

CONSTABLES' TRAINING BULLETIN

NUMBER 86

SEPTEMBER 2017

2018 Advanced Firearms Course Description

The 20-Hour Advanced Firearms Constable Training Course consists of a series of evaluations, laboratory, and practical exercises that ensure that the constable meets the PCCD firearms certification requirements. This includes the Reduced Light, Judgmental and Qualification courses. A 9-Hour Downed/Disabled Techniques module will focus on the improvement of marksmanship and weapons handling skills when a constable is placed in a non-traditional firing position as a result of being taken to the ground (downed) or disabled (by injury). **As such, the student will spend most of his/her range time on the ground shooting from various ground positions in an attempt to simulate non-traditional firing positions.** Please review the class confirmation letter for specific details on what equipment is required for the class. To continue to attend Advanced Firearms Courses, the constable must score an 88% or higher on the Constable Qualification Course (CQC). In the Advanced Firearms Course, the CQC is conducted once weapons are inspected and function checked. Unlike the Basic and Annual Firearms Courses, there is **no** practice attempt on the CQC.

Level 2 Holsters

On May 29, 2013, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court published a series of requirements that impact the operations of constables and their deputies. Among these is the following requirement regarding firearms and holsters: IV d.1.e. "*a constable shall, when carrying a firearm, secure the weapon in a Level 2 or higher security holster.*"

Unfortunately, there is no universal standard definition of a Level 2 holster. These designations can be traced back to manufacturers marketing holsters and attempting to define the level of security that their holsters offered. Currently, the U.S. National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is completing an assessment of the various security and retention holsters available. This study will address physical tests of the holsters to determine a set of standards and definitions. Until that time, we are faced with two sets of definitions developed by manufacturers.

These definitions result in differences in the characteristics of a Level 2 holster. Until the NIJ study is completed, we are presenting the differences between the two standards in an effort to provide constables and their deputies with additional information that may aid them in the selection of a holster meeting the intent of the Supreme Court guidelines. The table that follows briefly highlights how holsters are rated within the two systems of definitions.

**Constables' Education and
Training Board Members:**

Board Chair – Vacant

**Julie G. Sokoloff
Rodney D. Ruddock
William C. Wenner
Major William P. White**



**Charles H. Ramsey
Chairman, PCCD**

**Derin Myers
Acting Executive Director,
PCCD**

**John Pfau
Manager,
Bureau of Training Services**

Definition A	Definition B
Level 1 – Friction Fit. No retaining device. Weapon held in by Gravity and fit of holster to weapon.	Level 0 – Friction Fit. No retaining device. Weapon Held in by Gravity and fit of holster to weapon.
Level 2 – Friction Fit. Plus Thumb break.	Level 1 – Friction Fit, Plus Thumb break.
Level 3 - Friction Fit, Plus Thumb break. Plus a trigger retention device.	Level 2 - Friction Fit, Plus Thumb break. Plus a trigger retention device.
Level 4 - Friction Fit, Plus Thumb break. Plus a trigger retention device. Plus a third retention device (e.g. a second strap/break, a twist of the holster, etc.).	Level 3 - Friction Fit, Plus Thumb break. Plus a trigger retention device. Plus a third retention device (e.g. a second strap/break, a twist of the holster, etc.).

You will note that within the two systems of definitions, a Level 2 designation under Definition A is rated a Level 1 under Definition B. When choosing a holster, check the manufacturer's specifications and what type of retention features that particular holster offers. Since the definition of a Level 2 holster may be interpreted differently by your County's President Judge, please contact their office or your County Court Administrator's Office for further clarification on what your County may require.

The Level 2 Holster is currently not a Board requirement while performing constable duties but it is strongly recommended that constables and deputy constables utilize a Level 2 Holster when attending constable firearms training courses.

Training Class Minimums

Training classes are limited in size and must meet specific minimum enrollment numbers as per training class type. **Those training class limits and minimums will be strictly enforced, so it is important to enroll early.** The end of the training year is November 1, 2017.

Below are the minimum class sizes:

- Basic Training – 14 students minimum
- Basic Firearms – 9 students minimum
- Continuing Education – 16 students minimum
- Annual Firearms – 16 students minimum
- Advanced Firearms – 10 students minimum and 12 students maximum
- Optional Training – 6 students minimum

It is the constable and deputy constables' responsibility to enroll into training classes to maintain their certification for the next calendar year. To ensure uninterrupted certification, constables should enroll in training courses as soon as possible. **Enroll early. Online enrollment is the fastest and easiest way to enroll.**

Constables' training classes that are not meeting the minimum enrollment numbers may be combined and/or canceled. The chart below shows the number of 2017 training classes that were cancelled by region and training type.

Region	Basic Training	Basic Firearms	Continuing Education	Annual Firearms	Advanced Firearms	Optional Training	Total Classes Cancelled
NW	1	1	2	1	0	0	5
SW	1	1	4	7	1	1	15
NC	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
SC	0	1	2	3	0	0	6
NE	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
SE	0	0	3	2	0	0	5
Totals	3	4	12	14	1	1	35

Please enroll into training classes by May 31, 2018. You may not get the class or location of your choice if you enroll after that time period. Classes not meeting minimum enrollments will be canceled. Access CCETS for the most current training class schedule.

2018 Training Schedule

It is expected that the 2018 Training Schedule will be available the week of November 20, 2017. **ALL TRAINING COURSES ARE FILLED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.** Courses are also limited in size. To ensure uninterrupted certification, constables should enroll in training courses as soon as possible. **Enroll early. Online enrollment is best.**

If you have not done so already, please make sure to register as a user in the Constables' Certification, Education and Training System (CCETS). Do not wait until the 2018 classes are open for enrollment to register for CCETS. If you register early in CCETS, you can then familiarize yourself with the system and how to enroll in classes, view training history, view and change personal information and share information with other certified constables and deputy constables. **You must be a registered CCETS user to enroll into classes online.** Program Staff must approve the registration prior to logging into CCETS. Note: PCCD staff do not have your passwords. Constables must have their user ID and passwords available to enroll online.

To complete the First-Time User Registration, go to: www.pccdcis.pa.gov/CCETS/Login.aspx.

Online enrollment is secure and fast, and is confirmed immediately. Enrollment can also be accomplished by mailing or faxing a completed standard registration form directly to the training delivery contractor. The standard registration forms can be found online and are included with the printed training schedule. The fax and address information for the training delivery contractor contact is also included in the printed training schedule. **Do not mail or fax training forms to PCCD.** Enrollment questions should be referred to the appropriate regional training delivery contractor. Constables cannot enroll for training courses by calling or mailing PCCD, please contact the appropriate regional training delivery contractor.

Training Delivery Contractor Contact Information

Western Region: Penn State-Fayette Campus, Ted Mellors – (724) 430-4214 and
FAX (724) 430-4113

Central Region: Indiana University of PA, Michael Marcantino – (724) 549-1929 and
FAX (724) 357-4090

Eastern Region: Temple University, Dee Beiter – (267) 468-8331 and FAX (267) 468-8660

Changes to Training Class Confirmation Letters

Class confirmation letters being sent out for 2018 classes will be changed to include a list of mandatory items and recommended items. Please thoroughly read the class confirmation letters to make sure you have the mandatory items needed for each training class type. **If these mandatory items are not brought with you to the training class, you will be asked to leave the training class.** Your attendance will be documented as an “excused” absence; however, you will need to reschedule any missed class time once the mandatory items are obtained.

Firearms Qualification Course of Fire

It is important to practice the Constables' Qualification Course of Fire prior to attending any firearms training class. The Course of Fire is published annually in the Training Schedule and is also located on the web at: <http://www.pccd.pa.gov/training/Documents/Constable%20Education%20and%20Training/Constable%20Forms/Constables'%20Qualification%20Course%20of%20Fire.pdf>

2018 ID Cards

In December 2017, PCCD will mail new certification cards to all constables who have maintained their certifications by successfully completing Continuing Education or Basic Training during 2017, by having a valid term of office, and by filing current professional liability insurance information with their county clerks of courts. Ample allowance will be made for normal mailing time, so constables should receive their new cards before the old ones expire on December 31, 2017. To ensure that cards are mailed to the correct address, any constable who has recently changed his address must report that change to Program Staff immediately or this change can be made directly in CCETS by the constable or deputy constable.

Title 37 §431.11 Registration: A person shall register with the Board for certification by submitting information such as mailing address and telephone number, Social Security number, date of birth and office held or sought. A constable shall set forth the beginning date and expiration date of the term of office held, and provide documentary evidence of election or appointment. A registrant shall inform the Board of a change to registration information within 15 days of the change.

Liability Insurance

Act 49 states that any constable or deputy constable who fails, neglects or refuses to maintain a current liability insurance policy as required, or to file proof thereof with the clerk of courts, shall cease automatically to be certified to perform judicial duties upon the expiration of the policy of which proof has been filed with the County Clerk of Courts. To ensure uninterrupted constable certification, it is essential that every constable file a new certificate of insurance with the County Clerk of Courts before the current insurance policy expires. Program staff will only accept the liability insurance information directly from the County Clerk of Courts office in which the constable or deputy constable was elected or appointed.

Re-election/Election Certificates and Appointment Orders

To ensure continued, uninterrupted certification, if your term of office ends December 31, 2017, you must forward a copy of your new election certificate from the county Board of Elections or appointment order signed by the County President Judge to Program staff via mail or FAX to: Bureau of Training Services, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, PO Box 1167, Harrisburg PA 17108-1167; FAX (717) 783-7140. If you are a constable or deputy constable who has been newly-appointed or re-appointed, you must forward a copy of your new appointment order signed by the President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, to the address above.

Electronics Usage

There have been several complaints from constables and deputy constables concerning constables and deputy constables using cell phones, iPads, or other electronic devices during the Constables Training Classes.

Please be reminded that per the PA Constables' Classroom Code of Conduct, Section III. Unprofessional Conduct, subparagraph A states:

Unprofessional Conduct is defined as conduct that reflects poorly upon the image of the Constables' Education and Training Board (Board) and the Constables of the Commonwealth. Examples include, but are not limited to: disruptive talking in the classroom, disrespect to instructors, sleeping, eating or smoking in class, disrupting other activities occurring on the training site; false fire alarm, vandalism, illegal parking, lying to training delivery or Board staff or any other person; refusal to cooperate with staff investigations; and other criminal offenses committed at the training site. Cell phone usage during training classes would be deemed disruptive and disrespectful to instructors. Utilizing any other electronic device could also be disruptive and disrespectful to the class environment.

In addition, it has been reported that photographs and videotaping has been attempted by constables and deputy constables during Constables Training Classes. This would also be considered a violation of the PA Constables' Classroom Code of Conduct and could be a potential firearms safety issue when on the firearms range. The training delivery contractors have rules and regulations governing the use of photographs or videotaping taken during classes at their schools.

Please refrain from using electronic devices and taking photographs or videos during the Constables Training Classes.

Acceptable Firearms Calibers

Please be advised that per Board Regulation below, no other firearm calibers can be used for qualification at any Constables' Firearms Training Classes. Below are the acceptable calibers recognized by Board Regulations:

Title 37, Chapter 431, §431.43. Firearms and ammunition.

- (a) As a prerequisite for attending a firearms qualification course, a constable shall provide at all times during the course a firearm and ammunition, magazines, speed loaders, safety accessories and cleaning equipment specific to the firearm. The Board will provide ammunition to the constable for use during instruction. The constable shall provide ammunition for use during the qualification test.
- (b) The firearm provided shall be of a design generally acceptable for law enforcement usage, and **shall be in a condition for safe operation as designed and intended by the firearm manufacturer**. The firearm provided shall be one of the following calibers:
 - (1) .380.
 - (2) .38 special.
 - (3) .357.
 - (4) .40.
 - (5) .45.
 - (6) 9 mm.
- (c) The ammunition provided shall be of a type and design generally acceptable for law enforcement usage, and may not be remanufactured or reloaded.

Unacceptable Ammunition

Recently we have seen some constables shooting 9mm +P+ ammunition for qualification. Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute (SAAMI) currently has no data on +P+ ammunition. Several firearms manufacturers recommend only using ammunition that meets SAAMI standards. Thus, PCCD will not allow +P+ ammunition for qualification.

SIG Sauer P320 Safety Issue

The commercial variant of SIG Sauer's P320 pistol, under certain conditions, can unintentionally discharge if repeatedly dropped at a negative 30-degree angle onto a concrete surface from a height of at least 4 feet. SIG Sauer is issuing a complimentary, voluntary upgrade, with free shipping. Several parts within the pistol's slide and chassis will be upgraded. Please visit SIG Sauer's website for additional information.

2018 CETB Meeting Schedule

The Constables' Education and Training Board (CETB) meetings will be held at PCCD's Offices, 3101 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The 2018 meeting dates are as follows:

February 15, 2018

May 10, 2018

August 9, 2018

November 15, 2018

All CETB meetings are open to the public and constables are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Constables' Safe Operation of Weapons

Per standards listed in the Pennsylvania Constables' Basic Firearms Participant's Manual, the constable's firearm "...shall be in a condition for safe operation as designed and intended by the firearms manufacturer." This means that the constable should develop a maintenance schedule for their firearm that meets the manufacturer's recommendations for safe operation.

As a matter of routine, the constable should field strip, clean, lubricate and function check their weapon (as per the manufacturer's recommendations) after every trip to the range. Additionally, since the constable is carrying their weapon daily while on duty, the constable should clean, lubricate, and function check their weapon at least once every three months even if they don't fire it, unless the manufacturer recommends a more frequent schedule. Carrying a gun exposes it to body oils, sweat, dirt, dust, lint, moisture, etc. which could affect the functionality of the weapon at the most inopportune time.

Additionally, on an annual basis, the constable should consider taking their weapon to a manufacturer-certified armorer for that weapon they are carrying or to a qualified gunsmith to have their weapon detail stripped, cleaned and inspected. As with any mechanical device, springs, firing pins and other essential parts wear out. A certified armorer or gunsmith will know when the parts need changed so that the weapon is maintained in top condition.

Constables' Field Reference Guides

Over the past several years, PSU-Fayette has developed two field reference guides for constables, Civil Law and Constable Safety. The printed supplies of these guides have been exhausted and we will not be able to have them reprinted. If you did not receive a copy of one of these guides, links have been added to the Constables' area of the PCCD website under the Training Information section, so that these guides can be accessed and/or printed.

Contact Information at PCCD

If you have questions regarding certification, insurance, or where to send your election certificate or appointment order, please contact the appropriate staff person below.

**THESE ARE NOT CONTACTS FOR CLASS ENROLLMENTS,
CANCELLATIONS OR TRANSFERS.**

WESTERN PA: Armstrong, Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, McKean, Somerset, Venango, Washington, Warren, and Westmoreland Counties

Your contact person is: Wayne Hower, (717) 265-8551, whower@pa.gov

CENTRAL PA: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Tioga, Union, and York Counties

Your contact person is: Tracy Clouser, (717) 265-8552, tracclouse@pa.gov

EASTERN PA: Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Columbia, Delaware, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties

Your contact person is: Sherry Leffler, (717) 265-8554, sleffler@pa.gov