CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING

Basic Course Workbook Series

Student Materials

PC 832 Student Workbook
Volume Five: Firearms
Version 2.1

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Published May 2007
Correction December 29, 2009
Update January 2010
Correction May 2014

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THE ACADEMY TRAINING MISSION

The primary mission of basic training is to prepare students mentally, morally, and physically to advance into a field training program, assume the responsibilities, and execute the duties of a peace officer in society.

FOREWORD

The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training sincerely appreciates the efforts of the many curriculum consultants, academy instructors, directors and coordinators who contributed to the development of this workbook. The Commission extends its thanks to California law enforcement agency executives who offered personnel to participate in the development of these training materials.

This student workbook is part of the POST Basic Course Training System. The workbook component of this system provides a self-study document for every learning domain in the Basic Course. Each workbook is intended to be a supplement to, not a substitute for, classroom instruction. The objective of the system is to improve academy student learning and information retention and ultimately a police officer dedicated to service and committed to safety.

The content of each workbook is organized into sequenced learning modules to meet requirements as prescribed both by California law and the POST Training and Testing Specifications for the Basic Course.

It is our hope that the collective wisdom and experience of all who contributed to this workbook will help you, the student, to successfully complete the Basic Course and to enjoy a safe and rewarding career as a peace officer serving the communities of California.

ROBERT A. STRESAK
Executive Director

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How to Use the Student Workbook

Introduction

This workbook provides an introduction to the training requirements for this Learning Domain. It is intended to be used in several ways: for initial learning prior to classroom attendance, for test preparation, and for remedial training.

Workbook format

To use the workbook most effectively, follow the steps listed below.

Step	Action
1	Read the first two sections: How to Use the Workbook and Preface which provide an overview of how the workbook fits into the POST Instructional System and how it should be used.
2	Refer to the overview section at the start of each chapter to review the learning objectives.
3	Read the text.
4	Refer to the Chapter Synopsis section at the end of each chapter to review the key points that support the chapter objectives.
5	Complete the Workbook Learning Activities at the end of each chapter. These activities reinforce the material taught in the chapter.
6	Refer to the Glossary section for a definition of important terms. The terms appear throughout the text and are bolded and underlined the first time they appear (e.g., **term**).

Preface

Introduction

Student workbooks

The student workbooks are part of the POST Basic Course Instructional System. This system is designed to provide students with a self-study document to be used in preparation for classroom training.

Regular Basic Course training requirement

Completion of the Regular Basic Course is required, prior to exercising peace officer powers, as recognized in the California Penal Code and where the POST-required standard is the POST Regular Basic Course.

Student workbook elements

The following elements are included in each workbook:

- chapter contents, including a synopsis of key points
- supplementary material
- a glossary of terms used in this workbook

Chapter 1

Firearms
Learning Domain 35

Overview

Firearms Safety

Learning need

Peace officers must know and practice all procedures for the safe handling of all firearms while on and off duty.

Learning objectives

The chart below identifies the student learning objectives for this chapter.

After completing study of this chapter, the student will be able to:	E.O. Code
• state the four fundamental rules of firearms safety	35.01.EO1
• explain basic safety guidelines to be followed at a firing range	35.01.EO2
• describe the safety precautions for proper storage of firearms	35.01.EO3

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Overview, Continued

In this chapter

This chapter focuses on firearms safety. Refer to the following chart for specific topics.

Firearms Safety

[35.01.EO1]

Introduction

A firearm is a precision instrument designed to function reliably with proper care and caution. Although many safety features have been incorporated into each firearm by the manufacturer, only the safe firearm handling habits by the officer will ensure its safe use.

Leadership

Peace officers are authorized to use **deadly force** only as a last resort and only under the strictest of limitations and restraints. An officer who is highly skilled in the use of firearms and the decision-making process that leads to the use of deadly force will have better control of the situation and apply the appropriate force options.

Ethics

Every officer is responsible for firearms safety, both on and off duty. Following basic firearms safety rules will greatly reduce the chances of a negligent **discharge** or an accident in the home. The officer is responsible for ensuring that his or her weapon is clean, oiled, and serviceable. A dirty, unlubricated firearm is as much an indicator of negligence and lack of pride as a dirty or torn uniform. More critically, poor weapons maintenance can mean the difference between life and death for an officer or an innocent member of the public.

Unintentional discharges

Safe firearm handling is every officer's personal and professional responsibility. **Accidents do not just happen.**

Unintentional discharges are the result of:

- violating the rules of firearms safety
- inadequate knowledge or skill regarding the operation and use of the firearm
- improper or inadequate care and maintenance
- poor judgement or lack of common sense

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Unintentional discharges (continued)

Example: A firearm discharged unintentionally because of a mechanical breakdown. Even though all safety rules had been observed, the discharge was not an accident. The mechanical breakdown that led to the discharge was actually due to poor maintenance on the part of the officer.

Fundamental rules

All firearms are deadly weapons. Lack of awareness or attention to safety for even a moment can cause deadly consequences. There are four fundamental rules of firearms safety that must be respected and obeyed at all times with **no exceptions.**

The following table identifies the four fundamental rules of firearms safety.

Fundamental Rules of Firearms Safety	Explanation
Rule 1: Treat all firearms as if they are loaded.	• No one is capable of telling from a glance whether a firearm is loaded or unloaded. • Every time a firearm is handled, it should be checked to verify whether or not there is a round in the chamber. • If an officer is unable to check a firearm to determine if it is loaded, the firearm should be left alone. The officer should seek help from someone with more knowledge about the firearm. • When a firearm is handed from one person to another, both the giver and the receiver should check the firearm to verify whether or not there is a round in the chamber.

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Fundamental rules (continued)

Fundamental Rules of Firearms Safety	Explanation
Rule 2: Always keep the firearm pointed in the safest possible direction.	• Always be aware of where the barrel of the firearm is pointing. • A "safe direction" is one where an unintentional discharge of the firearm will not hurt the person handling the firearm or others. • A firearm should only be pointed at a target if the officer is willing and prepared to shoot.
Rule 3: Always keep fingers off the trigger until ready to fire the firearm.	• The officer's finger should rest on the outside of the trigger guard or along the frame of the firearm until ready to fire.
Rule 4: Be sure of the target and what's beyond it before firing the firearm.	• Be aware that if the projectile misses or completely passes through the target, it could strike an unintended person or object. • Clearly identify the target before firing. • Never fire at a movement, color, sound, or shape unless it can be clearly identified. • Officers should be aware of all persons around them before they fire a firearm to make sure no one is moving into the line of fire.

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Firearms Safety, Continued

Agency policies

The four fundamental rules set the foundation for all firearms safety. Every agency may have additional rules and regulations regarding the safe handling of firearms by peace officers.

NOTE: Officers are responsible for knowing and obeying their own agency's specific rules and regulations regarding the safe handling of all firearms.

Examples

After cleaning his firearm, an officer wanted to check to make sure his firearm was functioning properly. He loaded what he thought was an empty magazine into the firearm, pointed it at his garage wall and pulled the trigger. The single cartridge that remained in the magazine was chambered and fired, and went through the wall and into the side of his neighbor's house. Fortunately, no one was injured. The officer had failed to obey three of the four fundamental rules of handling firearms.

An officer placed her finger inside the trigger guard, thinking it would give her more control as she was drawing the firearm from the holster. Instead, as she gripped the firearm, she pulled the trigger. A round was fired and struck her leg. The officer failed to keep her finger away from the trigger until she was ready to fire.

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Examples (continued)

An officer placed his own backup firearm in his gym bag as he was preparing to leave the locker room at the end of his shift. Assuming the firearm was safe because there was no magazine loaded, he casually tossed the bag into the trunk of his car and a round that had been in the firearm's chamber was fired. The officer failed to obey the first fundamental rule of firearms safety: always treat the firearm as if it is loaded.

Range Safety

[35.01.EO2]

Introduction

Every firing range will have specific safety rules that officers must be aware of and follow. There are also a number of basic safety guidelines that apply to all firing ranges.

Range safety guidelines

A firing range consists of a firing line and targets. Officers are positioned on the firing line and fire at the targets. The following table identifies the basic guidelines for range safety.

When...	officers MUST...
entering the firing range	• **listen carefully for range commands and obey them instantly.** • request clarification if a command is not clear or was not completely heard. • always wear approved eye and ear protection. • keep firearm in its holster until instructed to remove it by the instructor or range master (with the safety snap or strap in place).
on the firing line	• **listen carefully for range commands and obey them instantly.** • request clarification if a command is not clear or was not completely heard. • keep the barrel pointed in a safe direction. • talk only when the instructor or range master speaks to them directly. • never allow the barrel of the firearm to point toward others.

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Range safety guidelines (continued)

When...	officers MUST...
on the firing line (continued)	• raise their nonshooting hand to gain the instructor's or range master's attention if they have a question or see a safety violation (keeping the firearm pointed down range). • never proceed forward of the firing line except when commanded to do so. • only put a finger on the trigger just prior to intended firing. • never attempt to pick up any item that has dropped on the ground unless instructed to do so. • stop firing immediately on command.
handguns are unholstered	• **listen carefully for range commands and obey them instantly.** • request clarification if a command is not clear or was not completely heard. • have the slide locked back and the magazine removed if using a semiautomatic pistol. • have the cylinder open if using a revolver. NOTE: Firearms should be unholstered only when on the firing line.

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Firearm location

While on a firing line, an officer can be easily distracted by noise or the actions of others, or when receiving guidance from an instructor. It is absolutely critical that officers always remain conscious of the location of their firearms.

The following table identifies the only acceptable locations for firearms while at a firing range.

While on the firing line of a range...	
handguns should always be: • pointed only at the target, • in a low ready or close contact position, ***or*** • in the holster.	***shotguns*** should always be: • pointed only at the target, • in a ready position, • slung on the shoulder, ***or*** • in a shotgun storage rack unloaded with the action open and with the safety on.

Dry firing

Dry firing is the act or result of firing the firearm when it is not loaded, for the purpose of practice shooting or testing the firearm.

While at a firing range, a firearm should be dry fired *only*:

- when instructed to do so, ***and***
- after the firearm has been visually and physically checked to make sure there is no round in the chamber.

A firearm should never be dry fired in a location where an unintentional discharge could cause injury or death to another person.

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Range Safety, Continued

Malfunctions on a firing range

Any firearm can **malfunction** or misfire. If a malfunction or misfire takes place while shooting on a firing range, officers should:

- remove their trigger finger from the trigger
- keep the firearm pointed safely down range toward the target
- keep fingers off the trigger
- raise the nonshooting hand and wait for direction from the range master or instructor

If officers have already received specific instructions on how to clear common firearm malfunctions, they may follow those procedures for clearing the malfunction. If attempts to clear the firearm fail, officers should obtain assistance immediately.

Personal responsibility

Along with obeying all rules of safety, officers must take personal responsibility to make sure they are capable of functioning appropriately when handling a firearm.

Officers should never handle a firearm if they:

- have consumed alcoholic beverages
- have taken drugs or medications that could impair their ability or reflexes

NOTE: Medications can include both over-the-counter medications as well as prescription drugs.

Safety as routine

All safety rules and guidelines should be continuously practiced by officers until they become natural and part of a normal routine. Even then, officers must make a conscious effort to recognize the importance of firearms safety.

Checking a second time is never a waste of time.

Continued on next page

Range Safety, Continued

Examples

An officer's firearm malfunctioned while the officer was on the firing line at a local range. The officer was not sure how to clear the malfunction so she raised her hand to gain the range officer's attention. As she moved her body to look around, she inadvertently pointed the firearm away from the target and toward the person next to her. By failing to keep the firearm pointed down range, the officer placed others in danger.

An officer's flashlight fell from his utility belt while the officer was participating in an exercise on the firing line. When the officer finished shooting the designated rounds, he took two steps forward to retrieve the flashlight, even though others on the line were still firing and no command to stop firing had been given. By moving forward of the firing line, the officer was placing himself in danger.

During a timed exercise, an officer was concentrating so hard on his own performance that he failed to hear a command to stop firing before the allotted time was over. The officer was placing others on the firing range in danger by not listening for and immediately obeying all range commands.

Safe Firearms Storage

[35.01.EO3]

Introduction

Most officers take their firearms home. Officers are responsible for properly and safely storing all firearms.

Safety precautions

All firearms must be kept out of reach of children and immature or irresponsible adults. To ensure safety, officers should:

- keep all firearms inaccessible from children and other unauthorized persons
- store ammunition separately from firearms
- take all precautions against theft by storing firearms in a secure location and in a locked container. If no secure container is available, a locking device should be used or the firearm should be disassembled before storing

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Safe Firearms Storage, Continued

Criminal storage of a firearm

Penal Code Section 25110(a) states: "Except as provided in *section 25105* a person commits the crime of "criminal storage of a firearm of the first degree" if he or she keeps any loaded firearm within any premises that are under his or her custody or control and he or she knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to the firearm without the permission of the child's parent or legal guardian, and the child obtains access to the firearm and thereby causes..."

death or great bodily injury to himself, herself or any other person.	First degree
injury other than death or great bodily injury to himself, herself or any other person, or exhibits the firearm in a public place, or in violation of Penal Code Section 417 (drawing, exhibiting or unlawful use of a firearm).	Second degree

Classification

Criminal storage of a firearm of the first degree is a felony.
(Penal Code Section 25110(a))

Criminal storage of a firearm of the second degree is a misdemeanor.
(Penal Code Section 25110(a))

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Safe Firearms Storage, Continued

Exceptions to the law

Penal Code Section 25100(a) identifies a number of exceptions to the law regarding the criminal storage of a firearm. The following table identifies these exceptions.

The crime of criminal storage of a firearm has not been committed if...	
The child	• obtained the firearm as a result of an *illegal entry*. • obtained or discharged the firearm in *self-defense* or in the defense of another person.
The firearm	• was kept in a locked container or in a secure location. • was carried on the person who possessed it or was in that person's close proximity. • was equipped with a locking device. • was possessed by a peace officer or member of the armed services *and* the child obtained the firearm incidental to the performance of that person's duties.
The person who possesses the firearm	• had no reasonable expectation, based on objective facts and circumstances, that a child would likely be present on the premises.

NOTE: For more information regarding criminal storage of a firearm refer to LD 40: *Weapons Violations.*

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Safe Firearms Storage, Continued

Examples

Each evening, Officer Jones placed his firearm in a metal container, locked the container, and stored it on the top shelf of a kitchen cabinet. One evening, when his parents were away, Officer Jones' 12-year-old son decided to show a new friend his dad's handgun. Although the boy knew the location of the firearm, he was not able to open or retrieve it because it was locked in the container.

Officer Wiley kept his semiautomatic pistol locked in a hall closet along with his two hunting rifles. While Officer Wiley was away, an argument broke out between two family members. While in a fit of anger, one family member broke into the closet to retrieve the pistol. Because Officer Wiley stored the firearm unloaded and locked the ammunition separately in a different location in the house, the family member was not able to use the firearm.

Chapter Synopsis

Learning need

Peace officers must know and practice all procedures for the safe handling of all firearms while both on and off duty.

Fundamental rules of firearms safety [35.01.EO1]

There are four fundamental rules of firearms safety that must be respected and obeyed at all times with no exceptions.

Range safety guidelines [35.01.EO2]

A firing range consists of a firing line and targets. Officers are positioned on the firing line and fire at the targets.

Proper firearms storage [35.01.EO3]

All firearms must be kept out of reach of children and immature or irresponsible adults.

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Chapter 2

Basic Firearms Operation

Overview

Learning need

Peace officers must know the workings, the capabilities, and limitations of firearms in order to operate them safely and effectively.

Learning objectives

The chart below identifies the student learning objectives for this chapter.

After completing study of this chapter, the student will be able to:	E.O. Code
• describe the basic information about a semiautomatic pistol and magazine, including: - primary components and their functions - steps for loading/unloading - steps for rendering the semiautomatic pistol safe	35.02.EO1 35.02.EO2 35.02.EO3
• describe the cycle of operation that takes place with each single pull of a semiautomatic pistol trigger	35.02.EO4
• describe the basic information about a revolver including: - primary components and their functions - steps for loading/unloading - steps for rendering the revolver safe	35.02.EO5 35.02.EO6 35.02.EO7

Continued on next page

Overview, Continued

In this chapter

This chapter focuses on the basic nomenclature and operation of firearms. Refer to the following chart for specific topics.

Semiautomatic Pistols and Magazines

[35.02.EO1, 35.02.EO2, 35.02.EO3, 35.02.EO4]

Introduction

Peace officers' firearms are one of the most important pieces of safety equipment used in defense of themselves and others. The most commonly issued firearm is the semiautomatic pistol. A **semiautomatic pistol** is a firearm that features a magazine which holds cartridges that self-load into the firing chamber automatically.

Automatic vs. semiautomatic

An **automatic firearm** will load and fire automatically and continuously with a *single pull of the trigger* until the magazine is empty (e.g., machine guns).

A semiautomatic firearm will load and fire only *one cartridge* automatically with a *single pull of the trigger* (e.g., semiautomatic pistols).

NOTE: Some firearms can be set to operate in either an automatic or semiautomatic mode.

Semiautomatic pistols used by peace officers

There are many different makes and models of semiautomatic pistols. Each requires extensive training to use safely. The characteristics and location of key parts may differ substantially among manufacturers. This chapter deals with the basic nomenclature and operation that is common to all types of semiautomatic pistols.

NOTE: Officers are responsible for knowing the **nomenclature and operation** of the specific make and model of semiautomatic pistol they are issued.

Continued on next page

Semiautomatic Pistols and Magazines, Continued

Basic nomenclature: exterior

The following table identifies the basic exterior components of a semiautomatic pistol:

Exterior Component	Description/Function
Hammer	Part of the firearm that drives the firing pin forward
Trigger	Device which, when pulled, releases the hammer/striker
Trigger guard	Device which circles the trigger
Barrel	Tube through which the bullet is discharged
Muzzle	End of the firearm from which the projectile emerges
Slide	Top part of the firearm that contains the firing mechanism Ejects spent cartridge and cycles new cartridges
Slide lock	Holds the slide in place rearward
Safety	Device designed to prevent the firearm from firing
Decocking lever	Device on most semiautomatic pistols that is designed to safely lower the hammer and/or release the slide
Sights	Devices used to aid in aiming the firearm
Ejection port	Location where spent cartridge is ejected from the firearm
Grip	Portion of the firearm that is held in the hand
Frame	Metal or polymer housing of the firearm below the slide

Continued on next page

Basic nomenclature: exterior (continued)

Exterior Component	Description/Function
Magazine well	Opening at bottom of the grip where the magazine is inserted
Magazine release	Mechanism that, when depressed, releases the magazine from the firearm
Tang	The curved tongue portion on the top of the backstrap
Backstrap	The back portion of the grip

NOTE: A graphic illustration of the exterior of a semiautomatic pistol is provided in the *Supplementary Material* of this workbook.

Basic nomenclature: interior

Along with the outer parts, officers must become familiar with the inner working parts of their semiautomatic pistol. The following table identifies the basic interior components of a semiautomatic pistol.

Interior Component	Description/Function
Barrel rifling	Spiral grooves machined into the interior of the firearm's barrel which causes the bullet to spin when fired, giving it stability
Breech	Rear end of the barrel, including the chamber
Chamber	Inner portion of the barrel where the cartridge is seated
Firing pin	Part of the firearm which strikes the primer of the cartridge

Continued on next page

Basic nomenclature: interior (continued)

Interior Component	Description/Function
Recoil spring and guide	Mechanism that returns the slide to the firing position
Extractor	Device that pulls casings from the chamber

NOTE: A graphic illustration of the interior of a semiautomatic pistol is provided in the *Supplementary Material* of this workbook.

Basic nomenclature: magazine

A **magazine** is a container that holds cartridges and fits inside the magazine well of a semiautomatic pistol. The following table identifies the basic components of a magazine to be used with a semiautomatic pistol.

Magazine Component	Description/Function
Body	Exterior casing holding the mechanism of the magazine
Follower	Device that directly follows the rounds and is pushed up by the spring
Spring	Provides the tension which forces rounds up the magazine
Feed lips	Portion of the magazine body which holds the rounds in the proper position
Floor plate	Device which holds the follower and spring in place

Continued on next page

Basic nomenclature: magazine (continued)

NOTE: In some semiautomatic pistols, the magazine must be fully inserted before the firearm will cycle and fire.

NOTE: A graphic illustration of a magazine for a semiautomatic pistol is provided in the *Supplementary Material* of this workbook.

Loading a magazine

Specific procedures for loading the magazine of a semiautomatic pistol may vary with the make and model of firearm. There are a number of basic principles for safely loading a magazine.

When loading a magazine, officers should:

- hold the magazine in their support (nonfiring) hand and handle the cartridges in their primary (firing) hand
- repeat the process until the magazine is full

Loading a pistol

The specific procedures for loading a semiautomatic pistol will vary depending on the make and model of the firearm. There are a number of basic guidelines that are common for the safe loading for all semiautomatic pistols.

When loading a semiautomatic pistol, officers should follow the steps noted in the table below:

Step	Action
1	Follow all fundamental rules of firearms safety.
2	Load the full magazine into the magazine well.
3	Pull back and release on the slide to chamber a round.

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Unloading (clearing) a semiautomatic pistol

Unloading is a function normally performed prior to dry firing, cleaning, or storing the firearm. When a firearm has been completely emptied and rendered safe, that firearm has then been cleared.

The specific procedures for **clearing** a semiautomatic pistol will vary depending on the make and model of the firearm. There are a number of basic guidelines that are common for clearing all semiautomatic pistols. When clearing a semiautomatic, officers should follow the steps noted in the table below:

Step	Action
1	Follow all fundamental rules of firearms safety.
2	Release and remove the magazine.
3	Eject any cartridge that may still be in the pistol's chamber.
4	Lock slide to the rear.
5	Visually and physically verify that there is no round in the chamber.

Cycle of operation

With each single pull of the trigger of a loaded semiautomatic pistol, a cartridge is fired, the empty casing is ejected, the hammer is cocked, and a new cartridge is loaded from the magazine into the pistol's chamber. This entire process is called the **cycle of operation**.

Continued on next page

Cycle of operation (continued)

The following describes the stages of the cycle of operation for a semiautomatic pistol.

Stage	Description
Firing	• As the *trigger* is pulled, the *hammer/striker* is released. • The *hammer* moves forward striking the *firing pin*. • The *firing pin* then strikes the primer, which in turn ignites the powder charge in the round. • The expanding gases from the burning powder force the projectile from the casing and down the barrel.
Unlocking	• As the projectile is forced from the pistol, the casing is forced in the opposite direction. • This force moves the *slide* to the rear of the firearm.
Extracting	• As the *slide* moves to the rear, the *extractor* pulls the casing out of the firearm's *chamber*.
Ejecting	• The casing is then deflected out of the *ejection port*.
Cocking	• When the *slide* completes its movement to the rear, the hammer/striker is cocked.
Feeding	• The *recoil spring* begins to push the *slide* forward in the firing position. • When the *slide* moves forward again, the next round is taken from the top of the magazine.

Continued on next page

Cycle of operation (continued)

Stage	Description
Chambering	• The force of the spring inside the magazine pushes the next round from the top of the magazine into the *chamber*.
Locking	• The *recoil spring* forces the slide all the way into the forward position, locking the *slide* in place. • The firearm is then ready to fire, beginning the cycle once again.

Action

The **action** of a firearm refers to the assembly of functional parts which move when the trigger is pulled, causing the firearm to fire. The process of operating the action to chamber a round is also referred to as **racking** the firearm.

The action of a semiautomatic pistol contains the parts of the pistol that:

- cocks the hammer/striker
- moves the cartridge into the chamber
- releases the hammer/striker to fire the cartridge

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Semiautomatic Pistols and Magazines, Continued

Battery

When the action of a firearm is in the firing position, it is referred to as being **in battery**. If any portion of the action is out of the firing position, it is **out of battery**. When a firearm is out of battery, it will not function.

Example: A semiautomatic pistol is out of battery when the slide is retracted and not in the firing position. When the slide is fully forward and locked into place, the pistol is in battery.

Double-action and single-action

Many semiautomatic pistols can function in two modes: double-action and single-action.

Double-action mode is a method of shooting where pulling the trigger begins a complete cycle of operation to fire the firearm.

Single-action mode is a method of shooting where the hammer is cocked back before the firearm can be fired.

Decocking

Many semiautomatic pistols remain cocked after they have been fired until they have been decocked by the officer. **Decocking** releases the hammer to its forward position and returns the firearm to a double-action mode.

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Manual decocking

Another method of decocking a firearm is to manually lower the hammer. In order to manually decock a semiautomatic pistol, officers should follow the steps noted in the following table.

Step	Action
1	Follow all fundamental rules of firearms safety.
2	Place the thumb of the primary hand on the hammer.
3	Press the trigger while maintaining control of the hammer.
4	Once the hammer has been released, remove finger from the trigger.
5	Gently guide the hammer forward out of a cocked position.

NOTE: In some semiautomatics this is not a recommended procedure for decocking

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Semiautomatic Pistols and Magazines, Continued

Student notes

During class, instructors will demonstrate the proper procedures for loading, clearing, and conducting a chamber check for the specific model of handgun that has been issued to each student.

Revolvers

[35.02.EO5, 35.02.EO6, 35.02.EO7]

Introduction

A **revolver** is a firearm equipped with a revolving cylinder that can contain several cartridges. It can be fired repeatedly without being reloaded until the cylinder is empty.

Revolvers used by law enforcement

There are many different makes and models of revolvers. The characteristics and location of key parts may differ substantially among manufacturers. This chapter deals with the basic nomenclature and operation that is common for all types of revolvers.

NOTE: Officers are responsible for knowing the specific nomenclature and operation of the particular make and model of revolver they carry.

Basic nomenclature

The following table identifies the basic exterior components of a revolver.

Component	Description/Function
Frame	• Main part of the revolver which contains the action, barrel, trigger, cylinder, and grip
Cylinder and chambers	• Round device which contains a series of holes referred to as chambers • Each chamber holds a single cartridge • The cylinder rotates to place each chamber into a firing position
Cylinder release	• Latch which allows the cylinder to be opened out from the frame

Continued on next page

Basic nomenclature (continued)

Component	Description/Function
Extractor/ ejector rod	Removes the cartridges from the cylinder when the cylinder is open
Barrel	Tube through which the bullet is discharged
Barrel rifling	Spiral grooves machined into the interior of the firearm's barrel, which causes the bullet to spin when fired, giving it stability
Muzzle	The end of the firearm from which the projectile emerges
Sights	Devices used to aid in aiming the firearm
Trigger	Device which, when pulled, activates the hammer
Trigger guard	Device which circles the trigger
Hammer	Device that drives the firing pin forward
Firing pin	Device which strikes the primer of the cartridge
Grip	Portion of the firearm that is held in the hand
Back strap	Back of the grip that the palm of the primary hand fits around

NOTE: A graphic illustration of a revolver is provided in the Supplementary Material of this workbook.

Continued on next page

Revolvers, Continued

Loading a revolver

There are a number of basic guidelines that are common for the safe loading for all revolvers. When loading a revolver, officers should follow the steps noted in the table below.

Step	Action
1	Follow all fundamental rules of firearms safety.
2	Open the cylinder.
3	Place a single round in each chamber of the cylinder, one at a time.
4	Visually and physically inspect each chamber to make sure it contains a cartridge.
5	Close the cylinder and make sure it is locked in place.

Speedloaders

Many revolvers can also be loaded by using a **speedloader**. When loading a revolver with a speedloader, the entire cylinder is filled with cartridges in one step. Extra speedloaders can be kept in the officer's duty belt for easy access.

Continued on next page

Unloading (clearing) a revolver

To render a revolver safe, it must first be cleared. When unloading a revolver, officers should follow the steps noted in the table below.

Step	Action
1	Follow all fundamental rules of firearms safety.
2	Open the cylinder.
3	While holding the revolver muzzle up, push the extractor/ejector rod down to release cartridges or spent casings from each chamber of the cylinder.
4	Visually and physically inspect *each chamber* in the cylinder to verify that it is empty.

Revolver chamber check

Just as with other firearms, officers need to conduct a visual and physical verification of the condition of the firearm to determine if a round is in any of the chambers of the cylinder.

When conducting a chamber check of a revolver, officers should follow the steps noted in the following table.

Step	Action
1	Follow all fundamental rules of firearms safety.
2	Open the cylinder.
3	Visually and physically examine each chamber to determine if it contains a round. (In low light conditions, this can be done physically.)
4	Close the cylinder and make sure it is locked in place.

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Revolvers, Continued

Rendering a revolver safe

Officers must always remember that a revolver has been rendered safe *only* when:

- all rounds have been removed from *each chamber* of the cylinder, and
- the cylinder is left open

Action

The action on a revolver contains the moving parts which:

- cocks the hammer
- rotates and line up the cylinder
- releases the hammer causing the revolver to fire

Like semiautomatic pistols, many revolvers can function in single-action and double-action modes.

NOTE: Revolvers in single action mode should be rendered safe per academy/agency policy.

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Revolvers, Continued

Student notes

During class, instructors will demonstrate the proper procedures for loading, clearing, and conducting a chamber check for the specific model of revolver that has been issued to each student.

Chapter Synopsis

Learning need

Peace officers must know the workings, the capabilities, and limitations of firearms in order to operate them safely and effectively.

Semiautomatic pistols and magazines: primary components [35.02.EO1]

A semiautomatic pistol is a firearm that features a magazine which holds cartridges that self-load into the firing chamber automatically.

Semiautomatic pistols and magazines: loading/ unloading [35.02.EO2]

The specific procedures for loading and unloading a semiautomatic pistol will vary depending on the make and model of the handgun.

Rendering a semiautomatic pistol safe [35.02.EO3]

A semiautomatic pistol has been rendered safe *only* when the:

- magazine has been removed from the pistol,
- slide is locked open,
- unspent cartridges have been emptied from the chamber, *and*
- pistol has been checked to verify that there is no round in the chamber.

Semiautomatic pistols cycle of operation [35.02.EO4]

There are eight continuous stages that take place with each single pull of a loaded semiautomatic pistol.

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Chapter Synopsis, Continued

Revolvers: primary components [35.02.EO5]

The primary components of a revolver include the frame, cylinder and chambers, cylinder release, extractor/ejector rod, barrel, barrel rifling, muzzle, sights, trigger, trigger guard, hammer, firing pin, grip and back strap.

Revolvers: loading/ unloading [35.02.EO6]

The specific procedures for loading and unloading a revolver will vary depending on the make and model of the firearm.

Rendering a revolver safe [35.02.EO7]

Officers must always remember that a revolver has been *rendered safe only* when:

- all rounds have been removed from *each chamber* of the cylinder, *and*
- the cylinder is left open.

Chapter Synopsis

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Chapter 3

Firearms Ammunition

Overview

Learning need

Peace officers must know the capabilities and limitations of the ammunition they use in their firearms to operate them safely and effectively.

Learning objectives

The chart below identifies the student learning objectives for this chapter.

After completing study of this chapter, the student will be able to:	E.O. Code
• state the guidelines for the safe handling of ammunition	35.03.EO1
• describe the primary components of firearm cartridges	35.03.EO2
• explain the chain of events that takes place when a projectile is discharged from a cartridge	35.03.EO3

In this chapter

This chapter focuses on ammunition that may be used in handguns and shotguns. Refer to the following chart for specific topics.

Continued on next page

Ammunition Safety

[35.03.EO1]

Introduction

Ammunition is the general term applied to cartridges used as firearm projectiles. The performance of a firearm is closely related to the ammunition that is used.

Ammunition cautions

Ammunition should be handled with care and respect at all times. Even ammunition that is being stored away from firearms can be dangerous.

Ammunition can go off if it is:

- dropped on a hard surface
- struck with enough force to indent the primer at the base of the cartridge
- placed in contact with electrical current
- exposed to extreme heat

NOTE: Ammunition can still fire even after being immersed in water for long periods of time.

Continued on next page

Ammunition Safety, Continued

Safety guidelines

Each firearm has been designed for ammunition of a specific type and caliber. Safety is as critically important when handling ammunition as it is when handling any firearm. The following table identifies safety guidelines for handling any type of ammunition.

Safety Guideline	Explanation
Treat every round as though it were fully charged and capable of discharging.	All ammunition is potentially dangerous and should be handled with caution.
Use only the type and caliber of ammunition specifically recommended by the firearm's manufacturer.	Improper ammunition can lead to malfunctions or hinder accuracy.
Never fire at a threat you do not intend to hit.	Even a **blank shell** fired at close range can strike a vulnerable area and kill.
Avoid dropping live rounds or hitting them with any object.	When any sharp object strikes the primer cap with sufficient force, the round can fire.
Learn the sound and feel of a good firing, and know what to do when a round misfires.	Occasionally a round that looks perfect will fail to fire or fire with insufficient force to propel the bullet out of the barrel.

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Safety guidelines (continued)

Safety Guideline	Explanation
All ammunition should be replaced on a regular basis.	Officers should refer to manufacturing recommendations regarding how often ammunition should be replaced.
Never use ammunition where the pressure levels exceed industry standards for the firearm being used.	• Improper ammunition can cause excessive pressure that can damage or even blow up the firearm. • Manufacturer's warranties, express or implied, may be voided if ammunition with greater chamber pressure than what is recommended is used.

NOTE: There are two categories for enhanced chamber pressure that are related to a cartridge's powder charge: +P and +P+. +P ammunition has 15% more chamber pressure while +P+ has 30% more chamber pressure. (Some alloy framed firearms should not utilize +P or +P+ ammunition.)

Cartridge Ammunition

[35.03.EO2, 35.03.EO3]

Introduction

A **cartridge** is a self-contained unit which includes a projectile and propellant capable of firing the projectile through the barrel of a firearm. A bullet is the projectile that is expelled from the cartridge. A single cartridge is also called a **round**.

Firearm cartridges

The following table identifies the four basic components of all cartridges used in firearms.

Cartridge Components	Description/Function
Primer	• Detonation charge contained in the base of the cartridge
Powder charge	• Gun powder which burns when detonated by the primer
Bullet	• Actual projectile that is expelled from the firearm toward the intended threat
Cartridge case	• Outer container that holds the primer, powder charge, and projectile • Usually made of brass or other metal
Blank shell	• A cartridge which contains an explosive charge but without a bullet

NOTE: A graphic illustration of a firearm cartridge is provided in the *Supplementary Material* of this workbook.

Continued on next page

Firing chain of events

The following table describes the chain of events that take place when a bullet is fired from a firearm.

Event	Action
Primer detonated	• When struck by the firing pin/striker, the pressure sensitive compound of the primer explodes. • The compound changes structure and disintegrates completely. • Heat is generated in the explosion.
Powder ignited	• Powder is ignited by the heat generated from the primer. • The burning powder creates great quantities of gas which expand very rapidly. • Pressure builds in the chamber and barrel from the expanding gasses.
Bullet expelled	• The expanding gasses force the bullet from the firearm's barrel.

NOTE: The partial burning of a powder charge in a cartridge can result in insufficient force to propel the bullet out of the firearm. This partial explosion is referred to as a **squib load**. If a squib load is encountered, the individual should immediately cease firing, utilize a secondary firearm, and later seek assistance.

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Cartridge Ammunition, Continued

Caliber

Each firearm has been designed for ammunition of a specific type and **caliber**. Caliber refers to the diameter of a projectile. It can be measured in hundredths of an inch or in millimeters.

Examples:
- A .38 caliber bullet is .38 inches in diameter.
- A 9 MM bullet is 9 millimeters in diameter.

NOTE: Caliber is also used to describe the internal diameter of a firearm's barrel.

Grain

Grain refers to the weight of a projectile.

Examples:
- A .38 caliber bullet weighs 110-180 grains.
- A 9 MM bullet weighs 115-147 grains.

Types of bullets

Bullets come in many different shapes and constructions. The three most common are noted in the following table.

Type	Description of Shape
Round nose	Tip of the bullet narrows to a rounded end
Hollow point	Tip of the bullet is concave in the center
Truncated	Tip of the bullet narrows to a flat end

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Bullet jackets

A **jacket** is a metal envelope that encloses or partially encloses the bullet within a cartridge. Round nose, hollow point, and truncated bullets may have the following types of jackets.

Jacket Type	Description	Characteristics
Full metal jacket	The entire bullet is completely enclosed by the jacket	• Less expansion and fragmentation upon impact • Greater penetration
Semi-jacket	Only the rear portion of the bullet is enclosed by the jacket	• Greater expansion and fragmentation upon impact
No jacket	No portion of the bullet is enclosed	• Lead bullet

Chapter Synopsis

Learning need

Peace officers must know, the capabilities and limitations of the ammunition they use in their firearms to operate them safely and effectively.

Safe handling of ammunition [35.03.EO1]

Safety is as critically important when handling ammunition as it is when handling any firearm.

Primary components of a handgun cartridge [35.03.EO2]

A cartridge is a self-contained unit which includes a projectile and propellant capable of firing the projectile through the barrel of a firearm. A bullet is the projectile this is expelled from the cartridge. A single cartridge is also called a round.

Firing chain of events [35.03.EO3]

The primer is detonated causing the powder to ignite expanding gasses to force the bullet from the barrel of the firearm.

Chapter Synopsis, Continued

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Chapter 4

Firearms Cleaning and Maintenance

Overview

Learning need

Peace officers must know how to properly inspect, clean, and care for their firearms to ensure that they function safely and effectively.

Learning objectives

The chart below identifies the student learning objectives for this chapter.

After completing study of this chapter, the student will be able to:	E.O. Code
• describe the components that may prevent problems and that should be examined during a routine safety inspection	35.04.EO1
• describe the materials, equipment, and environment needed to properly clean firearms	35.04.EO2
• apply routine procedures for cleaning firearms	35.04.EO3

Continued on next page

Overview, Continued

In this chapter

This section focuses on care and cleaning of firearms. Refer to the following chart for specific topics.

Safety Inspections

[35.04.EO1]

Introduction

Poor firearm care can lead to serious problems and malfunctions of the firearm. It is the responsibility of all peace officers to ensure their firearms are always operational. A firearm that fails to function could cost officers their lives or the lives of others.

Symptoms of firearm failure

Proper care includes paying attention to any symptom, no matter how large or small, that the firearm is not functioning properly.

Indications of firearm failure may include, but not be limited to:

- difficulty firing
- moving parts that jam or bind
- cartridges that do not feed properly
- bulges or splits in the barrel
- failure to fire when the trigger is pulled

Safety inspections

Peace officers should periodically perform a safety inspection on the operation of their firearms looking for potential problems. **Before any inspection is conducted, the firearm must be rendered safe.**

Problems that are identified during an inspection should be addressed as soon as possible. Only a few problems should be corrected by the officer. Complex problems should be corrected by a valid factory authorized **armorer**.

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Safety inspections (continued)

The following table identifies what should be inspected as well as whether a problem should be corrected by the officer or by an armorer.

When inspecting the...	look for signs of...	Repaired by an:	
		officer	armorer
Barrel	bulges or splits		X
	obstructions	X	X
	rust	X	X
	heavy rust or pits		X
	a barrel that is loose from the frame		X
Frame	cracks		X
	wear		X
	heavy rust or pits		X
	light rust	X	
	powder build-up	X	
	loose mainspring tension screws		X

Continued on next page

Safety inspections (continued)

When inspecting the...	look for signs of...	Repaired by an:	
		officer	armorer
sights	loose parts		X
	broken parts		X
	bent parts		X
cylinder	poor or no free rotation when open	X	X
	jiggling or rotation by finger pressure when closed	X	X
	improper alignment with barrel		X
cylinder release	loose release	X	X
	loose screw	X	
firing pin	broken or chipped pin		X
	obstruction	X	X
grip	broken grip	X	X
	loose grip	X	

Continued on next page

Safety inspections (continued)

When inspecting the...	look for signs of...	Repaired by an:	
		officer	armorer
magazine	weakened spring		X
	dirt build-up	X	
	cracked body		X
	loose or bent floor plate		X
	bent lips		X
	follower not working properly	X	X

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Safety Inspections, Continued

Student notes

During class, instructors will demonstrate the procedures for conducting a safety inspection for the specific model of firearm that has been issued to each student.

Cleaning Preparation Materials, Equipment, and Environment

[35.04.EO2]

Introduction

Knowing when to clean a firearm, how to prepare for cleaning it, and the correct materials, equipment, and environment to use are essential to the proper care of a firearm.

When to clean

All firearms should be cleaned:

- after firing or handling
- periodically as part of a preventive maintenance program
- when symptoms of firearm failure appear
- before and after storing for long periods of time
- when the firearm has been exposed to water, snow, rain, mist, etc
- when the firearm comes into contact with dirt or debris

Extent of required cleaning

Disassembly and extensive cleaning procedures may not always be required each time a firearm is cleaned. Depending on the firearm's handling and exposure to harmful elements, it may need:

- a simple wipe off after it has been briefly handled, or
- a thorough cleaning with field strip if exposed to elements or heavy use

Environment and preparation

Firearms should only be cleaned in an area that is safe, well ventilated, and free of adverse conditions (e.g., dust, dirt, moisture, etc.), distractions, or bystanders. Before any actual cleaning procedures begin, officers should:

- put themselves in a positive and safety-minded state of mind
- assemble all necessary equipment and materials

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Cleaning Preparation Materials, Equipment, and Environment, Continued

Environment and preparation (continued)

- unload the firearm and magazine visually and physically inspect them
- place the ammunition in a safe and secure location away from the cleaning area

NOTE: Ammunition should be kept clean but ***never*** lubricated.

Cleaning materials

Using appropriate materials, such as **solvents** and **lubricants**, is critical to the proper cleaning of the firearm. The following table identifies the materials that should be used when cleaning and maintaining a firearm.

Item	Description/Function
Solvent	• Used to clean parts of the firearm • Loosens or dissolves lead deposits • Dissolves powder residue and lacquer-like chemical deposits from powder • Loosens, dissolves, and helps remove dirt, grime, and grit • Offers some rust protection NOTE: Only those solvents that are manufactured specifically for use with firearms should be used. Acids or strong industrial solvents may damage the firearm and should never be used (e.g., carburetor or brake cleaning solvents). NOTE: Repeated use of some solvents without thoroughly removing them may result in a sticky residue that hinders proper operation of the firearm.

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Cleaning Preparation Materials, Equipment, and Environment, Continued

Cleaning materials (continued)

Item	Description/Function
Lubricant	• Protects metal parts and helps them work smoothly • Reduces friction and wear • Covers metal surfaces with a protective coating • Prevents moisture and other corrosive agents from contacting metals • Helps prevent rust caused by perspiration salts from handling
Cleaning patches	• Absorbs excess solvents, lubricants, and rust inhibitors • Wipes metal surfaces clean • Removes salts and other deposits from handling • Should be clean, soft, and made from a lint free cotton or similar material • Can also be patches from major cleaning materials manufacturers or silicone-treated cloth
Personal protection materials	• Eye protection • Rubber gloves
Other materials	Pipe cleaners and cotton swabs for cleaning small areas when cleaning rags will not fit

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Cleaning Preparation Materials, Equipment, and Environment, Continued

Cleaning equipment

The following table identifies the equipment that should be assembled before any cleaning procedures begin.

Item	Description/Function
Screwdriver(s)	• Specifically designed to be used with firearms • Should fit screw slots exactly to prevent damage to the screw or firearm surface
Bore brush	• Made to fit the specific size of the firearm • Bristles are made of a material hard enough to remove stubborn deposits, but soft enough to protect the rifling of the bore
Cylinder brush	• Used only when cleaning the cylinder of a revolver (never in the bore of the firearm) • Slightly larger in diameter and longer than a bore brush
Cleaning brush	• Can be a specially made cleaning brush or a common toothbrush • Used to remove deposits, such as powder residue, from critical areas
Cleaning rod	• Made of a metal that is softer than the metal of the barrel • Should be stiff enough not to bend • Should be longer than the barrel to ensure that it will clear the bore • Equipped with a swivel handle and end that will accept a variety of threaded tips

Continued on next page

Cleaning Preparation Materials, Equipment, and Environment, Continued

Cleaning equipment (continued)

Item	Description/Function
Patch holder or tip	• Holds cleaning patches securely when moved in either direction through the bore • Slotted ends make it easier to attach cleaning patches
Small container	• A small box or container should be used to store screws and other small parts during the cleaning process

Cleaning and Maintenance of Firearms

[35.04.EO3]

Introduction to cleaning a semiautomatic pistol

Cleaning and maintenance requirements differ from one make and model of a semiautomatic pistol to another. It is the responsibility of officers to be familiar with the cleaning and maintenance procedures for their specific firearm.

Render the firearm safe

Before any disassembly or cleaning begins officers must:

- remove the magazine
- lock the slide open
- remove any unspent rounds from the chamber
- inspect the chamber to verify that the firearm is empty

Field strip disassembly

Thorough cleaning of a semiautomatic requires field stripping the pistol and magazine. **Field strip** means the partial disassembly, complete wipe down and visual inspection of all the parts of the firearm and magazine. Disassembly beyond field stripping should only be done by a factory approved armorer or gunsmith.

Continued on next page

Field strip disassembly (continued)

Field stripping includes...	
disassembly of a *semiautomatic pistol* into the following components: • barrel assembly • slide assembly • slide stop • recoil spring and guide assembly • frame assembly	disassembly of a *magazine* into the following components: • floor plate • tab • spring • follower • magazine body • base plate

NOTE: Officers should refer to the firearm manufacturer's guidelines for the instructions on the proper disassembly of that specific semiautomatic pistol.

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Routine cleaning

There is no standard for the order in which components should be cleaned. No matter what order though, cleaning should be done in a thorough manner.

Cleaning and lubricating should be done according to the manufacturer's instructions and specifications for that specific firearm.

The following table identifies the steps that are common for cleaning most semiautomatic pistols.

Component	Description
Barrel assembly	• Check for: - obstructions - pitting of the lands and grooves - signs of cracks, bulges, or other damage • Fold a cleaning patch and pull the corner through the slot of the cleaning patch holder • Moisten the patch with cleaning solvent • Patch should be moistened thoroughly but not soaked to the point of dripping • Put the patch into the barrel from the chamber end and move it back and forth the entire length of the barrel 5-10 times to spread the solvent through the barrel • Put a few drops of solvent on a bore brush • Carefully push the brush *all the way through the barrel* from the chamber side and pull it back throughout the barrel • Do not reverse the direction of the bore brush while it is in the barrel, as it may jam or scratch the barrel

Continued on next page

Routine cleaning (continued)

Component	Description
Barrel assembly (continued)	• Run a dry cleaning patch through the barrel to remove any solvent • Run a lightly lubricated patch through the barrel • Wipe the barrel exterior to remove any carbon or powder residue • Visually inspect to make sure all dirt and deposits have been removed
Recoil spring and guide assembly	• Check for damage and that the guide rod and spring assemblies are not bent • Separate the recoil spring from the guide • Use a cloth to remove any carbon or powder residue • Visually inspect to make sure all dirt and deposits have been removed
Frame assembly	• Check: - for bending, cracking or chips - guide rails for sharpness, cracks or wear - free movement of slide stop - hammer for cracking or other damage • Put a few drops of solvent on a brush • Use the brush to gently clean the interior and exterior of the frame, including the slide rails, ejector, hammer, trigger action assembly, and magazine well • Use caution not to “scrub” any part of the frame • Use a cloth to wipe the interior and exterior areas of the frame to remove any remaining solvent, debris, carbon, or powder residue

Continued on next page

Routine cleaning (continued)

Component	Description
Frame assembly (continued)	• Apply a drop of lubricant to moving parts including the slide rails • Visually inspect to make sure all dirt and deposits have been removed

NOTE: Do not dry fire firearm with slide removed as this may cause damage to the firearm.

Continued on next page

Reassemble

Once all components of the semiautomatic pistol have been cleaned and the appropriate parts have been lubricated, the firearm should be reassembled per the manufacturer's guidelines.

Cleaning magazines

The cleaning of the semiautomatic pistol is not complete unless the magazine has also been disassembled per the manufacturer's guidelines, cleaned, and reassembled.

Guidelines for cleaning a magazine include the following:

- Use the brush to clean the
  - interior and exterior of the magazine body
  - the feed lips of the magazine (use caution not to bend the lips)
  - follower
  - follower notch
  - tab
  - floor plate
  - base plate
- Use a cloth to wipe off remaining solvent, debris, carbon, or powder residue
- Use a cloth to remove carbon or powder residue from the magazine spring
- Reassemble magazine spring and follower in the correct position
- Install the base plate after the floor plate

NOTE: Lubricants should never be used on a magazine. Ammunition in the magazine may become contaminated.

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Function check

After the semiautomatic pistol and magazine have been cleaned and reassembled, officers should conduct a function check to make sure the firearm is working properly.

Function checks should include, but not be limited to examination of:

- the magazine
- slide release
- single- and double-action operation
- the slide lock release
- sight condition
- trigger operation
- the decocker mechanism
- all safety mechanisms

Reloading

Once the function of the semiautomatic pistol has been checked and if the officer is returning to duty, the magazine and semiautomatic pistol should be properly reloaded and returned safely to the officer's holster.

If the officer is not returning to duty, the firearm should be securely stored.

Proper storage

After cleaning and lubricating a semiautomatic pistol, the pistol should be properly secured and stored when not in use.

Appropriate storage containers include:

- a gun safe or vault
- soft or hard framed security cases with padlocks, combination locks, or key pads

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Proper storage (continued)

If no secure container is available, a locking device should be used or the firearm should be disassembled to render it inoperable before storage.

NOTE: Firearms should not be wrapped in canvas, leather, or rags that can collect moisture and cause rust.

Periodic preventive maintenance

Damp air and sweaty hands are great promoters of rust. Firearms should be inspected and periodically cleaned and lubricated, if necessary. Periodic cleaning does not necessarily involve field stripping the firearm into separate components. Instead, officers should:

- wipe the pistol with a clean cloth, then wipe it again with a silicone cloth
- clean the bore with cleaning solvent, then remove any excess solvent with a dry patch
- dust out all crevices with a small brush

Routine service

Warranties may require that a firearm be returned to the manufacturer or be taken to a factory authorized armorer for routine inspection and maintenance. Officers should refer to their specific firearm manual and agency policy to determine how often this routine service should take place.

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Examples

After qualifying at a firing range, an officer went to the cleaning area and cleaned his pistol. When he was through, he inserted a loaded magazine into the pistol but forgot to chamber a live round. When back on duty, the officer also failed to conduct a routine chamber check of the firearm. Several weeks later he was involved in a deadly force situation requiring him to draw and fire his pistol. Since he was unaware of the condition of his firearm, his first trigger pull was on an empty chamber.

A new officer finished shooting her firearm at the range and returned to the cleaning area with a loaded firearm. She did not visually or physically conduct a chamber check before beginning to field strip the firearm. During disassembly, she pulled the trigger and fired the firearm. A hole was shot through the cleaning table.

A veteran police officer had just completed an intensive and exhausting five day safety and field tactics course. Although he had cleared his firearm prior to leaving the range, he reloaded it before returning home. Once he reached his home, he began cleaning the firearm. He removed the magazine but failed to remove the round in the chamber and did not keep his finger off the trigger while removing the slide. He pulled the trigger, causing it to discharge, shooting himself in the hand.

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Introduction to cleaning a revolver

Revolvers should only be partially disassembled by peace officers for routine cleaning. Complete disassembly should only be done by a gunsmith or armorer.

Render the firearm safe

Before any disassembly or cleaning begins, officers must:

- remove all rounds from the chambers of the cylinder
- visually inspect each cylinder chamber to verify that it is empty
- leave the cylinder open

Precleaning inspection

Before cleaning the revolver, visually inspect the firearm for:

- lead in the forward end of the cylinder
- excessive lead on the face of the cylinder
- excessive powder accumulation around or under the extractor head
- debris in the firing pin recess (the opening that the firing pin travels through to strike the primer)

Disassembly

Disassembly involves the removal of the cylinder and yoke from the revolver's frame. Officers should take extra care not to misplace the cylinder screw during this process.

NOTE: Officers should refer to the firearm manufacturer's guidelines for instructions regarding proper disassembly.

Continued on next page

Routine cleaning procedures

Cleaning and lubricating should be done according to the manufacturer's instructions and specifications for that specific firearm. The following table identifies the steps that are common for cleaning most revolvers.

Component	Description
Barrel	• Fold a cleaning patch and pull the corner through the slot of a cleaning patch holder • Moisten the patch with cleaning solvent • Patches should be moistened thoroughly but not soaked to the point of dripping • Slide the patch into the barrel from the muzzle end • Move patch back and forth the entire length of the barrel 5-10 times to spread the cleaning solvent through the bore • Put a few drops of solvent on a bore brush and carefully run the brush all the way through the barrel into the cylinder opening • Pull the bore brush back through the barrel • Repeat 5-10 times using the bore brush • Do not reverse the direction of the bore brush while it is in the barrel as it could jam or scratch the barrel • Be careful not to jam the end of the bore brush into the firing pin opening in the frame NOTE: Officers should *not* use a cylinder brush when cleaning the barrel.

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Routine cleaning procedures (continued)

Component	Description
Cylinder	• Use a cylinder brush (not a bore brush) to clean each chamber using the same procedures as cleaning the barrel • Rotate the cylinder in only one direction to be sure not to miss a chamber • Brush some solvent on the front and back faces of the cylinder with a toothbrush • Let the solvent stand for several minutes or more to loosen any deposits that are there • Using a toothbrush, brush some solvent on the area where the bullet enters the barrel
Other areas	• Use a soft brush to remove powder residue, dirt, and dust from: - under the extractor head/star - behind the trigger - around the sights
Remove solvents	• Run fresh cleaning patches through the barrel until they come out clean and dry • Remove solvent from each chamber of the cylinder in the same way • Using clean, dry cleaning patches or a lint-free cloth, wipe off any excess solvent from all metal surfaces
Lubricate	• Refer to the manufacturer's guidelines regarding which moving parts should be lubricated

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Reassembly

Once the cleaning operation is complete, the revolver can be reassembled per the manufacturer's guidelines.

Function check

After the revolver has been cleaned, officers should check the revolver function by dry firing several times to make sure the firearm is working properly.

Function checks should include, but not be limited to examination of:

- the barrel (with the cylinder open)
- cylinder movement (opening and closing as well as rotation while in place)
- cylinder release (on each chamber)
- firing pin movement through the face of the frame
- single- and double-action operation
- ejector rod operation

NOTE: Dry firing should always be done in a safe manner and area.

Continued on next page

Student notes

During class, instructors will demonstrate the procedures for disassembly, cleaning, and reassembly for the specific model of firearm that has been issued to each student.

Cleaning and Maintenance of Firearms, Continued

Learning need	Peace officers must know how to properly inspect, clean, and care for their firearms to ensure that they function safely and effectively.
Routine safety inspections [35.04.EO1]	Peace officers should periodically perform a safety inspection on the operation of their firearms looking for potential problems.
Cleaning materials and equipment [35.04.EO2]	Appropriate cleaning materials and equipment should be assembled before any cleaning procedures begin.
Cleaning firearms, both semiautomatic and revolvers [35.04.EO3]	All cleaning and lubricating of semiautomatic firearms should be done according to the manufacturer's instructions and specifications for that particular firearm. Cleaning and maintenance requirements differ from one make and model of a semiautomatic pistol to another. It is the responsibility of officers to be familiar with the cleaning and maintenance procedures for their specific firearm.

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Chapter 5

Basic Shooting

Overview

Learning need

Peace officers must comprehend and practice the fundamental skills of firing firearms to be effective in reactive and precision situations during live fire exercises.

Learning objectives

The chart below identifies the student learning objectives for this chapter.

After completing study of this chapter, the student will be able to:	E.O. Code
• apply the proper steps for drawing and holstering	35.05.EO1
• demonstrate the following elements to accurately shoot a firearm: - grip - stance - breath control - sight alignment/sight picture - trigger control - follow-through	 35.05.EO2 35.05.EO3 35.05.EO4 35.05.EO5 35.05.EO6 35.05.EO7
• describe the types of malfunctions and demonstrate clearing methods for: - semiautomatic pistols - revolvers	 35.05.EO12 35.05.EO13

Continued on next page

Overview, Continued

In this chapter

This chapter focuses on the skills required to accurately shoot a handgun or shotgun. Refer to the following chart for specific topics.

Drawing and Holstering

[35.05.EO1]

Introduction

The first step in using a firearm is removal from the officer's holster. In order to perform this function safely, officers should become thoroughly familiar with the operation of the holster they are using.

Holster functions

Although holster designs can vary according to the needs for safety and keeping the firearm in place, all holsters must meet certain requirements.

An officer's holster should:

- securely hold the officer's firearm in the same position at all times
- allow the officer to draw the firearm quickly and safely
- withstand the stress of someone pulling on it violently
- have reinforced safety construction features to hold it securely and allow the officer to maintain control of the firearm

NOTE: It is each officer's responsibility to become familiar with the manufacturer's documentation for the care and use of the holster the officer is using.

Holster limitations

At the same time, the officer's holster may have limitations the officer must be conscious of.

The officer should be aware that:

- with some styles of holsters, a downward grabbing motion by a suspect's hand from the front could cause the holster to unsnap
- holsters must be maintained in good condition and at all times be mechanically sound

NOTE: Peace officers are responsible for initiating the replacement of worn holsters.

Continued on next page

Drawing and Holstering, Continued

Drawing

Drawing is the removal of a firearm from the holster. Drawing a firearm should be done in a smooth, continuous motion with no wasted body movement.

Drawing a firearm

When drawing a firearm, remember the third fundamental rule of firearm safety: **always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire the firearm.**

The ability to draw a firearm requires concentration and practice until all motions become fluid and natural. The primary steps of drawing a firearm are noted in the following table.

Step	Description
1	Acquire a grip with the primary hand on the firearm while at the same time releasing all safety restraining snaps or straps.
2	In one smooth motion, lift the firearm out of the holster until the muzzle clears the holster. Keep the support hand away and clear of the muzzle.
3	Extend the firearm downrange toward the intended target or threat or to a low ready position.

Continued on next page

Holstering

Holstering is the placing of a firearm into the officer's holster so that it is secure and available for use.

NOTE: Holstering of firearms results in more peace officers wounding themselves than any other activity.

Holstering should be done in a methodical, smooth, continuous motion. When holstering, officers should keep their eyes on the threat, not on their holster.

The primary steps of holstering a firearm are noted in the following table.

Step	Description
1	Remove the trigger finger away from the trigger. Keep the trigger finger outside the trigger guard and away from the trigger.
2	Decock the hammer of the firearm, if necessary.
3	Keep support hand from crossing the muzzle of the firearm.
4	Point the firearm downward toward the holster.
5	Place the thumb of the primary hand over the rear of the slide.
6	Firmly seat the firearm into the holster and release the grip.
7	Refasten the holster safety snaps and straps.

Firearm Shooting Principles

[35.05.EO2, 35.05.EO3, 35.05.EO4, 35.05.EO5, 35.05.EO6, 35.05.EO7]

Introduction

Proficiency with a firearm can only be developed through practice. Like any other psychomotor skill, shooting requires proper, adequate ongoing training and practice to maintain or increase an officer's level of shooting accuracy. Mastery of the principles of shooting is essential before an officer progresses to **combat** situations where speed and accuracy can mean the survival of the officer and others. Officers must be aware of the difference between **cover** and **concealment**.

Principles of accurate shooting

There are a number of principles that make up the foundation for the effective deployment of a firearm. Officers must develop proficiency in each in order to improve their overall accuracy. Each must be learned and practiced in a static position (i.e., on a practice range) before they can be applied automatically by the officer under tactical conditions.

The principles of firearm shooting accuracy are:

- grip
- stance
- breath control
- sight alignment/sight picture
- trigger control
- follow-through

Proficiency

There are a number of specific techniques for employing each of the principles of shooting accuracy. The lessons within this chapter focus only on the *basic principles* associated with each principle. Instructors will be discussing and demonstrating *specific techniques* during class and on the firing range for developing an adequate level of skill in each.

Continued on next page

Grip

Grip is the manner in which the firearm is held. The grip must be firm without being too tight. Holding the firearm with too tight a grip can cause the hand to tremble.

Although it is possible and sometimes necessary to fire using a one hand grip, the two-handed grip, which gives better control, is recommended most.

NOTE: Grip is also the term used to refer to the handle of the firearm.

Characteristics of a proper grip

Characteristics of a proper firearm and shotgun grip are noted in the following table.

Firearm Grip	Shotgun Grip
• Web of the palm of the primary hand is placed as high as possible on the back strap of the firearm. • Index finger remains off the trigger. (This position may vary some depending on the specific firearm.) • Front sight, rear sight, and radial bone of the forearm are in alignment when the firearm is raised to a shooting position.	• Primary hand is properly placed on the pistol grip of the shotgun. • Support hand is forward on the fore end of the shotgun. • Grip of both hands is firm and equal.

Continued on next page

Stance

Stance is the physical positioning of the shooter's body when preparing to shoot a firearm.

The following table describes the most common stances used by peace officers.

Stance	Characteristics
Isosceles	• The shooter is facing the target. • Shoulders are squared and both arms are forward and straight. • Shoulders and arms form an isosceles triangle.

Continued on next page

Stance (continued)

Stance	Characteristics
Weaver	• The shooter stands in a position of interview at a 45 degree angle to the suspect with the support hand forward, wedged toward the target. • The shooting arm elbow is slightly bent.
Modified Weaver	• The shooter stands in a position of interview at a 45 degree angle to the suspect with the support hand forward, wedged toward the target. • Primary arm is locked at the elbow.

Characteristics of a proper stance

Characteristics of proper firearm stance are noted in the following table.

Firearm Stance	Characteristics
Proper Firearm Stance	• Feet are shoulder width apart • Weight is evenly distributed • Upper body is upright or bent slightly forward • Head and neck are kept erect • Shooter is able to move in any direction

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Shooting positions

Stance is also closely related to shooting position. There are a variety of acceptable shooting positions that have been developed to enhance the officer's accuracy under varied conditions.

The following table identifies a number of the advantages and disadvantages officers should be aware of for each shooting position they may employ under combat conditions.

Shooting Position	Advantages	Disadvantages
Standing	• Better visibility • Greater mobility • Allows the officer to pivot and engage multiple targets	• Greater officer exposure
Kneeling	• May be used for close range encounters • Easy to assume • Provides less exposure of the officer than standing • Allows the officer to pivot and engage multiple targets • Officer can utilize low cover	• Less mobility • Limited visibility
Prone	• Provides minimal exposure of the officer • Officer can utilize low cover	• Limited mobility • Limited visibility

Continued on next page

Controlled breathing

When an officer breathes, that officer's body moves. Proper breath control can assist the officer in firing an accurate shot or series of shots. This is especially true when using the sights of the firearm.

When shooting a firearm, officers should breathe in a smooth normal manner.

Sight alignment/ sight picture

Sight alignment/sight picture is the relationship between the shooter's eye, and the front and rear sights of the firearm. The human eye is incapable of focusing on objects at different distances at the same time. Poor accuracy is often caused by the shooter focusing only on the target, making it impossible to properly align the firearm's sights before firing.

The following identifies the proper method for establishing sight alignment.

Action	Description
Align the sights	• When the decision to shoot has been made, center the front sight in the notch of the rear sight • The top of the front site should be level with the top of the rear sight • Equal amounts of light should be visible on either side of the front sight as viewed through the rear sight
Align target	• Place the top center of the front sight exactly on the desired point of impact (aiming point) on the target
Establish a sight picture	• Focus sharply on the top center of the *front sight*. • The rear sight and aiming point should be blurry

NOTE: A graphic illustration of proper sight alignment is provided in the *Supplementary Material* of this workbook.

Continued on next page

Trigger control

Trigger control is the process of using smooth continuous pressure on the trigger without disturbing the sight picture.

The majority of all errors and/or misses are caused by poor trigger control. No matter how perfectly the shooter grips the firearm, assumes a stance, or aligns the sights, if the trigger is jerked in anticipation of the discharge, the shot will not be accurate.

Independent trigger finger

The trigger finger must operate *independently*. The shooter's thumb or other fingers of the firing and supporting hand should never "help" the trigger finger.

Trigger control requires concentration and discipline. No one can hold a firearm absolutely still, but an officer can improve with practice.

Achieving trigger control

Trigger control is accomplished by:

- placing the center of the index finger tip pad on the trigger
- applying a smooth continuous pressure on the trigger
- pulling straight to the rear with no stops or jerks
- maintaining the sight alignment of the firearm until the firearm fires

NOTE: The exact moment of the hammer fall and discharge of the firearm should always be a surprise to the shooter. Anticipating the blast or recoil will cause the shooter to flinch and pull the muzzle downward just as the bullet is being fired.

Continued on next page

Follow-through

Follow-through is the continuation of all the principles of firearm shooting after the shot has been fired. The following table identifies the proper sequence of events for achieving proper follow-through.

Step	Action
1	Concentrate on the front sight constantly throughout the firing sequence.
2	Maintain the trigger in the rearward position until the firearm is brought out of recoil.
3	Maintain the sight picture.
4	Prepare to shoot again if necessary.

Continued on next page

Firearm Shooting Principles, Continued

Student notes

During class, instructors will demonstrate each of the skills necessary for shooting accuracy. Demonstrations will include proper firearm grips, stances, breath control, sight alignment, trigger control, and follow-through.

Firearm Malfunctions

[35.05.EO12, 35.05.EO13]

Introduction

A malfunction is an unexpected interruption in the firing sequence. Some malfunctions may be cleared (fixed) by the officers while others involving severe jams or broken parts require a factory authorized armorer to correct.

Basic guidelines

All malfunctions are potentially dangerous and should be attended to as soon as reasonably possible. The ability to immediately recognize and clear firearm malfunctions may be essential to officer safety.

If a firearm malfunctions, officers should:

- remove their trigger finger from and keep other fingers away from the trigger of the firearm
- keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction
- use the appropriate method for clearing the malfunction

Continued on next page

Firearm Malfunctions, Continued

Malfunctions involving semiautomatic pistols

There are numerous possible causes of malfunctions involving semiautomatic pistols. The following table identifies several types of malfunctions and some of the most common causes for each.

Malfunction	Description	Possible Cause
Failure to fire Note: May also be referred to as a misfire	Trigger is pulled, hammer falls, but no projectile is discharged from the pistol	• Check safety • Improperly seated magazine (round cannot be fed into the chamber) • Defective cartridge • No round in the chamber • Empty magazine • Defective firearm
Failure to eject Note: May also be referred to as "stove pipe" jam	Spent cartridge fails to completely eject and protrudes from the ejection port	• Improper lubrication • Improperly functioning extractor or ejector • Defective cartridge • Improper grip • Defective firearm
Failure to extract Note: May also be referred to as a feedway stoppage or double feed jam	Two cartridges attempt to feed into the chamber at the same time	• Damaged extractor • Damaged magazine • Unextracted cartridge case • Dirty chamber • Defective firearm

Continued on next page

Malfunctions involving semiautomatic pistols (continued)

Malfunction	Description	Possible Cause
Failure to feed Note: May also be referred to as failure to chamber	Cartridge does not feed into the chamber	• Magazine not fully seated into the magazine well • Use of an oversized cartridge case • Dirty chamber • Defective firearm

Clearing semiautomatic pistol malfunctions

If a malfunction is encountered, officers should take the following actions to clear the malfunction.

	Step	Description
First Attempt	1	Firmly tap the bottom of the magazine with the heel of the support hand to make sure the magazine is in place and properly seated
	2	Retract the slide to the rear and then release it to chamber a round. Make sure the pistol is in battery
	3	Check safety/decocker lever as applicable
	4	Assess the threat

Continued on next page

Clearing semiautomatic pistol malfunctions (continued)

	Step	Description
Second Attempt (if the pistol continues to malfunction)	1	Lock slide to the rear
	2	Remove magazine
	3	Rack, as necessary, to clear the chamber
	4	Lock slide rearward
	5	Insert new magazine
	6	Release slide
	7	Assess the threat

Malfunctions involving revolvers

The following table identifies several types of malfunctions involving revolvers along with some of the most common causes for each.

Malfunction	Description	Possible Cause
Failure to fire	Trigger is pulled, hammer falls, but no projectile is discharged from the revolver	• No round in chamber • Defective cartridge • Defective firearm

Continued on next page

Malfunctions involving revolvers (continued)

Malfunction	Description	Possible Cause
Slow cylinder	Cylinder does not properly rotate	• Dirty firearm • Improperly seated primer in the cartridge • Broken spring • Loose ejector rod • Loose retaining screw • Defective firearm
Stopped cylinder	Cylinder fails to move at all	• Cylinder not completely closed • Defective firearm

Clearing revolver malfunctions

If a malfunction is encountered by an officer, that officer should:

- open the cylinder
- remove any observed defective cartridge(s)
- reload new cartridge(s) into the chamber
- close the cylinder
- assess the threat
- pull trigger again

Continued on next page

Firearm Malfunctions, Continued

Learning need	Peace officers must comprehend and practice the fundamental skills of firing firearms to be effective in reactive and precision situations during live fire exercises.
Drawing and holstering a firearm [35.05.EO1]	The ability to draw a firearm requires concentration and practice until all motions become fluid and natural.
Proper grip [35.05.EO2]	Grip is the manner in which the firearm is held. The grip must be firm without being too tight.
Stance [35.05.EO3]	Stance is the physical positioning of the shooter's body when preparing to shoot a firearm.
Breath control [35.05.EO4]	When an officer breathes, that officer's body moves. Proper breath control can assist the shooter in firing an accurate shot or series of shots. This is especially true when using the sights of the firearm. When shooting a firearm, officers should breathe in a smooth normal manner.
Sight alignment [35.05.EO5]	Sight alignment is the relationship between the officer's eye, and the front and rear sights of the firearm.
Trigger control [35.05.EO6]	Trigger control is the process of using smooth continuous pressure on the trigger without disturbing the sight picture.

Firearm Malfunctions, Continued

Follow-through [35.05.EO7]	Follow-through is the continuation of all the principles of firearm shooting after the shot has been fired.
Firearm malfunctions [35.05.EO12, 35.05.EO13	A malfunction is an unexpected interruption in the firing sequence. Some malfunctions may be cleared (fixed) by the officers while others involving severe jams or broken parts require a factory authorized armorer to correct

Workbook Learning Activities

Introduction

To help you review and apply the material covered in this chapter, a selection of learning activities has been included. No answers are provided. However, by referring to the appropriate text, you should be able to prepare a response.

Activity questions

1. What is an unintentional discharge? Some law enforcement professionals believe there is no such thing as an accidental discharge. What do you think? Explain your position.

2. You find what appears to be an abandoned firearm. Describe the actions you should take.

Continued on next page

Activity questions (continued)

3. Consider your current living situation. Explain precisely how you would safely store a firearm in your home today. Identify any special precautions you would take to prevent discovery by children, theft, etc.

4. A neighbor hands a newly purchased semiautomatic pistol to an officer and tells her to "check it out." What is the first action the officer should take according to the rules of firearms safety? What else should the officer do while examining the firearm?

Continued on next page

Activity questions (continued)

5. An officer is firing a friend's semiautomatic pistol at a local firing range. After firing one magazine of ammunition, the officer reloads. The officer squeezes the trigger when the command is again given to fire, but nothing happens. What should the officer do and why?

6. When is the improper storage of a firearm considered a felony? Give an example.

Continued on next page

Activity questions (continued)

7. Using your own words, describe what takes place for each stage of the cycle of operation for a semiautomatic pistol from the time the trigger is pulled.

8. List five key differences between a revolver and a semiautomatic pistol.

Continued on next page

Activity questions (continued)

9. While at a firing range, an officer fired only five rounds from his fully loaded magazine. The officer was in a hurry so he tossed the semiautomatic pistol into his gym bag without rendering it safe. He then placed the bag into the back seat of his car. Could the firearm unintentionally discharge while the officer is driving home? Give the reason(s) for your answer.

Continued on next page

Activity questions (continued)

10. What is a chamber check and when should it be conducted? Describe, step-by-step, how to conduct a chamber check on the firearm you have been issued.

11. Without looking back in the chapter or the chapter synopsis, identify the exterior and interior components of the semiautomatic pistol you have been issued.

Continued on next page

Activity questions (continued)

12. Explain what happens to each component of a cartridge beginning when a firing pin/striker strikes its base.

Continued on next page

Activity questions (continued)

13. An officer with young children locked his unloaded firearm in a steel box and placed it on a high shelf. The officer kept the ammunition for the firearm in his dresser drawer to make sure it would not be near the firearm. Are the officer's actions adequate for safeguarding his children? Explain your answer.

Continued on next page

Activity questions (continued)

14. Describe a step-by-step safety inspection for the firearm you have been issued.

15. Once a firearm has been disassembled, what visual inspections should an officer make before cleaning the firearm? What problems could the inspection help avoid?

Continued on next page

Activity questions (continued)

16. After using a cleaning patch to spread solvent through the barrel of his semiautomatic pistol, an officer carefully pushed a cylinder brush all the way through the barrel. The officer then pushed the brush gently back and forth in the barrel five to ten times. He ran a lubricated patch through the barrel and wiped off the barrel exterior. What errors did the officer make in cleaning the firearm? What effects could these errors have on the safe operation of the firearm?

17. While an officer is shooting on the firing line, the officer's semiautomatic pistol fails to fire. What should the officer do? List the possible reason for the malfunction.

Continued on next page

Activity questions (continued)

18. For each of the following circumstances, indicate the level of cleaning you believe the firearm needs and the reason for your decisions (e.g., simple wipe off, routine cleaning without disassembly, thorough cleaning with field strip, etc.).

    When a cartridge fails to eject completely:

    After firing:

    When the firearm has been dropped in the snow:

    When the firearm has been in storage for over a year:

    After a foot pursuit through a dusty field:

Continued on next page

Activity questions (continued)

19. What is the officer attempting to accomplish in each of the following steps to clear the malfunction in a semiautomatic pistol?

Step	Action	Explanation
1	Firmly tap the bottom of the magazine with the heel of the support hand to make sure the magazine is in place and properly seated.	
2	Retract the slide to the rear and then release it to chamber a round. Make sure the pistol is in battery.	
3	Check condition of safety.	
4	Assess the threat.	

Continued on next page

Activity questions (continued)

20. Why should ammunition be kept in a location away from the area where a firearm will be cleaned? What would be the consequences if it is not?

Continued on next page

Activity questions (continued)

21. Think about your most recent experience shooting a firearm on a firing range. Honestly assess your performance and consider how you can improve your accuracy. Use the chart below to comment on your mastery of each of the key elements affecting your ability to shoot a firearm accurately.

	Personal Assessment
Grip	
Stance	
Controlled breathing	
Sight alignment/sight picture	
Trigger control	
Follow-through	

Continued on next page

Student notes

Supplementary Material

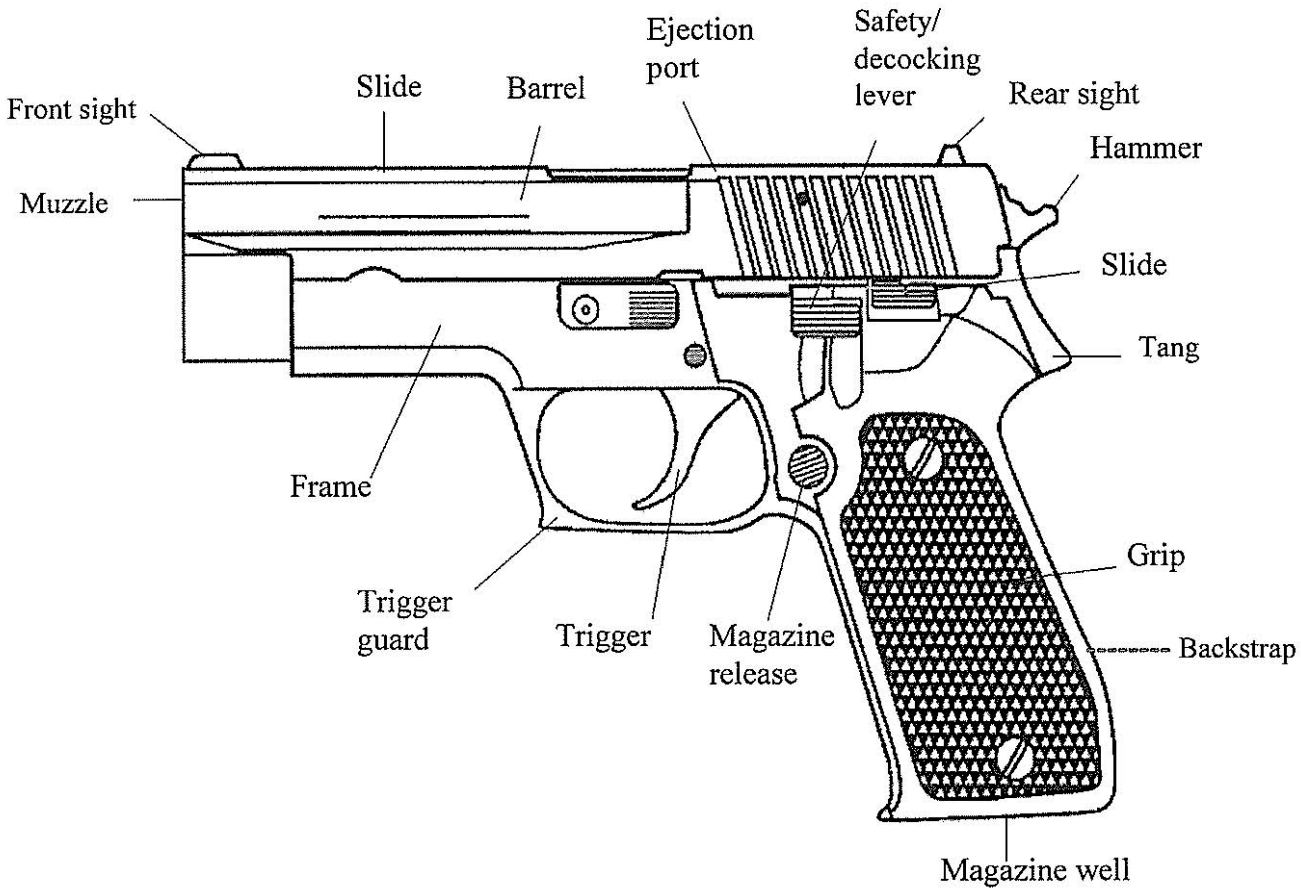
Graphic Illustrations

In this section Refer to the following table for specific reference documents included in this section.

Semiautomatic Pistol: Exterior

Basic components

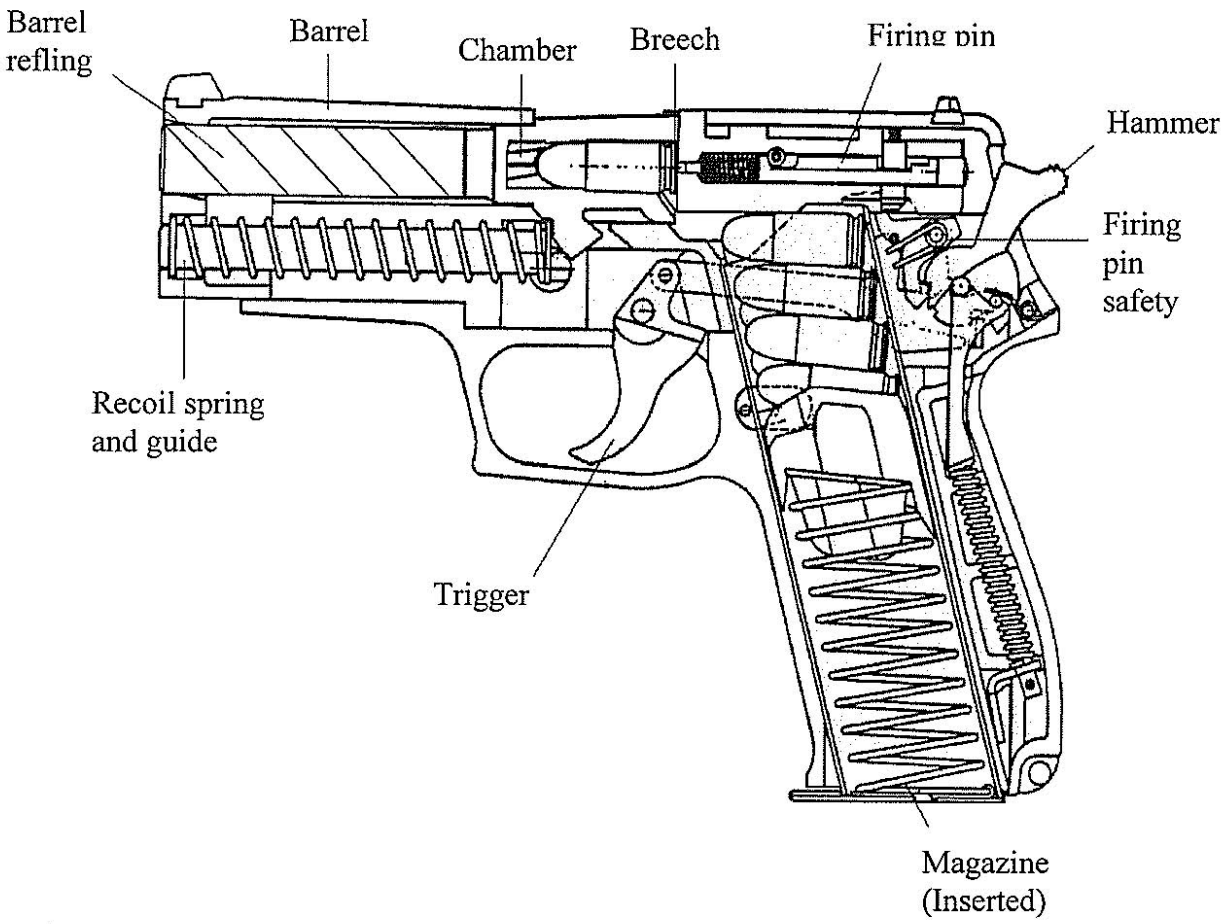
The following graphic identifies the basic external components of a semiautomatic pistol.



Semiautomatic Pistol: Interior

Basic components

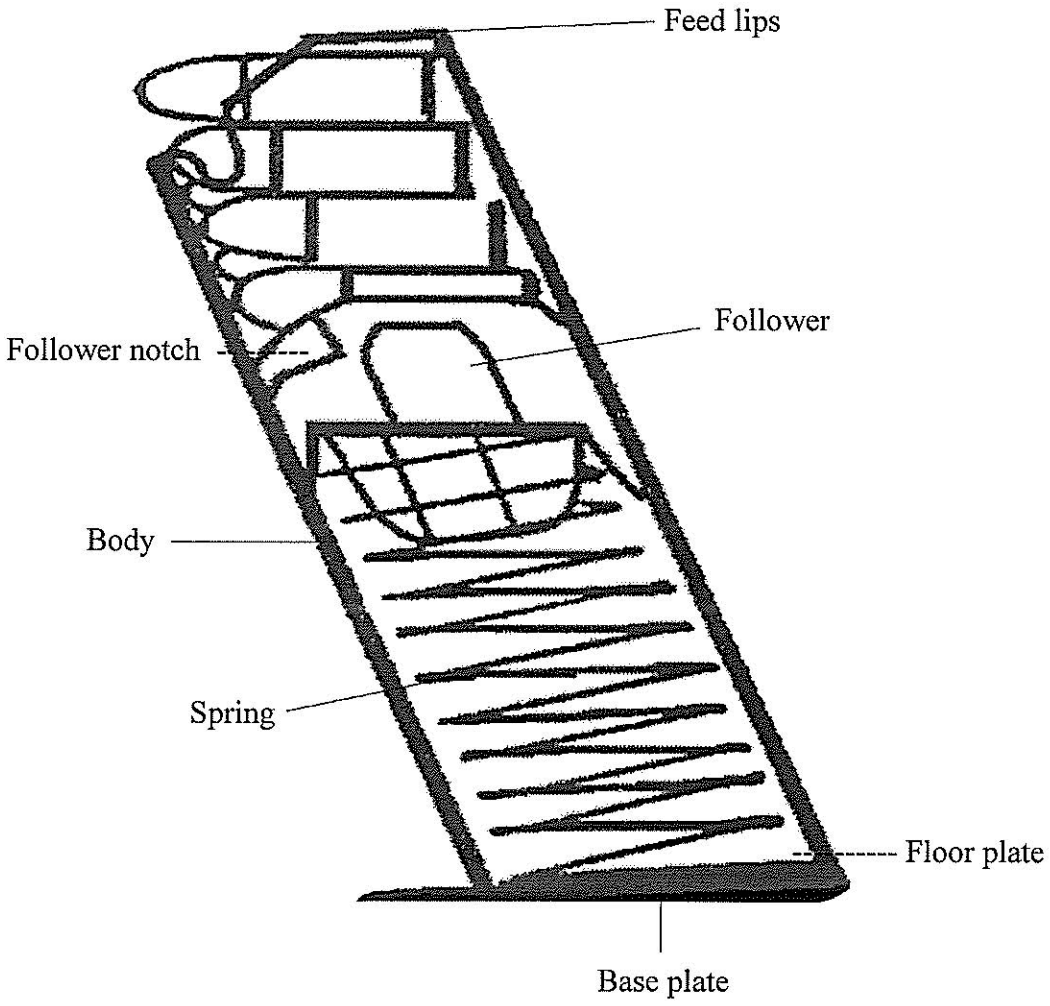
The following graphic identifies the basic internal components of a semiautomatic pistol.



Semiautomatic Pistol: Magazine

Basic components

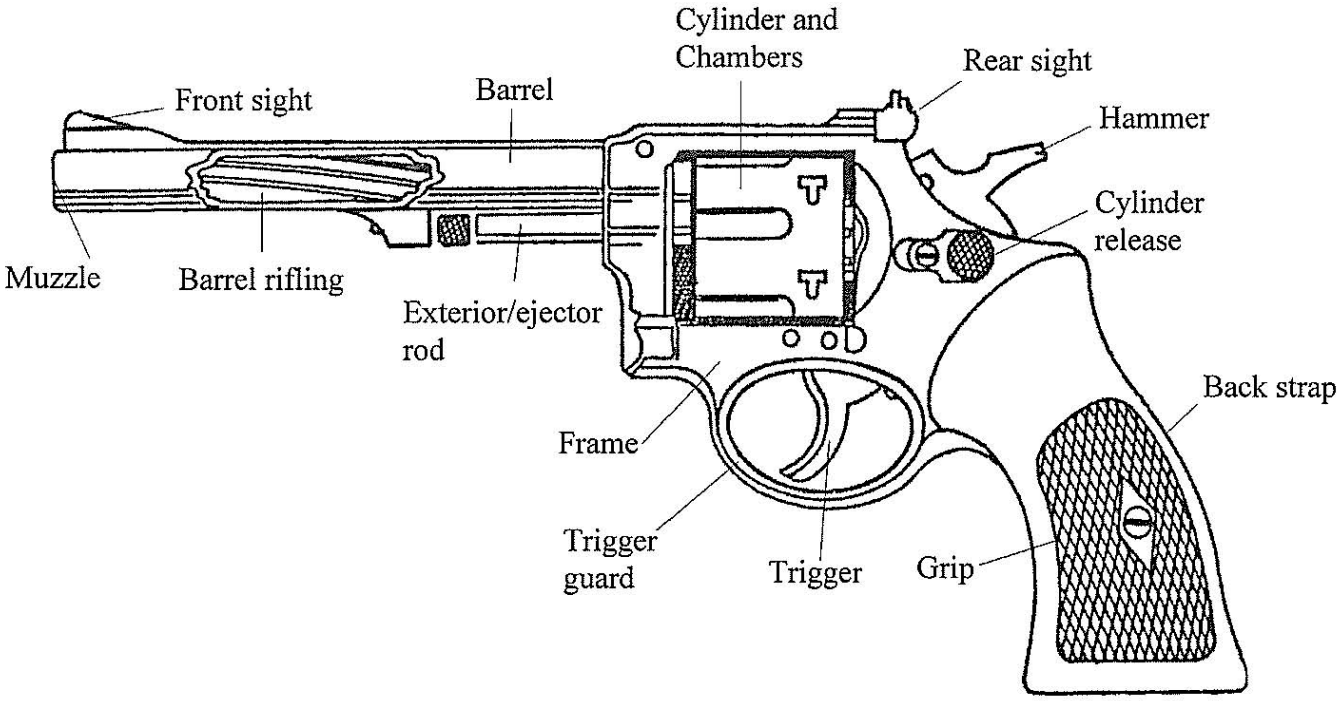
The following graphic identifies the basic components of a semiautomatic pistol magazine.



Revolver

Basic components

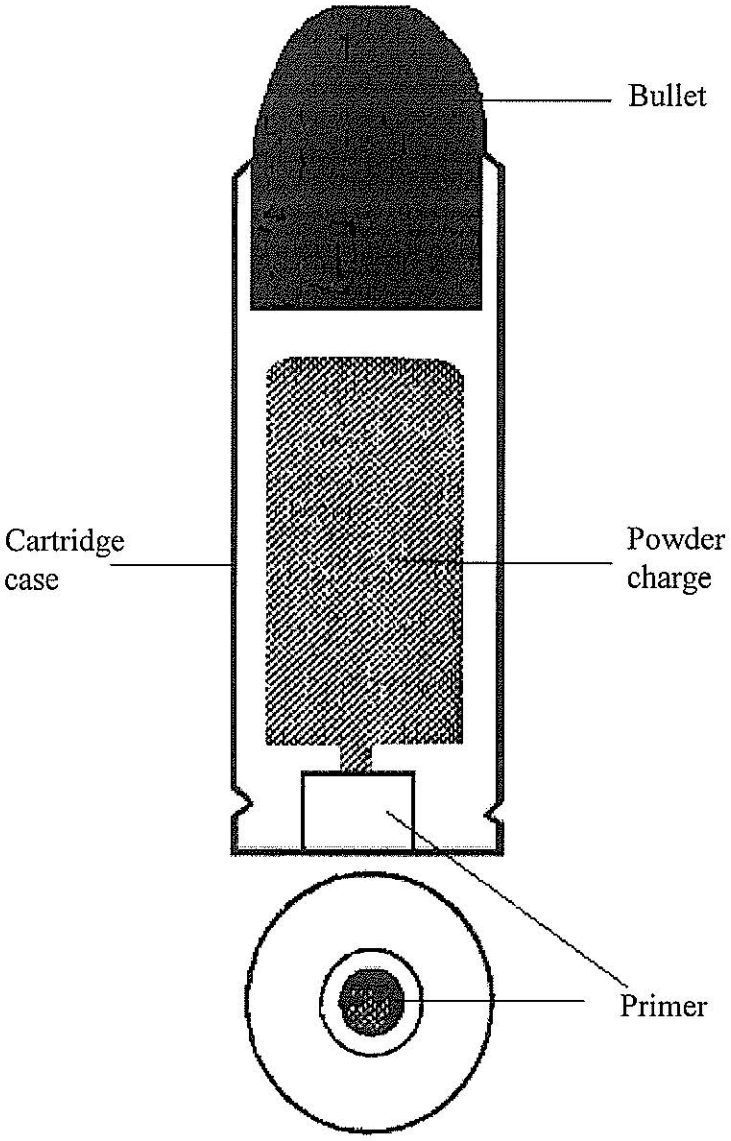
The following graphic identifies the basic components of a revolver.



Handgun Cartridge

Basic components

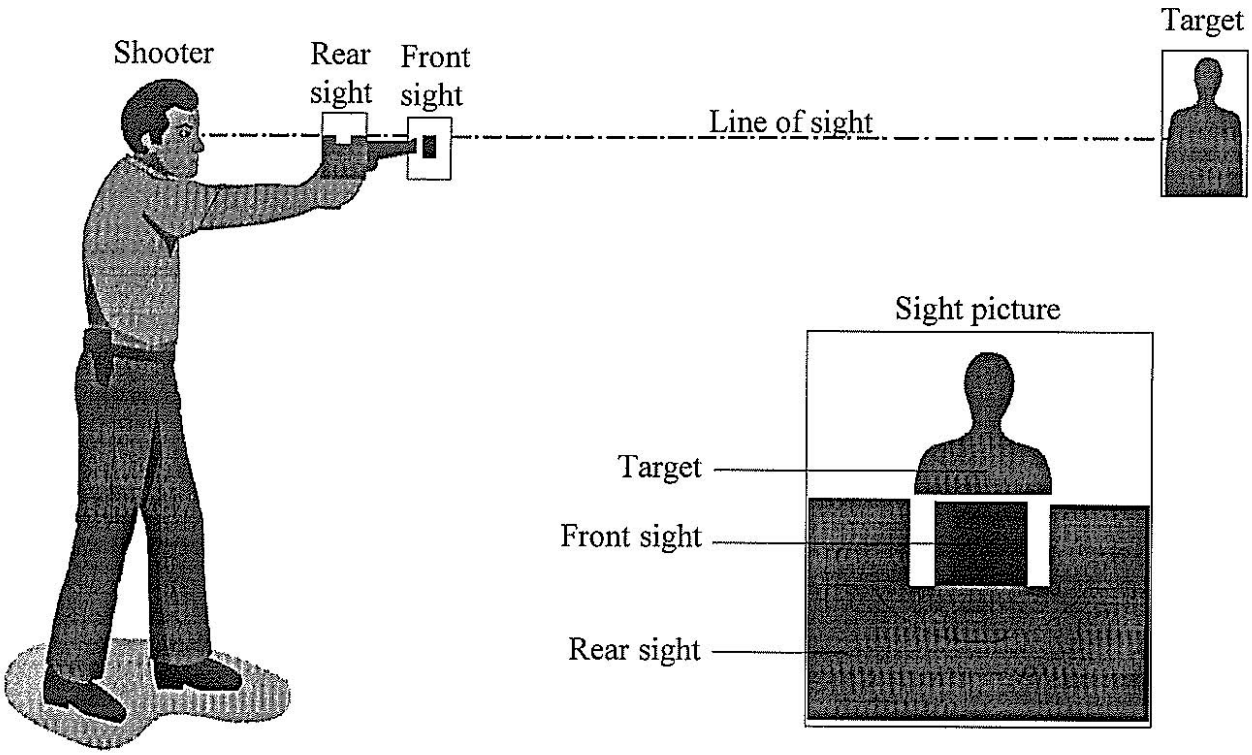
The following graphic identifies the basic components of a handgun cartridge.



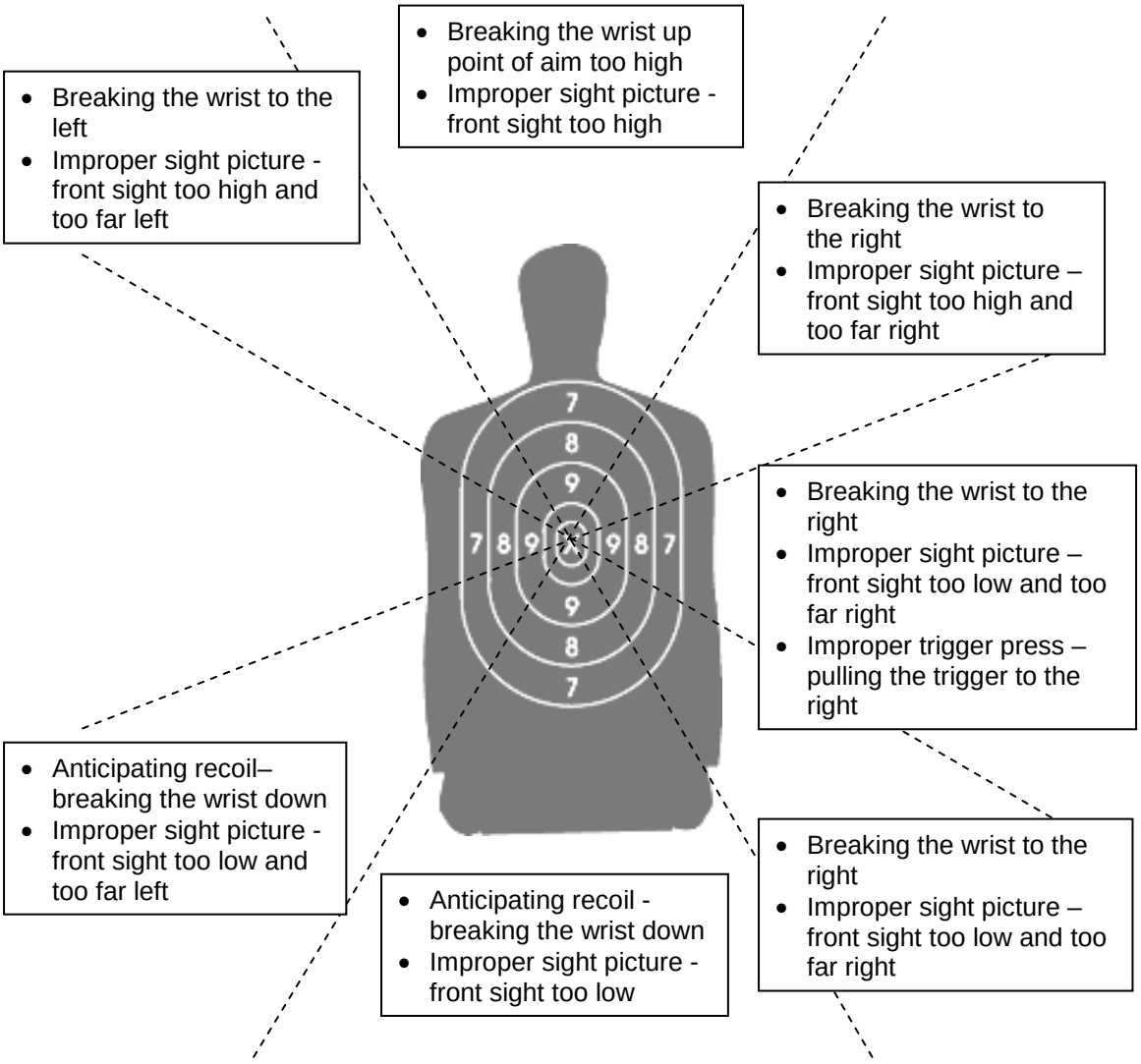
Sight Alignment

Sight alignment

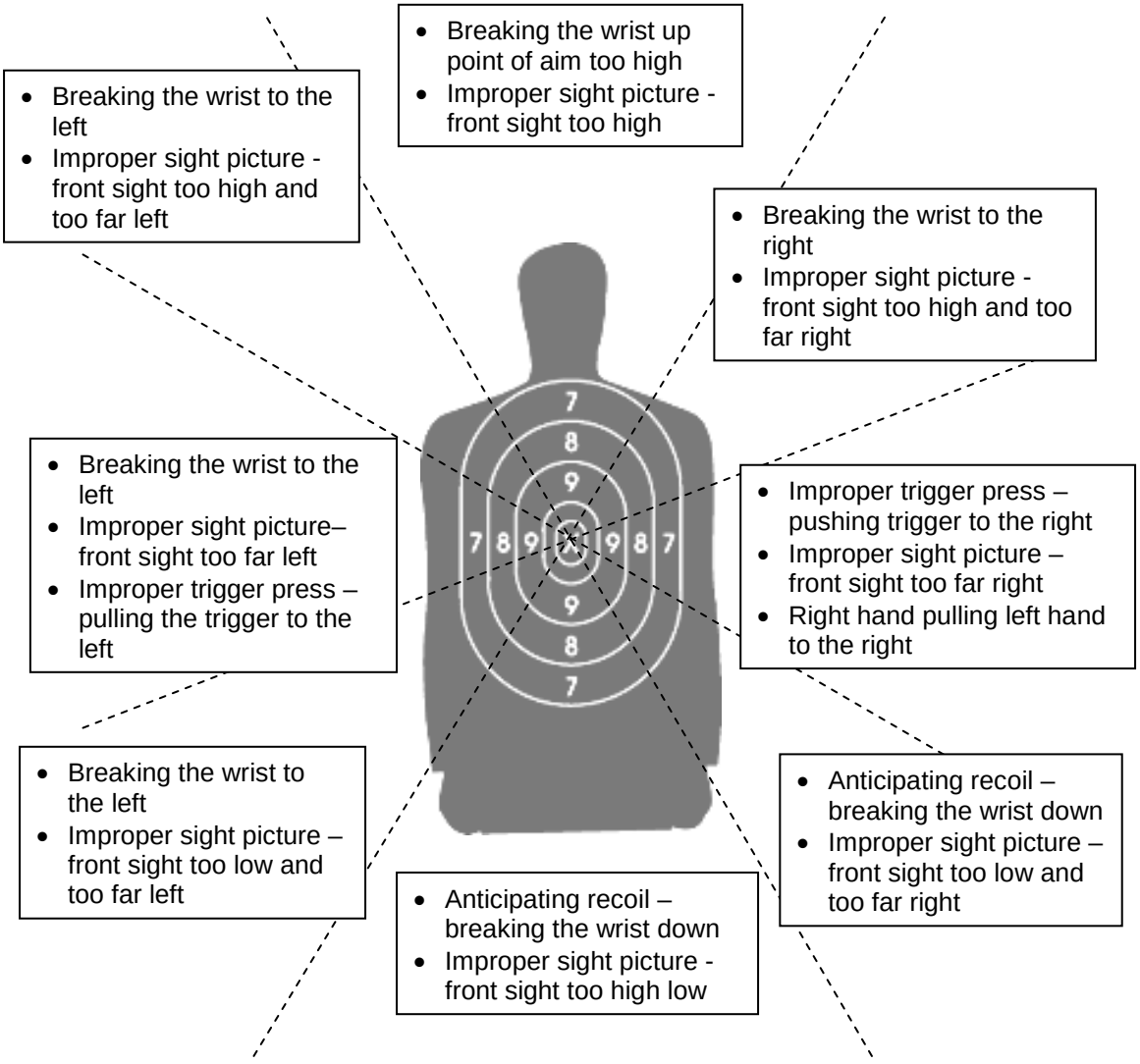
The following graphic illustrations the concepts of sight alignment and sight picture.



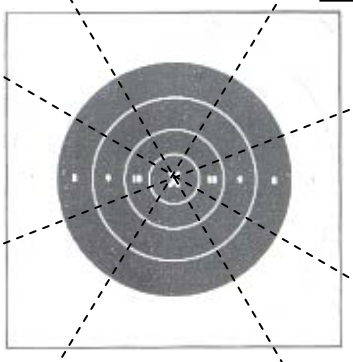
Target Analysis for a Right Handed Shooter



Target Analysis for a Left Handed Shooter



Target Analysis for a Right Handed Shooter



- Breaking the wrist up
  Point of aim too high
- Improper sight picture - front sight too high

- Breaking the wrist to the left
- Improper sight picture - front sight too high and too far left

- Breaking the wrist to the right
- Improper sight picture – front sight too high and too far right

- Improper trigger press – pushing the trigger to the left
- Improper sight picture - front sight too far left
- Left hand pulling right hand to the left

- Breaking the wrist to the right
- Improper sight picture – front sight too low and too far right
- Improper trigger press – pulling the trigger to the right

- Anticipating recoil– Breaking the wrist down
- Improper sight picture - front sight too low and too far left

- Breaking the wrist to the right
- Improper sight picture – front sight too low and too far right

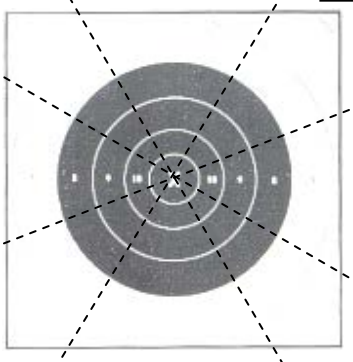
- Anticipating recoil - Breaking the wrist down
- Improper sight picture - front sight too low

Target Analysis for a Left Handed Shooter

- Breaking the wrist up point of aim too high
- Improper sight picture - front sight too high

- Breaking the wrist to the left
- Improper sight picture - front sight too high and too far left

- Breaking the wrist to the right
- Improper sight picture - front sight too high and too far right



- Breaking the wrist to the left
- Improper sight picture – front sight too far left
- Improper trigger press – pulling the trigger to the left

- Improper trigger press – pushing trigger to the right
- Improper sight picture – front sight too far right
- Right hand pulling left hand to the right

- Breaking the wrist to the left
- Improper sight picture – front sight too low and too far left

- Anticipating recoil – breaking the wrist down
- Improper sight picture – front sight too low and too far right

- Anticipating recoil – breaking the wrist down
- Improper sight picture - front sight too high low

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Glossary

Introduction	**The following glossary terms apply to the PC 832 Student Workbook, Volume Five: Firearms.**
action	The assembly of functional parts which move when the trigger is pulled, causing the firearm to fire
ammunition	The general term applied to cartridges and shotgun shells used as firearm projectiles
armorer	Individual who is factory authorized to inspect and repair firearms
automatic firearm	A firearm that will load and fire automatically and continuously with a single pull and hold of the trigger until the magazine is empty
blank shell	Even a blank shell fired at close range can strike a vulnerable area and kill
caliber	The diameter of a projectile; measured in hundredths of an inch or in millimeters
cartridge	A self-contained unit which includes a projectile and propellant capable of firing the projectile through the barrel of a firearm
clearing	The process of completely emptying all cartridges/shells from a firearm and rendering it safe

Continued on next page

Glossary, Continued

combat	Armed fighting where a peace officer is engaged in a confrontation that may result in great bodily injury or death
concealment	Anything that prevents an opponent from observing an officer
cover	Anything that may stop or deflect an opponent's bullet
cycle of operation	The entire process of pulling the trigger to load a semiautomatic firearm, firing a cartridge, ejecting the cartridge, cocking the hammer, and a new cartridge loading into the chamber
deadly force	Any force that is likely to cause death or serious bodily injury
decocking	Process of safely releasing the hammer of a firearm to its forward position and returning the firearm to a double-action mode
discharge	emit, unload, to release the charge – shoot
double-action	A method of shooting a firearm where pulling the trigger begins a compete cycle of operation to fire the firearm
drawing	The removal of a firearm from the holster

Continued on next page

dry firing	The act or result of pulling the trigger of an unloaded firearm, for the purpose of practice shooting or testing the firearm
field strip	The partial disassembly, complete wipe down and visual inspection of the primary parts of the handgun and magazine
follow-through	The continuation of grip, stance, breath control, sight alignment, and trigger control after a shot has been fired
grain	Refers to the weight of a projectile
grip	The manner in which the firearm is held; also the term used to refer to the handle of the handgun
holstering	The placing of a handgun into the officer's holster so that it is secure and available for use
in battery	When the action of a firearm is in the firing position
jacket	A metal envelope that encloses or partially encloses the bullet within a cartridge

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lubricants	Substance used to protect metal parts, reduce friction, and cover a surface with a protective coating
magazine	A container that holds cartridges and fits inside the magazine well of a semi-automatic pistol
malfunction	An unexpected interruption in the firing sequence. Some malfunctions may be cleared (fixed) by the officer
out of battery	When any portion of the action is out of the firing position
racking	The process of operating the action of a firearm to chamber a round
revolver	A handgun equipped with a revolving cylinder that can contain several cartridges and can be fired repeatedly without being reloaded until the cylinder is empty
round	A single cartridge
semiautomatic pistol	A firearm that will load and fire only *one cartridge* automatically with a single pull
sight alignment	The relationship between the shooter's eye, and the front and rear sights of the firearm

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sight picture	When the shooter's focus is on the top center of the *front sight* and the rear sight and aiming point (target) is out of focus
single-action	A method of shooting a firearm where the hammer is cocked before the firearm is fired
solvents	A toxic liquid substance capable of loosening, dissolving, or helping to remove dirt, grime, lead deposits, powder residue, copper, and grit from a firearm
speedloader	A device that can be used to load cartridges into a revolver, filling the entire cylinder in one step
squib load	The partial burning of a powder charge in a cartridge can result in insufficient force to propel the bullet out of the firearm
stance	The physical positioning of the shooter's body when preparing to shoot a handgun or shotgun
trigger control	The process of using smooth continuous pressure on the trigger without disturbing the sight picture

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