



## **P.O.S.T. Update - January 2017**

**Executive Director Ken Vance**

### **POST Recertification Course is now online**

Officers may now complete this course online by going to web link [www.gapost.org/recert\\_trng.html](http://www.gapost.org/recert_trng.html) for both the instructions on how to sign in to the course and the log in location. Officers are asked to be sure to read the instructions for how to log in to the course prior to doing so. Once completing the course, the completion will be updated to the officer's POST Data Gateway system training history on a weekly basis. POST is currently working to have this training updated daily in the near future, and POST will notify officers when this change occurs. The log in for the course can be found at web link <http://ga.v-academyonline.com/login>.

### **POST Update on revision of POST rule 464-5 (Annual Training Requirement):**

As of January 1, 2017, all peace officers have to complete a specified **minimum** of **5 hours** for **designated topics** within the 20 hour annual training requirement.

The **designated topics** to be completed each year within the 20 hours are:

Firearms Requalification	- 1 Hour
Use of Deadly Force	- 1 Hour
De-escalation training	- 1 Hour
<u>Community Policing</u>	<u>- 2 Hours</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>= 5 Hours</b>

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Officers are required to **annually qualify** with all **agency issued/carried firearms** (e.g. handgun, shotgun, patrol rifle, etc.). Course of fire must meet or exceed the course of fire completed in the basic course for the type of firearm.

GPSTC Online courses have been created to meet this requirement for officers' training. The Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) has published information on these courses, and it can be found at web link <https://www.gpstc.org/gpstc-answers-governors-call/>. Officers can access these courses from the GPSTC web link by clicking on the course, and it will take the officer to the course to register for the online course. Officers completing **these designated GPSTC online courses** for these **designated topics** (*Cultural Awareness, Fostering Community Relations, Police Legitimacy and Procedural Justice for Community Relations, and Use of Force and De-escalation Options for Gaining Compliance*) **will meet 4 hours of the designated annual training requirements for calendar year 2017** - except for the required 1 hour for Firearms Requalification.

GPSTC will be publishing the Points of Instruction (POIs) for these topics for POST certified instructors to teach at the agency level on February 1, 2017. POST certified instructors will be able to teach these courses at the agency level, but the instructors must meet the requirements of teaching the required objectives and points of instruction and required actual minimum time requirements for each topic.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):**

### **Where can the officer complete the required courses?**

Officers can go to web link <https://www.gpstc.org/gpstc-answers-governors-call/> and click on the topic underlined to go to the registration for the course.

### **How will the course be tracked for my annual training requirements?**

GPSTC Online Courses completed will automatically be updated in the peace officer's POST training history. If the course is taught by a POST certified instructor, the instructor must enter the course into the POST Data Gateway using the proper course code for the officer to get the required training credit. The course codes identified for both the GPSTC online classes and the agency level classes (see web link [https://www.gapost.org/pdf\\_file/20\\_hour\\_update\\_2016.pdf](https://www.gapost.org/pdf_file/20_hour_update_2016.pdf)) will trigger completion of the requirement in the dashboard. The specific designated classes must be completed as required for the dashboard to be updated. A new dashboard will be available in the POST Data Gateway in 2017 for officers to be able to check their status. Testing and development of the dashboard is currently underway.

### **How do I obtain courses of fire that meet or exceed the basic requirements for firearms?**

Courses of fire are available on the POST Home page at web link [https://www.gapost.org/requal\\_faq.html](https://www.gapost.org/requal_faq.html), from any POST certified academy, or from the GA Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (GALEFI). Contact information for POST certified academies can be found at web link <https://www.gapost.org/academies.html> and GALEFI's contact info is at web link [www.galefi.org](http://www.galefi.org).

### **Does an officer have to qualify with every individual weapon that a department has in their armory and track the qualification by serial number?**

Most departments issue a specific firearm to each officer (i.e. handgun and/or shotgun). The officer's qualification with a specifically issued weapon such as a handgun or shotgun should be tracked by serial number. If the department uses an armory and officers may be issued a different weapon with different serial number each day, the department should record that the officer qualified with a specific weapon and serial number at the time of qualification, but it would be unreasonable to expect the officer to qualify with each individual weapon in the armory. Officers qualifying with the type of weapon issued and the specific serial number of weapon used at the time of qualification would suffice in meeting the requirement.

### **How do instructors get the objectives and points of instruction when they become available?**

GPSTC and GA POST Council will make these available to POST certified instructors after February 1, 2017. Details on the exact means of access are not ready for publication at this time.

### **How do instructors make sure that they are using the proper course codes?**

The course codes for the required annual courses that are taught at the agency level (not GPSTC on-line courses) are as follows:

<b><u>Course Code</u></b>	<b><u>Code Course Description:</u></b>
ICR02G	De-escalation
IGS10G	Community Policing (min. 2 hours)
IFG05G	Cultural Awareness (min. 2 hours)
IGS11G	Fostering Positive Community Relations (min. 2 hours)
IGS12G	Police Legitimacy, Procedural Justice and Community Relations (min. 2 hours)
UFR00F	Firearms Qualification
IFR02F	Firearms Qualification and Use of Deadly Force (2 Hours)
IFR10F	Firearms Qualification & Use of Deadly Force & De-escalation (3 Hours)
IFM22F	Use of Deadly Force (taught by a firearms instructor)
IFM22G	Use of Deadly Force (taught by a general instructor)
IFM56F	Use of Deadly Force & De-escalation (taught by a firearms instructor) (min. 2 hours)
IFM56G	Use of Deadly Force & De-escalation (taught by a general instructor) (min. 2 hours)
UFE02F*	Shotgun Qualification
UFL01F*	Patrol Rifle Qualification
UFM01F*	Backup Weapon Qualification
UFC01F*	Sniper Qualification

**What if the officer fails the GPSTC online course? Is there an opportunity to re-take the course quickly?**

Officers may re-take one of the **GPSTC online designated annual training courses** (see courses above) if a failure occurs. A repeated number of failures may result in a fee to re-take the course to be applied. At this time, a fee for a first time failure is not going to be assessed. If an officer has technical problems with the GPSTC online course, please contact GPSTC for assistance at (478)-993-4000.

**How will officers/agencies maintain records on the revision requiring qualification with the agency issued/carried firearms?**

If all qualifications occur at same time as handgun qualification, the firearm qualification training may all be entered under the Firearms Qualification Code in the POST Data Gateway. Since all officers must qualify with their primary handgun, calculations on the dashboard in the POST Data Gateway will be based on the "Firearms Qualification" code. Individual agencies and instructors will have to maintain their own records of qualifications for specific firearms to be kept at the agency level to meet the recording requirements per the revision of the POST rule 464-5.

**If our Officers qualify with the primary duty weapon, rifle, and shotgun on the same day is that 3 separate rosters that need to be created and 3 different course codes that need to be entered into POST for each Officer?**

If qualifications for additional duty weapons occur at same time as the primary handgun qualification, the instructor may enter one class for all of these weapons under the Firearms Qualification Code (UFR00F) or the instructor/agency may wish to use separate classes to record this information in the POST Data Gateway. Since all officers must qualify with their primary handgun, calculations on the dashboard in the POST Data Gateway will be based on the "Firearms Qualification" code. It is the instructor's responsibility for the agency to keep firearms records for each individual weapons that an officer qualifies with for purposes of this rule. POST **does not require** separate rosters for officers' records regarding the type of weapons the officer qualified with and the qualifying scores, but it is an option available to instructors. If an agency is audited by POST, qualification records are necessary to show that the agency is complying with the POST rule. Instructors may choose to use the POST records system to input and store these qualification records. For example, an instructor could enter one course with uploads of score sheets for all of the weapons qualified with during that course. The instructor may also enter multiple classes for each separate type of weapon with the upload of the score sheet for each specific class. IMPORTANT NOTE: POST is **not requiring** the upload of the score sheets, but the instructor may choose to use the POST Data Gateway system to record their score sheets if they wish. Agencies are encouraged to review the Open Records law and/or contact the GA Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (GALEFI – [www.galefi.org](http://www.galefi.org)) regarding how to record firearms qualification training records with any questions.

**How many hours should an officer receive for each additional weapon that they qualify with? Or will all of the qualifications fall under UFR00F with no hours being credited for the other weapons?**

Actual training time is what you record for any training class. Training must be a minimum of one (1) hour for Firearms Requalification. For example, if the instructor completes qualification training for multiple firearms in 4 hours, then the instructor may enter the class using the firearms requalification course code (UFR00F) for 4 hours. See answer to question above for more information.

**If an officer qualifies with the primary duty weapon one day and then comes back later in the year to qualify with a secondary weapon, will an additional class and roster for that qualification be needed and if so, how many hours should be entered for the class for each secondary weapon?**

Separate qualifications at separate times (other than the same or consecutive days) will require additional class entries into the POST Data Gateway system, and the instructor will have to record the qualification scores. Instructors input actual training time for any training class (minimum of at least one hour is required for any class in the POST Data Gateway system).

**Do retired officers now have to complete the designated three hours of training in the revised 464-5-.03.1 Annual Firearms Training for their POST Annual Firearms Qualification Certificate card?**

Yes, retired officers have to complete the same designated three hours of firearms training as active officers.