

San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline
Rev. 12/22/2020

Tactical Rifle Course Curriculum

- Course Title:** Tactical Rifle Course – 40 Hours
Includes M-16, AR–15, AR-15 Carbine, M-4, and Colt Commando Rifles.
- Course Goal:** To provide students with the information and hands-on experience needed to effectively use the Tactical Rifle. Successful completion of this course satisfies the legislative training mandate to possess short barrel rifles as specified in Penal Code section 33220(b) and the Commission training requirement to possess long barrel rifles as specified in Commission Regulation 1081.
- Audience:** Sworn Peace Officers, assigned to Tactical Units or Patrol, who are issued the above weapon as their secondary weapon. These Officers will qualify and carry it on duty in the scope of their employment.

Course Objectives

The San Jose Police Department Tactical Rifle course will cover the following areas of California POST Commission Regulation 1081:

- (1) Law Update – AB392 & SB230
- (2) Review of Use of Force Issues, Agency Policies, and Mission
- (3) Safety Issues
- (4) Nomenclature, Specifications, and Capabilities
- (5) Firearm Care, Breakdown, and Cleaning
- (6) Tactical Considerations
- (7) Skill Development and Qualification

Students will be specifically taught and expected to understand and perform with a tactical rifle the following areas:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the Range Safety Rules.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of loading / unloading of the weapon.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of malfunction clearances.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of shooting techniques from conventional and unconventional shooting positions.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of marksmanship.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of external and terminal ballistics.
7. Review Law and Agency Policy.
8. Pass the qualification course.

San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline
Rev. 12/22/2020

DAY 1

1. Registration / Orientation / Instructor Introductions / Overview of week
 - a. Students will complete roster sheets and waivers
 - b. Define Lead and Assistant Instructors
 - c. Map of Range presented
 - d. Timeline of the week of instruction

2. Range Safety
 - a. Four Range Safety Rules:
 - i. Treat all guns as if they are loaded
 - ii. Never point a gun at anything you do not intend to shoot.
 - iii. Keep your finger off the trigger until up on target and ready to shoot.
 - iv. Always be aware of your target and backstop.
 - b. Health Hazards
 - i. Heat/sun conditions, dehydration, snakes/animals, etc.
 - ii. Shooting at armored plating: splash back within 15 yards
 - c. Any drills performed involving movement will have a 1:1 Instructor to Student ratio

3. Injured Officer Procedures
 - a. San Jose Police Department Tactical Rifle Operator Course Safety Plan will be followed
 - i. Above listed Safety Plan will be issued to and read by all Instructors
 - b. Role of Lead Instructor
 - i. Supervising immediate actions of instructors
 - c. Range Instructors and their responsibilities
 - i. Communications – Fire/Ambulance/Helicopter requested
 - ii. First Aid is rendered to the injured Officer by Instructors/EMT
 - iii. Pre-staged designated transportation vehicle to injured Officer
 - iv. Remaining Instructors take control of Live Fire Line
 - v. Designated Life Flight Landing Pad utilized if needed

4. Range Procedures
 - a. Students will be instructed on range commands
 - b. Conditions of Carry
 - c. Dry Fire Procedures

5. Penal Code / Case Law / Agency Policy
 - a. Penal Code sections 32610(b) / 33220(b)
 - i. Possession Within Scope of Employment
 - ii. Training requirement
 - b. PC § 196PC - Justifiable Homicide
 - i. AB392 revised definition to rely more heavily on PC 835a

San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline

Rev. 12/22/2020

- ii. PC 196 identifies the circumstances when a peace officer is justified to commit a homicide
 - 1. Peace officers shall evaluate each situation in light of the particular circumstance of each case and shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible to an objectively reasonable officer.
- iii. To defend against and Imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury
- iv. 835a – Ability, Opportunity and Apparent Intent
- v. Officer shall make reasonable efforts to identify themselves and warn that deadly force will be used.
- vi. Officer does not lose right of self-defense by using reasonable force.
- vii. Objective Reasonableness
- c. Case Law Update
 - i. Tennessee vs. Garner
 - ii. Graham vs. Conner
- d. Agency Firearms Use and Use of Force Policies
 - i. Agency Specific
 - ii. Use of Force Options

6. Overview of External and Terminal Ballistics

- a. External Ballistics
 - i. Initial Intersection
 - ii. Maximum Ordinate
 - iii. Zero Intersecting Point
- b. Terminal Ballistics
 - i. Fragmentation and its effects
 - ii. Velocity
 - iii. Bullet design and its effects on terminal ballistics



8. Cycle of Operation

- a. Explanation of what occurs when the rifle is fired

San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline

Rev. 12/22/2020

- i. Chambering
- ii. Firing
- iii. Extracting
- iv. Ejecting

9. Equipment Overview

a. Rifle Accessories

- i. Sling
- ii. Lighting Systems
- iii. Pistol Grip
- iv. Collapsible / Fixed Stock
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- vii. Magazines
- viii. Nomenclature

b. Individual Officer Equipment

- i. Helmet
- ii. Tactical Vest
- iii. Tactical Belt
- iv. Magazine Pouches
- v. Hearing Protection
- vi. Eye Protection
- vii. Knee and Elbow Pads
- viii. Gloves
- ix. Rain Gear

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San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline
Rev. 12/22/2020

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11. Cleaning the Rifle

- a. Cleaning Equipment
- b. Cleaning Technique
- c. Proper Lubrication
- d. Frequency

12. Maintaining the Rifle

- a. Periodic Inspections
- b. Storage Equipment
- c. Storage Procedures

13. Loading and Unloading Procedures and Demonstration

- a. Loading Magazine
 - i. Insertion of ammunition
 - ii. Number of rounds per magazine
 - iii. Position of top round on left or right side

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San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline

Rev. 12/22/2020

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- ii. To be done on firing line
- iii. To be done utilizing “Dummy” ammunition as opposed to live ammunition (“Dummy” ammunition will be clearly marked orange)

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San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline
 Rev. 12/22/2020

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**San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline**

Rev. 12/22/2020

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- f. Live Fire Drill from 50 yards to be repeated until Instructors are satisfied with Student's performance

18. Full Kit Marksmanship

- a. Students will don full deployment kit
 - i. Rifle/Magazines/Accessories need to be accessible at all times
 - ii. Discuss issues that may arise with heavy or bulky gear
 - iii. Students will demonstrate ability to move effectively in their gear

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San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline

Rev. 12/22/2020

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San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline

Rev. 12/22/2020

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v. Lead Instructor will ask if any of the students have any injuries or physical limitations which would endanger them by assuming this position (An alternative position may be given if needed)

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San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course

Expanded Course Outline

Rev. 12/22/2020

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- f. Instructor(s) will demonstrate the intentional set up, recognition, and clearance of each three malfunctions using a live rifle
 - i. Dummy ammunition only will be used
- g. Students will practice each of the three malfunctions on Firing Line as directed by Lead Instructor - Type 1, Type 2, then Type 3
 - i. Students will utilize Dummy ammunition and progress to live ammunition

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San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline
Rev. 12/22/2020

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reload/malfunction clearances

San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline
Rev. 12/22/2020

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San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline
Rev. 12/22/2020

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San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline
Rev. 12/22/2020

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f. Live Fire Drills

i. 1:1 Student to Instructor ratio at the Firing Line

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San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline
Rev. 12/22/2020

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San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline
Rev. 12/22/2020

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San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline
Rev. 12/22/2020

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(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline
Rev. 12/22/2020

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13. Range Clean Up
- a. Targets will be taken down
 - b. Damaged Range supplies will be repaired or replaced

San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline
Rev. 12/22/2020

- c. New targets may be prepared

DAY 4

1. Review of Range Safety Rules/Procedures and Health Hazards
 - a. Review of above listed as per Expanded Course Outline, Day 1, Sections 2, 3, and 4
2. Qualification
 - a. SJPD MERGE Bi-annual Qualification Test
 - i. Lead Instructor will discuss the courses of fire and movements conducted
 - ii. Qualification Test will include movements and courses of fire – a culmination of topics taught
 - iii. Course of fire with Operator movement will have a 1:1 Student to Instructor ratio at the Firing Line
 - iv. Qualification will be a timed event – any shooting beyond the time limit will count as a missed shot
 - v. Students will need at least an 80% target hit rate to pass the Qualification Test

San Jose Police Department
(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline

Rev. 12/22/2020

1. Any student who passes the Qualification Test with a score of 80% or higher will receive a course Certificate of Completion
2. Any student who scores below an 80% will receive a course Certificate of Attendance

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(M.E.R.G.E / S.W.A.T) Tactical Rifle Course
Expanded Course Outline

Rev. 12/22/2020

- a. Students will be handed hard copy Certificates of Completion and/or Attendance
- b. Students will have opportunity to provide school feedback and Instructor evaluations