

Patrol Rifle Instructor Training Guide



An excerpt from:
**PATROL RIFLE POLICY
CONSIDERATIONS**



AGENCY ISSUED POOL GUNS: Due to financial constraints, many agencies can't afford to buy a patrol rifle for every officer. Therefore, they buy and deploy a limited number of patrol rifles that are shared by their officers known as "pool guns".

This method of deployment is not the best case scenario as the zero for each rifle is generic for a group, instead of individual, which can impact the desired point of impact the further away the target is engaged. However, with proper zeroing and training the pool gun method of deployment is acceptable and currently used with success by many law enforcement agencies. If precision accuracy is required patrol rifle operators must know their limitations and defer to dedicated personal with enhanced equipment or training in certain circumstances. The following are suggestions for your consideration:

- At least two (2) agency patrol rifle instructors zero every pool gun using iron sights, optics or both. Zero using your duty ammunition.
 - The difference between the two instructors zeros should be factored and the rifle sights set to the middle of the two zeros. Then both instructors must reshoot and confirm the "pool gun" zero for each rifle.
 - Have a third instructor or patrol rifle operator fire the zeroed rifle at the zero distance and qualification target your agency uses. If they make good center mass hits the gun can be considered zeroed and ready for street deployment by your patrol officers.
- All pool guns should be uniform in terms of manufacturers, their associated functions, and accessories.
 - Pool gun sights, optics and mounts should be marked with index lines so that any officer drawing a pool gun would immediately see during pre-deployment function checks if the sights have been moved (index lines don't line up). If the sights have been moved, the rifle must be taken out of service and cannot be brought back into service until it is re-zeroed and documented as such.
- Officers who are authorized to draw a pool gun for duty should qualify as often as the agency requires handgun qualification, or at least annually with any one of the pool guns available for deployment in your agency's arsenal.
 - Failure to qualify must result in the revocation of the authorization to deploy any patrol rifle until such time that qualification is achieved.
 - It is encouraged that certain officers or groups of officers use the same pool gun all the time for training, qualification and deployment on the street, but it is not necessary as circumstances often inhibit this practice.
 - If your pool guns are properly zeroed and your officers are properly trained, they should be able to proficiently use any pool gun in your arsenal.
- Would officers be authorized to take this rifle home? Generally, no.

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- In conjunction with in-service training or other schools further away? Yes, if doing so does not cause a decrease of rifle availability for officers working the street.
- If so, can it be used for recreation purposes? No.
- Can modification be made to the pool patrol rifle? No, except for setting the sling or a collapsible stock to fit the officer for that shift.
- When using iron sights the large aperture should be set for normal every day operations. Other than zeroing the rifle, the small aperture should only be used in day light conditions, on a static or limited threat area, while at extended distances.

Validation: The applicability of the use of pool guns for the law enforcement patrol environment was validated at the 2010 National Patrol Rifle Championships during a stage of fire whereby fifteen exact same patrol rifles with iron sights were donated by Smith & Wesson (M&P-15's with 16" barrels), thirty exact same 30-round magazines were donated by Magpul and four thousand (4,000) exact same rounds were donated by Black Hills Ammunition for this event. All the rifles were zeroed using the aforementioned equipment by two NPRC staff members.

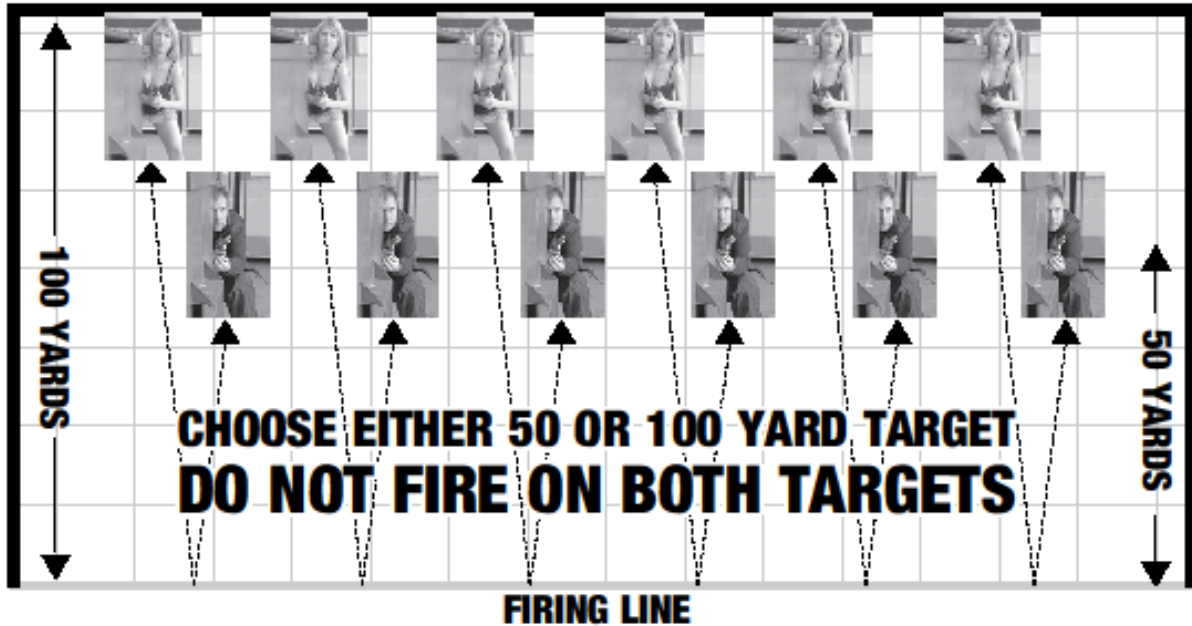
One hundred and twenty seven (127) competitors (95% LEO's) shot this course of fire at ranges between 50 and 100 yards. Each shooter fired thirty (30) rifle rounds from the prone position at partially exposed (crouched with 1/3 of the torso behind a dumpster) life sized human targets in a time of 2 min. 45 sec. or less, using a patrol rifle they had never seen or touched before.

The course of fire had a realistic maximum of 600 points available. There were actually 750 points available, but they were unrealistic cranial vault shots at 100 yards purposefully designed to tempt the very best shooters into over reaching their capabilities and learning a humbling lesson in the competition environment (one shooter actually scored 750). Only hits in the upper torso or cranial vault scoring rings were counted. It should be noted that many more rounds actually hit the targets and would have taken effect on a real person, but were not counted. Using a statistical mean that removed scores above 600 and below 150 the **average score of 111 shooters was 423 points which is a 70% scoring ring hit ratio**. Our unofficial estimate of all hits on target including hits outside the scoring ring was **at least 90%**. This sampling of law enforcement shooters using pool guns under the stress of reduced sized scoring areas while firing an iron sighted rifle they had never touched before, under a time limit that included a magazine change, in a competition setting was realistic, relevant and validates the pool gun method of zeroing and deployment for the law enforcement profession. Considering that a vast majority of law enforcement patrol rifle shootings occur at close, "across the street" distances, the 2010 NPRC Pool Rifle results make this method of deployment a viable option for agency's to authorize.

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Relevancy: Due to budget constraints many agencies rely on "pool" guns to field a patrol rifle program. These guns are typically zeroed by agency instructors and all officers use the same guns. Dynamic situations also arise where officers on critical scenes may be given or brought a pool rifle they have never shot before or forced to use another officer's personal rifle to deal with the circumstance at hand. In either case, patrol rifle armed officers must accept that a properly zeroed pool rifle may impact slightly off the intended point of impact at LE ranges of 100 yards and closer, and that they must compensate for this fact with high percentage shots.

Objective: To test the shooters raw marksmanship skills using a gun zeroed by someone else at intermediate law enforcement range while under no physical stress other than that provided by time & competition itself.

Load: Two 15 round magazines. (Conduct reload when appropriate).

Time: 2:45 | **Rounds:** 30 | **Target:** 50 yards NPRC CM-24 / 100 yards NPRC CM-1

Start: Shooter is in the prone position with the rifle loaded, hot, and on safe. On command to "fire", the shooter must pick either his 50 or 100 yard target to engage. Once he picks one target or the other, he must continue to fire all 30 rounds into that same target. He may not switch between the two targets. He may switch from body to head or vice versa on a single target.

Scoring: 750 points possible

Your Score: _____

50 yard target: Body 5 Head 15
 - Prone

100 yard target: Body 20 Head 25
 - Prone

Misses = No penalty

Lessons learned: _____

