

Instructions for the SWAT Officer Certification:

Candidates seeking P.O.S.T. Certification as a **SWAT Officer** must:

1. Have at least three years of experience as a sworn law enforcement officer; and
2. Be in good standing with their POST certification and not have any active POST investigations;
3. Submit the verification form regarding the confirmation of the agency head's current assignment of the officer to a department tactical unit and a skills check off completed by an agency POST certified instructor.

Application in the POST Data Gateway: Completion of the Basic SWAT course will initiate this application in the POST Data Gateway. The certification application button will be next to this course in the training history in the POST Data Gateway. *(NOTE: All required courses for this certification must be completed and verified on the checklist before any application can be submitted and processed.)* Officers seeking this certification must have their agency administrator for the POST Data Gateway upload the completed checklist of courses and the verification form.

Courses required to be completed for this certification are:

Courses Required for SWAT Officer Certification: The applicant must successfully complete the following courses to be eligible to apply for SWAT certification. *(Note: The courses are not required to be taken in any particular order. If possible it is recommended that SWAT be taken last.)*

Officer Survival (40 hours): This course is designed to provide training in the dynamics of an armed encounter. Students will receive training in combat firearms skills, patrol tactics, vehicle stops, and building searches.

Semi Pistol 2 (32 hours): This course is designed to enhance and expand the weapon handling skills of those officers carrying a double action semi-automatic pistol.

Shotgun Skills (24 hours): This course is designed to improve shooting skills with 12 gauge pump and semiautomatic shotguns. Range exercises and classroom instruction will be provided in mounting, loading, unloading, and shooting drills to increase the officer's effectiveness with this versatile weapon. Officers will also participate in exercises using multiple targets, tactical shooting positions, proper use of cover, and one-hand operation.

Tactical Submachine Gun (24 hours): This course is intended for personnel issued select fire submachine guns and assigned to their departmental tactical team. Topics will include safety and legal issues, as well as operational concerns specific to the user's weapon, mechanical functioning concepts for implementation of shooting fundamentals, loading and immediate action. Practical exercises will include semi-automatic marksmanship, fully automatic burst control, and engagement of moving and steel reactionary targets.

Patrol Rifle (40 hours): This course is designed for uniformed personnel armed with a rifle while on duty, or for Special Response Containment Team officers armed with an open-sighted rifle. The emphasis of the course is to train Riflemen, and will include shooting with a sling, shooting from various positions, effects of weather, moving targets leads, safety, maintenance, and liability. Students will engage single and multiple targets from 50-200 yards, both stationary and moving. Note: this course was previously known as Police Tactical Rifle and should count towards the requirement for this course.

Judgmental Use of Deadly Force (24 hours): This course is designed to use an integrated system of video, laser, and computer technology. Students will interact in simulated scenarios requiring judgment, decision making regarding the drawing of a weapon, accuracy, and the use of deadly force.

Defensive Tactics (40 Hours): This course is designed to provide public safety officers with additional training in control and restraint techniques, use of personal weapons, ground fighting, and handcuffing techniques.

Health and Wellness (22 hours): This course is designed for all public safety personnel who seek improved health and wellness. Topics include the cardiovascular system, strength and flexibility conditioning, nutrition, weight and stress control, and the effects of alcohol/drugs.

Stress Management (16 hours): This course is designed to teach public safety personnel techniques by which they can manage both job related and personal stress. Topics include the nature and sources of stress and stress management strategies.

High Risk Warrant and Arrest Tactics: (40 hours) This course is designed for officers who participate in high risk warrant service and arrests. Key topics include key raid concepts, use of force, lawful entry and search, tactical equipment, operation planning & briefing, ballistic shields, breaching operations, tactics overview, warrant execution in structures, vehicle assault operations, pedestrian operations, and tactical combat casualty care.

Special Weapons and Tactics :(55 hours) This course is designed for officers who have recently been assigned to a tactical team and have had no prior training in this area. Topics will include: building approach and entry techniques, team movement exercises, room clearance, dynamic/covert entry, use of chemical agents, building rappelling, and tactical assault problems.

Completion of this series of courses results in a total of 357 hours of training for this certification.

Checklist of Courses for SWAT Officer Certification Application:

Name of Officer (print): _____

Employing Agency: _____

Course Name:

Date of Completion:

Officer Survival (40 hours): _____

Semi Pistol 2 (32 hours): _____

Shotgun Skills (24 hours): _____

Tactical Submachine Gun (24 hours): _____

Patrol Rifle (40 hours): _____

Judgmental Use of Deadly Force (24 hours): _____

Defensive Tactics (40 Hours): _____

Health and Wellness (22 hours): _____

Stress Management (16 hours): _____

High Risk Warrant and Arrest Tactics: (40 hours) _____

Special Weapons and Tactics: (55 hours) _____

I verify that I have completed the above listed courses as required for this SWAT certification.

Officer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Specialized Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Skills & Assignment Verification

Student Name:

Agency Name:

Date of Evaluation:

As the agency instructor evaluating this student, I attest to having personally witnessed this student successfully demonstrate each skill listed below.

Note: Please check the appropriate response in the Yes or No column.

Y N

Demonstrates the ability to pass the firearms qualification course established by agency/unit.

Demonstrates the ability to breach a door effectively.

Demonstrates proper room clearing techniques.

Demonstrates proper team movement techniques.

Demonstrates understanding of agency policies related to SWAT operations and use of force.

Demonstrates correct judgment in simulated use of force scenarios.

Demonstrates correct live fire - low light firearms techniques.

Shows proficiency in clearing a gas mask in a live gas environment.

Demonstrates proficient live fire handgun skills while using a shield.

Successfully completes the department physical agility test.

Comments:

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Evaluating Instructor Name (print): _____

Instructor's Signature _____ Date _____

As the Agency Head (or designee), I verify that this officer has demonstrated these identified proficiencies and is assigned to my department's tactical unit.

Agency Head's Signature _____ Date _____