



LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER: 1330
TOPIC: FIREARMS TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION
ISSUED BY: TERESA EWINS, CHIEF OF POLICE
DATE: 1-1-2023
SUPERSEDES: G.O. 1330, 2019
REFERENCE:

I. POLICY

All officers shall participate in a regular program of firearms training and shall demonstrate proficiency with firearms. Officers must maintain proficiency as a requirement of employment. (4.3.2)

II. PROCEDURE

- A. The Education and Personnel Unit will coordinate firearms training and qualification and will manage the department firearms range.
1. A member of the unit will serve as the armorer and will be responsible for firearms training and qualification. The armorer will serve as the range officer, shall be a certified firearms instructor, and will receive training appropriate to the duties of the position to include medical triage of the injured. (4.3.3, 4.3.2, 4.3.5)
 2. The curriculum of training, proficiency tests, and qualification courses will be established by the commanding officer of the Education and Personnel Unit. Courses shall be designed to test officers' proficiency and ability to use firearms in accordance with established procedures and guidelines.
 3. Any ammunition and weapons at the range will be stored in a secure area when not used as a part of training. (4.3.5)
- B. Frequency of Training and Qualification
1. The Nebraska State Qualification Course will be held once each calendar year to demonstrate the officer's proficiency with their assigned sidearm and shall include a review of the department's use of force policies. (4.3.2, 4.3.3)
 2. It shall be the responsibility of each officer to qualify, at or above 80%, once each calendar year.
 3. During each year, additional firearms training will be conducted in a number of areas. These areas may include night shooting, moving and shooting from various positions, use of cover, off-hand shooting, reloading and decision making. Each of these courses will be scored pass/fail.
 4. Failure to appear or poor performance at any of these sessions will cause the Education and Personnel Unit to contact the officer's commanding officer or unit manager and recommend appropriate action to ensure firearms proficiency.
- C. Nighttime Firearms Training
1. Night firing is essential in that the vast majority of fire fights involving police officers occur in poor light situations.
 2. Officers will receive instruction and practice in night firing.
 3. Night firing practice can include firing in total darkness, use of the flashlight while firing, firing with rotating beacons as illumination, and firing while in front of or behind headlights.
- D. Shotgun, Rifle, Off-Duty, and Back-Up Weapons (4.3.2)
1. Shotgun qualification will be conducted at least annually. All commissioned personnel will be required to attend.
 2. Rifle qualification will be conducted at least annually. Only officers who are authorized to carry rifles are required to qualify.

3. Off-duty and back-up weapon qualification is required annually.

E. Failure to Qualify (33.1.5)

1. Any officer who fails to qualify with the service sidearm will be given an additional attempt. If the officer fails to qualify during the second attempt the range instructor will;
 - a. Provide remedial training/practice
 - b. Attempt additional qualifications (4.3.3)
2. If the officer has not qualified following the additional training and practice, the instructor will immediately contact the duty commander and the officer's immediate supervisor. An EIR will be issued for failure to qualify.
3. The officer will not be allowed to perform any law enforcement related duty until they have qualified.
4. In the event of failure to qualify with any department issued or off-duty weapon, the officer is prohibited from carrying the weapon until a successful qualification is achieved. (4.3.2)

F. Firearms Range Use

1. The firearms range is provided for the use of Lincoln Police Department officers. Any use by other persons or agencies requires the authorization of the chief of police or designee. A range officer will be present anytime a firearms range is in use. (4.3.5)
2. Officers may use the range for practice during scheduled practice times announced by the Education and Personnel Unit.
3. The department may allow officers time to practice while on duty during open range times as workload permits.
 - a. Approval for such practice shall be obtained from the officer's immediate supervisor, commanding officer, or unit manager.
 - b. Supervisors shall give consideration to staffing needs when considering an officer's request to practice while on duty.
4. Officers may practice at the range off duty during open range hours established by the firearms instructor. Off duty practice is voluntary and is not compensated.
5. Only department issued handguns, shotguns and rifles are allowed at the range, unless authorized by the range officer. The range master has the authority to designate the type of weapons, ammunition, targets and equipment permitted for use at the range. (4.3.5)

G. Range Safety

1. Protective body armor, eye protection and ear protection shall be worn during all live fire exercises. (4.3.5)
2. While at the range, officers will keep all handguns holstered unless otherwise instructed by a range officer. Officers shall keep hands away from a holstered handgun unless on the firing line.
3. During all training sessions and open range periods, handguns are to be unloaded and loaded on the firing line only. Handguns are never to be unloaded or loaded in the range parking lot, or anywhere on the range itself other than on the firing line. During regularly scheduled training, officers will be given an opportunity to go down range to unload and load.
4. Officers who need to load or unload their weapon will move to the same yard line as those who are shooting, or to any other area which has been designated by the range officer.
5. No motor vehicles will be permitted inside the fenced range area unless approved by the range officer.
6. Range office and work area are off limits to unauthorized personnel.
7. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the range facility.
8. Range safety rules are posted at the range facility and must be strictly adhered to. Any violation of the range safety rules will be cause for removal from the range and/or disciplinary action. Range safety rules will be provided prior to every training event with the participants. (4.3.5)