

GENERAL ORDER VIII

SUBJECT: FIREARMS QUALIFICATIONS STANDARDS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03-09-92 REVIEW DATE: 02-05-2014

NOTE: This rule or regulation is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a high standard of safety of care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

I. Purpose

To establish standards of firearms proficiency for Department personnel and to define the various courses of fire utilized in the qualifications process.

II. Policy

A. It is the policy of the West Plains Police Department that only officers demonstrating proficiency in the use of department issued or authorized firearms be permitted to carry such weapons.

B. Firearms proficiency will be determined by the satisfactory completions of in-service firearms qualification courses designed to address the shooting skills required in police work.

III. Qualification Standards

The minimum firearms qualifications standards for the West Plains Police Department will be a score of 70% on the course herein outlined.

IV. Handguns

A. The weapons used for qualification shall be the service and/or off-duty firearms(s) issued or approved for carry by the member.

1. Approved Manufacturers

a. Glock

b. Colt

c. Heckler and Koch

d. Bushmaster

e. Armalite

f. Ruger

g. Smith and Wesson

h. KelTec

i. Taurus

j. Springfield Kahr

k. or firearms of other manufacture approved by the Chief of Police

B. Only factory loaded department issued ammunition or remanufactured ammunition, loaded to duty ammunition specifications, will be used for qualification.

C. Qualifications shall be on a pass/fail basis.

D. All weapons will be inspected by a qualified armorer on an annual basis.

V. Shotguns

A. The weapon used for qualification shall be a standard issue 12-gauge pump shotgun or shotguns of other manufacture and action approved by the Chief of Police.

B. Only factory loaded department issued ammunition or remanufactured ammunition, loaded to duty ammunition specifications, will be used for qualification.

VI. Other Shoulder Weapons

The weapon used for qualification shall be the particular weapon(s) and ammunition issued to, or authorized by the Chief of Police for member use.

VII. Qualifications

A. Each member authorized to carry a firearm shall be required to qualify with that weapon.

1. Qualification will be re-scheduled with the approval of the Chief of Police.

B. Members failing to attain a qualifying score with the department issued weapon, or weapon authorized by the Chief of Police, shall attend, on duty, a block of remedial instruction and shall attempt to qualify after said instruction.

C. In the event the member fails to achieve a qualifying score after receiving remedial instruction, he shall:

1. Have the authority to carry the weapon on-duty revoked.

2. Have the authority to carry the weapon off-duty revoked also, if it is a handgun.

3. Maybe placed in a position within the Department which does not necessitate the carrying of the particular weapon.

4. Be afforded an opportunity to receive additional instruction and qualify with the particular weapon on his/her off-duty time within thirty calendar days.

5. After being given the opportunity to receive additional instruction and an opportunity to qualify with the particular weapon the member still fails to qualify, he/she will be subject to other appropriate action such as, but not limited to: transfer, removal from special teams or squads, demotion, or possible discharge.

D. Qualification Schedule – Recommended two per calendar year.

1. 1st Qualification

a. Qualifications with the following:

- (1) Authorized on-duty handgun
- (2) Off-duty handgun
- (3) Shotgun – 1 per calendar year

b. Stress Course

- (1) Authorized on-duty handgun
- (2) Shotgun

2. 2nd Qualification

a. Qualifications with the following:

- (1) Authorized on-duty handgun
- (2) Off-duty handgun

b. Night Firing Qualification

- (1) Authorized on-duty weapon

VIII. Qualification Course

- A. The West Plains Police Department will utilize qualification courses developed by the firearms instructor for both duty and off duty weapons authorized by the Chief of Police.

The four hand gun types are identified as:

- 1. Service Pistol - All approved revolvers authorized for on-duty use. The Glock Model 22 Gen 4 .40 caliber semi-auto pistol is the current assigned duty weapon issued by the West Plains Police Department.
- 2. Service Revolver – All approved revolvers authorized for on-duty use. Detective’s 2.5 inch revolvers are included in this category. Detective’s snub-nose revolvers are included in this category.
- 3. Off-Duty Pistol – All approved pistols manufactured for use with center-fire ammunition nor carried on-duty, as a primary weapon or other weapons approved by the Chief of Police.

4. Off-Duty Revolver - Snub-nosed five shot, six shot and other revolvers carried by off-duty personnel or as a secondary weapon while on-duty. Detectives carrying their service weapon off-duty need not qualify.

B. Officers will be limited to qualifying with two off-duty weapons, and may be required to furnish ammunition for handguns of calibers not compatible with ammunition calibers issued by the department.

C. Additional courses may be developed by the firearms instructor for each Department issued or approved weapon.

D. Courses of fire will be developed and maintained by the Department Weapons Officer (firearms Instructor).

Weapons Officer. The Weapons Officer shall be responsible for the annual review of all courses and recommending modifications or changes required to meet new skills requirements.

E. All changes or modifications in the Department's firearms and qualifications courses will be submitted in writing and approved by the Chief of Police.

VIV: Retired Officers Firearms Training and Qualification:

A. See Addendum (A):

AUTHORITY

A. This policy is issued by the authority of the Chief of Police. Any policy additions, deviations or revisions shall be made only at the direction of the Chief of Police.

By Authority of:

Jeffrey S. Head, Chief of Police

Addendum A: Pages 1-3

West Plains Police Department

Retired Officers Firearms Training and Qualification

For a retired law enforcement officer to be considered certified as having met the state's annual firearms training and qualification standard for retired law enforcement officers pursuant to section 650.030, RSMo, the retired law enforcement officer must:

- (A) Successfully complete the two-hour training course approved by the Director of the Missouri Department of Public Safety; and
- (B) Successfully complete the firearm qualification course approved by the Director of the Missouri Department of Public Safety.

To successfully complete the two-hour training course, the retired law enforcement officer must attend the course in its entirety and participate in the course to the satisfaction of the course instructor.

To successfully complete the firearm qualification course, the retired law enforcement officer must obtain a passing score of seventy-percent on the course of fire. If a retired law enforcement officer fails to obtain a passing score on the first attempt, or fails to adhere to the time constraints of the course of fire, he or she will be permitted one opportunity to reattempt the entire course of fire. If the retired law enforcement officer fails on the second attempt, he or she must wait six-months before he or she will have two additional attempts to successfully complete the course of fire. This six-month process will repeat itself until the retired law enforcement officer successfully completes the prescribed course of fire. If the retired law enforcement officer does not successfully complete the prescribed course of fire within a year from the date the two-hour training course was successfully completed, the two-hour training course must be repeated. A weapon malfunction that is not the result of shooter error will not be counted against the retired law enforcement officer. All stages of fire are to be completed in the standing position.

The firearm training course of fire shall be as follows:

Stage 1 – Distance = 3 yards. Total rounds fired = 12

Drill 1 - Strong-hand only. The shooter will draw the handgun with the strong hand only, fire two rounds in three seconds, and holster upon completion. This drill will be repeated two more times for a total of six rounds with the strong hand.

Drill 2 - Support-hand only. The shooter will draw the handgun with the strong hand, transition the handgun to the support hand, fire three rounds in six seconds with the support hand only, and holster upon completion. This drill will be repeated once more for a total of six rounds with the support hand.

Stage 2 - Distance = 5 yards. Total rounds fired = 12

Drill 1 - Strong-hand only. The shooter will draw the handgun with the strong hand only, fire two rounds in three seconds, and holster upon completion. This drill will be repeated two more times for a total of six rounds with the strong hand.

Drill 2 - Support-hand only. The shooter will draw the handgun with the strong hand, transition the handgun to the support hand, fire three rounds in six seconds with the support hand only, and holster upon completion. This drill will be repeated once more for a total of six rounds with the support hand.

Stage 3 - Distance = 7 yards. Total rounds fired = 14

The shooter will draw the handgun, using a two-hand support grip, fire fourteen rounds in forty-five seconds, and holster upon completion.

Stage 4 - Distance = 10 yards. Total rounds fired = 6

The shooter will draw the handgun, using a two-hand support grip, fire three rounds in eight seconds, and holster upon completion. This drill will be repeated once more for a total of six rounds using a two-hand support grip.

Stage 5 - Distance = 12 yards. Total rounds fired = 6

The shooter will draw the handgun, using a two-hand support grip, fire three rounds in ten seconds, and holster upon completion. This drill will be repeated once more for a total of six rounds using a two-hand support grip.

Various silhouette targets may be utilized during the firearm qualification course; however, the maximum size silhouette target allowable is the B-27 target, scoring only those “hits” that are within the 8 ring. Therefore, retired law enforcement officers must place a minimum of thirty-five out of fifty rounds within the 8 ring to obtain a passing score of seventy-percent. A scoring template measuring 11 ¾ inches wide by 17 ¾ inches tall may be utilized for scoring, independent of the style of silhouette used.

For purposes of meeting the certification requirements outlined in section 650.030, RSMo, the two hour training course and the qualification course shall only be instructed by those persons validly licensed by the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Program as a firearms instructor in all 1600 basic training curricula codes.

Upon successful completion of the training course and the qualification course, the instructor shall, at a minimum, provide the retired law enforcement officer with a certificate of completion indicating the retired law enforcement officer has met the state's annual qualification standard for retired law enforcement officers pursuant to section 650.030, RSMo, the date(s) the training and qualification courses were successfully completed, and the printed and signed name of the POST licensed instructor providing the training. This certification shall be valid for a period of one year from the date the training and qualification courses were successfully completed.

The certificate of completion shall serve as proof that the retired law enforcement officer has met the state's annual firearms training and qualification standard for retired law enforcement officers carrying concealed firearms pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 926C.