

State of Illinois

**Illinois Law Enforcement Training
and Standard Board**



**Illinois Mandatory Firearms
Training Manual**

50 ILCS 710

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Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

I. INTRODUCTION

As a peace officer the firearm will be a familiar companion throughout your career. Skill at arms is a requisite to the peace keeping mission of the police officer. Since firearms will be used only to defend life, you should have an intense desire to become proficient. The training you will receive in compliance with Peace Officer Firearm Training Act (50 ILCS 710), must be viewed as the minimum necessary for you to carry a firearm in the performance of your duties as a peace officer in the State of Illinois. It is important that you continue your training throughout your career if you hope to maintain these important life skills.

Your course of instruction will focus, in the main, on the legal aspects of the use of deadly force, basic marksmanship training, firearm safety, and basic gun handling skills. To receive certification, you will be required to demonstrate minimal proficiency with your firearm by qualifying on a proscribed course of fire. You must also demonstrate knowledge of pertinent laws and other relevant knowledge by passing a written examination.

II. HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS TRAINING?

The obvious reason for becoming proficient with your firearm requires little discussion. Most police agencies in the State of Illinois have policies which limit the use of the firearm to circumstances in which human life is in imminent danger. Reality suggests that, in many of these situations, the life in danger may well be your own. The lives of your colleagues and those of innocent citizens may also hang in the balance, dependent on your knowledge and skill.

Studies indicate officers hitting their adversaries at alarmingly low rates. Recent estimates have dropped to as low as 5 percent. Documented studies from the 1970's and 1980's indicate hit/miss ratios at somewhere between 14 percent and 26 percent. This would seem dismal enough in itself, but when examined in concert with other relevant information, gleaned from such studies, the depth of the problem can be better appreciated.

Most police shooting situations occur at very close range. More than 50 percent occur within five feet of the officer. Seventy percent occur within ten feet of the officer and more than 90 percent within twenty-one feet of the officer. This data suggests that only about one out of six rounds hit an assailant at these close distances. This performance record must be remedied if officers are to be able to protect themselves and carry out their sworn duty to protect the lives of others.

Another important reason for this mandatory training is protection from litigation stemming from civil actions that may ensue following the use of deadly force. Training can become a key issue in such cases. This course of instruction provides valuable knowledge and skill that can provide a solid foundation for a defense in civil actions. Without the basic knowledge and skill provided in this course, one would be left defenseless and vulnerable to questions regarding training related issues.

Your Mandatory Firearms Training program is designed to provide you with minimal knowledge and skills. However, we must again caution you that additional training throughout your career is essential to the development and maintenance of knowledge and skills. Good luck in your future career as an Illinois Peace Officer.

Chapter 2 HANDGUN SAFETY

I. HANDGUN SAFETY

The State of Illinois requires mandatory training for Peace Officers in the use of firearms. One very important aspect of that training is firearm safety. The unsafe handling of firearms can result in death or injury to innocent persons and Civil or Criminal prosecution resulting from the careless or negligent discharge of those firearms.

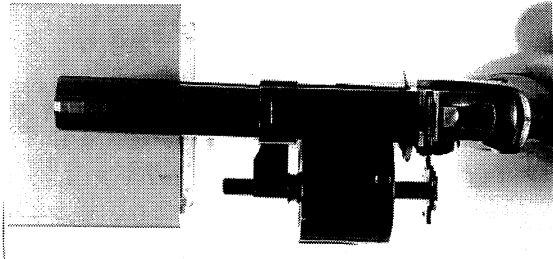
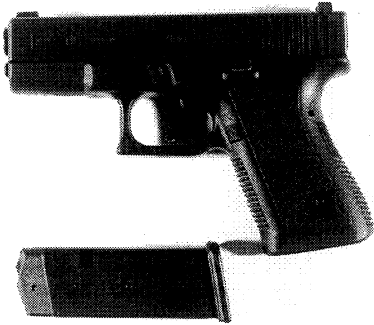
Law Enforcement officers have a greater amount of contact with firearms than any other segment of the U.S. population including the United States Military. For this reason, it is all that more important that Law Enforcement Officers establish a routine of firearm safety that can be conducted throughout their careers. The best safety in regards to operating any firearm is in the mind of the person handling the weapon.

This chapter outlines some basic safety rules and “common sense” considerations regarding firearm safety. These considerations are minimum guidelines for safety. It is not intended to imply that higher standards for firearm safety should not or could not be set by individual officers, range personnel, or Law Enforcement Agencies.

II. GENERAL FIREARM HANDLING SAFETY RULES

- A. The following rules concerning the safe handling of firearms are universally accepted. These rules should apply in all situations:
 - 1. All firearms are always loaded.
 - 2. Never let the muzzle cover anything you are not ready and willing to destroy.
 - 3. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target.
 - 4. Be sure of your target and its surroundings.
 - 5. Never handle firearms under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

- B. In giving, receiving, or benching a firearm:
 - 1. Remove the source of ammunition.
 - 2. Open action and unload.



3. Be muzzle conscious.

C. Use extra caution when handling firearms you are not familiar with.

III. ON/OFF DUTY SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

The carrying of a sidearm by law enforcement officers both on and off duty represents another safety concern. As officers respond to calls for service or go about their normal business during off duty times, it is important to realize that a firearm is always present. Good tactics and proper firearm retention procedures can often prevent safety violations during potential armed encounters. Failure to follow general safety rules can cause disastrous consequences. In addition to these safety rules, some safety considerations specific to carrying the firearm on one's person should be addressed.

A. Many unintentional discharges are due to unnecessary handling of firearms.

1. Do not remove the firearm from the holster in public unless the intent is to use it for the defense of life.
2. "Showing off" the weapon only increases the possibility of an unintentional discharge.

B. When the firearm is carried in a concealed manner, it should be "concealed."

C. You should never get within arm's reach of an adversary with a firearm in your hand.

IV. HOME SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

As members of the law enforcement community, many officers will be introducing firearms into their homes for the first time. Firearm safety also should include decisions on the management of handguns within the home.

From merely the safety aspect, the best safeguard would be to store firearms that are not in use in a secured area. Home alarms, deadbolt locks, and proper lighting can assist in providing security to residents within the home. It is suggested that individual officers assess their needs and individual circumstances for firearms for personal protection within the home versus the risk to untrained/unauthorized individuals obtaining the firearm for other than justified reasons. (See Appendix C)

V. STORING OF FIREARMS CONSIDERATIONS

A. Considerations for stored firearms may include:

1. Conceal/secure the firearm within the home.
 - a. Gun cabinet/safe
 - b. Trigger lock
 - c. Locked case
2. Secure ammunition separate from firearm.
3. Following Departmental Policy if applicable.

B. Considerations for storing firearms not in immediate use may include:

1. Gun cabinet/safe.
2. Safety Deposit Box.
3. Concealing the firearm (unloaded).
4. Storing ammunition separately from the firearm in a secured place.
5. Storing firearms and ammunition away from areas of extreme heat or moisture.

6. Secure a trigger lock or similar safety device.
7. Following Departmental policy if applicable.

VI. FIRING RANGE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

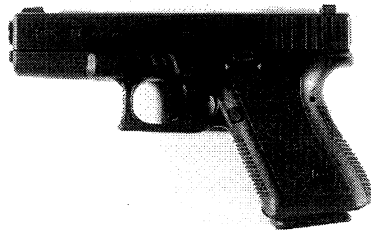
Prior to firing on an individual firing range, a shooter should check with the Firearms Instructor to determine any rules that would apply to that facility. Although individual Firearms Instructors may have specific rules or methods of instruction, generally, the following range safety rules should apply.

- A. The Firearms Instructor maintains total control of the firing line.
- B. Weapons will not be removed from the holster or loaded without prior approval of the Firearms Instructor.
- C. Unholstered weapons will be pointed down range at all times.
- D. All firing will stop on the command "cease fire."
- E. No one is permitted in front of the firing line without approval of the Firearms Instructor.
- F. "Horseplay" or safety violations will cause the shooter to be removed from the firing line/range faculty.
- G. Any persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be removed from the firing line/facility.
- H. Eye and ear protection must be worn at all times.
- I. Do not bend over on the firing line unless instructed to do so by the Firearms Instructor.

Chapter 3 NOMENCLATURE

I. TYPES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT HANDGUNS

A. Autoloading Pistol/Semi-Automatic Pistol



A hand firearm where the cartridge is automatically fed from a magazine in the handle into the firing chamber. After the first round has been loaded into the firing chamber and the trigger has been pressed, the round will fire, the spent case will automatically be extracted and ejected, and the next round will be loaded into the firing chamber ready to be fired on the next press of the trigger. Very often incorrectly called an automatic, the true name for this type of weapon is, a semi-automatic autoloading pistol. A pistol has only one firing chamber.

B. Revolver



A hand firearm in which a rotating cylinder, with multiple firing chambers, successively places a cartridge, in a firing chamber of the cylinder, in position to be fired. The cylinder must revolve into battery before each shot is fired.

II. NOMENCLATURE COMMON TO BOTH PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS

A. Frame

The frame is the housing that gives the pistol or revolver its basic shape. All other parts of the weapon are connected to the frame.

B. Action

The mechanism of a firearm or the assembly of moving parts of a firearm which through their movements fire the round of ammunition.

C. Bore

The cylindrical opening that runs through the barrel of a firearm, which contains the rifling through which the bullet travels.

D. Rifling

The spiral cuts within the bore that spin the bullet giving it gyroscopic stability in flight. The spiral cuts are referred to as lands and grooves.

1. Lands

The raised spiral portion of the bore left after the grooves have been cut into the inner surface of the bore.

2. Grooves

The spiral cuts in the bore which, along with the lands, gives the spinning motion to the bullet as it travels through the barrel.

E. Caliber of the Firearm

The diameter of the bore, measured from land to land.

F. Caliber of the Bullet

The diameter of the bullet at its widest point.

Note - Bullet calibers are slightly larger than bore calibers in order that the barrel grooves can grip the bullet causing it to spin as it travels through the barrel. This spin gives the bullet stability in flight and the more stable a bullet is in flight, the more accurate it will be.

G. Firing Chamber

The part of the weapon into which a cartridge is placed for firing.

H. Front Sight

The sight which is mounted on the top of the slide or barrel at the muzzle end of the weapon.

I. Rear Sight

The sight which is mounted on or channeled into the top rear portion of the slide or barrel above the hammer.

J. Barrel

The tube that has been bored out for the passage of the bullet.

K. Muzzle

The point at the front of the barrel where the bullet exits the weapon after it is fired.

L. Trigger Guard

A loop protecting the trigger from damage or accidental pushing to the rear.

M. Trigger

A small projecting lever, which when pressed to the rear causes the weapon to fire.

N. Hammer

The part of the action of a weapon which by its falling forward causes a cartridge to be fired.

O. Hammerspur

The knurled lever attached to the hammer used for drawing the hammer to its rear locked position (*used to fire the weapon single action*).

P. Firing Pin

The plunger in the action of the weapon which strikes the primer of the cartridge causing the round to fire.

Q. Grips / Stocks

Wood, plastic, or rubber handles fastened to the frame of the weapon permitting better gripping by the shooter.

R. Trigger Pull

The amount of pressure applied to the trigger needed to release the mechanism that fires the weapon.

S. Single Action

With the pistol, the hammer is either manually drawn to the rear locked position or the cycling of the slide locks the hammer to the rear. With the revolver, the hammer is manually drawn to the rear locked position. Pressure is then applied to the trigger, releasing the hammer to fall forward.

T. Double Action

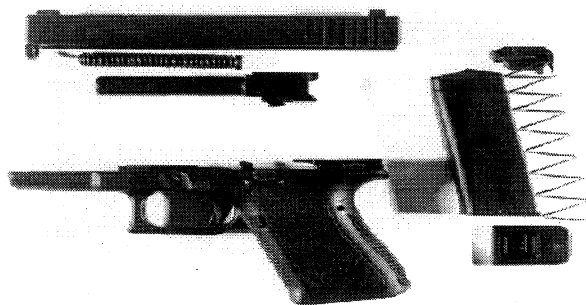
Pressure is applied to the trigger causing the hammer to be drawn rearward until it comes to its rear most point and falls forward. It is safer and no less accurate to fire the weapon in this manner.

U. Recoil

The rearward movement of the weapon caused by the firing of the weapon.

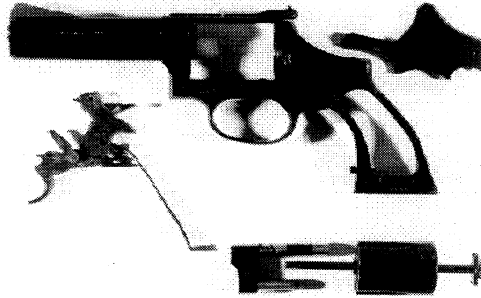
III. THREE MAJOR GROUPS OF THE SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL

- A. Slide Group
- B. Frame Group
- C. Magazine Group



IV. THREE MAJOR GROUPS OF THE REVOLVER

- A. Action Group
- B. Barrel/Frame Group
- C. Cylinder Group



V. NOMENCLATURE OF AMMUNITION

- A. One Complete Round

A complete unfired unit consisting of four components.

- 1. Cartridge Case

A cylindrical shell which serves as a container for the other three components of a round of ammunition.

- 2. Primer

A cup consisting of a compound that is exploded when struck by the firing pin. This explosion then ignites the powder.

- 3. Powder

The compound which burns after being ignited by the primer releasing gas which drives the bullet from the barrel. As this gas expands, it pushes the bullet out by creating energy.

- 4. Bullet

The projectile that is propelled through the barrel and to the target.

B. Grain

Refers to the weight of the bullet.

C. Centerfire Ammunition

Refers to the primer being located in the center of the primer cup.

D. Commonly Used Abbreviations Identifying Various Bullet Types

1. JHP - Jacketed Hollow Point
2. JSP - Jacketed Soft Point
3. FMJ - Full Metal Jacket
4. LRN - Lead Round Nose
5. MC - Metal Case
6. SWC - Semi-Wadcutter
7. TMJ - Total Metal Jacket
8. WC - Wadcutter

VI. TERMINOLOGY USED TO DESCRIBE AMMUNITION MALFUNCTIONS

A. Squib Load

Ammunition that fails to reach its maximum power because of defective powder or not enough powder.

B. Misfire

Ammunition that fails to fire because of a faulty primer or defective powder.

Chapter 4 MAINTENANCE

I. MAINTENANCE

Regular firearm maintenance is essential if the firearm system is to function reliably. Good maintenance requires periodic inspection of the firearm and the adoption of a thorough and systematic cleaning procedure. Before any inspection or cleaning is done, the firearm **must be unloaded.**

II. CLEANING EQUIPMENT

- A. Swivel base cleaning rod
- B. Bronze bore brushes-proper caliber
- C. Slotted tip and patch jag cleaning rod tips
- D. Proper caliber-cleaning patches
- E. Good bore solvent
- F. Quality gun oil. **Do not use penetrating oils to lubricate the firearm.**
 - 1. Penetrating oils turn to a varnish like substance after a time.
 - 2. Penetrating oils can get into the cartridge causing the round to malfunction.
- G. Lead away cloth **Do not use on blue steel.**
- H. Clean rags
- I. Toothbrush-regular and bronze bristle
- J. Properly fitted screwdriver for tightening screws

III. CARE AND CLEANING OF THE REVOLVER

Although sturdily constructed and not prone to malfunctions, the modern revolver must be maintained properly if it is to give long-time satisfactory service.

Repairs and a periodic internal cleaning and inspection of the revolver should be entrusted to a *competent factory trained armorer*, or it should be returned to the factory, for other than minor adjustments. The revolver carried should be checked daily for cylinder rotation, firing pin protrusion, ejector rod operation, bore cleanliness, cylinder locking, and alignment and hammer fall. This inspection can be accomplished in minutes.

- A. **Before cleaning or inspecting, the revolver must be unloaded and physically and visually inspected.**
- B. The bore should be thoroughly scrubbed with the proper caliber bristle brush (bronze) dipped in bore solvent. Brush should clear bore at end of each stroke.
- C. Barrel and bore leading which resists the ordinary bronze brush can be removed with a special wire gauze-head cleaning tool, (lead remover).
- D. A thorough cleaning with a bronze bore brush dipped in bore solvent will remove ordinary fouling from individual chambers. A chisel-shaped piece of wood or Q-tip swabs can be used to remove collected grease, etc. from locking notches in the cylinder. Stubborn chamber residue is best removed by scrubbing with a chamber brush.
- E. After final inspection, apply a very light coat of protective gun oil to the bore if the gun is to be maintained in a "ready to use" status. Clean and wipe each chamber of the cylinder with a dry patch.
- F. Use a bristle brush or a tooth brush with solvent to clean the interior surface of frame and crane assembly. Accumulated powder fouling, gummed lubrication, lead particles, or lint induce the formation of corrosion and lock-work malfunctions.
- G. Push the ejector rod back and forth vigorously. It should operate freely. Clean entire assembly with brush and place a drop of oil on the ejector rod and spline shaft. Push back and forth again, then wipe off excess lubrication. **Do not** oil the face of the star, it can attract fouling and cause the star not to be seated properly into the cylinder recess. Check to see that the ejector head (star) is seated, aligned properly, and seated fully in the cylinder recess.

- H. The firing pin channel in the frame should be free of any foreign matter. Clean with a tooth pick or pipe cleaner.
- I. In center-fire revolvers, the tip of the firing pin should be a smoothly polished hemisphere. Chipped or broken firing pins should be replaced by a factory trained armorer. Badly worn firing pins may be the source of misfires due to insufficient protrusion and should be replaced. This also can be checked and replaced, if necessary, by a factory trained armorer.
- J. Check the cylinder for excessive movement. Slight movement will normally be present but movement sufficient to cause obvious misalignment of the chambers with the bore or failure of the cylinder to lock properly may be a sign of serious problems and this should be checked by a factory trained armorer.
- K. Use a small properly sized screwdriver to verify tightness of screws on the frame and grips. **The strain screw in the front strap of the grip of the Smith & Wesson revolvers should be kept tight.**
- L. With Smith & Wesson and Colt revolvers, verify tightness of the ejector rod. If the ejector rod is loose, a proper tool must be employed to re-secure.
- M. Removal of surface rust will require a combination of fine steel wool (0000) with a lubricating oil. **Caution:** Steel wool will remove the bluing and must therefore be used with care. Lightly rubbing of a copper penny with lubricating oil can be rubbed on the rusted area. This procedure will not remove bluing from the firearm. When the gun is to be holstered, carried, or stored elsewhere for instant use, adequate rust protection is obtained by thoroughly wiping with a silicone-treated gun rag. If the revolver is to be stored for a long period of time, exposed surfaces including the bore and chambers, may be given a coating of a rust inhibiting grease. A less messy storage procedure is to wrap the gun in a special Vapor Phase Inhibiting paper or envelope which eliminates the necessity for greasing the gun. The paper wrapped gun should be then placed in a sealed box. It should be noted that proper care must also be paid to the "Stainless Steel" firearm, they also will rust if not properly maintained.
- N. Lint and fuzz accumulation in the muzzle end of the holster can attract moisture, which can cause rusting. Remove this lint and fuzz with a bronze brush or a clean patch. **Care should be taken not to apply cleaning solvents to night sights.** The chemicals may attack and loosen the adhesives used to secure the sights.

IV. CARE AND CLEANING OF THE SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL

Before cleaning or inspecting the semi-automatic pistol, it must be unloaded and physically and visually inspected. It is recommended that eye protection be worn when cleaning the semi-automatic pistol.

V. FIELD STRIPPING OF THE SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL

- A. Remove the magazine from the firearm and lock the slide to the rear. When locking the slide to the rear, care should be taken not to cover the ejection port.
- B. The firearm must be unloaded and visually and physically inspected. All ammunition must be removed from the cleaning area.
- C. Field stripping should be done to the proper manufacture's recommendations and no further. This information can be obtained from the manufacturers manual which accompanies the new semi-automatic pistol. In the case of a used firearm, if the manual does not accompany the firearm a copy should be obtained from the manufactures.
- D. Field stripping is sufficient to allow for cleaning. Further disassembly is not necessary. Further break down should only be completed by a factory trained armorer and done according to manufacturer's specifications.

VI. CLEANING PROCEDURE

Once the firearm has been field stripped, it can now be cleaned using the following procedures as a guide.

- A. Cleaning the firing chamber and the barrel.
 - 1. Clean from the breech/chamber end. This would prevent damage to the crown that would affect the firearm's accuracy.
 - 2. Start with a solvent moistened bore brush. Ten to twenty passes from the chamber to the muzzle, pushing the brush completely through before pulling back.
 - 3. Next, use solvent moistened patches.
 - 4. Follow up with dry patches.

5. Remove all excess debris.
- B. Clean the slide assembly, using a tooth brush and gun solvent.
1. Clean the bottom and face of the breech block.
 2. Use a dry nylon tooth brush on breech face.
 3. Do not use steel brush.
 4. Clean underneath the extractor.
 5. Clean the inside of the slide with a brush.
 6. Clean the recoil spring and recoil spring guide.
- C. Clean the frame assembly using nylon tooth brush.
1. Clean the locking block and insert.
 2. Clean the bottom of the frame.
 3. Clean the slide and frame rails.
 4. Clean the back end of the frame around the frame and the ejector, slide stop lever, decoking lever, if installed, and the back around the hammer.
 5. Clean the magazine well according to manufacturers manual.
 6. Wipe all parts dry with a clean dry rag. **Care should be taken not to apply cleaning solvents to night sights.** The chemicals may attack and loosen the adhesives used to secure the sights.

VII. FIELD STRIPPING OF THE MAGAZINE

Field stripping of the magazine should be done to factory specifications. All manufacturers provide information to accomplish this procedure. **Caution:** All magazines to be cleaned must be unloaded before taken apart.

- A. Clean the magazine. All solvents and oils must be removed from the magazine once cleaning is completed. The magazine must be as dry as possible so it will not attract dirt, lint and other fouling.

1. Clean the magazine area of all dirt and grit.
2. Clean the follower of any accumulated fouling and dirt.
3. Clean the magazine spring.
4. Reassemble the magazine.
5. Reload magazine and inspect.

VIII. LUBRICATING THE FIREARM

The following parts of the firearm should be lubricated after the firearm has been cleaned:

- A. Barrel
 1. Lubricated with a light film of good quality gun oil or silicone treatment.
 2. Do not use penetrating type oils.
 3. One drop maximum on the barrel.
- B. Barrel hood - one drop.
- C. Frame rails - one drop; wet to the look.
- D. Recoil spring and spring guide.

IX. REASSEMBLE THE FIREARM

The firearm should be reassembled according to factory recommendations. Cycle the slide several times to be sure of proper functioning. Wipe off excessive oil with a clean dry rag.

Note: All the above care and cleaning methods discussed may not be acceptable for all manufactures. It is strongly suggested that a factory representative be contacted if any problems arise.

**SAFETY PROCEDURES MUST BE PRACTICED
WHEN HANDLING ANY TYPE OF FIREARMS**

Chapter 5
LOADING AND UNLOADING A HANDGUN

I. LOADING AND UNLOADING A HANDGUN

Proper loading techniques ensure continuity and safety during training and when preparing the weapon for duty use.

A. Revolver - Right Hand Shooter

1. Holding the revolver in the Right Hand, activate the cylinder release with the thumb of the right hand.
2. With the left hand, place the index finger along the rear of the barrel and the little finger alongside the hammer. The middle and ring fingers will push out the cylinder and come through the frame.

Note: Right hand goes for new rounds.

1) -Loading-

3. Left hand holding the revolver with the barrel down.

2) -Reloading-

4. Left hand holding revolver with the barrel up, the thumb pushes the extractor rod down to clear the cylinder.
5. Bring the revolver barrel down to center of body, the thumb on the outside of the cylinder may hold it firm to line up with a speed-loader, or turn the cylinder to assist loading loose rounds.
6. Close the cylinder, resume the grip with the right hand, and return to target or assess and holster.

B. Left Hand Shooter

1. Holding the revolver in the left hand, activate the cylinder release with the left thumb or index finger.

2. With the right hand, the thumb pushing out the cylinder. The middle and right finger come under the outside of the cylinder, and the little finger comes across the trigger guard. The index finger will push the extractor rod.

Note: Left hand goes for new rounds.

1) -Loading-

3. The right hand holding the revolver with the barrel down.

2) -Reloading-

4. Right hand holding the revolver with the barrel up, the index finger pushes the extractor rod down to clear the cylinder.
5. Bring the revolver barrel down to center of body. With the thumb and middle finger holding the cylinder to line up with speed-loader, or turning the cylinder to assist loading loose rounds.
6. Close the cylinder, resume the grip with the left hand, and return to target or assess and holster.

II. USE OF SPEED LOADER

Note: Refer to revolver reloading first.

- A. Weak hand has control of the weapon.
- B. Strong hand has obtained the speed loader with new rounds and meets the weak hand with revolver at center of body.

Note: Somewhere between the pouch and revolver obtain a firm hold on the body of the speed-loader.

- C. Line the speed loader up with the cylinder; holding barrel downward activate the speed loader to release the rounds.

III. PARTIAL CYLINDER LOAD

On occasion, you may need to close the cylinder before all chambers are full. Should this be necessary, you must know which way the cylinder rotates on your weapon. Make sure that you close on an empty chamber with a full chamber ready to cycle under the hammer.

IV. SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL

A. Administrative Load

1. Pistol in holster; insert full magazine into the magazine well.
2. Draw pistol- grasp the slide with the weak hand, pull or push the slide to the rear and release chambering a round.
3. Re-holster (optional) remove the magazine and load one more round, reinsert magazine in magazine well.

B. Reload-Slide Locked to Rear

1. Strong hand holding weapon up and out on target, release magazine letting it fall free.
2. Weak hand obtained new magazine and insert it into the magazine well.
3. Release slide chambering the next round.

C. Reload - Partially Empty

1. Retain magazine
 - a. Strong hand holding weapon up and out on target, release partially loaded magazine and insert new full magazine
 - b. Store partially loaded magazine somewhere separate from full magazines
2. Discard magazine

Strong hand holding weapon up and out on target, release partially loaded magazine and insert new full magazine.

Chapter 6

SHOOTING FUNDAMENTALS

I. SHOOTING FUNDAMENTALS

Accurate shot placement with any firearm is dependent upon execution of shooting fundamentals. To be competent with the handgun and to effectively use the system when required, it is necessary to understand the fundamentals. The mental and physical selection standards for law enforcement is sufficient to enable law enforcement officers to become competent shooters.

An individual needs to develop the proper mental attitude and concentration skills essential to becoming a competent shooter. Application and execution require concentration. Success in any skill is ultimately dependent upon intense concentration. Good shooting consists of learning the fundamentals and putting them into repetitive practice. Firearm skills, by their nature, tend to diminish without frequent practice. Only by learning and practicing the basic fundamentals, can an individual reach a point where their performance will be a combination of reflex and ability.

II. THE STANCE

Throughout the years, various shooting stances have been developed in an attempt to enhance the shooter's ability to engage a threat with a high probability of shooting accuracy. The selection of a shooting stance is based on a number of variables that influence an individual or agency. "Experts" disagree on which shooting stance is superior. Numerous articles have been written in defense of both the Weaver (field inquiry or alert stance) developed by Jack Weaver of Lancaster, California, in 1958 and the Isosceles. Before deciding on one or the other, the individual should evaluate each stance using the following criteria: balance, body exposure, and the integration of good defensive principles, which are necessary if the officers are to be trained to survive a deadly force encounter.

III. WEAVER STANCE

A. Stable shooting platform:

1. The Weaver stance begins with a stable shooting platform, which, at the same time, gives limited mobility in all directions.
2. None of the stances currently in use provide a distinct advantage in speed in regards to the first shot. The Weaver allows the shooter to remain in a good defensive stance without making unnecessary movements if one needs to draw and shoot.

B. Foot positioning:

The feet should be approximately shoulder width. The right-handed shooter stands with the left foot forward, both feet angled in the direction of the target. The feet are not directly in line from front to rear, but spread for balance.

C. Body position:

1. The angle-to-target may vary from shooter to shooter. To help to get into this stance, point the non-shooting hand directly at the target. The body is positioned so as to offer less mass to the assailant. With the weak foot forward, the holstered firearm is away from the assailant.
2. The shoulders do not extend any farther than the back of the heels, and you should be relaxed.

D. Head:

Only your head is facing the target.

Note: You can use the Weaver position in modified form for reaction hand shooting, barricade shooting, kneeling, and almost any variation dictated by terrain, available cover, and other actual “street” situations.

IV. ISOSCELES STANCE

A. Foot positioning:

The shooter stands facing the target straight on and feet are spread at a comfortable distance. In the Isosceles stance, the weak or strong foot is extended slightly forward and results in a natural center. The center of gravity occurs when the weight is on the balls of the feet and toes.

B. Body weight forward:

Knees are slightly bent without affecting balance. Having the body weight be forward controls back recoil pressure. This is critical as it allows the shooter to relax and concentrate on shooting. This may be modified to suit the shooter.

C. Arms straight:

Arms are maintained in a natural extension, but elbows are not locked. The skeletal system is to be used.

D. Head:

The head leans slightly forward. This controls back recoil pressure.

E. Relax:

The shoulders and knees should be relaxed. The body needs to be relaxed in order to enhance performance.

V. THE DRAW

A. Be aware of the alignment of the holster to the hand and be aware of the position of the gun in relation to the body. The holster and firearm should be in the same position at all times and should be centered on the trouser seam. In addition to the proper position, the holster must hold the firearm securely and fit tight on the belt. This will aid in retaining the firearm should the officer be involved in a physical confrontation and prevent the firearm from falling out of the holster. Having the holster fit the duty belt tightly will aid the officer in the drawing and reholstering of the firearm without using the support hand.

B. The draw must be performed without having to look at the firearm or holster. The trigger finger should be kept out of the trigger guard while drawing and holstering. This will help avoid unintentional discharges. Keep your finger off the trigger until the sights are on the target. When drawing the handgun it should be done as fast as possible and in a smooth continuous motion.

VI. GRIP

A. Each shooter will find it necessary to work with the grip, making whatever modifications necessary to accomplish the desired result. A word of caution: Do not develop habits which will hinder you in tactical shooting. The grip should be consistent in all shooting. Therefore, the firing grip should be established while the firearm is in the holster.

B. The purpose of the grip is to aid in controlling barrel movement. Additionally, maintaining a proper grip will aid in recoil control which is important to the shooter. Two methods of gripping the firearm will be discussed. Both will be "two-handed,"

since all shooters can perform at higher proficiency when firing with the added support of the weak hand. A controlled 2-handed grip provides stability allowing for proper sight alignment.

- C. Both grips should be firm but not so tight that trembling results. Once the grip is obtained, it should not be tightened or relaxed while pressing the trigger. Modifying the grip by tightening or relaxing will affect the ability of the shooter to maintain sight alignment until the trigger breaks, thus affecting shot placement. Additionally, in a combat situation, shots must be fired quickly and the habit of adjusting the grip between rounds could prove disastrous.

VII. STRONG HAND GRIP

- A. Solid grip with strong hand:

The webbing of the shooting hand must be tight against the tang of the firearm. Web placement is critical to grip and rapid target acquisition. The recoil pushes against the web of the hand.

- B. Fingers:

The fingers should be together and wrapped around the stock, but not digging into the stocks. The strong hand thumb should be down on the stock and straight forward as it keeps the firearm in a proper vertical plane.

- C. Straight line with arm:

The grip with the strong hand should put the firearm in a straight line with the arm. Front, rear sight, and forearm adjustments may have to be made depending on the individual.

- D. Trigger finger position:

The trigger finger should be placed on the trigger in such a manner as to allow pressure to be applied straight back. Light should be seen between the trigger finger and the side of the frame. Adjustments may have to be made depending on the individual.

- E. Wrist:

The wrist should be straight and locked. Barrel, frame, and forearm should be in a straight line.

VIII. WEAK HAND GRIP

- A. The weak hand completely encircles the shooting hand. The weak hand helps to control the effects of recoil when the firearm is fired.
- B. The fingers of the weak hand are together and the shooting hand is "rolled" into the weak hand.
- C. The thumb of the weak hand overlaps the thumb of the strong hand or lays directly under the strong thumb. Remember to keep both thumbs on the side of the firearm to prevent injury.

IX. ISOMETRIC TENSION

- A. Isometric tension is created by both the strong hand and weak hand.
- B. "Push/Pull" by pushing straight forward with the shooting hand while pulling straight back with the supporting hand.
- C. There should be equal pressure with both hands. Once the proper grip is achieved, the grip should not be relaxed.
- D. Isometric tension controls recoil and barrel stabilization.
- E. Gives faster recovery for follow-up shots.

X. BREATH CONTROL

- A. Proper breathing plays an important part in good shooting. Stress causes breathing to be fast or shallow. By entering a state of relaxation (slow and deep breaths), one can mentally program oneself to relax. Low levels of oxygen in the system because of poor or no breathing impairs mental abilities such as judgment and decision-making. Muscles without oxygen fatigue quickly, usually in a matter of seconds.
- B. Like any other skill, breathing must be taught as a psychomotor skill. This will enable oneself to maintain a high level of oxygen in the blood stream regardless of how stressful the encounter. Breathing is most relaxing when done normally after a violent confrontation.

XI. SIGHT ALIGNMENT/SIGHT PICTURE

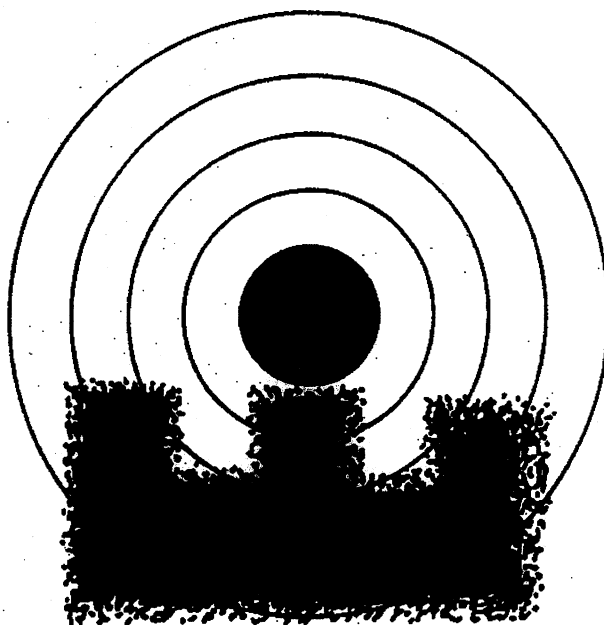
The handgun sights are used to align the handgun barrel on a precise point on the target. A correct sight picture requires proper alignment of rear sight, front sight, and target. The front sight is the most important and is the key to accuracy. The sights are created and modified to aid the shooter in obtaining and maintaining. Misaligned sights are, in the last analysis, the reason a shooter will fail in accurate shot placement. (*See Illustrations 1 and 2.*)

XII. SIGHT ALIGNMENT

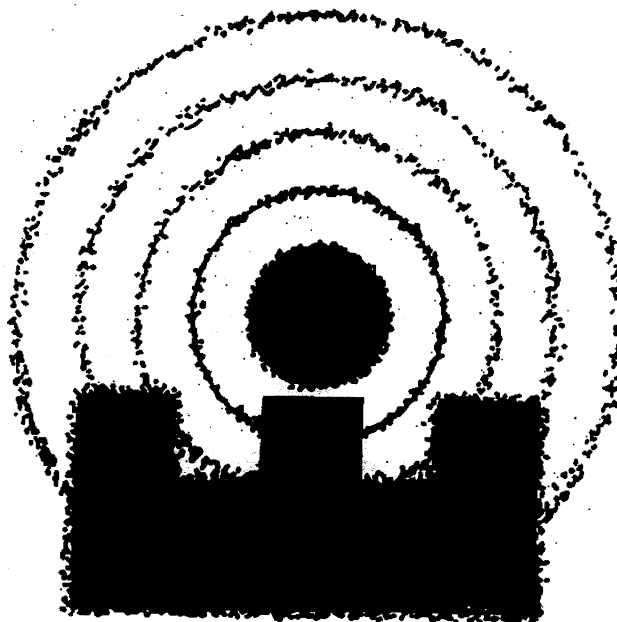
- A. The relationship between the front and rear sight.
- B. Correct alignment means the top of the front sight blade must be level across the top with the rear sight and centered in the rear sight when the firearm discharges.

XIII. SIGHT PICTURE

- A. The relationship between the target, the front and rear sights, and the eye (aiming point on target).
- B. Although sight picture is extremely important to accurate shot placement, it is over-concern with the sight picture that causes misaligned sights as the firearm discharges.
- C. The firearm must be pointed at the target. Align your sights and gain a sight picture. Focus your vision on the front sight with the rear sight and the target in your secondary vision.
- D. All experienced shooters do not use the same hold, but whatever sight picture is used, it must be uniform in order to obtain accuracy.
- E. The location of the front sight in relation to the rear sight, when the firearm is discharged, determines where the bullet will strike.

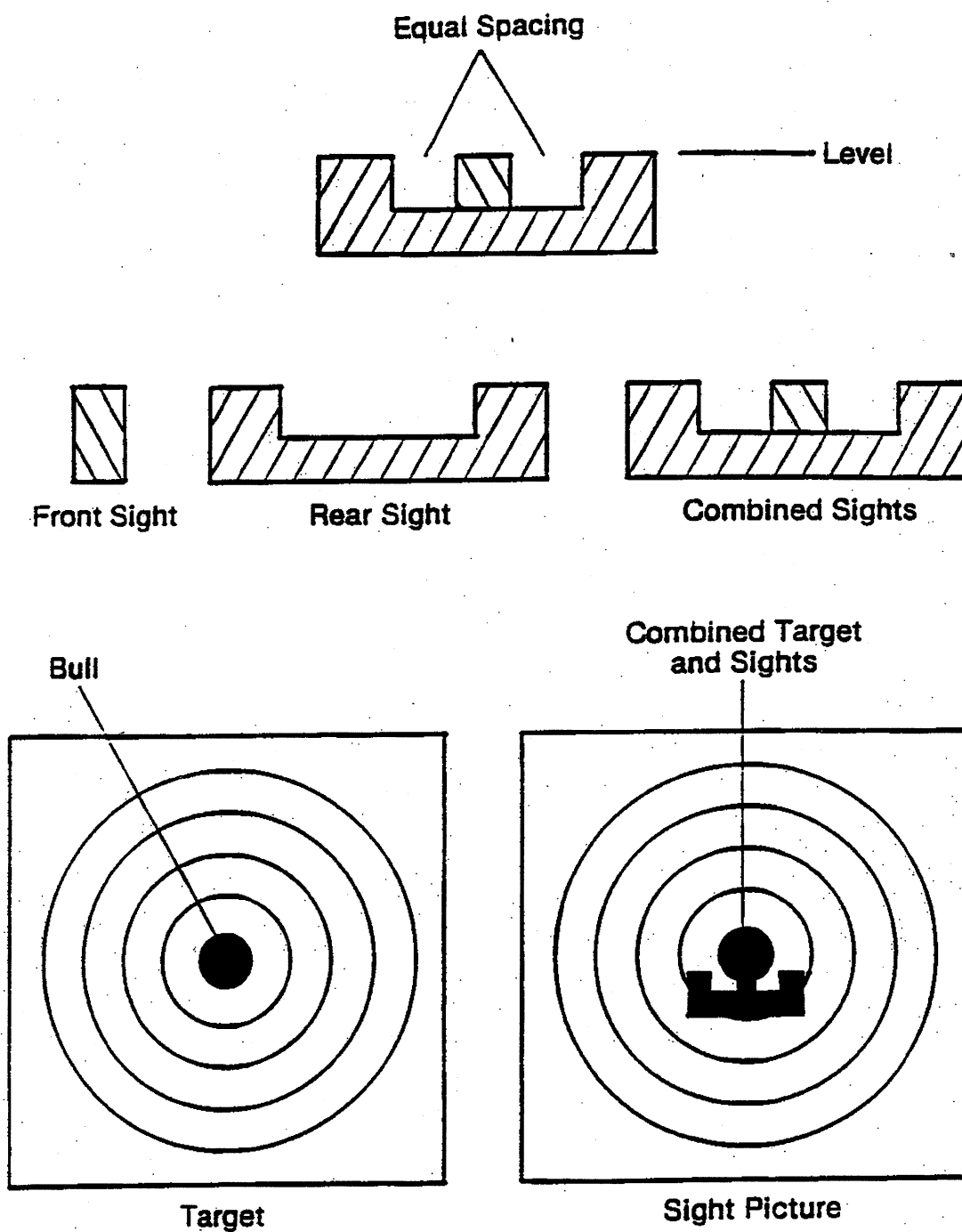


INCORRECT
Target in focus
(sight picture blurred)



CORRECT
Sight Picture in focus
(target blurred)

Sight Picture and Sight Alignment



- F. The focus should always be the front sight and never the target. Continue to focus on the front sight during recoil after firing.
- G. While sighting (aiming) is accomplished with the master eye, if the individual learns to shoot with both eyes open, the field of vision will increase and eye strain will be reduced.

XIV. TRIGGER CONTROL

Trigger control is a term which describes the manner in which the trigger is pulled and controlled. As you develop skill in trigger control, you will find it possible to press the trigger more quickly and still maintain sight alignment well enough to hold shots in center mass.

Proper trigger control is both correct trigger finger placement on the trigger and applying smooth and continuous pressure with the trigger finger on the trigger.

- A. The release of the hammer to fire the firearm should be accomplished by applying smooth, continuous pressure on the trigger. Snapping the trigger to the rear causes a jerked shot.
- B. The trigger pressure must move straight to the rear until the round is fired. Do not hesitate.
- C. The trigger finger should be positioned properly for good, "straight back" trigger control. Remember, the trigger finger should not rest against the side of the frame.
 - 1. Keeping the finger on the trigger allows for better trigger control, shot placement, and quicker follow up shots.
 - 2. Do not allow the trigger finger to come off the trigger in response to the shot being fired.
- D. Allow the firearm to fire. Do not force or anticipate the firearm firing.
- E. The final step - the follow-through is extremely important. This involves recovering from the recoil of the shot; resuming the same position; and maintaining your concentration on your grip, sight alignment, and trigger control.
 - 1. It is a continuation of the proper stance, grip, breath control, sight alignment, and trigger control for a split second after the shot has been fired.

2. Follow-through is the procedure that most effectively enables you to call your shots and detect errors in your position.
 3. Do not look at the target to determine shot placement.
- F. It is important for the shooter to recognize the difference in the double action trigger pull and the single action trigger pull.

XV. DRY PRACTICE

Nothing is more important than dry practice to those with an interest in developing optimal skills with small arms. Regular drill training results in a positive performance result. One who engages in regular dry practice habituates behaviors required for success. As an enhancement to marksmanship perhaps nothing is more important than regular dry practice.

Dry practice costs nothing but your time. You do not have to travel to a range or make any special arrangements to engage in this important activity. Do something for yourself.

A. Dry Practice Safety

Many negligent discharges have occurred during dry practice sessions. There is no excuse for these problems. Dry practice safety is a “mindset” problem and we shall approach it as such. The following regimen is a simple but effective method which if adhered to religiously will prevent any possibility of an accident. Failure to follow this regimen is an invitation to disaster.

1. Pick a place in which you will always dry practice, your “personal dry practice area.” Pick a room or area facing in the safest possible direction.
2. Get a box or some type of container and label it “dry practice.”
3. Obtain and use one target for dry practice. If the target could be backstopped by some type of bullet resistant material, safety would be enhanced.

B. Before beginning dry practice:

1. Go into your personal dry practice area. Tell yourself that you are in “dry practice mode.”

2. Unload your weapon and empty all ammunition, magazines, and speed loaders containing ammo into your dry practice container. If you have dummy rounds place one in the chamber and one in each practice magazine. Conduct a physical and visual inspection to ensure the weapon is safe. Take the dry practice container out of the personal dry practice area.
 3. Put up your dry practice target.
- C. Make a final physical and visual inspection and begin dry practice.
1. Dry practice only as long as you can make a concentrated effort at technical correctness.
 2. Do not allow yourself to habituate improper or unnatural behaviors which could be counterproductive. A few correct repetitions would be better than many incorrect repetitions.
 3. Any interruption (i.e., phone calls, etc.) must be followed by a physical and visual inspection before beginning dry practice again.
- D. Upon completion of dry practice, follow these important steps:
1. Take down your dry practice target. Tell yourself you are out of dry practice mode.
 2. Leave your personal dry practice area and recover your dry practice container.
 3. If necessary, remove any dummy rounds from chamber and magazines. Put your weapon into whatever condition is required. Tell yourself you are out of dry practice mode.
 4. Take your dry practice container back into your personal dry practice area and put it in its proper place. Tell yourself you are no longer in dry practice mode.

Chapter 7
MALFUNCTIONS OR STOPPAGES

I. MALFUNCTIONS OR STOPPAGES

If you maintain a reliable weapon and use factory ammunition, the chances of any stoppage or malfunction are minimal. However, if any stoppage does occur, you have to be able to clear it quickly with reflexive response.

II. REVOLVER

- A. For any loaded revolver to fire, the cylinder must rotate one cylinder hole each time the trigger is pulled through in double action or when the hammer is cocked in single action. The firing pin must then drop hard enough to detonate the primer causing the round to fire.

- B. Failure to Fire: A malfunction in a revolver would be a failure for the weapon to fire the round in the cylinder that was under the hammer when it fell.
 - 1. Cause: Light firing pin hit, caused by hard primers, weak main spring, or loose cylinder moving inside the frame.

 - 2. Corrective Action: Rotate the cylinder one charge hole by pulling the trigger through in double action or pulling the hammer back in single action, then pressing the trigger to the rear, causing the firing pin to fall on the next round.

- C. Any weapon having repeated stoppages should be checked for the following:
 - 1. Dirt under the extractor star

 - 2. High primer on shell casing

 - 3. Main spring screw loose

 - 4. Ejector rod loose and backed out

 - 5. Broken firing pin

III. SEMI-AUTOMATIC

- A. Every time you fire a semi-automatic weapon it has to do four things and it has to do them every time it fires or you have a stoppage of the weapon's ability to fire the next round.
- B. In order for a semi-automatic pistol to fire, it has to:
 - 1. Feed a round from the magazine into the chamber and seat that round in the weapon in battery.
 - 2. Fire the round in the chamber.
 - 3. Extract the round from the chamber as a result of the expanding gases from the fired round pushing the slide to the rear, pulling the shell case from the chamber.
 - 4. Eject the round from the open ejection port before the slide closes. This happens as the shell case hits the ejector as it is being pulled back by the extractor. The slide is pulled back into battery by the recoil spring.

NOTE: A FAILURE OF ANY ONE OF THESE WILL CAUSE A STOPPAGE IN THE FIRING CYCLE REQUIRING IT TO BE CLEARED BEFORE YOU CAN CONTINUE TO FIRE.

IV. COMMON MALFUNCTIONS

- A. Failure to feed: An indication of a failure to feed, is a click when you pull the trigger of a weapon you believe to be loaded.
 - 1. Cause: The top round in the magazine was not stripped from the magazine and was not fed into the chamber. This is a result of the magazine not being seated, and the stripping rail did not pick up the top round from the magazine.
 - 2. Corrective action: With your finger out of the trigger guard, the magazine has to be seated in the weapon and the slide has to be pulled to the rear so the top round in the magazine can be fed into the chamber as the slide goes forward; then engage target.

Note: When you put a fully loaded magazine into a weapon with the slide forward, it takes extra pressure to seat it because the top round has to be pushed down by the bottom of the slide.

- B. Failure to fire: An indication of a failure to fire is when the loaded gun goes “click” or nothing happens when the trigger is pulled, because the round in the chamber did not fire.
1. Cause: The round in the chamber did not fire because of faulty ammunition, weapon not in battery, broken firing pin, or weak firing pin spring.
 2. Corrective action: With your finger out of the trigger guard, the round in the chamber has to be extracted from the chamber and ejected from the weapon. The slide has to strip off the top round from the magazine and feed it into the chamber as it goes into battery. Engage the target.
- C. Since the symptoms of a failure to feed and failure to fire are the same, it is recommended that you tap the magazine to insure that it is fully seated if you hear a click when pulling the trigger of a loaded weapon.
- D. The magazine has to be tapped **before** pulling the slide to the rear to insure that a round is fed into the chamber when the slide goes forward.
- E. Failure to extract: An indication of a failure to extract is a round in the chamber and another round is forced up against it keeping the slide open.
1. Cause: A failure to extract (sometimes called a double feed) is caused by a round in the chamber that did not extract. The top round from the magazine is forced in behind it as the slide moves forward.
 2. Corrective action: With your finger out of the trigger guard, the magazine has to be removed from the weapon. This can be done by either locking the slide to the rear to reduce the tension on the magazine, then letting the slide go forward; or by ripping the magazine out of the weapon causing the slide to go forward. Once the magazine has been removed and the slide is in battery, insert a new magazine in the weapon, pull the slide to the rear and allow it to go forward. Engage the target.
- F. Failure to eject: An indication for a failure to eject is the slide is not closed in battery after firing a round and an empty shell casing is caught between the back of the barrel and the slide.
1. Cause: A failure to eject is caused by the slide closing before the empty shell casing clears the ejection port. The empty shell case is held in place by the tension of the rebound spring.

2. Corrective action: With your finger out of the trigger guard, the slide has to be pulled to the rear and the ejection port held at an angle that will cause the empty shell casing to fall from the open ejection port. After pulling the slide to the rear, let it go forward to load another round into the chamber and engage the target.

G. Any weapon that has repeated failures should be checked for the following:

1. Over lubricated causing dirt built up
2. Under lubricated causing slide to drag
3. Dirt under extractor
4. Cracked or bent magazine ears
5. Dirt in the chamber
6. Faulty ammunition

Chapter 8
LOW LIGHT AND NIGHT SHOOTING TECHNIQUES

I. LOW LIGHT AND NIGHT SHOOTING TECHNIQUES

There are many times that the Law Enforcement Officer will find him/or herself in a reduced light situation. Many shootings occur in dim light or the absence of light. Techniques used in low-light or night situations need to be developed. In low light conditions the flashlight should be used only when necessary.

Through practice and training, the shooter can deliver accurate shots on a target even though the target is a dim shadow.

II. WORKING IN DARKNESS

- A. Stay still; give your eyes sufficient time to adjust
- B. Depth perception
 - 1. Small and/or dull objects seem further
 - 2. Large and/or bright objects seem closer
- C. Avoid quick movement
 - 1. Prevent tripping or bumping objects
 - 2. Slow is quieter
 - 3. Slow movement may not attract attention
- D. Use of natural lighting
 - 1. Back lighting ((silhouette), target between yourself and the light)
 - 2. Angle lighting (depends on viewing position)
 - a. Possible silhouette
 - b. Give off shadows
 - c. Can flatten the image

3. Overhead lighting creates shadows
 4. Front lighting
 - a. Tends to flatten image
 - b. Image may tend to blend with surroundings
- E. Use of Flashlight
1. Search
 2. Locate
 3. Identify
 4. Properly align sights

III. SHOOTING TECHNIQUE

A. Shooting Position

1. Stance
2. Grip

B. Multiple Shots

(The first shot allows the retina of the eye to pick up the front sight for the second shot).

C. Flashlight Aided Shooting Techniques

D. Night Sights

E. Other Light Sources

Chapter 9

THE SHOTGUN AND OTHER SHOULDER MOUNTED WEAPONS

I. DEPLOYMENT

Perhaps no topic in police weapons training is more misunderstood than that of the shoulder mounted firearm. In determining circumstances in which these types of firearms might be deployed it is first necessary to discuss the capabilities and limitations of each of the firearms in this category. Only then can one make some general recommendations regarding deployment principles.

II. SHOTGUNS

Perhaps the most misunderstood of all firearms is the shotgun. Because of commonly believed myths associated with the shotgun, it is many times inappropriately deployed and becomes a liability rather than an asset. One need only look around at high risk scenes to notice shotguns brought but found to be encumbering to the performance of duties. Shotguns laying on car hoods, shotguns leaning against cars, shotguns on seats in cars, one officer holding two shotguns...these represent circumstances where officers brought shotguns and found it necessary to rid themselves of the guns in order to perform necessary functions.

Why do officers many times bring a shotgun to a situation and then find it has become a liability? Quite simply because they believe that the shotgun has attributes that make it indispensable, particularly in circumstances where higher levels of risk might prevail. For example, many police firearms publications from the past contain information such as the following: "the shotgun is a formidable law enforcement weapon. The shotgun is effective and versatile, having the potential for use as a rifle, shotgun, or gas gun. *It is a superior weapon and is often relied on in high risk situations.*" Should an officer remember and believe such notions one should not be surprised that the officer would bring the shotgun to a high risk situation.

Let us examine the myths associated with the shotgun...myths which have led to the formulation of belief systems which produced teachings such as those referred to above.

- A. *Anyone can handle a shotgun. Training requirements are minimal.* One need only to examine departmental firearms training programs across the nation to determine that most agencies believe this to be true. It would be unusual to find agencies that train with the shotgun four times a year. Yet many of these same agencies train regularly with their handguns.

One need only observe officers in training situations to behold the folly of this commonly held belief. Gun handling errors are frequently observed and most of them

are critical errors which in a combat situation would produce failure. Accidental discharges with shotguns are among the most frequently reported. (Semi-automatic pistols are gaining ground in this appalling category)

Regular training is necessary to gain and maintain the gun handling skills required to deploy the shotgun in the combat environment. If you are unable to train on a regular basis, regardless the reason, leave the shotgun in the car. Do not fool yourself into believing that "anybody" can handle a shotgun.

- B. You cannot miss with a shotgun. Just examine some of the names closely associated with the shotgun...scatter gun, alley sweeper, street sweeper. Such names imply that you need only point the shotgun in the general direction of your intended target and a hit is guaranteed. The fallacy in this belief can easily be demonstrated by simply placing targets at various ranges (four, seven, fifteen, twenty-five, and fifty yards) and then patterning commonly used buck rounds (number four and double ought).

At close ranges (back to around ten yards) the patterns are tight enough that it would obviously require good marksmanship skill to center the pattern effectively. Hip shooting (point shooting with the shotgun) has produced many misses at close range with the shotgun. At fifteen yards you would find that the pattern begins to open generously. Marksmanship is still required to center the pattern but something else occurs which must concern us. With #4 buck you will find that out of a police barrel, almost always, there will be some of the .22 to .23 caliber pellets (bullets if you will) that completely miss a man sized target. This is a serious matter if one considers missing to be associated with potential liability. Beyond fifteen yards similar problems occur with double ought buck.

The point to be made is that if you want to hit what you shoot at with a shotgun you had better train with the shotgun as if it were a rifle. Sights would make the shotgun much more effective. If your shotgun is equipped with the traditional bead at least learn to use the bead as effectively as possible in the pursuit of good marksmanship.

It would also be important to pattern the shotgun on paper at various distances to ascertain the limitations of the round selected for use. This will allow for better decision making regarding the deployment of the weapon and ranges beyond which one might want to consider not firing the shotgun.

III. GENERAL DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

A good deployment policy would be to consider the shotgun, and all shoulder mounted weapons in general, to be *perimeter* weapons. *As a general rule they should not be carried*

into situations where officers are going to come in direct contact with people in an enforcement capacity. When officers are engaged in an enforcement capacity it is likely that they will be required to use their hands for the purpose of securing prisoners, collecting contraband, and other such activities, causing the shoulder mounted weapon to become an encumbrance to doing one's job.

IV. RIFLES

If it would be best to put sights on the shotgun and train with it as if it were a rifle, a logical question might be-why not just replace the shotgun with a rifle?

Many agencies are considering this alternative and some have either replaced or supplemented the traditional police shotgun with a rifle. When it comes to rifles there are many options available.

- A. Rifles chambered in handgun calibers. There are several rifles now chambered in commonly used handgun calibers. Among the choices available in such rifles some are semi-automatic and some are lever action models. In considering the advantages of such rifles one would not want to overlook the increased accuracy of the officer armed with a rifle. An adequately skilled marksman with a pistol will generally be a fine marksman with a rifle, allowing the officer to hit accurately at distances not possible with the pistol. The limitation of rifles chambered in handgun cartridges would be the obvious loss of stopping power. Armed with such a rifle, the shooter must understand that the bullet fired is still a handgun bullet. Additional rounds might be required to accomplish the mission.
- B. Rifles chambered in rifle calibers. In this category are bolt rifles, lever action rifles, and semi-automatic rifles. These rifles offer accurate fire at much greater ranges than those chambering handgun cartridges. Additionally, rifle bullets fired at much greater velocity, offer greater stopping power.

Regardless of the rifle selected one must train regularly. Gun handling skills specific to the rifle selected must be learned and practiced as often as one would practice with the pistol.

V. MACHINE-PISTOLS (Subguns-Submachine Guns)

The machine pistol is generally defined as a shoulder mounted firearm, capable of fully automatic fire, and chambering a handgun cartridge. Of course, no police car should be equipped with a fully automatic weapon. There are almost no conditions in which fully automatic fire could be recommended.

However, semi-automatic machine pistols are available. The advantages of such weapons are compactness for storage and extended range of the handgun cartridge as mentioned in the section on rifles chambered in handgun calibers. The same requirement for the development of weapon specific gun handling skills and for continuous training pertains to the semi-automatic machine pistol as for any firearm. Obviously the stock, normally folded or otherwise stored, must be unfolded and the officer must then train with the machine pistol as if it were a rifle.

Regardless of the shoulder mounted weapon chosen, officers must commit to the training required to become proficient in both marksmanship and in gun handling. Unless such training occurs either as a requirement of department policy or as a part of the individual officer's personal training program, shoulder mounted weapons should be left in the car and not relied on in lethal encounters.

Appendix A
FORTY HOUR MANDATORY FIREARMS

Handgun Qualification Course of Fire

All shooting begins from the secured holstered position. All qualification attempts will be announced prior to shooting the qualification course.

DISTANCE	ROUNDS
7 Yard Line 24 Rounds	Phase I A. 12 Rounds - 2 rounds (<i>6 seconds</i>), holster - 2 rounds (<i>6 seconds</i>), holster - 2 rounds, reload, 2 rounds (<i>18 seconds</i>), holster - 2 rounds (<i>6 seconds</i>), holster - 2 rounds (<i>6 seconds</i>), holster B. 12 Rounds - 3 rounds (<i>7 seconds</i>), holster - 3 rounds, reload, 3 rounds (<i>22 seconds</i>), holster - 3 rounds (<i>7 seconds</i>), holster
15 Yard Line 18 Rounds	Phase II A. 12 Rounds - 3 rounds (<i>9 seconds</i>), holster - 3 rounds, reload, 3 rounds (<i>25 seconds</i>), holster - 3 rounds (<i>9 seconds</i>), holster B. 6 Rounds - 6 rounds (<i>30 seconds</i>), holster
25 Yard Line 8 Rounds	Phase III A. 8 Rounds - Includes mandatory reload (<i>60 seconds</i>) (Shooting position optional.)
TOTAL	50 Rounds

Appendix B
PEACE OFFICER FIREARM TRAINING ACT
50 ILCS 710

Sec. 0.01. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Peace Officer Firearm Training Act.
(Source: P.A. 86-1324.)

Sec. 1. Definitions. As used in this Act:

(a) "Peace officer" means (i) any person who by virtue of his office or public employment is vested by law with a primary duty to maintain public order or to make arrests for offenses, whether that duty extends to all offenses or is limited to specific offenses, and who is employed in such capacity by any county or municipality or (ii) any retired law enforcement officers qualified under federal law to carry a concealed weapon.

(b) "Firearms" means any weapon or device defined as a firearm in Section 1.1 of "An Act relating to the acquisition, possession and transfer of firearms and firearm ammunition, to provide a penalty for the violation thereof and to make an appropriation in connection therewith", approved August 3, 1967, as amended.

(Source: P.A. 94-103, eff. 7-1-05.)

Sec. 2. Training course for peace officers.

(a) Successful completion of a 40 hour course of training in use of a suitable type firearm shall be a condition precedent to the possession and use of that respective firearm by any peace officer in this State in connection with the officer's official duties. The training must be approved by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board ("the Board") and may be given in logical segments but must be completed within 6 months from the date of the officer's initial employment. To satisfy the requirements of this Act, the training must include the following:

- (1) Instruction in the dangers of misuse of the firearm, safety rules, and care and cleaning of the firearm.
- (2) Practice firing on a range and qualification with the firearm in accordance with the standards established by the Board.
- (3) Instruction in the legal use of firearms under 720 ILCS 5 and relevant court decisions.
- (4) A forceful presentation of the ethical and moral considerations assumed by any person who uses a firearm.

(b) Any officer who successfully completes the Basic Training Course prescribed for recruits by the Board shall be presumed to have satisfied the requirements of this Act.

(c) The Board shall cause the training courses to be conducted twice each year within each of the Mobile Team Regions, but no training course need be held when there are no police officers requiring the training.

(d) (Blank).

(e) The Board may waive, or may conditionally waive, the 40 hour course of training if, in the Board's opinion, the officer has previously successfully completed a course of similar content and duration. In cases of waiver, the officer shall demonstrate his or her knowledge and proficiency by passing the written examination on firearms and by successfully passing the range qualification portion of the prescribed course of training.

(Source: P.A. 94-984, eff. 6-30-06.)

Sec. 2.5. Annual range qualification. The annual range qualification for peace officers shall consist of range fire approved by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board.

(Source: P.A. 94-103, eff. 7-1-05.)

Sec. 3. The Board is charged with enforcing this Act and making inspections to insure compliance with its provisions, and is empowered to promulgate rules necessary for its administration and enforcement, including those relating to the annual certification of retired law enforcement officers qualified under federal law to carry a concealed weapon. All units of government or other agencies which employ or utilize peace officers, or that certify retired law enforcement officers qualified under federal law to carry a concealed weapon, shall cooperate with the Board by furnishing relevant information which the Board may require. The Executive Director of the Board shall report annually, no later than February 1, to the Board, with copies to the Governor and the General Assembly, the results of these inspections and provide other related information and recommendations as it deems proper.

(Source: P.A. 94-103, eff. 7-1-05.)

Sec. 4. The mandatory provisions of this Act apply only to these peace officers who assume their official duties after January 1, 1976.

(Source: P.A. 79-652.)

Sec. 5. This Act does not apply to any home rule unit.

(Source: P.A. 79-652.)

Appendix C
FIREARMS HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

	YES	NO
Will a firearm be kept in the home?		
Do you understand that any firearm has to be inaccessible to unauthorized persons?		
Have you considered that if a firearm is accessible to you, it may be accessible to anyone in your home?		
If storing a firearm, have precautions been taken to make it inaccessible?		
Is the firearm locked up and the key inaccessible to unauthorized persons?		
Will the weapons be stored unloaded?		
If required, is the ammunition stored at a different location than the firearm?		
Do children in your home know what steps to take if they find a firearm?		
Do you understand that weapons have to be secured from unauthorized persons?		
Do you understand that when storing you have the option to use a: gun cabinet wall rack gun safe strongbox locked cable locked hard case locked soft case other _____		
Do you understand that all weapons should be inaccessible to all children ?		