

TEXARKANA, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDERS MANUAL

<i>Effective Date</i> February 1, 2008		<i>Amended Date</i> August 20, 2019		<i>Directive</i> 3.01.1	
<i>Subject</i> Annual Firearms Qualification					
<i>Reference</i>					
<i>Distribution</i> All Personnel City Manager City Attorney		<i>TPCA Best Practices Recognition Program Reference</i> 3.01.1 Annual Firearms Qualification		<i>Review Date</i> July 13, 2023	
				<i>Pages</i> 2	

This Operations Directive is for internal use only and does not enhance an officer’s civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as a creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this Operations Directive, if proven, may only form the basis for a complaint by this Department, and only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

SECTION 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to regulate the firearms qualifications for all sworn personnel.

SECTION 2 POLICY

It is the policy of the department that all sworn personnel will qualify at annually with any firearm they carry in accordance with TCOLE standards. Personnel who fail to qualify must participate in remedial training as specified in this directive.

SECTION 3 PROCEDURES

A. FIREARMS QUALIFICATION

1. Officers shall participate in at least one firearms qualification session annually with each type of weapon they carry, i.e. handgun and patrol rifle or other specialized firearm. Qualification shall be a score of 70% for handguns and 90% for patrol rifles such as M-16 or AR-15 and 100% for sniper rifles based upon a prescribed course designed by a Texarkana, Texas Police Department certified TCOLE firearms instructor and approved by the Chief of Police.

B. WEAPONS QUALIFICATION AND TRAINING

1. All TCOLE credit firearms training for handguns and patrol rifles will be conducted by a Texarkana, Texas Police Department certified TCOLE firearms instructor.
2. All less lethal weapons instruction will be conducted by an instructor certified to instruct the use of less lethal weapons.
3. All weapons qualification courses will require the officer to demonstrate safety, proper techniques, accuracy, proficient handling of the weapon, and the proper care and cleaning of the weapon as determined by the firearms instructor. All weapons must be inspected by the firearms instructor prior to the officer or the weapon leaving the range.

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4. All TCOLE qualification courses will be reviewed by a Texarkana, Texas Police Department firearms instructor to ensure that the course meets TCOLE minimum standards.
5. Any officer who fails to qualify with a score of at least 70% with a handgun will be given individual training by a firearms instructor to assist the officer in qualifying. After sufficient instruction as determined by the firearms instructor, the officer will again attempt to qualify. If the officer fails to qualify during the second attempt, the officer will be placed on alternative duty as decided by the Chief of Police until the officer can achieve a qualifying score. The officer will be required to complete remedial training as prescribed by the firearms instructor and approved by the Chief of Police prior to returning to their regular duties. In no case will an officer be allowed to carry a handgun until the officer has demonstrated proficiency, and the officer has achieved a score of 70%.
6. Any officer who fails to qualify with a minimum score of 90% with a patrol rifle at a distance of 50 yards or a score of 70% at a distance of 100 yards will be given individual training by a firearms instructor to assist the officer in qualifying. After sufficient instruction as determined by the firearms instructor, the officer will again attempt to qualify. If the officer fails to qualify with a minimum score of 90% at a distance of 50 yards or a score of 70% at a distance of 100 yards during the second attempt, the officer will be suspended from carrying the patrol rifle. The officer will be required to complete remedial rifle training as prescribed by the firearms instructor and approved by the Chief of Police prior to carrying the rifle. In no case will an officer be allowed to carry the patrol rifle until the officer has demonstrated proficiency, and the officer has achieved a score of 90% at a distance of 50 yards or a score of 70% at a distance of 100 yards.
7. A firearms instructor can recommend to the Chief of Police that an officer not be permitted to carry a particular weapon because of a lack of proficiency, even when the officer has achieved a qualifying score. If an officer fails to achieve a qualifying score, fails to demonstrate proper technique, proper handling, or proper safety, the firearms instructor shall forward a memorandum explaining the employee's failure to qualify to the officer's Division Commander who shall notify the Chief of Police. The Chief of Police shall make the final decision regarding the officer's assignment and whether the officer should or should not carry a weapon while working in that assignment.
8. All training and qualifications will be documented and signed by the firearms instructor. The documentation shall be maintained indefinitely in the officer's training file.
9. All personnel will follow the instructions of the range master and safety officers to ensure the safety of all participants during firearms training. As an added safety precaution, all officers and instructors will be required to wear their department issued body armor during department sanctioned firearms training.

C. RESPONSIBILITY

1. All members of the Department shall know and comply with all aspects of this directive.
2. All Division Commanders and supervisory personnel are responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions and intent of this directive.