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A STUDENT GUIDE TO MANDATORY IREARMS TRAINING for llinois Peace Officers

95236

FIREARMS SKILL PROFICIENCY

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

MORAL & ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

MANDATORY FIREARMS TRAINING FOR PEACE OFFICERS

PUBLIC ACT 79-652

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Dear Student:

As you embark on your law enforcement career, you must be cognizant that as an officer of the law you will provide diverse community services in which you will deal with people on a routine basis. Very often your professional encounters with people will be enjoyable and rewarding. On the other hand, as an officer you must be forever alert and prepared for those potential situations in which your life, or the life of another might be endangered by a criminal, or one who is mentally deranged, and otherwise terribly confused. It is for this reason that the law enforcement officer must necessarily possess a skill proficiency with firearms.

The people of the State of Illinois, in recognizing the protective function of law enforcement, and additionally realizing the importance of ensuring an officer's firearms proficiency, enacted Public Act 79-652, which is entitled "Mandatory Firearms Training for Peace Officers." Public Act 79-652 requires that all Illinois peace officers successfully complete a prescribed course of training in the use of firearms as a condition precedent to their possession and use of that firearm in connection with their official duties. The course in which you are presently enrolled has been developed by the Illinois Local Governmental Law Enforcement Officers Training Board, and your successful completion of the course will legally satisfy the requirements of the Act.

This student guide, and the companion manual entitled "Peace Officers Use of Force in Making an Arrest," have been developed by the Board to provide for guided learning of the course curriculum. They additionally will serve as valuable resource guides on matters pertaining to the use of firearms for your future reference. In this sense, we suggest that you retain both publications as part of your career library and periodically review their contents.

It is our sincere hope that each of you as a result of completing this course will develop excellent firearms shooting skills; that you will become astutely knowledgeable of the laws pertaining to the use of force, and sensitive to the moral and ethical issues that are inherent in the decision to take a human life; that you will strive to maintain your firearms proficiency through repetitive practice, and update your legal knowledge through dedicated study; and, above all else, that you will never experience a street situation which will require you to use your weapon against another human being.

On behalf of the Illinois Local Governmental Law Enforcement Officers Training Board, I wish you a happy, safe and rewarding career as a law enforcement officer.

Sincerely,

Albert A. Apa
Executive Director

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

You have been selected to serve as a police officer, either in full-time or part-time capacity. As a police officer the firearm will be a tool of your profession. In 1975, the Illinois General Assembly enacted legislation requiring you to participate in a firearms training program and to demonstrate proficiency with your weapon by qualifying on a prescribed course of fire. Additionally, you must demonstrate basic firearms knowledge by passing a written examination. Successful completion of this training program is required before you are permitted by your agency or by the State of Illinois to carry a weapon in the performance of your job.

Public Act 79-652 (Mandatory Firearms Training for Police Officers See Appendix A) provides that the Illinois Local Governmental Law Enforcement Officers Training Board shall approve such training and administer the delivery of such programs in Illinois. Certification of your successful completion of the course will be documented by the Training Board and you will receive a certificate as confirmation of your proficiency. This certification is a one-time statutory requirement and need not be completed for each weapon you choose to carry. However, we certainly recommend regular qualification using the weapons you carry.

As part of the training mandated by Public Act 79-652, you will learn why firearms training is essential for today's police officer. Becoming proficient with the weapons you carry (and demonstrating that proficiency) can aid in minimizing the risk of injury or death to you or others.

Understanding how to safely handle your firearms in both off-duty and on-duty environments will be emphasized throughout this course. The number of accidental discharges each year among police officers across the country underscores the need for in-depth knowledge in this area. You must be constantly aware that the firearm you carry is an ever present threat to life - yours and the people around you.

That you may have to employ your weapon in defense of life--yours or someone elses--is a fact supported by volumes of data. Police officers are killed by assailants each year - not in great numbers considering that 90 to 100 out of over 500,000 police officers fall victims to armed or violent offenders each year. However, the potential for you to be a victim is as great as for the officer working in California, New York or Florida. Consider too, that assaults on police officers have risen dramatically over the period from 1965 to the present. During your training, you will be familiarized with some of the hazards of police work.

A lecture and discussion of the legal and moral aspects of the use of deadly force is a major component of this firearms course. Legally you must be right every time you employ a firearm. You also must give clear thought to the moral and ethical implications of taking a life and the impact of such a decision on you and those with whom you live and work. These issues will be addressed along with some matters relating to the complexities of the decision-making process in relation to deadly force encounters.

The majority of your training will involve active participation in skill development on the range. Fundamental skills must be mastered before you can hope to successfully employ the firearm in a tactical situation. Along with your range training you will learn to clean and maintain your weapons.

This manual will provide information to serve as a foundation of firearms knowledge upon which you should continue to build over your years of service in law enforcement. Regular training is essential to the further development of firearms skills and their maintenance. We encourage your active and continued participation in such endeavors.

CHAPTER II

FIREARMS TRAINING - WHY AND HOW

That firearms are carried by police officers in this country is as commonly accepted a fact as that of a priest wearing a collar or doctor carrying a stethoscope. Therefore you must assume the responsibility for attaining some depth of knowledge about all firearms in general and in particular those weapons with which you are or will be armed.

Why train with a firearm? Primarily because we in law enforcement have sworn to protect human life. The generally accepted and widely taught policy regarding the use of deadly force, can be summed accurately in three words -- Defense of Life. Thus, the officer using a firearm in compliance with the "defense of life" policy is involved in the most critical struggle of all -- survival. The officer has resorted to deadly force in the form of a firearm to save a life -- his/her own or that of someone else. Will you be skilled enough to protect life? Your profession and society demand it of you.

Some recent studies such as Split Second Decision-Shootings Of and By Chicago Police, by W. A. Geller and K. J. Karales; Marshall Meyer's "Police Shootings at Minorities: The Case of Los Angeles, 1980"; and Francis McGee's "Analysis of Police Combat Situations NYPD", indicate that most police officers who have found it necessary to use their firearm in the performance of duty were not adequately skilled. These studies conclude that only 25% of the rounds fired by police officers struck an

assailant. . .1.5 rounds out of 6! Certainly such skill levels would not instill confidence in those we are sworn to protect -- ourselves included.

On the other hand, the number of civil litigations involving police officers who did use a firearm and hit someone are on the increase. These civil cases and the large settlements resulting from many of them are an indication that using a firearm requires more than just mastery of shooting fundamentals. Tactical training, mental and physical conditioning, and human behavior skills, all combine in the decision making process that may result in the pulling of a trigger and taking of a life. When the decision to shoot has been made you must be right; and then you had better be able to place your shots quickly and accurately.

Let us turn our attention to the kind of preparation which best serves the needs of today's police officer. Many studies of police shooting encounters have been completed in recent years (U.S. Dept. of Justice FBI, Law Enforcement Officers Killed, 1980; and F. McGee's "Analysis of Police Combat Situations NYPD" are two of them. Some of the more important conclusions from these studies are presented for you below:

1. Distances at which shootings occurred:

Feet	Percent	Aggregate Percent
0-5	52%	52%
6-10	19%	71%
11-20	16%	87%

As you can see, most shootings occur at less than 10 feet and only 13% occur at 7 yards or more. Now, consider that police officers only hit the assailant 1.5 out of 6 rounds fired.

2. Total number of rounds exchanged per incident: less than 3 rounds.
3. Elapsed time per shooting situation: less than 3 seconds.
4. In 70% of cases reviewed, the officer had some previous knowledge of the danger he/she was about to encounter.
5. Most shootings occur in dim light conditions (cannot see sights).
6. Reports reveal that more than one assailant is involved 50% of the time.
7. Element reported as single most important factor to officer survival in an armed confrontation was COVER.

By analyzing the results of studies, such as the one presented above, we are able to design programs of firearms training that better prepare police officers to deal with the potential situations they will likely experience on the street if becoming involved in a shooting incident.

The information in this manual is not intended to be all-inclusive and students are encouraged to read available materials in this area and to try new techniques when they come along. We have included a bibliography of suggested reading materials in Appendix C.

CHAPTER III

FIREARMS AND EQUIPMENT

The Handgun

The handgun (a short firearm held in the hand while firing) is carried by all police officers in this country. Among the types of handguns available in the marketplace, two have been chosen for use in police work: the revolver and the auto-loading pistol (semi-automatic, auto-loader or auto-pistol). The primary difference between these two handguns is the cylinder in a revolver which must be cycled by the shooter (usually by pulling the trigger) to bring the chambered cartridge in line with the barrel; as opposed to the magazine in an auto-pistol from which cartridges are stripped and chambered "automatically" by the action of the weapon after a round is discharged. This action of the auto-pistol also "cocks" the weapon as opposed to the trigger-cocking revolver.

As a police officer, you should be familiar with the major parts of both types of weapons along with the primary safety features of each, since regardless of the type you carry, you will at times in the performance of your job, be required to safely handle both.

A. Revolver (See Appendix B, Figures 1, 2, 3)

1. Major Parts (See Figure 3-1)

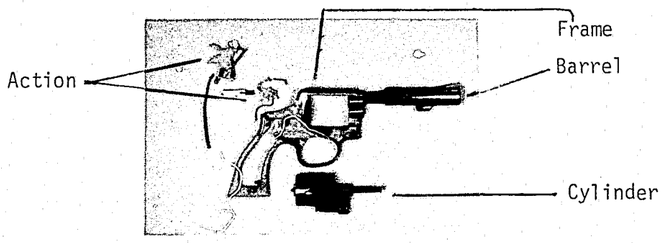


Figure 3-1

a. Barrel - gives bullet direction

b. Frame - backbone to which other groups attach

c. Action - heart of the gun containing parts which enable it to fire

d. Cylinder - contains chambers which are cycled into line with barrel and hammer

2. Safety Feature

a. Hammer block - forms a block between the firing pin and the chamber when the hammer is down. This prevents the weapon from discharging if dropped on the hammer. (Not available on all revolvers).

B. Auto-Pistol (See Appendix B, Figures 4, 5)

1. Major Parts (See Figure 3-2)

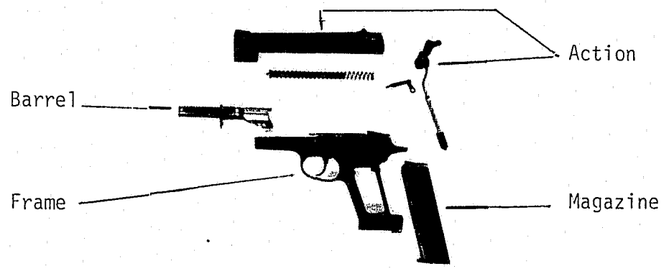


Figure 3-2

a. Barrel - gives direction to bullet

b. Frame - backbone to which groups attach

c. Action - includes slide, firing pin, and extractor mechanisms plus other parts which enable the weapon to fire

d. Magazine well and magazine - magazine containing cartridge inserts into magazine well

2. Safety Features (not all listed features contained on all auto-pistols)

a. Safety selector (on-off)

b. Grip safety - when depressed, makes weapon operable

c. Magazine safety - weapon will not operate unless magazine inserted and locked into receiver

A great deal of debate occurs regarding which of the two aforementioned handguns is most suitable for police work. Those who prefer the revolver point to its operational simplicity and the safety features inherent in a double-action revolver. Because of its simplicity, training is not quite as difficult and proficiency (if attained) can be maintained over longer periods of time without live firing.

Those who argue in favor of the auto-pistol point to its fire power and the speed of reloading as attributes which tend to make it a more preferable handgun than the revolver.

Most knowledgeable police trainers would conclude that the most important criteria regarding such matters is whether or not the shooter can accurately and quickly place shots and operate the weapon safely and effectively. Without doubt, the shooter choosing an auto-pistol must accept the fact that he/she needs more in-depth training (malfunction drills, safety drills for some models, etc.) and shooting on a continual basis to maintain these skills. This should not be interpreted in a manner that suggests regular training for revolver shooters is not important or necessary.

Whichever handgun you or your agency chooses, it must be remembered that the employment of the weapon will save a life - possibly your own. Such a grave responsibility demands a great deal of attention to skill development and skill maintenance.

Ammunition - Handgun

A major component of the shooting system is the ammunition which you or your agency choose for your weapons. Some basic knowledge about ammunition is essential since improperly selected ammunition can reduce the effectiveness of your firearm or make it hazardous to shoot in certain conditions.

Ammunition for the handgun is referred to individually as a round or a cartridge. A round is made up of four parts: (See Figure 3-3)

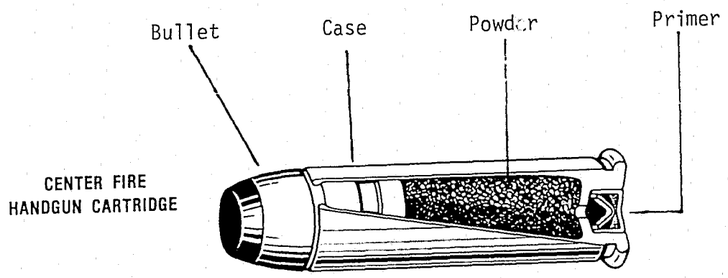


Figure 3-3

1. Case - Contains other three components of the round.
2. Powder - Drives the bullet from the barrel by gas released as the powder burns. As the gas expands, it pushes the bullet out by

creating energy (measured in foot pounds per square inch) and muzzle velocity of the bullet (measured in feet per second.)

3. Primer - Contains a chemical which explodes when struck a sharp blow (by the firing pin). It is this explosion in the primer that acts as a detonator to start the powder burning.
4. Bullet - The projectile launched from the barrel. Many types of bullets are available for use in the handgun. Some of the more common types are listed below:
   a. SWC - Lead semi-wadcutter
   b. WC - Wadcutter
   c. JSP - Jacketed soft point
   d. FMJ - Full metal jacket
   e. JHP - Jacketed Hollow Point
   f. LRN - Lead round nose

The size of a bullet is expressed by its weight in grams. Some common rounds used by police are shown below:

Caliber	Bullet Weight	Approximate Muzzle Velocity	Approximate Muzzle Energy
.38LRN	158 gr.	855	255
.38JHP	110 gr.	1370	458
.357Mag JHP	158 gr.	1550	845
9mm JHP	124 gr.	1120	345
.45FMJ	230 gr.	850	370

(Obtained from factory specifications. Most of these rounds were probably fired from a six inch barrel or longer. Remember that as barrel length is reduced so are the ballistic characteristics listed above.)

A great deal of debate occurs regarding the most effective round for law enforcement use. Some things to be considered when selecting a service round would include:

1. Penetration - Certain bullet types and loads are much more likely to penetrate (pass through) walls, car doors, engine blocks or other mediums in the path of the bullet. One medium which must be considered is the human body. A bullet which passes through a body is undesirable in two ways: 1) it is less likely to incapacitate the person it was shot at; and 2) it is possible that the bullet will strike victims for which it was not intended.
2. Potential for ricochet - Unless your proficiency in high stress combat situations is 100%, the bullet may hit an object and ricochet in any direction. Some bullets are less likely to ricochet.
3. "Relative Stopping Power" - "Relative Incapacitation Index" - Phrases taken from two studies, (Hatcher, 1927) and (LEAA, 1975, 1980) respectively, which focused on the type of bullet/load/caliber which will stop or incapacitate a human being.

Regardless of the round you choose, most practical shooters would agree that, regardless of bullet type or caliber, the most important factor with regard to "stopping power" or "incapacitation" is shot placement. Rounds placed "center of mass" in the body are more

likely to incapacitate. Merely striking the body often is not good enough regardless of the round.

Holsters

Holsters should be selected with the following basic characteristics in mind:

1. Should allow the shooter to obtain a good grip on the handgun while still holstered.
2. The retention device should be a type which allows the shooter to release it simultaneous to obtaining the grip.
3. The angle of the holster should facilitate rapid target acquisition.
4. Reholstering and securing should be possible quickly and with one hand.
5. Belt keepers are essential to keep gear in place and facilitate rapid target acquisition.

As the you become more tactical in your approach to firearms training other factors regarding leather design will become important. You are advised to stay current in this area as new and more efficient designs are being researched to aid the officer.

Loading Devices (Revolver)

Several types of loading devices for the revolvers are available to police officers. These are listed below along with some practical considerations regarding their use:

1. Dump Pouch - Depend on gravity to make them work thus creating problems in many tactical situations, i.e., prone, etc. Also

there is a chance that all rounds will not fall out of the pouch into the hand. Fair for supplemental supply.

2. Belt Loops - Depending on type and shooter skill, this can be fairly quick. Good for supplemental supply.
3. Speed Strips - Depending on shooter skill, they can be fairly quick. Good for supplemental supply.
4. Speed Loader - Highly recommended for tactical use. Only weakness - precludes reloading a partially empty revolver. Supplemental ammunition supply will remedy this weakness.

Loading Devices (Auto-Pistol)

1. Magazines - Should be inspected frequently and maintained. One of the first items to be checked when a malfunction occurs is the magazine.
2. Magazine Pouch - The magazine should fit into the magazine pouch only to the first hole (from the base). Flaps are undesirable and friction is the best means of retaining the magazine in the pouch.

Other Equipment Considerations

1. Action Job on your firearm - An action job refers to a service performed by a competent gunsmith to smooth the action (trigger pull) on a handgun. This is sometimes necessary, but such work should only be performed by a competent gunsmith. Essentially it requires polishing parts for perfect fit and movement. No springs should be cut or any modification made which might cause a malfunction at a later time.

2. Trigger - The type of trigger recommended for double action shooting (revolver) is a combat trigger (thin and smooth). The wide trigger is used in single action shooting but can cause improper finger placement for double action shooting. Trigger shoes are not recommended for combat weapons as they can loosen and cause a malfunction at a critical time.
3. Sights - Most practical shooters prefer sights which work in all lighting conditions. The recommended color for all conditions is flat black to preclude any glare. Colored inserts or paint will reflect light and preclude attainment of sight alignment.
4. Nightsights - Since most shootings occur in dim light, one could logically recommend a nightsight application for any service weapon. Proficiency in dim light shooting will increase significantly with a nightsight application.
5. Grips - Grips are generally overlooked with regard to their essential function - enabling the shooter to grip the weapon properly, in particular, regarding trigger finger placement (See Chapter VI, Trigger Control). Additionally, one must consider weapon recoil and the ability of the shooter, with proper grips, to better control recoil. Of course, many shooters also find the hand, in particular the thumb, bruising from recoil and poorly designed grips.

Suffice it to say that stock grips are not designed to fit the hands of many shooters. You should shop carefully for grips which will aid you in your shooting, or at the very least, not hinder you.

Again, you are urged to read the available publications regularly if you expect to stay current in the firearms field. New developments come along regularly and some of them are life savers. On the other hand, be careful! Never accept at face value anything you read. Think it out, discuss it with your colleagues, then try it.

CHAPTER IV

FIREARMS SAFETY

Handling Firearms

Before handling any firearm, you must first examine it to determine whether or not it is loaded. Assume that all weapons are loaded. It is an old cliche, but one which is as true today as when it was coined - "the empty gun has killed many people." The following "make safe" instructions for the general types of firearms must be followed religiously before handling:

1. Revolver - Open the cylinder and examine to insure that it is empty.
2. Auto-pistol - Safety on, remove magazine, open slide and inspect chamber to insure that it is empty.
3. Shotgun - Safety on, open the action, inspect the chamber and check the magazine.
4. Rifle - Safety on, open the action, inspect the chamber, check magazine if necessary.

The manner in which you handle a firearm is a demonstration of your firearms knowledge. Proper etiquette must be observed for safety and to show others that you are competent with firearms. Listed below are the general types of firearms and the methods for handing them to other people.

1. Revolver - Open the cylinder and hand it stock first.
2. Auto-Pistol - Safety on, remove the magazine, lock the slide back, and hand it stock first.

3. Shotgun - Safety on, open the action and hand it.

4. Rifle - Safety on, open the action and hand it.

Your firearm is a precision tool. Abuse, failure to properly maintain it, or careless handling may well result in a malfunction at a critical moment. Your life or someone else's may depend on a functioning weapon. Treat your firearms as the tools of a professional.

The Off-Duty Handgun

Your handgun is safest when being carried, secured in its holster, and on your person. Off duty, when not in your possession, risk levels increase for accidents or theft. If your weapon is to be left in the home, make sure it is well secured. Remember, handguns are highly prized by burglars and everyone knows you have one.

The lock box is highly recommended for storing your handgun. Another means of rendering it inoperable to prevent accidental shootings is centered around locking the trigger in place to prevent it from being pulled. There are commercial trigger locks and makeshift trigger locks such as a padlock or handcuff locked behind the trigger. Whichever means you prefer, use some security arrangement when the handgun is not within your immediate control.

Members of your family will become accustomed to having a firearm around the house. Orient adult family members to firearms safety. Children, of course, must be oriented and provided with strict rules. However, never assume that your child will follow the rules and remember that other children may visit your home.

Carrying The Off-Duty Weapon

An important consideration is the handgun you carry off-duty. It is

essential that you are as proficient with the off-duty weapon as with your service weapon. If not, then carry your service weapon.

Next, what is the best body position for carrying the off-duty weapon. A general recommendation, which has logic as a base, is that the off-duty handgun be carried in the same body location as the service weapon. Carrying it in that location will make it accessible if needed as opposed to having it hidden in an ankle holster or some other hard-to-get-to body location.

Whatever location you choose, make sure your weapon is concealed. Do not lose tactical advantage by letting everyone know that you are armed. It is possible that a situation may accelerate if your weapon is seen. It is certainly possible that you could be killed as a result of your off-duty weapon being viewed by undesirable elements of the society in which you live.

Holster design for the off-duty weapon is no different than for the on-duty weapon with the exception of concealability. Weapon retention characteristics are essential. The recent study by Geller and Karales, Split Second Decision-Shootings Of and By Chicago Police, 1981 concluded that a high percentage of police officers are off-duty when shot, and of these, many are shot with their own weapons which had fallen out of poorly designed holsters.

When confronted with an off-duty situation where the use of a firearm might be justified, make a tactical evaluation before acting. You are always responsible for your actions and a personal tactical plan is essential.

Under no condition should you carry a firearm if you are consuming alcoholic beverages.

On-Duty Considerations

Keep your handgun holstered unless you have a justified reason to unholster. Functioning checks, loading, or cleaning activities should be done in areas away from other people.

Keep your weapon secured at all times. The probability that you will become involved in a physical confrontation is much higher than becoming involved in a shooting situation. An unsecured weapon is an invitation to someone who has a reason to resist arrest. With proper tactical training and practice, rapid target acquisition from a secured holster is a skill that can be developed as a response to situations that accelerate rapidly.

Range Safety

Weapons being transported to the range should be holstered or cased. Weapons not holstered or cased should be unloaded with the action open. When on the range the following rules must be observed at all times:

1. Follow instructions explicitly. Do not make incorrect interpretations of instructions. If you are not sure of an instruction, ask questions. Do Not anticipate commands.
2. Keep your weapon holstered and secured unless otherwise instructed.
3. When your weapon is unholstered, keep the barrel pointed downrange at all times.

4. Keep your finger out of the trigger guard unless the barrel is pointed downrange.
5. Auto-pistols should always have the safety on and finger off the trigger unless the barrel is on target.
6. Ear protection should be worn at all times. It is recommended that eye protection be worn.
7. Malfunction procedure: (See Figures 4-1 and 4-2)
   a. Keep your barrel downrange
   b. Raise your "weak" hand
   c. Wait for assistance

Figure 4-1
Malfunction!

Figure 4-2
Barrel downrange!
Weak hand raised!
Wait!

If you are on a range alone and a malfunction occurs, allow at least 10 seconds before clearing and examining your weapon.

8. If there is any indication of alcohol or drug use, you will be removed from training.

Treat your firearms with respect and respect the right of your fellow officers to feel safe in your presence. Carrying a firearm is a responsibility that demands constant vigilance. Any letdown can result in death - yours or someone elses.

CHAPTER V

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection and cleaning is essential if your weapon is to be dependable. Performing cleaning functions regularly will alert you to potential malfunctions before they can occur.

Equipment Requirements:

1. Cleaning rod
2. Bore brush
3. Patches
4. Toothbrush
5. Cleaning solvent
6. Gun oil
7. Clean rags
8. Properly fitted screwdriver for tightening screws

Cleaning The Revolver

Revolvers should not be disassembled for cleaning. Only the cylinder and grips should be removed when necessary and then, only after proper instruction is received. Normal maintenance will not require removal of the cylinder.

Following normal safety practices discussed in Chapter IV, the first step in cleaning any weapon is to make it safe. Once you are sure the weapon is safe, follow these instructions:

1. Using a bore brush moistened with solvent, run the brush through the bore to remove lead or powder deposits. Caution: Do not allow the cleaning rod handle to touch the lands and grooves at

the end of the barrel. This will destroy the accuracy of your firearm.

2. Repeat the process to clean the cylinder chambers.
3. Use a bristle brush or toothbrush moistened with solvent to clean the interior of the frame. Pay particular attention to areas around the forcing cone and corners where lead and powder accumulate.
4. With a dry patch continue the same process to remove solvent and loosened particles. Continue until patches show little or no soiling.
5. Remove solvent from frame with clean, dry cloth.
6. Apply a light coat of oil to surface of weapon, bore and cylinder chambers. This is essential if the weapon is to be stored.

Cleaning The Auto-Pistol

Use the same procedure as above after field stripping the weapon according to instructions. After assembling the weapon, complete a functioning check.

Inspection After Cleaning

Following the cleaning of your weapon, check screws for tightness. Check the ejector rod for tightness. Close and rotate the cylinder to make sure it rotates freely. Work the action to insure proper operation. Without actually firing the weapon, this is about all you can do to insure that you have a properly functioning weapon.

Listed below are some common malfunctions and some possible causes:

Revolver:

1. Light hammer strike
   a. Mainspring cut or loosened
   b. Strain screw loosened
2. Lead shaving
   a. Out of time
   b. Worn cylinder stop
   c. Lead accumulations in barrel or chambers
3. Rough opening cylinder
   a. Dirt
   b. Out of adjustment
4. Trigger will not recover
   a. Dirt
   b. Internal binding
5. Cylinder fails to turn
   a. High primer on cartridge
   b. Protruding bullet from squib load which fails to enter the barrel completely

Auto-Pistol:

1. Feeding problems
   a. Feeding ramp dirty
   b. Magazine not locked in place
   c. Magazine ears bent
   d. Previously fired casing failed to eject (stove pipe)

e. Ammunition not suited to weapon

f. Firing pin broken

Ammunition Malfunctions:

1. High primer - do not force the trigger back
2. Squib load - not enough powder to push the bullet out the barrel. Do not fire another round
3. Inverted primer - weapon will not fire
4. Crimped or damaged case - may not fit into chamber or case may be weakened enough to cause a malfunction when discharged. Inspect your ammunition before loading . . . particularly service ammunition.

CHAPTER VI

SHOOTING FUNDAMENTALS

Accurate shot placement with any firearm is dependent on execution of shooting fundamentals. Relying on a large caliber weapon or a special bullet to compensate for your lack of skill with a firearm is the sad mistake that many police officers make. If the time ever comes when you are required to shoot in defense of your life or someone else's, never believe that divine nature or luck will pull you through. If you lack firearm skills you will pay by failing to accurately place your shots and the price could be high.

Shooting fundamentals are few and simple to grasp. However, application and execution require concentration. Success in any skill is ultimately dependent on intense concentration. Any observer of great athletes in action can attest to the constant mention of the importance of concentration to success.

Sight Alignment And Sight Picture

The first and most important of all shooting fundamentals is sight alignment. Think of sight alignment as the reason for the existence of the other fundamentals. They are created and modified to aid the shooter in obtaining and maintaining proper sight alignment; for misaligned sights are, in the last analysis, the only reason a shooter will fail in accurate shot placement.

Proper sight alignment means:

The top of the front sight blade must be level with the top of the rear sight and centered in the rear sight when the weapon discharges.

Proper sight picture refers to:

The properly aligned sights as they relate to your aiming point on the target.

Although sight picture is extremely important to accurate shot placement, it is over concern with sight picture that causes misaligned sights as the weapon discharges. What you must do is point the weapon at the assailant and get the proper sight picture (eyes focused on the target) (See Figure 6-1), then focus your vision only on the front sight blade and concentrate on keeping it perfectly aligned in the rear sight until the weapon discharges (See Figure 6-2).

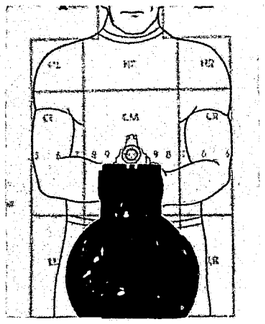


Figure 6-1
Note: Target clearly in focus while aiming point (sight picture) established

Figure 6-2
Note: Only sights in clear focus when pressing trigger

At weapon discharge, (trigger break) you should "call your front sight." Where was the front sight in relation to the rear sight when the weapon discharged? The location of the front sight at weapon discharge determines where the strike of the bullet will be. If you are unable to remember exactly where the front sight was at trigger break, you will never be able to place shots where you intended them.

Here is where concentration breaks down for most shooters. The desire to look at the target while pressing the trigger (checking sight picture) is so great that only intense concentration can overcome it. Most shooters believe they are watching the front sight but only tightly placed shot groups demonstrate execution of this most basic of all fundamental shooting skills.

Tightly placed groups in areas other than center of center mass may indicate improper sight picture or the need for adjustment of the sights. However, once tight shot groups are attained, you are on your way to becoming a skilled shooter.

Trigger Control

Trigger control is a term which describes the manner in which the trigger is pulled -- controlled! The trigger finger must move straight back as the trigger is pressed to the point where it "breaks", allowing the hammer to fall. (See Figures 6-3, 6-4, 6-5)

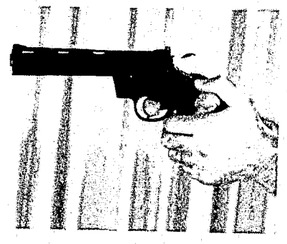


Figure 6-3
Note the angle of the finger before beginning to press the trigger to the rear.

Figure 6-4
Note the angle of the trigger finger changing as the trigger is pressed to the rear.

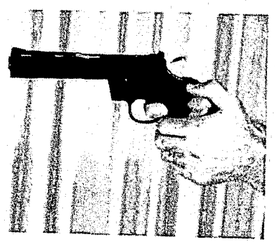


Figure 6-5
Note second joint of trigger finger now 90° to the rear of the trigger guard as the trigger "breaks".

The placement of the trigger finger on the trigger will determine whether or not the pull is straight back. The finger should be placed so that when the trigger "breaks", the second joint is 90° to the frame of the weapon (double action); or first joint if shooting an auto-pistol (single action). Too much finger in the trigger will generally cause barrel movement to the left, while too little finger on the trigger will cause barrel movement to the right (right handed shooter).

While training in shooting fundamentals, pressure should be applied slowly in order to allow the front sight to be maintained in perfect alignment with the rear sight. If the shooter is concentrating on obtaining perfect sight alignment at trigger break, he/she will find that the trigger must be pulled slowly to achieve the objective. What the shooter is trying to achieve is a "surprise" trigger break. That is to say, the shooter's concentration is so intent on sight alignment that, while pulling the trigger back, he/she will not anticipate when the trigger will break. It should be a surprise and the shooter should clearly see where the front sight was when the weapon discharged.

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. In tactical firearms training, tight shot groups are not the goal . . . merely placing each shot somewhere in center mass, as quickly as possible, is all that is required.

However, the beginning shooter must first master sight alignment and trigger control as demonstrated by tight shot groups before beginning tactical drills. Periodic return to sight alignment and trigger control drills are essential to maintenance of required shooting skills.

Grip-Two Hand (Traditional And Weaver Style)

Let us again make reference to the concept that grip, trigger control, etc., are the means by which we maintain perfect sight alignment until the weapon discharges. Each shooter will find it necessary to work with the grip, making whatever modifications necessary to accomplish the desired result. One warning would be appropriate at this point. . .develop no habits which will hinder you in tactical shooting. That is to say, do not develop skill with a grip that works well on the range but would not be suited to a combat situation.

The primary purpose of the grip is to aid in controlling barrel movement. Additionally, proper grip will aid in recoil control which is important to the tactical shooter. With these two purposes in mind, we will discuss two methods of gripping the weapon. Both will be "two-handed" since all tactical shooters can perform at higher levels when firing with the added support of the weak-hand.

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 would obviously prove disastrous.

A. Traditional Grip (Thumb-over)

1. Strong hand position (shooting hand)

a. Place the webbing of the hand (between thumb and index finger) as high on the frame as you can. Cover the top of the back strap. This will aid you in controlling the weapon. This is the critical part of the grip since the position of your hand at this stage will determine where other parts of your hand will fall in the grip. (See Figures 6-6 and 6-7)

Figure 6-6
Note: Web of hand covering the back strap

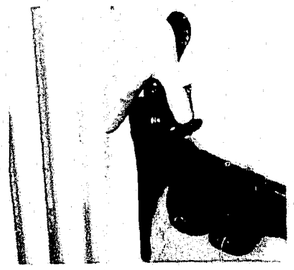


Figure 6-7
Web placement critical to grip and rapid target acquisition

b. Wrap the fingers around the grips and keep the thumb down. (See Figure 6-8) (Auto-Pistol thumb up or on top of safety)

Figure 6-8
Note: Placement of fingers and thumb

c. The trigger finger should be positioned properly for good, "straight back" trigger control (See Figure 6-9) (See Trigger Control). If it is not possible to place the finger properly, a change of grips is essential. (See Chapter II Grips).

d. The wrist should be straight and locked. (See Figure 6-9) Barrel, frame, and forearm in a straight line.

Figure 6-9
Note the placement of finger on trigger and wrist straight and locked

2. Weak hand position (Support Hand)

a. Cover the fingers of the strong hand with the fingers of the weak hand beginning in front of the knuckles (may differ by hand size). (See Figure 6-10)

Figure 6-10
Note the manner in which the weak hand fingers wrap around the strong hand

b. Place the thumb of the weak hand over the back of the strong hand as far back as you can comfortably get it. (See Figure 6-11)

c. Keep the wrist straight and locked. (See Figures 6-11 and 6-12)

d. Now create a "vise like" effect by squeezing the thumb and fingers together. (See Figure 6-12)

3. Arm Positions

a. Both arms should be fully extended and locked at the elbow (and wrist, of course). (See Figure 6-12)

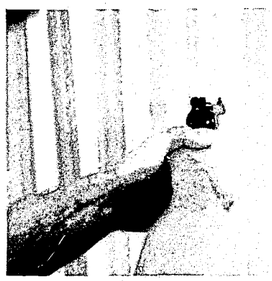


Figure 6-11
Note that the thumb is across the hand and not pointed toward the weapon itself

Figure 6-12
Note the vise-like effect of weak hand fingers and thumb. This aids in barrel stabilization

B. Weaver Style

1. Strong hand position

a. Place the webbing of the hand as high on the frame as you can. Cover the top of the back strap. (See Figures 6-13 and 6-14)

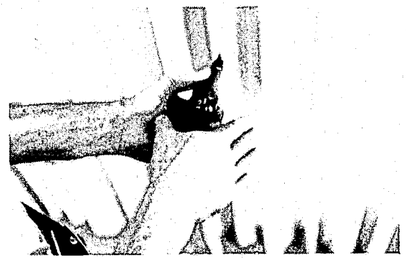


Figure 6-13
Note for proper placement of the handgun it should be snug against the palm, centered between thumb and first finger and in line with forearm

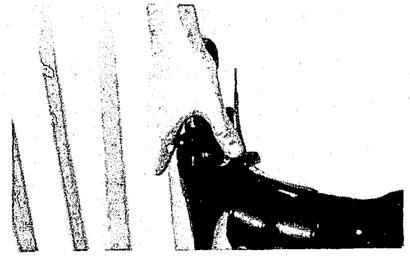


Figure 6-14
Web placement critical to grip and rapid target acquisition

b. Wrap the fingers around the grip and keep the thumb down. (See Figure 6-15) (Auto-Pistol thumb up or on top of safety).

Figure 6-15

c. The trigger finger should be positioned properly for good, "straight back" trigger control. (See Figure 6-16)

Figure 6-16
Note the position of finger on trigger and straight locked wrist

d. The wrist should be straight and locked. (See Figure 6-16) Barrel, frame, and forearm in a straight line.

2. Weak hand position

   a. Begin wrapping the fingers around the strong hand starting with little finger over little finger. (See Figure 6-17)

Figure 6-17
Note the little finger over little finger

Continue to wrap the fingers around the strong hand until you get to the index finger which may not fit under the trigger guard. Should this be the case, either "wedge" the finger into place under the trigger guard, or place the index finger over the front of the trigger guard and pull it straight back. (See Figures 6-18 and 6-19)

Figure 6-18
Finger Wedge - weak hand index finger "wedged" into place under the trigger guard

Figure 6-19
Finger up position. Weak hand index finger placed over trigger guard in position to pull straight back on weapon

   b. The thumb can be placed over the strong hand thumb. (See Figure 6-20)

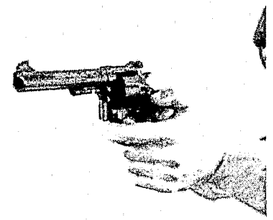


Figure 6-20
Weak hand thumb over strong hand thumb

   c. Isometric tension is now created by pushing straight forward with the strong hand while pulling straight back with the weak hand. (See Figure 6-21) This isometric tension serves two purposes: 1) barrel stabilization and 2) recoil control.

Figure 6-21
Strong hand pushes straight forward; weak hand pulls straight back to achieve isometric tension

3. Arm positions

   a. The strong arm should be straight or slightly bent at the elbow which allows for better recoil control. (See Figure 6-22)

Figure 6-22
Note the manner which the strong arm is slightly bent to aid in recoil control

b. The weak arm should be bent at about 90° and positioned downward to the point where optimal aid is provided in creating the isometric tension. (See Figure 6-23)

Figure 6-23
Note weak arm bent almost 90° and angled downward to provide straight back pull

The traditional grip provides excellent stability for range work but in tactical situations is not very adaptable to cover. Recoil is difficult to control because the elbows are locked.

The Weaver grip provides stability, adaptability to tactical situations, and recoil control. It is expected that in years to come the Weaver grip will completely replace the more traditional grip in law enforcement training.

Stances And Positions

Two basic stances form the basis for much of the shooting in which you will participate. The traditional "combat crouch" and the Weaver stance (field inquiry or alert stance). One should evaluate stance on the following criteria: balance, body exposure, and integration with good defensive principles.

A. Combat Crouch (Isosceles) (used where no cover available)

1. Foot position (See Figure 6-24)

a. Feet spread a comfortable distance

b. Feet flat on ground

2. Body position (See Figure 6-24)

a. Knees bent as deep as possible without effecting balance.

b. The idea is to make a smaller target.

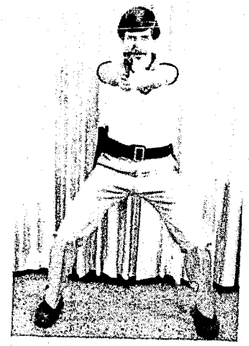


Figure 6-24
Note that the feet are spread and flat on the ground. Knees bent for good balance and reduction of target size to assailant

3. The weapon is drawn straight up out of the holster and thrust straight forward into the traditional two-hand grip-shoulders, elbows, and wrists locked.

B. Weaver style stance (field inquiry or alert stance, no cover)

1. Foot position (See Figure 6-25)

a. Feet spread a comfortable distance, weak foot placed forward, both feet pointed generally toward target.

2. Body position (See Figure 6-25)

a. Body positioned so as to offer less mass to assailant. With the weak foot forward the holstered weapon is kept away from the assailant.

3. Weapon drawn straight up and out of holster, straight into the Weaver style grip.

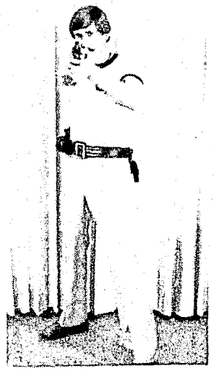


Figure 6-25
Note that feet are not directly in line from front to rear but spread for balance. Note that shoulders do not turn into the assailant but remain angled to reduce body mass to assailant.

Shooting from cover requires further modification of stance in order to maximize available cover. The barricade shooting position will be discussed, but shooters should remember that the standing barricade is only one of many possible positions from which you may be required to shoot. Let your imagination go and create as many possible situations from which to practice as time and money will permit.

C. Standing barricade (wall type) Strong side - Weak side (See Figures 6-26 and 6-27)

1. Foot position

a. Choose from the following - weak foot forward, strong foot forward, or feet side by side. All are widely taught and the most important point is that you maximize your cover when shooting.

2. Body Position

a. Completely behind cover except for that portion which must be exposed to get target acquisition.

3. The weapon is drawn into a proper grip and the back of the weak hand is placed against the barricade. Care must be taken not to allow the weapon to touch the barricade. By using the grip you have chosen, and placing the back of the weak hand against the barricade, you will be able to adapt to various types of cover more readily.

Figure 6-26
Note that feet are positioned completely behind cover to preclude the possibility of other body parts being inadvertently exposed

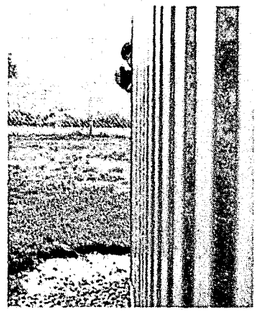


Figure 6-27
Note that exposure is limited to what is necessary for target acquisition

4. Weak side, weak hand - merely reverse your position and grip.

Only the crouch type or "weaver" stance and a barricade position are required for certification in the state course of fire. Certainly shooters should continue their training by practicing from other positions such as: kneeling supported (cover), prone, restricted cover positions, i.e., telephone poles, and any other positions that you might possibly encounter on the street.

CHAPTER VII

RANGE TRAINING

On the range you will have the opportunity to develop skill in the shooting fundamentals. Mastery of these fundamental skills is dependent on concentration and execution. You will be expected to demonstrate minimum proficiency by scoring at least 70% on a mandated course of fire prescribed by the State of Illinois. (See Appendix D)

Each range will be operated somewhat differently according to policy prescribed by the host agency or range master. There are, however, some generally accepted procedures utilized on most ranges. You need to be familiar with these procedures and then pay close attention to instructions given by the range master in charge of the host range.

Loading And Unloading

The following procedure is intended to serve two purposes: 1) safety and 2) tactical application. First, let us clearly understand that in a tactical shooting situation you should always utilize whatever cover is available for reloading when time permits.

When loading or unloading, use the following procedure. Load only as directed by the range master.

A. Body Position

1. If shooting from the isosceles (crouch), drop the strong foot to the rear. This will facilitate keeping the barrel downrange during loading or unloading. In the Weaver stance, the strong foot is already to the rear.

B. Loading/Unloading Revolver

1. Loading - Right Hand (See Figures 7-1 through 7-7)

a. With the strong hand thumb activate the cylinder release and immediately use the strong hand to obtain a resupply of ammunition.

b. Weak hand

(1) Place the middle and ring finger on the outside of the cylinder and the thumb on the inside of the cylinder.

(2) Place the index finger along the rear of the barrel and the little finger alongside the hammer. This will support and control the weapon during loading or unloading.

(3) Push the cylinder open with the middle and index finger and keep the barrel pointed down to the ground.

(4) Load with the strong hand while turning the cylinder with the thumb (if necessary).

(5) Close the cylinder with the barrel downrange while grip is reassumed.

2. Unloading - Right Hand (See Figures 7-1 through 7-7)

a. With the strong hand thumb, activate the cylinder release. Immediately use the strong hand to obtain a resupply of ammunition if reloading is necessary.

b. Weak hand

(1) Place middle and ring fingers on the outside of the cylinder and the thumb on the inside of the cylinder.

(2) Place the index finger along the rear of the barrel and the little finger alongside the hammer. This will support and control the weapon during loading or unloading.

(3) Push the cylinder open with the middle and index fingers and turn the barrel to the sky.

(4) Activate the ejector rod sharply with the thumb. Do not attempt to catch or dump your brass in any particular location. Such habits can hinder you in a tactical situation.

(5) Follow loading procedure or reholster and secure as directed.

Figure 7-1
Weapon empty

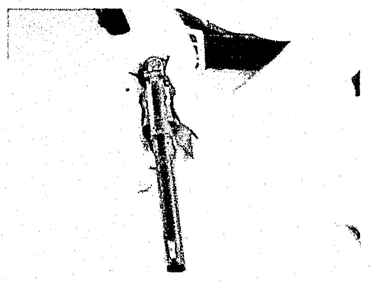


Figure 7-2
Note strong hand thumb activating cylinder release. Note weak hand middle and ring finger on outside of cylinder - thumb on the inside.

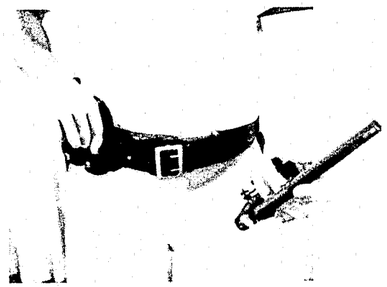


Figure 7-3
Unloading, barrel pointed up. Thumb working the ejector rod.

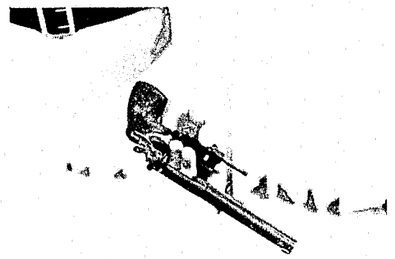


Figure 7-4
Note position of little finger by hammer and index finger on the barrel. Note total weak hand control.

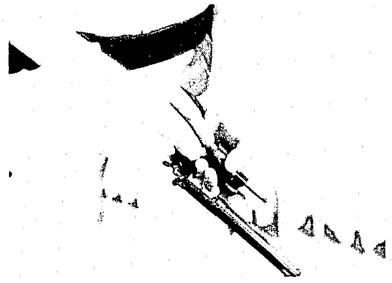


Figure 7-5
Note cylinder control with weak hand thumb and finger

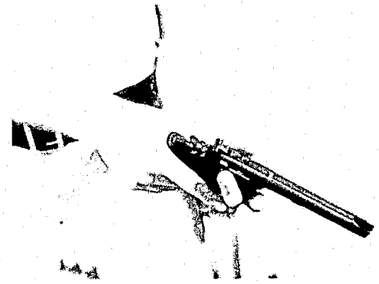


Figure 7-6
Note strong hand assuming combat grip as weak hand closes cylinder. Weak hand then assumes weak hand grip.

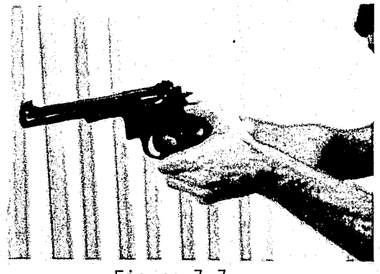


Figure 7-7
Ready for action!

3. Loading - Left Hand (See Figures 7-8 through 7-13)

   a. With the strong-hand index finger, activate the cylinder release. Immediately use the strong hand to obtain a resupply of ammunition.

   b. Weak hand

      (1) Place the thumb on the inside of the cylinder and the ring and middle fingers on the outside of the cylinder.

      (2) Push the cylinder open. Support and control the weapon with the thumb, index, and ring fingers. Point the barrel to the ground.

      (3) Load with the strong hand while turning the cylinder with the thumb if necessary.

      (4) Close the cylinder with the barrel downrange while grip is reassumed.

4. Unloading - Left Hand

   a. With the strong hand index finger activate the cylinder release and immediately use the strong hand to obtain a resupply of ammunition if necessary.

   b. Weak hand

      (1) Place the thumb on the inside of the cylinder and the ring and middle fingers on the outside of the cylinder.

      (2) Push the cylinder open and support and control the weapon with the thumb, index, and ring fingers. Point the barrel to the sky.

(3) Activate the ejector rod sharply with the index finger. Do not attempt to dump your brass in any particular location. Such habits can hinder you in a tactical situation.

(4) Follow loading procedure or reholster and secure as directed.

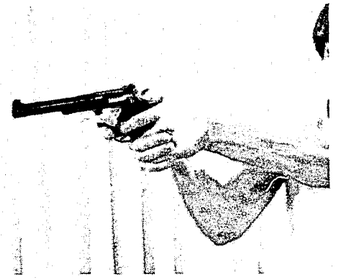


Figure 7-8
Weapon empty

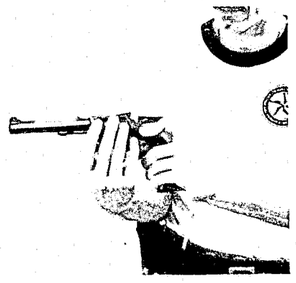


Figure 7-9
Note strong hand index finger activating cylinder release. (Strong hand thumb could be used). Weak hand ring and middle finger on outside of cylinder - thumb on inside of cylinder.

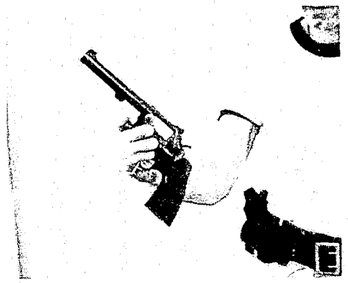


Figure 7-10
Unloading, barrel pointed up - index finger of weak hand working the ejector rod.

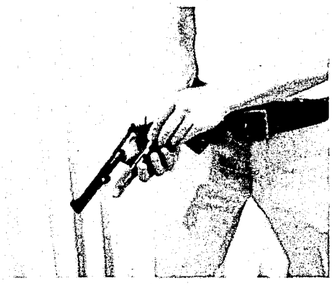


Figure 7-11
Note control with weak hand while strong hand reloads.

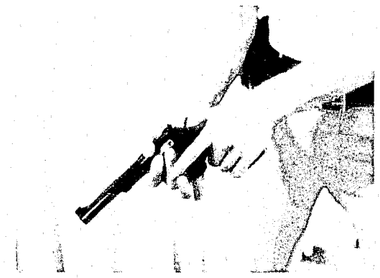


Figure 7-12
Note strong hand obtaining grip as the cylinder is closed with the weak hand. When the cylinder is locked in place, assume weak hand grip.

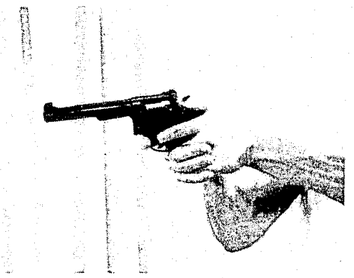


Figure 7-13
Ready for action!

5. Use of Speed Loaders (See Figures 7-14 through 7-20)

Figure 7-14
Weapon empty

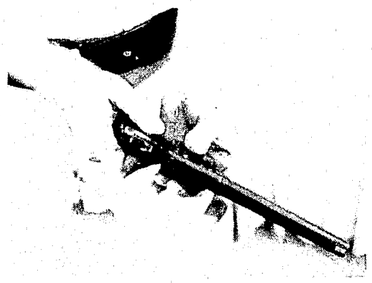


Figure 7-15
Strong hand thumb activates cylinder release. Weak hand middle and ring finger on outside of cylinder - thumb on inside.

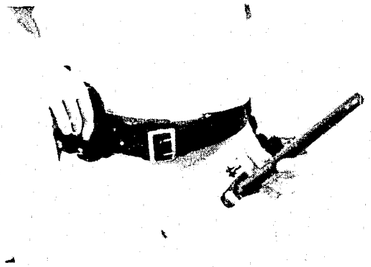


Figure 7-16
Weak hand - open cylinder - work ejector rod with thumb.
Strong hand - obtain resupply of ammunition.

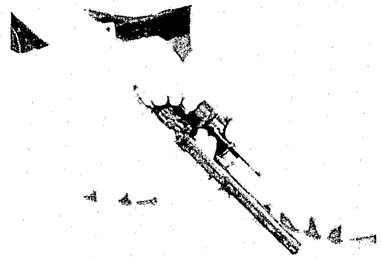


Figure 7-17
Loading with speed loader. Barrel pointed toward the ground to allow gravity, to pull rounds into cylinder.

(Notice: Weapon supported and controlled by weak hand. Little finger along hammer, index finger on barrel, ring and middle finger plus thumb on cylinder.)

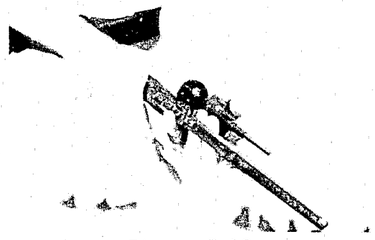


Figure 7-18
Notice that the ammo is dropped into cylinder and speed loader released. Strong hand assuming combat grip.

Figure 7-19
Speed loader falls free and cylinder closes. Two hand grip assumed.

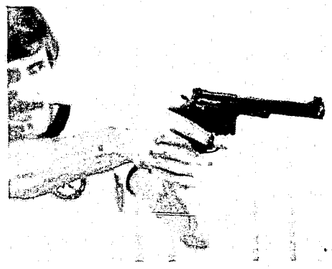


Figure 7-20
Ready for action!

6. Loading a Partial Load

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

C. Loading and Clearing the Auto-Pistol (Magazine Release on Frame)

1. Loading the Auto-Pistol (See Figures 7-21 through 7-25)

a. Body position same as for revolver.

b. Manipulate the weapon to allow the strong side thumb to activate the magazine release. Finger off trigger!

c. Weak hand

(1) At the same time the magazine is being released the weak hand obtains a new magazine with the index finger at the top of the magazine to act as a guide.

(2) Guide the magazine into the receiver and seat it firmly.

(3) If necessary, activate the slide release to charge the weapon.

Figure 7-21
Weapon needs reloading (not necessarily empty if rounds were counted)

Figure 7-22
Note thumb activates magazine release as weak hand obtains new magazine

Figure 7-23
Note index finger at point of magazine to act as guide into receiver

Figure 7-24
Note heel of hand seating magazine firmly

Figure 7-25
Ready for action.
If necessary, slide released by weak hand thumb.

2. Clearing the Auto-Pistol (See Figures 7-26 through 7-29)

   a. Release the magazine.

   b. Turn the ejection port down and cover with weak hand.

   c. With weak hand, push slide to rear and catch ejected round.

   d. Inspect the chamber.

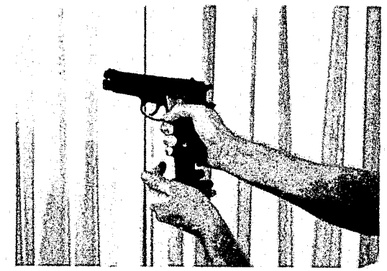


Figure 7-26
Release magazine.

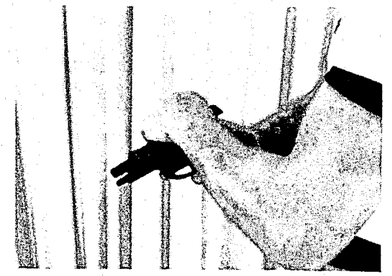


Figure 7-27
Note weak hand pushing slide to rear. Slide locked with strong hand thumb.

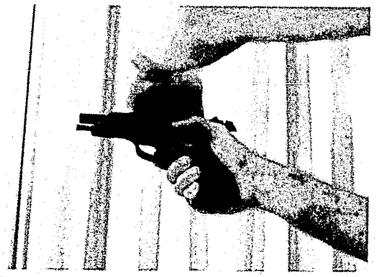


Figure 7-28
Note ejection port turned down and covered with weak hand to catch round.

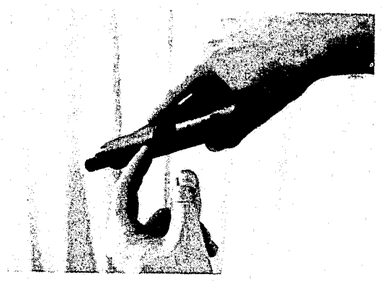


Figure 7-29
Inspect chamber.

D. In a combat situation the auto-pistol should, theoretically, never be fired dry (empty). Only a magazine change should be necessary if rounds are counted as they are fired. However, because stress will cause shooters to lose count, shooters should practice loading under both conditions -- an empty weapon and a weapon that must be charged after loading.

Range Commands

Range commands may differ from range to range. However, all range commands share a common objective -- they are necessary for safety. Most ranges use commands similar to those which follow:

1. "On the line load and holster." Load the number of rounds instructed using the proper loading procedure.
2. "Is the line ready." The range master will expect you to respond "Not ready" if that is the case.
3. If range assistants are working, the following commands may be heard. "Ready on the right" -- "Ready on the left." Assistants will respond.
4. "The line is ready." This tells you to await the command to fire.
5. The fire command may be a verbal command "Fire." It may be a whistle or other such audible device, or perhaps your target will turn to face you. At any rate, you will proceed to fire the number of rounds required. Your range commands will be proceeded by the course of fire -- that is, how many rounds to be fired, from which position, and whether or not a time constraint is to be imposed.
6. "Cease fire." This command is an imperative. You must stop firing immediately, whether or not you have completed the course of fire. Any shooter on the line is compelled to give this command if an unsafe condition is observed.
7. "Make the line safe." At this command, you should empty your weapon, holster and secure.

8. "Is the line clear." If not, you are expected to sound off "not clear." Range assistants, if available, will advise the range master of unsafe conditions.
9. If range assistants are working, the range master may ask -- "Clear on the right" -- "Clear on the left." Assistants will respond.
10. If conditions are safe the range master will announce "The line is clear." This will be followed by instructions regarding further activity.

Malfunction Procedure

Should your weapon malfunction during a shooting sequence, follow the malfunction procedure referred to in Chapter IV. (See Chapter IV--Figures 4-1 and 4-2). Additionally, if instructions are not clearly understood do not hesitate to ask questions. Review Chapter IV paying particular attention to "Range Safety."

Additional Thoughts on Range Training

Range training is essential if you are to be prepared to use the lethal force represented by your firearm. Approach your training on the range in the proper frame of mind. Make the training as realistic as possible, even if just by mental role-playing i.e., imagine that the targets are assailants. Although range training can never do more than vaguely simulate combat conditions, without it, your chances of success (survival) are minimal.

CHAPTER VIII

THE SHOTGUN

The shotgun, because it is so often relied on in high risk situations, should be a very familiar weapon to the police officer. Yet, surveys of police agencies indicate that only a small percentage of police officers shoot the shotgun on a continuous basis, in training exercises.

The shotgun, like the auto-loading pistol, is a complex weapon to operate. Therefore, if the shotgun is to be relied on in high stress situations, training must occur at regularly spaced intervals. If such training does not, in fact take place, many officers may be better off without the shotgun.

With this in mind, we encourage you to become not just familiar with your shotgun, but to train regularly.

Tactical Use of the Shotgun

The shotgun has for many years been referred to as "the ultimate police firearm" by police firearms instructors. Reference has been made to the psychological advantage accruing to the shotgun bearing police officer. This psychological advantage is partially due to "the officer's belief that he/she cannot miss with the shotgun."

For these reasons, among many others, police officers tend to reach for the shotgun on any call in which risk levels appear to be higher than "normal". In many cases, the officer finds him/herself encumbered by a weapon for which he/she has no tactical use. At such times, the shotgun may be inappropriately disposed of (layed down) to enable the officer to perform his/her enforcement function.

Other documented cases illustrate poignantly that a police officer armed with a shotgun in a combat situation may pay the ultimate price if he/she is not totally familiar with the operation of the weapon. As alluded to previously, the shotgun is a complex weapon to operate properly, and regular training is a must if the officer deploying the weapon is to be successful.

Primarily, the shotgun can best be deployed as a defensive perimeter weapon in situations where containment is the objective. In responding to high risk calls i.e., felony-in-progress, barricaded subject, "gun involved" calls, and other such calls, the immediate objective for the first officers on the scene is containment and securing a perimeter. In such situations the shotgun is an ideal weapon because of its extended effective range (for a trained user).

For such situations, and most others, one should view the shotgun as a long gun or rifle. Such a perspective includes marksmanship skill as an inherent component. Ability to place shots effectively from a perimeter position is essential to the overall tactical plan which deployed the shotgun.

For "tactical units" i.e., SWAT teams, the shotgun is many times deployed as an "offensive" weapon in an assault or similar operation. Such operations should be distinguished from the day-to-day activities of the police officer where the shotgun is used "defensively" as described above.

Before removing the shotgun from your car, take the time to ask yourself one question--"how does this weapon fit into my tactical plan?"

If you have no plan, develop one. If the shotgun has no real use, leave it in the car.

Shotgun Nomenclature (Pump or Slide Action) (See Appendix B - Figure 6)

The major parts of the shotgun are shown below in Figure 8-1. Familiarize yourself with them since this weapon will be one of your professional tools.

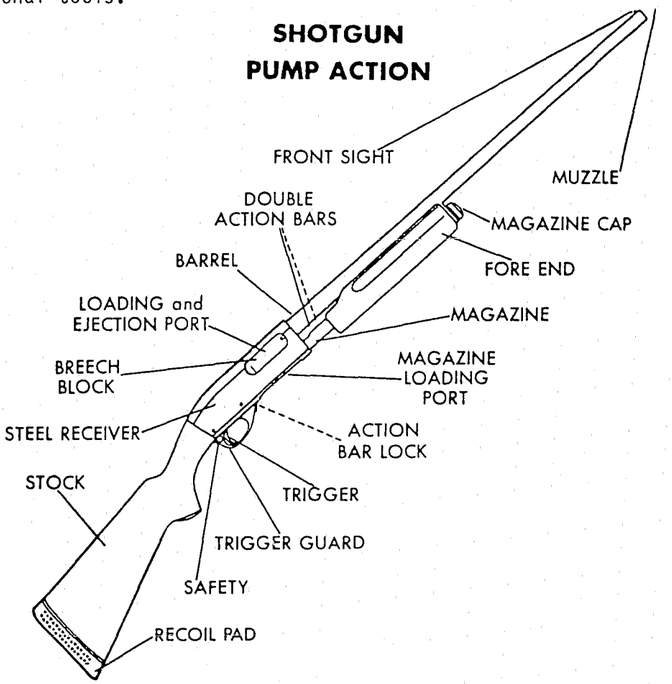


Figure 8-1

Functional Check (Safety Check) (See Figures 8-2 through 8-11)

1. Make sure the slide is back, safety on (activate slide release if necessary.) Weapon should be empty.
2. Remove the magazine cap.
3. Remove barrel and inspect.

4. Replace magazine cap. (Prevents pushing slide off the gun)
5. Push the slide slowly forward until locked in place.
6. Check the safety by pulling the trigger. Shooters should understand that the safety on a shotgun is not a hammer block. That is to say, the firing pin is not blocked from the primer when the safety is on. Therefore, dropping the weapon or striking the stock sharply may cause a round to discharge.
7. Take off the safety and place a penny (or your finger) on the bolt in front of the firing pin. Pull the trigger to insure that the firing pin is operational.
8. Slide to rear; safety on.
9. Remove magazine cap.
10. Replace barrel.
11. Replace magazine cap (tighten only thumb tight).

Figure 8-2
Note: Slide back, safety on, shooter checks magazine and chamber for rounds.

Figure 8-3
Remove magazine cap.

Figure 8-4
Barrel should come off easily by pulling straight up.

Figure 8-5
Check for obstructions and dirt.

Figure 8-6
Note: Replace magazine cap; this will prevent you pulling the slide assembly off the gun.

Figure 8-7
Note: With the barrel off, you must push the slide slowly forward to prevent the action from becoming disassembled. You now have a cocked weapon.

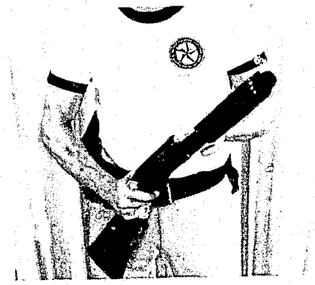


Figure 8-8
Pull the trigger to test the safety. Remember it is not a hammer block (see text). Take the safety off and place your fingers or a penny over the firing pin. Pull the trigger to ascertain the functional status of the firing pin.

Figure 8-9
Slide back - safety on.

Figure 8-10
Magazine cap off in order to replace barrel.

Figure 8-11
Replace barrel and magazine cap. Functional check complete. Only firing the weapon can determine total operational status of the gun. Certainly a daily functional check is good procedure.

Loading and Unloading the Shotgun

A. Loading for duty (four round magazine) (See Figures 8-12 through 8-15)

The shotgun, loaded for duty, is not charged. No shell should be chambered. Therefore, only the magazine is loaded full.

1. Make sure the slide is forward and the safety is on.
2. Load shells into loading port. Make sure the shells are pushed far enough into the magazine that the shell latches engage. (A thumb nail length into the magazine will insure this.) If shell latches do not engage, the shell will be forced under the loading foot making the weapon inoperable.
3. Standard magazines should be replaced with extended magazines, since you lose one round by not charging the weapon.

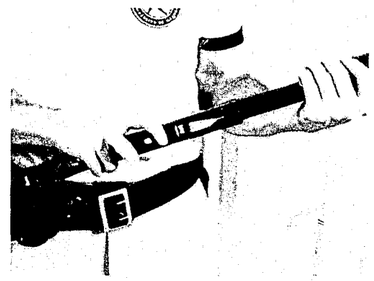


Figure 8-12
Note: No shell chambered for duty. Slide forward, safety on.

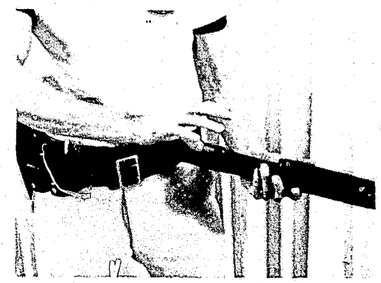


Figure 8-13
Start shell into magazine with thumb.

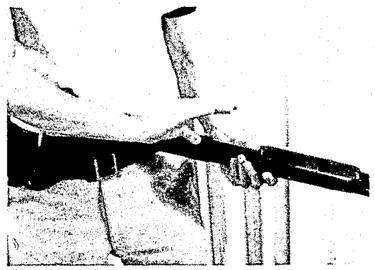


Figure 8-14
Note thumb pushed into magazine almost to first joint. This insures shell latch engagement and prevents shell from springing forward under the loading foot.

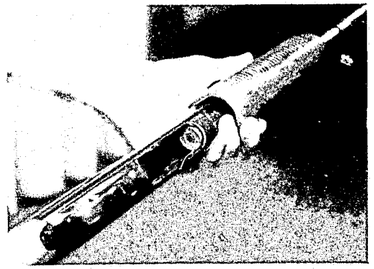


Figure 8-15
Note that the shell is held in magazine by shell latch on bottom of loading port.

B. Combat Loading (if you have a resupply) (See Figures 8-16 through 8-20)

1. Keeping the weapon mounted in the shoulder position supported by the strong arm, obtain a shell with the weak hand and load through the loading port.
2. If the gun is empty, (slideback), load the first round through the ejection port to charge the weapon. Then, load remaining rounds through the loading port.

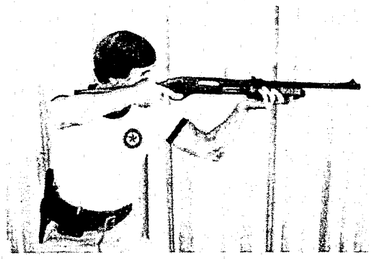


Figure 8-16
In a combat situation one would always load from cover. Here the weapon is charged and ready with the shooter needing to load the magazine.

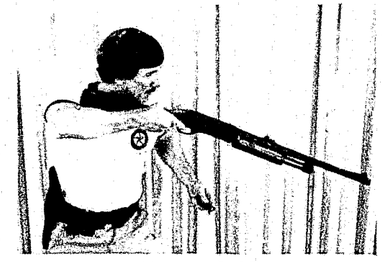


Figure 8-17
Note that the shooter's attention is on the assailant and the shotgun is still mounted in the shoulder position. The barrel is lowered while the weak hand obtains a round.

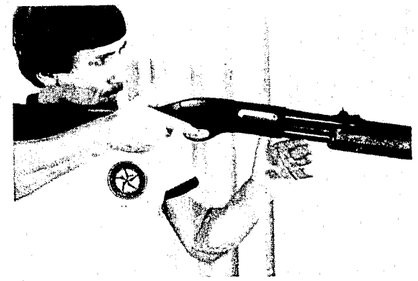


Figure 8-18
The shell is loaded into the loading port. Note thumb pushed into magazine to first joint. Also note that the shooter's attention is still on the assailant and he is ready to shoot if necessary.

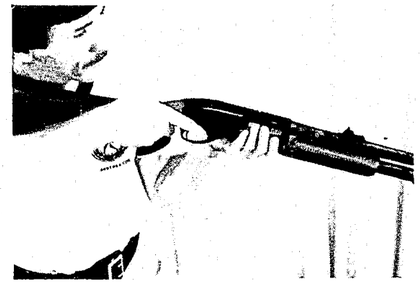


Figure 8-19
If the weapon was fired dry, leave the slide back and load the first round into the ejection port. Run the slide forward-now you are charged and ready to shoot. Continue loading the magazine until it is full.

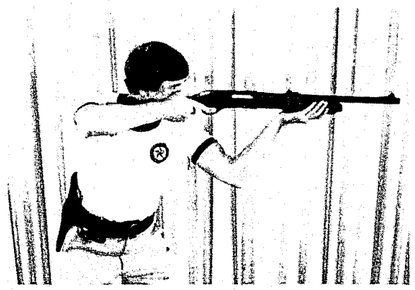


Figure 8-20
Fully loaded, charged and ready for action.

C. Unloading - Uncharged Weapon (magazine loaded no chambered round) (See Figures 8-21 through 8-23)

1. Safety on! Activate the slide release and place the index finger of your strong hand between the slide and magazine base to prevent the slide from returning completely to the rear.
2. This will allow the loading foot to be pushed out of the way in the loading port.
3. With the finger or thumb, reach inside the loading port and find the shell latches (spring loaded). Depress them releasing shells, one at a time, from the magazine.

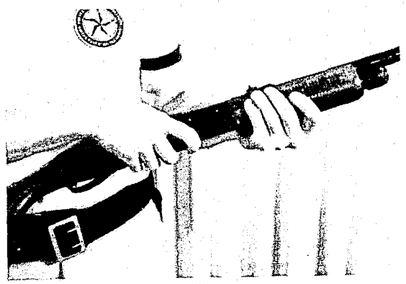


Figure 8-21
Safety on! Note placement of strong hand index finger to prevent slide from moving all the way back. The loading foot now has no spring tension and may be pushed up out of the way.

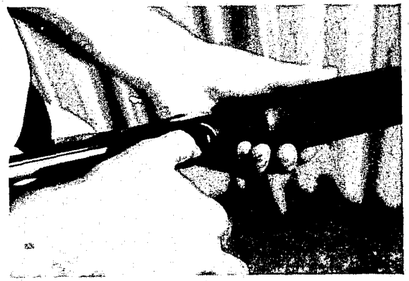


Figure 8-22
Note thumb depressing shell latch to allow shell to be released from the magazine back into the loading port.

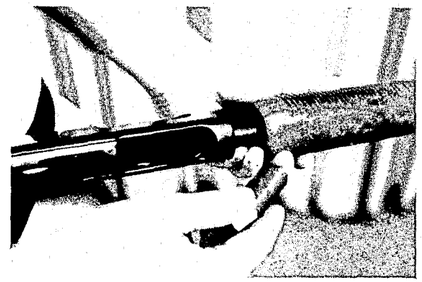


Figure 8-23
Shell removed. Note next shell held in magazine by shell latch. Continue removing shells until magazine is empty.

D. Unloading - Charged Weapon (round chambered) (See Figures 8-24 through 8-27)

1. Follow Step 1 in C above and merely remove the shell presented in the ejection port by the ejector, or;
2. Follow steps 1 and 2 in C above then;
3. Turn the ejection port to the ground and cover it with your hand while at the same time covering the loading port.
4. Work the slide back sharply and catch one shell from the ejection port and one from the loading port.
5. Follow step 3 in C above. (Uncharged Weapon)

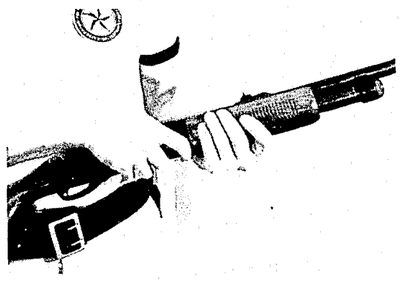


Figure 8-24
Safety on! Note position of index finger to prevent slide from moving all the way back. The loading foot may now be pushed out of the way.

Figure 8-25
Note the chambered round now presented in the ejection port. Merely remove it and unload the magazine as you would with an uncharged weapon.

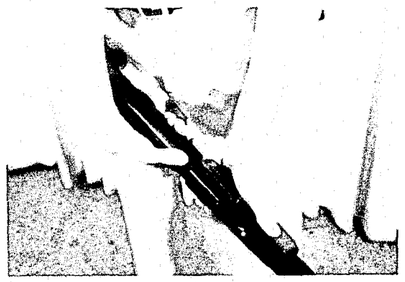


Figure 8-26
Note strong hand covers both the ejection port and the loading port. The ejection port is pointed toward the ground. The slide may now be worked sharply to the rear with the weak hand.

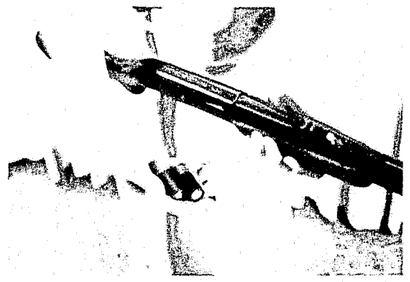


Figure 8-27
One shell falls out of the loading port and one comes out the ejection port. Both are caught in the properly positioned strong hand. Remove the remaining shells from the magazine as you would from an uncharged weapon.

The Shotgun Shell

Although a variety of loads are marketed for the shotgun, the police officer must consider the manner in which the weapon is to be deployed before making a selection. Additionally, you must consider that unless a supplemental supply of ammunition is available in a stock bandolier, what is in the magazine must be capable of optimal performance for a variety of situations.

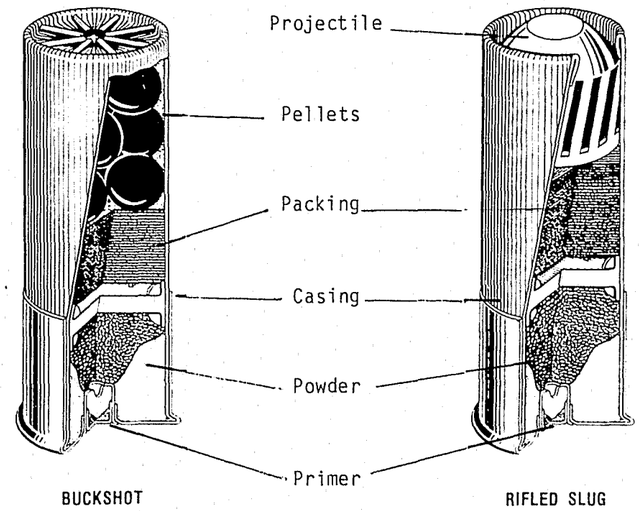


Figure 8-28

Although some shotgun rounds contain a number of pellets (#4 buck, 27 pellets), you must consider that unless fired at close distances, many of those pellets may not strike the assailant; and as distance increases, stopping power and penetration potential is reduced. The #00 buck or the rifled slug round would meet the performance criteria demanded by many situations.

You should fire a variety of rounds from your shotgun to become familiarized with the performance of each. For training, although the slug is more expensive, marksmanship skills can more effectively be taught and demonstrated if shooters use only the slug. For new shooter familiarization, a trap load is economical and can introduce you to the considerable recoil of a shotgun and the need for developing your skill to reduce the effect of recoil.

Shooting the Shotgun

A major fallacy concerning the shotgun is that marksmanship skills are not necessary and you merely point in the general direction and success is guaranteed. In reviewing data about the spread of pellets discharged from a shotgun, one can easily see that at close distances very little spread occurs -- at 7 yards less than 4 inches. Thus, only by executing fundamentals can shot placement be accurate in terms of center mass.

In all the discussion about "stopping power" and "incapacitation potential," calibers less than .38 are highly discounted. Yet, a great deal of emphasis is placed on the fact that a #00 buck shell contains nine .33 caliber pellets, or that #4 buck contains twenty-seven .24 caliber pellets. At 25 yards with #00 buck, four or five of the pellets may not hit the target and of those which do only one or two may be in center mass. Is this to be relied on as "stopping power?"

Let's not look for an easy out or a magic weapon that will make up for our lack of marksmanship skill. Rather, learn to shoot the shotgun and train with it regularly.

A. Mounting the Shotgun (shoulder position) (See Figures 8-29 and 8-30)

1. Use the shoulder position for all encounters except those at very close distances.
2. Raise the strong arm with the elbow pointed out. This will create a "pocket" in which to seat the stock or butt plate.
3. Pull the weapon into this pocket with the strong hand.
4. Place the weak arm elbow "under" the slide and create a support with the hand. Caution--keep the hand in the middle of the fore-end or you will pinch your fingers when working the slide.

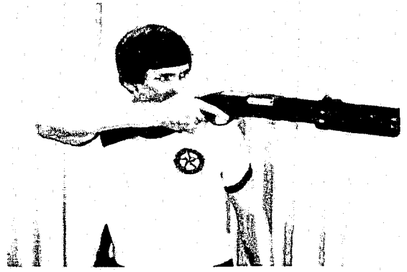


Figure 8-29
Note elbow pointed straight out to form a shoulder "pocket" for the butt of the shotgun. Note strong hand pulling the weapon back into the shoulder.

Figure 8-30
Note placement of weak hand on slide in order to form a support "platform". Also note that no part of the weak hand "over hangs" to be pinched when the slide is worked.

B. Foot Position (See Figure 8-31)

1. Feet spread comfortably, strong side foot dropped to the rear and both feet flat and pointed generally to the front. (Alert Stance)

C. Body Position (See Figure 8-31)

1. Knees flexed.
2. Body weight shifted to front leg.
3. Torso bent forward at waist to aid in absorbing recoil.

Figure 8-31
Note the wide spread feet with toes pointed to the front for maximum range of lateral movement. Note flexed knees, body weight shifted to front leg, and torso bent at waist to aid in absorbing and controlling recoil.

D. Operating the Weapon

1. Charge the shotgun by working the slide sharply to the rear and then to the front. Short stroking the slide is a common problem experienced by many shooters.
2. Safety off.
3. Press the trigger as you would on your handgun.

E. Shooting Fundamentals

1. Sight picture and sight alignment
   a. Same as for the handgun
2. Trigger control
   a. Same as for the handgun
3. Breathing - breathe in and let out about a half a breath while checking sight picture, sight alignment and pressing the trigger.

F. The Hip Position (See Figure 8-32)

The "hip" shooting position should be <u>utilized only in close combat situations</u> where maneuvering with a shoulder mounted weapon at the ready is difficult.

1. Body Position - same as for shoulder mount.
2. Foot Position - same as for shoulder mount.
3. Mounting the shotgun (hip position)
   a. Bring the stock of the shotgun alongside and high on the rib cage.
   b. Cover the stock with the strong-side forearm and press it into the rib cage tightly.
   c. Place the weak hand on the slide and get the elbow underneath the weapon to provide support.
   d. Traversing is accomplished by rotating at the hips.

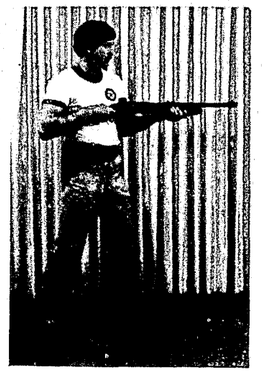


Figure 8-32
Note manner in which the stock is trapped tightly against the body by the strong arm forearm. The weak hand platform keeps the barrel parallel to the ground and controls elevation. Movement from side-to-side is effected by rotating the torso from the hips. The "hip position" should be used only where conditions do not permit use of the shoulder mount position.

Some Additional Considerations

If one were to train with the shotgun in the same manner that one would train with the rifle, marksmanship would not be a problem. Shooting the rifled slug is about the only way to determine whether or not a shooter is capable of using the shotgun in tactical situations. Certainly, those who cannot demonstrate a capability to shoot the shotgun accurately should not be permitted access to one.

CHAPTER IX

USE OF A FIREARM - THE DECISION PROCESS

Deadly force decision-making is sometimes viewed by the uninformed as simply making a legal decision to shoot or not to shoot. However, when the components of the decision process regarding the use of lethal force are broken out and studied its complexity becomes obvious.

Tactics and Deadly Force Decision-Making

The teaching of general tactics can form a solid foundation for firearms training. If you can develop and execute a good personal tactical plan you may never be required to make a "split second" lethal force decision. For example, identifying and using cover is a basic part of good tactics. An officer who plans will operate from cover when possible, thereby allowing time to make rational decisions regarding the use of deadly force. An officer without cover is forced to make the split-second decision--"shoot or don't shoot." The point is that tactical training is necessary if tactical plans are to be made. And tactical planning which may or may not include the use of a firearm, is an integral part of your personal decision process.

Legal Aspects of the Decision Process

Regarding the legal aspects of deadly force decision-making, you should refer to your manual, Student Manual - Peace Officer's Use of Force in Making and Arrest. Also you may refer to Illinois Revised Statutes Chapter 38 Section 7-5 and study the law directly.

Legal Aspects of the Decision Process

Refer to your use of force manual for a discussion of the law regarding the use of deadly force. It is quite clearly spelled out and all you have to remember are all the crimes classified as "forcible felonies." Sounds easy enough but try reviewing them in a half a second. The generally accepted policy is much simpler to apply. Shoot in defense of life -- yours or someone elses'. If your evaluation of the circumstances was correct and life is endangered, you cannot be wrong. You also have one of the most ingrained of human instincts to help you -- survival.

Moral Aspects of Decision Making

Morality is both societal and individual. Certainly, no one should be wearing a badge if the taking of a human life is appealing. Morally, most everyone feels justified in taking a life to save a life. Again to solve the moral dilemma, use the same policy which solves the legal complexities: shoot in defense of life -- yours or someone elses.

For the officer who seriously doubts that he/she could take a life under the gravest of all circumstances, probably another line of work would be the answer. The police officer is sworn to protect life. People have a right to expect performance of a sworn duty. But, no one can predict the circumstances in which you may find yourself -- no one can make your decision for you. You must be prepared.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gellar, William A. and Karales, Kevin J., Shootings Of and By Chicago Police.

McGee, Francis J., "New York City Police Department Analysis of Police Combat Situations." Unpublished Report, New York City Police Department.

Meyer, Marshall W., "Police Shootings at Minorities: The Case of Los Angeles," 452 Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 98, November, 1980.

U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Law Enforcement Officers Killed, Washington, D.C., 1980.

APPENDIX A

PUBLIC ACT 79-652

PUBLIC ACT 79-652
(as amended)
(Mandatory Firearms Training for Peace Officers)

AN ACT in relation to firearms training for peace officers.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

Section 1. Definitions. As used in this Act:

(a) "Peace officer" means 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.

(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.

Section 2. Successful completion of a 24 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 his official duties. Such training must be approved by the Illinois Local Governmental Law Enforcement officers Training Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board) and may be given in logical segments but must be completed within 6 months from the date of his initial employment. To satisfy the requirements of this Act such training must include:

(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 the provisions of the "Criminal Code of 1961" and relevant court decision;

(4) A forceful presentation of the ethical and moral considerations assumed by any person who uses a firearm.

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.

The Board shall cause to be conducted such training courses twice each year within each of the Illinois State Police Districts but no such training course need be held when there are no police officers requiring such training.

The provisions of this Act shall not apply to auxiliary policemen authorized by Section 3-6-5 of the "Illinois Municipal Code" except that the training course provided for therein shall contain a presentation of the ethical, moral and legal considerations to be taken into account by any person who uses a firearm.

Section 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. All units of government or other agencies which employ or utilize peace officers shall cooperate with the Board by furnishing relevant information which the Board may require. The Board shall, in its annual report required by "The Civil Administrative Code of Illinois", indicate the results of these inspections and provide other related information and recommendations as it deems proper.

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

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

Approved August 29, 1975
(Amended September 22, 1979)

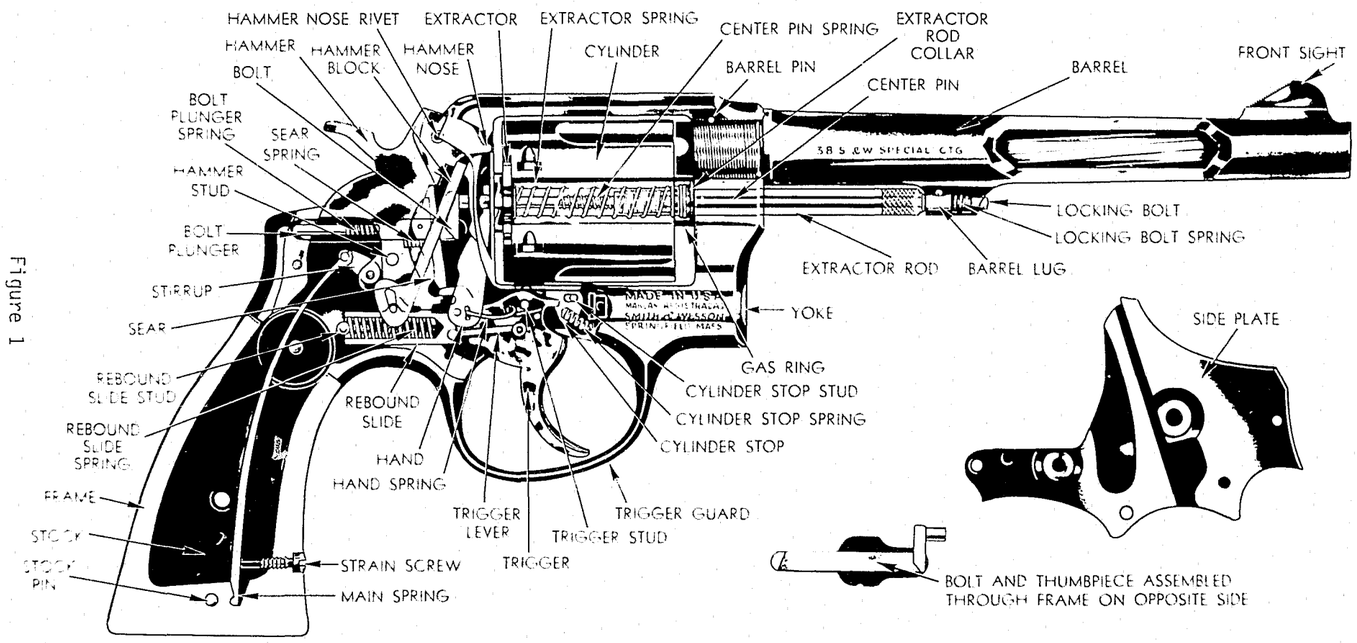
NOTE: Legislation has been introduced in the 1983 session of the Eighty-Third General Assembly of the State of Illinois that if passed and approved by the Governor would increase the mandated length of instruction for the firearms training course from 24 hours to 40 hours. At the date this manual was published, legislative action had not been taken. In the event that the proposed legislation becomes law, and the course is extended from 24 hours to 40 hours, the content of this manual will be unaffected.

ILLINOIS LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TRAINING BOARD

APPENDIX B

COMMON POLICE FIREARMS

CUTAWAY VIEW OF THE
38 MILITARY AND POLICE REVOLVER



SMITH & WESSON SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

A Bangor Punta Company

Figure 1

B-1

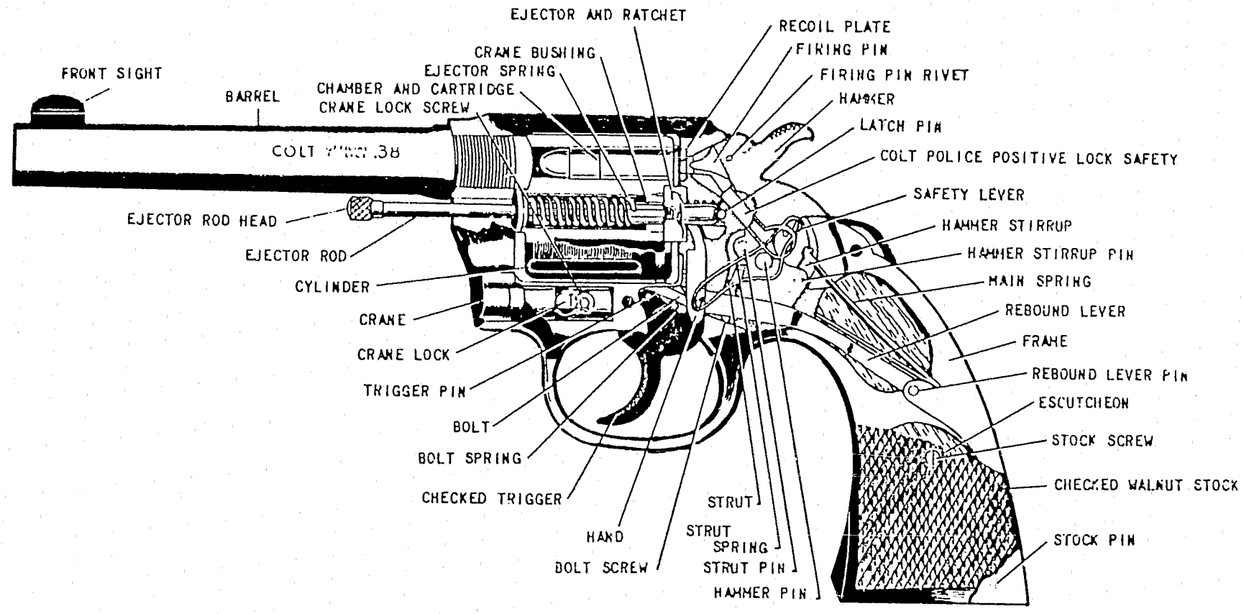
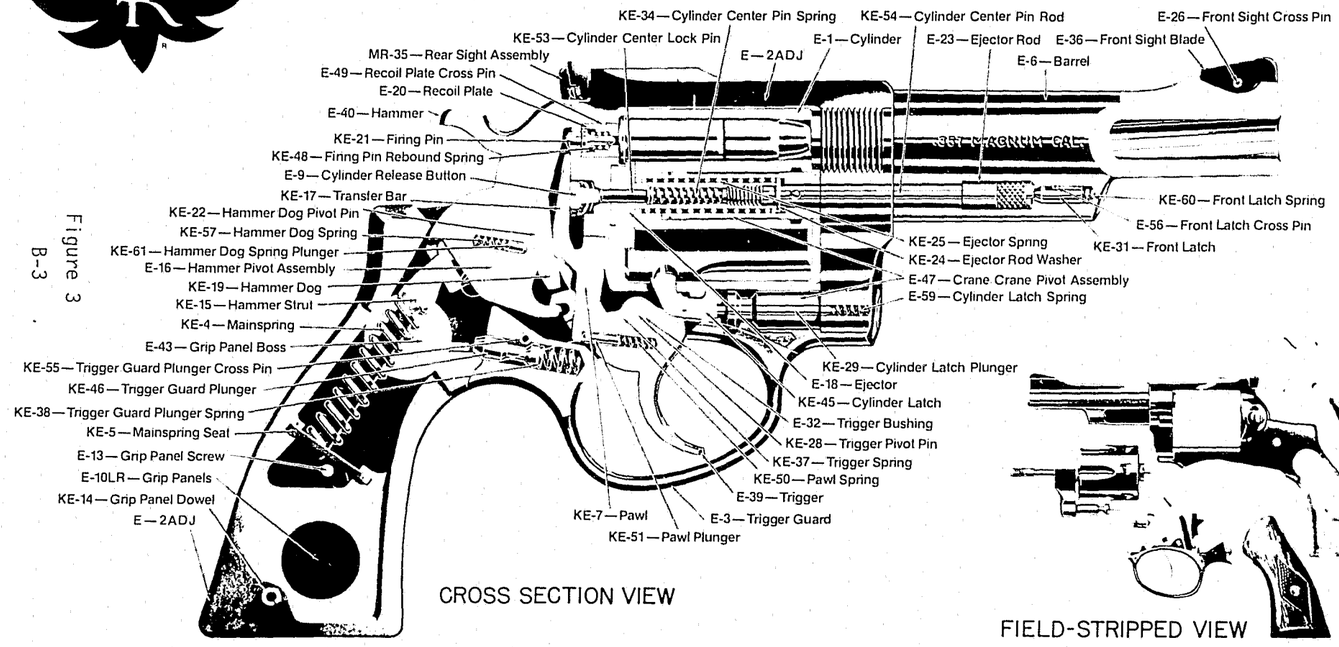

EJECTOR AND RATCHET
RECOIL PLATE
CRANE BUSHING
FIRING PIN
EJECTOR SPRING
FIRING PIN RIVET
FRONT SIGHT
BARREL
CHAMBER AND CARTRIDGE
HAMMER
CRANE LOCK SCREW
LATCH PIN
COLT POLICE POSITIVE LOCK SAFETY
SAFETY LEVER
EJECTOR ROD HEAD
HAMMER STIRRUP
HAMMER STIRRUP PIN
EJECTOR ROD
MAIN SPRING
CYLINDER
REBOUND LEVER
CRANE
FRAME
CRANE LOCK
REBOUND LEVER PIN
TRIGGER PIN
ESCUTCHEON
BOLT
STOCK SCREW
BOLT SPRING
CHECKED WALNUT STOCK
CHECKED TRIGGER
STRUT
STRUT
SPRING
HAND
STOCK PIN
BOLT SCREW
STRUT PIN
HAMMER PIN

Figure 2
B-2

RUGER®
SECURITY-SIX®
DOUBLE ACTION REVOLVER



CROSS SECTION VIEW

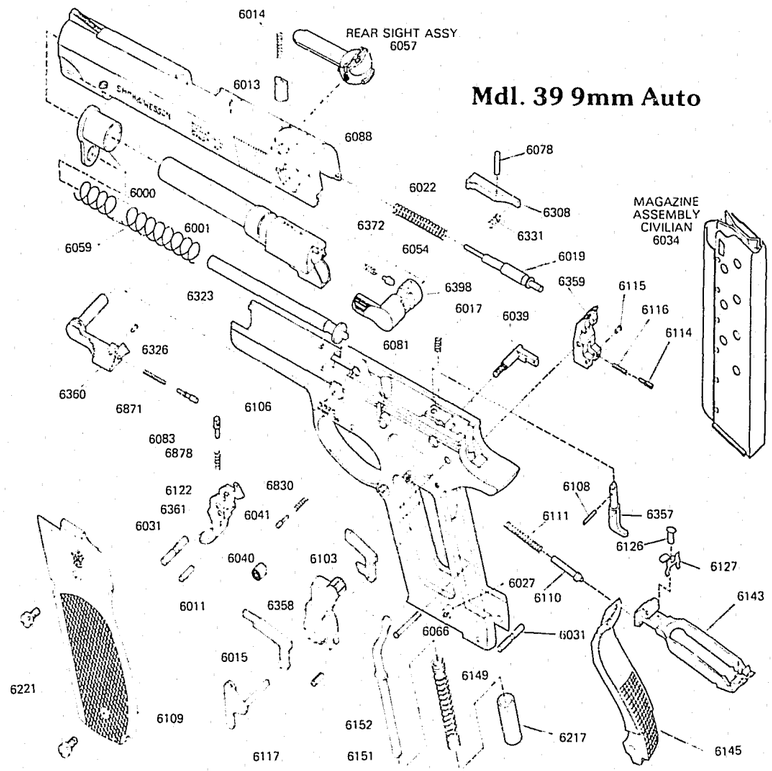
FIELD-STRIPPED VIEW

Figure 3
B-3

Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc.
Southport, Connecticut, U.S.A.

CONTINUED

1 OF 2



All parts listed interchange on the Model 39-2 and 39 except where noted. We cannot supply nickel parts

6000 Barrel Bushing, 39-2 only
6001 Barrel
6011 Trigger Plunger Pin
6013 Ejector Depressor Plunger
6014 Ejector Depressor Plunger Spring
6015 Ejector Magazine Depressor
6017 Ejector Spring
6019 Firing Pin
6022 Firing Pin Spring
6027 Frame Stud
6031 Insert Pin
6031 Trigger Pin
6034 Magazine Assembly
6039 Magazine Catch
6040 Magazine Catch Nut
6041 Magazine Catch Plunger
6054 Safety Plunger (for 39-2 only)
6057 Rear Sight Assembly
6059 Recoil Spring
6066 Sear Pin
6078 Extractor Pin (for 39-2 only)
6081 Slide Stop Button
6083 Slide Stop Plunger
6088 Slide (for 39-2 only)
6096 Adjustable Rear Sight (see page 31)
6103 Sear Release Lever
6106 Frame
6108 Disconnector Pin
6109 Stocks, pair, with screw
6110 Drawbar Plunger
6111 Drawbar Plunger Spring
6114 Sear Plunger
6115 Sear Plunger Pin
6116 Sear Plunger Spring
6117 Sideplate
6122 Trigger Plunger Spring
6126 Trigger Play Spring Rivet
6127 Trigger Play Spring
6143 Drawbar
6145 Insert
6149 Mainspring
6151 Stirrup
6152 Stirrup Pin
6217 Mainspring Plunger
6221 Stock Screw
6308 Extractor (for 39-2 only)
6323 Recoil Spring Guide Assembly
6326 Slide Stop Plunger Rivet
6331 Extractor Spring (for 39-2 only)
6357 Disconnector and Pin
6358 Hammer (Complete)
6359 Sear
6360 Slide Stop, includes spring, plunger, rivet
6361 Trigger (Complete)
6372 Safety Plunger Spring (for 39-2 only)
6398 Manual Safety
6830 Magazine Catch Plunger Spring
6871 Slide Stop Plunger Spring
6878 Trigger Plunger

Figure 4
B-4

COLT GOVERNMENT MODEL AUTOMATIC PISTOL

CALIBER .45

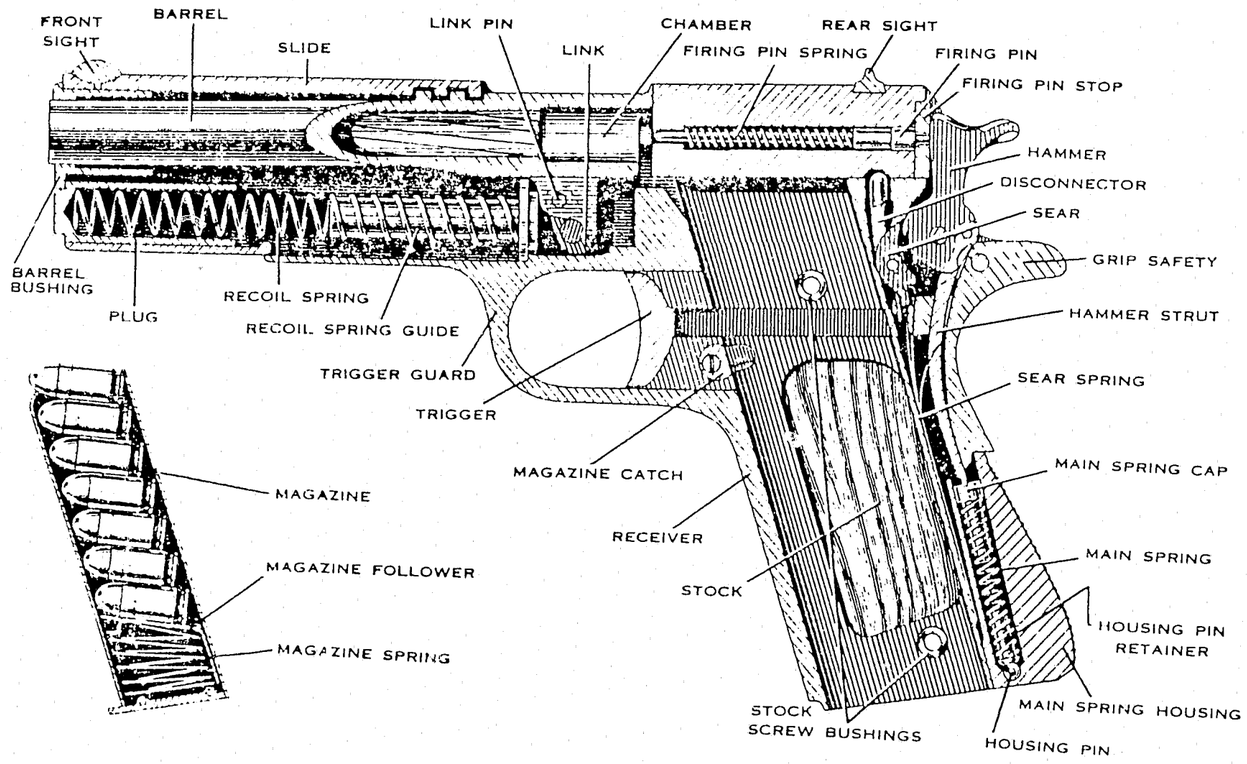


Figure 5
B-5

NOMENCLATURE

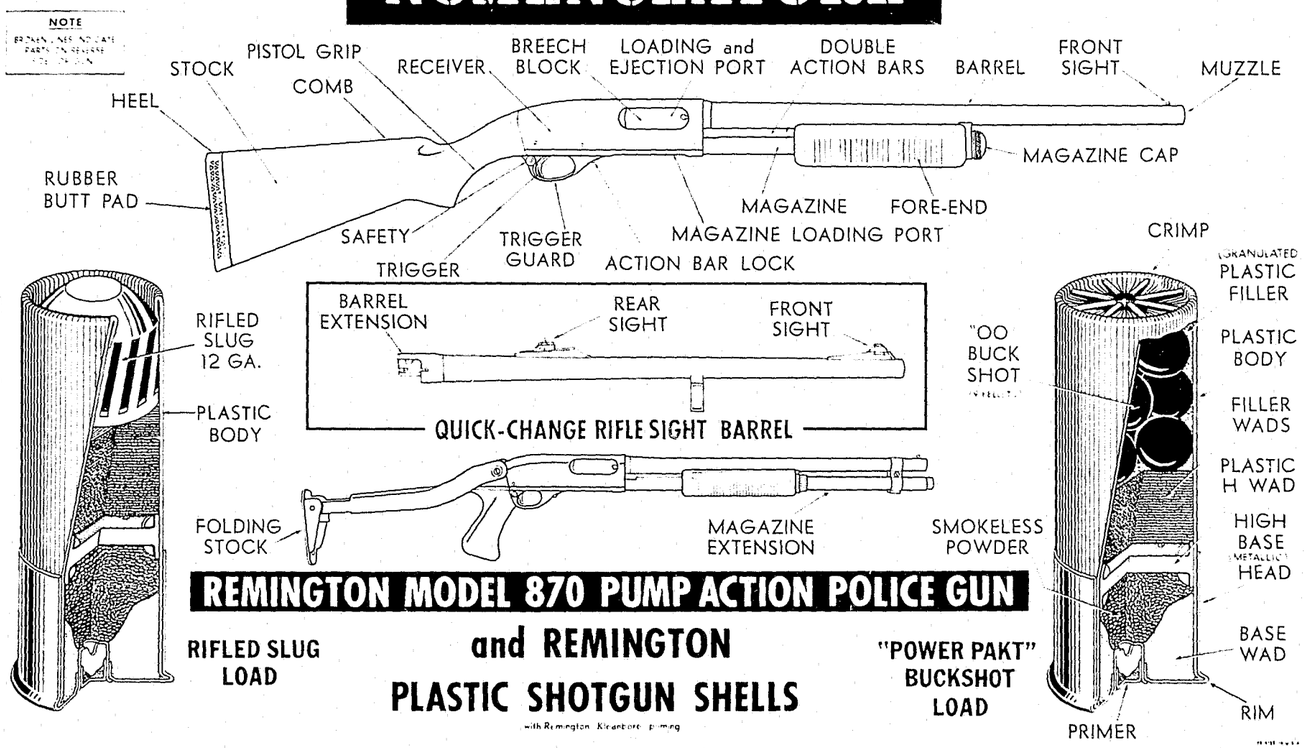


Figure 6
B-6

REMINGTON MODEL 870 PUMP ACTION POLICE GUN

RIFLED SLUG LOAD

and REMINGTON

PLASTIC SHOTGUN SHELLS

with Remington Kleanbore priming

"POWER PAKT" BUCKSHOT LOAD

Remington. DUPONT

APPENDIX C

SUGGESTED READING MATERIALS

ILLINOIS LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TRAINING BOARD

SUGGESTED READING MATERIALS

There are many publications available for the reader to broaden his/her knowledge in the field of Firearms Training. The following is a partial list of publications which the reader may find of interest:

Books

1. Street Survival: Tactics for Armed Encounters, Adams, Ronald J., McTernan, Thomas M., and Remsberg, Charles, Calibre Press, Evanston, IL, 1980.

Periodicals

1. American Handgunner - Publishers Development Corp., 591 Camino de la Reina, San Diego, CA, 92018 (Bi-Monthly)
2. Combat Handgun - Harris Publications, Inc., 79 Madison Avenue, New York, NY, 10016 (Bi-Monthly)
3. Police Marksman - Police Marksman Assoc., Inc., 6000-B Shirley Lane, Montgomery, AL, 36117 (Monthly)
4. Guns and Ammo - Petersen Publishing Co., 8490 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 90069 (Monthly)
5. Police Product News - Dyna Industries, Inc., 6200 Yarrow Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92008 (Monthly)

APPENDIX D

STATE COURSE OF FIRE

ILLINOIS LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TRAINING BOARD

MANDATED COURSE OF FIRE

50 ROUNDS

7 YRDS. 12 RDS. NOT TIMED	I. A. 6 Rounds - 1 on command. B. 6 Rounds - 2 on command from holster.
7 YRDS. 12 RDS. TIMED	II. A. 6 Rounds - 6 on command in 10 seconds. B. 6 Rounds - 6 on command in 10 seconds.
15 YRDS. 14 RDS. TIMED	III. A. 2 Rounds - 2 on command in 5 seconds. B. 3 Rounds - 3 on command in 6 seconds. C. 3 Rounds - 3 on command in 6 seconds. D. 6 Rounds - 6 on command in 12 seconds.
25 YRDS. 6 RDS. TIMED	IV. A. 6 Rounds - 6 on command in 15 seconds -- <u>STRONG SIDE BARRICADE</u>
25 YRDS. 6 RDS. TIMED	B. 6 Rounds - 6 on command in 15 seconds -- <u>WEAK SIDE BARRICADE - WEAK HAND</u>

END