contact Procedures: This is an optional eight-hour course for constables, delivered in two phases: lecture with class discussion, and practical demonstration. The course is designed to assist the constable in understanding the concept of personal safety in executing arrest warrants and the risks associated with the mechanics of arrest. In the practical demonstration, the constable will demonstrate how to safely take a person into custody from the street, vehicles, and buildings. Emphasis is placed on personal safety and on the legal issues regarding the constable's limited authority to carry out a search for safety purposes.

Act 233

Senate Bill 959 was signed into law by the Governor as Act 233. Act 233 is an addendum to Act 44 and reads as follows: (F) Fund Surplus. -- If account moneys are sufficient to meet the expenses and costs under subsection (A), The Commission may allocate any surplus funds in the account to assist constables and deputy constables with the costs associated with attendance at continuing education programs under section 2946 (Relating to continuing education). The PCCD and the CETB will develop regulation regarding the administration and implementation of ACT 233.

Tentative CETB Meeting Dates – 2005

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2005 – 3:00 PM. (SHERATON, KING OF PRUSSIA)

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2005 - AM (PCCD)

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2005 - PM (SOUTHWEST REGION)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2005 - AM (PCCD)

All Constables are reminded the Constables' Educational and Training Board (CETB) meeting are public meetings and all Constables are welcome and encouraged to attend. The more input Constables have, the better the Board can meet your training needs. Many of the questions that have been posed over the last year can be answered at the Board meeting.

Schedule Changes- 2005

****The following schedule changes (**BOLD**) have been made for the 2005 training year:****

NW02F05A
NW04F05A
NW08F05A
SC12F05A
SC08C05

April 15 – 17
May 6 –8
August 5 –7
May 19 – 22
Cancelled

Meadville
Butler
Butler
Harrisburg
Harrisburg