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State of North Carolina

Department of Justice

## North Carolina Justice Academy



Mark J. Strickland  
Director

### Memorandum

**To:** All In-Service Training Coordinators and Community College Contacts for MIST

**From:** Bill DuBois  
In-Service Coordinator  
North Carolina Justice Academy

**Date:** March 13, 2014

**Re:** 2015 In-Service Firearms

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Recently, the 2015 in-service training objectives received Commission approval. In an effort to ensure transparency we are sending out an explanation of the 2015 In-Service Firearms Training and Qualification Lesson Plan Objective 5 (mandated).

Training Objective 5 states:

Demonstrate the ability to draw, operate, reload, and fire the service handgun using live ammunition or force on force training cartridges with the use of:

- a. The dominant hand only
- b. The support hand only

As you are aware, this objective is currently in the 2014 In-Service Firearms training and qualification Lesson Plan with one exception, no live fire. The requirement, based upon Commission approval, was that the students demonstrate this task with an empty weapon or an inert training weapon.

During the development process both the Firearms Training Curriculum Committee and the Joint In-Service Training Committee approved this objective for 2014 and 2015. It was felt officers need to be trained to successfully draw and operate their service handgun with each hand in the event of an injury, and to demonstrate these techniques in order to enhance their survival skills in a deadly force situation in which they may have to use one of the techniques listed above.

It should be noted in 2014 there is no live fire component and in 2015, the live fire component can be done with either the service weapon or a “force on force” type of weapon using the officer’s duty holster. It should also be noted the demonstration of the ability to do these techniques is **NOT** part of a qualification course nor is it a timed event.

Questions have been raised as to how to accomplish the objective safely during the live fire demonstration phase. While there is no specific way this should be accomplished, and a number of draw methods are utilized, that was the purpose of allowing the firearms instructor to best determine

what the specific officer can do that best meets their physical attributes. That is also why 2014 becomes the “practice year” with no required live fire. In addition, in 2015, instructors may choose to utilize some type of force on force training round rather than duty or duty equivalent ammunition.

The North Carolina Justice Academy will continue to work diligently to ensure all aspects of safety and safety procedures are included in the Instructor’s Notes which are a part of each In-Service Instructor Lesson Plan.

It is our hope this provides a better explanation to some of the questions which have evolved.

As always, please continue to check the in-service website prior to any course delivery to ensure you are using the most current materials available.

If you have any questions or need further assistance in this matter, do not hesitate to contact me at 910-525-4151, ext. 268 or by email at [bdubois@ncdoj.gov](mailto:bdubois@ncdoj.gov).