



Tactical Pistol Course

THIS COURSE IS ELIGIBLE FOR MICHIGAN PUBLIC ACT 302 LAW ENFORCEMENT DISTRIBUTION (LED) FUNDS

Hosted By:



(ENTER HOSTING ORGANIZATION NAME, LOCATION, DATE, AND TIME)

Introduction:

This eight-hour introductory program is intended to build upon a student's current defensive handgun skills, as it relates to the Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS) Tactical Pistol Qualification Course. During this block of instruction, we will provide the student with the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities to draw and fire their handgun under compressed time constraints, while utilizing acceptable sight deviation to achieve positive and effective hits on target. The student will become adept at multiple target engagements, orientation of threats, efficiency of reloads, combat recoil and trigger control, flash sight management, and combat ready positions. You will be a more confident and competent shooter at the end of this course.

History and Lineage

In 1992 the Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS) was a small and relatively unknown unit within the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation with the responsibility for counter terrorism within the civil aviation domain. With many members having formerly served within the U.S. Military's Joint Special Operations Community, they had developed and implemented an advanced pistol qualification course named the Tactical Pistol Course (TPC).

Unlike other routine military and law enforcement pistol qualification courses, the TPC's passing standards were made to realistically test an individual's ability to excel and prevail in a gun fight. When these counter-terrorism agents deployed, they were routinely blending in and operating within the crowded and confined space of commercial aircraft. As you can imagine, in this type of environment and with the dynamic nature of an aircraft hijacking, there was no room for error. The consequences of missing a critical shot or worse, total failure, would have equated to that of a catastrophic disaster.

By 1998 this TPC qualification course and its high standards had received wide notoriety within other military and law enforcement communities. A study was conducted and published by the U.S. Department of Defense, Joint Special Operations Command recognizing the TPC as holding THE hardest and highest pistol qualification standard within modern day military and law enforcement communities. This study further found that the individuals assigned to the FAMS throughout the 90's were amongst the top 1% of all pistol shooters in the world.

Unfortunately, by the spring of 2002, six months after the tragic events of September 11th, the newly revised and dramatically expanded FAMS had changed. Now under the umbrella of the newly formed Department of Homeland Security, they dropped the use of the TPC qualification as it's training graduation standards. Under the newly implemented management of mostly retired Secret Service agents, they opted for the more common federal law enforcement Practical Pistol Qualification Course (PPC) for its new training graduation standards.

As a retired member of the FAMS who served within the agency's firearms training community from 2006-2017, we can say with utmost confidence that even though training graduation standard were indeed replaced and lowered, the rank-and-file agents and instructor staff remained steadfast in their commitment to train and perform to a higher standard.

Prerequisites:

The Tactical Pistol Course is open to those that have previously completed a reputable advanced pistol development training session, where safe equipment uses, holster draw, and safe pistol handling has been consistently demonstrated. The course instructors reserve the right to remove any participant for any real or perceived safety issue, without debate or questions asked.

Methodology:

This is a dry and live fire-based training program, that will allow students to safely push themselves out of their comfort zone. The course instructor(s) will explain and demonstrate the different combat driven techniques utilized to be successful within this course, and beyond.

A 5:1 student to instructor ratio will be maintained during instruction and practice.

A 1:1 student to instructor ratio will be maintained during the qualification course of fire.

Course Objective:

Upon the completion of this course, the student(s) should be able to successfully maintain acceptable time and accuracy standards, while learning the fundamental salient points of performance within the Tactical Pistol Course.

Enabling Objectives

- Ability to perform efficient and effective firearm presentation, with stressors present.
- Ability to deliver efficient and effective shot placement, with stressors present.
- Ability to apply the fundamentals while delivering controlled pairs, with stressor present.
- Ability to perform effective recoil management, with stressors present.
- Ability to effectively transition from one target to another, with stressors present.
- Ability to perform target acquisition while moving (pivots), with stressors present.
- Ability to perform efficient and effective reloads, with stressors present.
- Ability to apply trigger efficiency with the focus on a conscious decision to shoot.

Course Modules**Module One (Administrative)****50-minutes**

- a. Introductions
- b. Administrative Tasks
- c. Range Orientation
- d. Safety Briefing
- e. Agenda
- f. Expectations

10-Minute Break

**Module Two (TPC Stage One)-
50 minutes, dry & live fire
Approximately 45 rounds fired**

- a. Recoil Anticipation Drill
- b. Front Sight Confidence Drill
- c. Ready Position Explanation & Demonstration
- d. Trigger Threshold Drills
- e. Committed Trigger Drill
- f. Draw & Presentation Efficiency Explanation & Demonstration
- g. TPC Stage One Drills, Slow Speed to Full Speed

Module major teaching points: This session will focus on a fundamental base line establishment of a broad audience with different competency levels. Slow paced dry and live fire drills will allow both student and instructor to identify anticipation issues, sight management issues, and trigger management issues. This module will culminate in safe and efficient draw to first shot, with a focus on optimal grip establishment, path of presentation, multi-tasking of sight acquisition and trigger preparation, and consistent follow through of both sights and trigger after each shot.

10- Minute Break

**Module Three (TPC Stage Two)-
25 minutes, dry & live fire
Approximately 30 rounds fired**

- a. Trigger Management and Follow Through Explanation & Demonstration
- b. Controlled Pairs Trigger Management Drills
- c. TPC Stage Two Drills, Slow Speed to Full Speed

Module major teaching points: Slow paced dry and live fire drills will allow both student and instructor to identify further issues of path of presentation from an optimal ready position. Continued refinement of multi-tasking sight acquisition, trigger preparation, and now rest of the trigger during recoil between shots will be stressed. This module will culminate in safe and efficient shot pairs with consistent trigger reset and pause between shots, to maximize time and minimize movement.

**Module Four (TPC Stage Three)-
25 minutes, dry & live fire
Approximately 60 rounds fired**

- a. Recoil Management Explanation & Demonstration
- b. TPC Stage Three (3/4/5/6 shot) Rhythm Progression Drills
- c. TPC Stage Three Drills, Slow Speed to Full Speed

Module major teaching points: Medium paced dry and live fire drills will allow both student and instructor to identify further issues related to trigger management techniques and path of presentation that were covered in the previous two modules. Continued refinement of grip and trigger reset/pause during recoil will again be stressed. Flash sight picture will be stressed in this module to help the student identify areas of “forgiveness” needed to make up efficiency in other areas of the shot process. This module will culminate in safe and efficient rhythm shooting with consistent trigger reset and pause between shots. A “flow state” for the students should be emerging as one module builds upon another.

If time permits, students should be afforded micro-practice of modules 2, 3, & 4 skill sets on their own prior to being released for lunch.

Lunch Break

Module Five (TPC Stage Four & Seven)- 50 minutes, dry & live fire Approximately 60 rounds fired

- a. Speed and Emergency Reload Efficiency Explanation & Demonstration
- b. Speed and Emergency Reload Progression Drills
- c. TPC Stage Four and Seven Drills, Slow Speed to Full Speed

Module major teaching points: Slow paced dry and live fire drills will allow both student and instructor to identify issues related to reload efficiency techniques. Reloads by nature are multi-task driven. By “chunking” skill sets each student will be introduced to best practices and techniques. Students will be able to refine their movements based off efficiency, as the drills progress and with instructional feedback given. This module will culminate in safe and efficient reload practice with consistent magazine removal, replacement, presentation, and shot refinement.

10-Minute Break

Module Six (TPC Stage Five & Six)- 50 minutes, dry & live fire Approximately 60 rounds fired

- a. Target Transition Explanation and Demonstration
- b. Target Transition Progression Drills
- c. Target Acquisition While Moving (Pivots) Explanation & Demonstration
- d. Pivot Progression Drills
- e. TPC Stage Five and Six drills, Slow Speed to Full Speed

Module major teaching points: Slow paced dry and live fire drills will allow both student and instructor to identify issues related to movement, in this case pivots, and multi target engagement with transitions. Multi-task driven skills will be at a premium within this module and a crawl, walk, run approach is needed to ensure safe understanding and fundamental application during participation. Again, “chunking” skill sets will be utilized to understand and apply best practices and techniques. Footwork, driving sights by utilizing biomechanics, pause and sight analysis will all be explained and demonstrated, and students will be able to refine these movements based off efficiency. All drills will be progressive in nature, with instructional feedback. This module will culminate in safe and efficient multi-tasking with pivots and multi-target engagement and shot refinement.

Note: During the pivot stage of instruction, all students will be instructed that they are only to draw their firearm from the holster once they have both feet placed firmly on the ground and facing the down range area. No muzzle sweeping is ever allowed.

If time permits, students should be afforded micro-practice of modules 5 & 6 skill sets on their own prior to being released for the qualification module.

10-Minute Break

Module Seven-

TPC Qualification Assessment

Two-hours with breaks, live fire

30 rounds fired, see the qualification score sheet for course specific requirements

Time dependent students will be afforded multiple attempts at the TPC qualification course, however only the first attempt score will be utilized to identify award status. Alibi shots will be handled on a case-by-case bases and will not be afforded due to a student induced error. Accuracy over speed will always be the priority, as misses hold zero value. Individual performance will vary from one individual to the next and all attempts should be celebrated as either achievement or growth and improvement.

Module Eight-

Graduation, Awards, Course Critiques

One-hour

- a. Certificate of Participation for completion of the overall course.
- b. Certificate of Achievement for obtaining TPC minimum passing requirements.
- c. Certificate of Excellence for obtaining TPC max possible score and time requirements.
- d. "Top Gun Award" for the overall class most consistent shooter, meeting max score and all-time requirements. A "Top Gun" award is not guaranteed for each class.

Individual target and shot requirement for the qualification course (seven-yard line)-



Students' equipment-

- a. Semi-automatic pistol
- b. Three magazines, 15+ capacity is preferred, but not required
- c. Gun style belt, safe holster, and magazine pouch(s)
- d. ANSI rated eye and ear protection
- e. Approximately 400 (+/-) rounds of handgun ammunition

Note: The individual student will decide to carry their pistol in either concealed carry or open/duty carry configuration. No self-closing in-side the waistband, cross-draw, or serpa holsters will be allowed for flow of course and overall safety.

Costs-

Range/Host fees and the number of available student spots will vary, depending on the hosting venue and specific range requirements and limitations. Tuition will also depend on the projected student minimum in attendance.

Conclusion-

No qualification course or live fire drill will ever be able to encompass all skill sets required to be successful in a gun fight. However, as with any training, understanding your current ability level and setting a plan of action for your growth is an important aspect of any successful training program. By utilizing the TPC in this manner one can realistically focus on these strengths and weaknesses identified within this course during the individual improvement process.

Tactical Pistol Course Score Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Course Description

The TPC qualification course is shot using the FBI QIT target, with a scoring area within the outer most bottle. Shooters are centered on three targets, equally spaced, located on the seven-yard line. A total of thirty shots are fired during this qualification course.

Stage One

One shot, center target, from holster x 2
(1.65 seconds each string)

String one time _____

String two time _____

Stage one par time _____ 3.30 seconds

Pass/Fail

Stage Two

Two shots, center target, from high ready x 2
(1.35 seconds each string)

String one time _____

String two time _____

Stage two par time _____ 2.70 seconds

Pass/Fail

Stage Three

Six rounds rhythm, center target, from high ready
No more than .60 allowed between shots

Shot One _____ Shot Two _____ Shot Three _____

Shot Four _____ Shot Five _____ Shot Six _____

Stage three par time _____ 3.00 seconds

Pass/Fail

Stage Four

One shot/speed reload/one shot, center target, from high ready x 2
(3.25 seconds each string)

String one time _____

String two time _____

Stage four par time _____ 6.50 seconds

Pass/Fail

Stage Five

One shot, on each outside target, from high ready x 2
(1.65 seconds each string)

String one time _____ (left to right)

String two time _____ (right to left)

Stage five par time _____ 3.30 seconds

Pass/Fail

Stage Six

180-degree pivot, one shot each target, from holster x 2
(3.50 seconds each string)

String one time _____ (left/center/right)

String two time _____ (right/center/left)

Stage six par time _____ 7.00 seconds

Pass/Fail

Stage Seven

One shot/slide lock reload/one shot, center target, from high ready x 2
(4.00 seconds each string)

String one time _____

String two time _____

Stage seven par time _____ 8.00 seconds

Pass/Fail

Scoring

All hits within the scoring area are given a five-point value

All hits touching the line are given a two-point value

All misses have a zero-point value

Any one or more stage par time "bust" constitutes an overall course failure

Maximum possible score is 150, Minimum passing score is 135

Five-point hits _____ total point value _____

Two-point hits _____ total point value _____

Overall qualification course points _____

Pass/Fail

