

# U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Office of Training and Development  
Firearms and Tactical Training Division

## Interim Use of Force and Firearms Guidelines



ENCLOSURE (1)

# **Interim CBP Use of Force and Firearms Guidelines**

## **Interim Use of Force and Firearms Guidelines**

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## **Interim CBP Use of Force and Firearms Guidelines**

### **Part 1 Interim Use of Force and Firearms Guidelines**

#### **A. Scope**

1. These interim guidelines provide direction for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel pending development and issuance of a comprehensive CBP Use of Force and Firearms Policy Directive.
2. These guidelines address issues that require immediate clarification of or deviation from past policy.
3. For interim Use of Force and Firearms Policy issues not specifically addressed in these guidelines, Office of Field Operations personnel shall operate under the provisions of the Legacy Customs Firearms and Use of Force Handbook - CIS HB 4500-01A dated March 2003. Office of Border Patrol personnel shall operate under the provisions of the INS Firearms Policy dated February 2003.

#### **B. Implementation**

1. Responsible Officials shall ensure that supervisors disseminate, review and discuss the contents of these interim Use of Force and Firearms Guidelines with subordinates.
2. Responsible Officials shall ensure that all CBP armed officers they supervise acknowledge receipt of this interim Use of Force and Firearms Guidance by signature no later than thirty days after issuance. Signature pages shall be kept on local file.

## Interim CBP Use of Force and Firearms Guidelines

### Part 2 Handgun Qualifications Requirements

- A. OFO armed personnel shall qualify with firearms on a trimester basis. For OFO Field Officers, the course of fire consists of a total of 30 rounds. OFO Field Officers shall score 80% to pass this course of fire. (See attachment 1)
- B. CBP Officer trainees at the CBP Academy shall score 80% on a 60 round course of fire to pass. (See attachment 2) (On return from the Academy, CBP Officer trainees shall qualify as described in "A" above)
- C. Border Patrol Agents and Border Patrol Agent trainees at the Border Patrol Academy shall qualify with firearms as provided in current guidelines, using the BP legacy course of fire. (See Attachment 3)

## **Interim CBP Use of Force and Firearms Guidelines**

### **Part 3 Carriage of Firearms**

- A. All OFO armed personnel require certification for 24-hour carry authority in accordance with Legacy Customs guidance. 24-hour carry certificates are issued by, and held on file in the CBP Officer's duty Station.
  
- B. Until a standard handgun for OFO is designated, Legacy Immigration Inspectors shall carry their currently assigned handgun. Legacy Customs Inspectors shall carry the Glock 17, 9-mm pistol.

## Interim CBP Use of Force and Firearms Guidelines

### Part 4 Special Conditions Governing Carrying and Training with Firearms

- A. Pregnant OFO armed officers may choose to continue to qualify with a doctor's written authorization. They may choose not to qualify, in which case the authorization to carry a firearm and perform duties requiring the carrying of a firearm is temporarily rescinded (in accordance with Legacy Customs Directive 4510-017A, Section 7).
- B. Legacy Immigration Inspectors shall adhere to Legacy Customs Policy regarding the temporary or permanent removal of firearms. There are no changes to the level of authority that may suspend a CBP employee's carry privileges.
- C. CBP armed personnel who presently carry personally owned, service approved weapons while performing official duties may continue to carry that weapon. After receiving a government issued weapon, they shall cease carrying the personally owned, service approved weapon and begin carrying the government issued weapon. No new authorizations for personally owned weapons shall be issued.
- D. OFO armed officers are required to obtain an approval letter, issued by their Port, to fly armed on a commercial aircraft in accordance with established Legacy Customs procedure.
- E. CBP armed personnel are prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages while carrying service approved weapons, except when engaged in undercover operations necessitating the consumption of alcoholic beverages. In these cases, the consumption of alcoholic beverages will be limited to an amount that does not impair the officer's judgment.
- F. Use of government approved service weapons is limited to organized firearms sporting events, competitions, or commercial, public, or government owned ranges.

## **Interim CBP Use of Force and Firearms Guidelines**

### **Part 5 Changes affecting Use of Force Policy**

- A. OFO officers shall adhere to the Legacy Customs Use of Force Guidelines (including the “Use of Force Continuum”) delineated in Chapter 2, Section III of the Legacy Customs Firearms and Use of Force Handbook.
- B. OFO armed personnel shall not fire solely to disable vehicles. They may fire on the driver or other occupant of a moving motor vehicle or vessel only when there is reasonable belief the subject poses an imminent danger of death or serious injury to the officer or another person and the public safety benefits of using such force outweigh the risks to the safety of the officer or other persons.
- C. OFO Officers are authorized to train with, and carry the collapsible baton only.

**Interim CBP Use of Force and Firearms Guidelines**

**Attachment 1**

OFO Officer 30 Round Course of Fire

## CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (OFO) SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL 30 ROUND COURSE OF FIRE

| DISTANCE | STAGE | POSITION   | MAGAZINES   | SHOTS           | TIME                 | DESCRIPTION/COMMANDS  |
|----------|-------|--|---|-----------------|----------------------|---|
| 3 YDS    | 1     | Standing, strong hand only, and support hand only. | Prepare all magazines with six rounds each.   | <b>12 Total</b> | 25 Sec               | Load, and holster with a 6 round magazine.<br><br>Target faces, draw and fire 6 rounds with strong hand only grip. Combat load, transition to support hand only grip and fire 6 rounds. Perform a combat reload and holster.<br><br>Note: This course of fire to be conducted on a "Hot Line". The "Hot Line" concept requires the shooter to reload, without command, when his/her handgun is empty. The shooter will not holster an empty weapon until the exercise is over. Barricades will be used for cover and support. |
| 7 YDS    | 2     | Standing, strong hand supported.                   | Weapon loaded with a 6 round magazine and 1 additional 6 round magazine available for reload. | <b>6 total</b>  | 3 Sec.               | Target faces, draw and fire 2 rounds strong hand supported. When threat edges away, shooter will go to high ready.<br><br>When target reappears, the shooter will fire 2 rounds. When target edges away, shooter will go to high ready.<br>When the threat reappears, shooter will fire 2 rounds, combat reload a 6 round magazine and holster weapon.  |
| 7YDS     | 3     | Standing strong hand supported, body armor drill.  | Weapon loaded with 6 rounds and 1 additional magazine loaded with 6 rounds for reload.        | <b>6 total</b>  | 6 Sec.<br><br>4 Sec. | Target faces, draw and fire 2 rounds center mass and 1 round to the head. When threat edges away, shooter will go to high ready.<br><br>When target reappears, the shooter will fire 2 rounds center mass and 1 round to the head within 4 sec. Combat reload a 6 round and holster weapon.   |

# CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (OFO) SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL 30 ROUND COURSE OF FIRE

| DISTANCE | STAGE | POSITION  | MAGAZINES                    | SHOTS          | TIME          | DESCRIPTION/COMMANDS  |
|----------|-------|---|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---|
| 15 YDS   | 4     | Standing and kneeling, strong hand supported barricade shooting | Weapon loaded with 6 rounds. | <b>6 total</b> | 20<br>Seconds | Step to cover, draw and fire 2 rounds standing support side barricade, transition to strong side standing barricade and fire 2 rounds. Transition to a strong side kneeling barricade and fire 2 rounds.<br><br>CLEAR WEAPON AND HOLSTER A SAFE AND EMPTY WEAPON BEFORE STANDING. |
|          |       |   |                              |                |               |   |
|          |       |   |                              |                |               |   |

NOTE: (U.S. CUSTOMS) CAT #1 TARGET WILL BE USED.

TOTAL ROUNDS = 30  
 POSSIBLE SCORE = 150

**SCORING:**

1. Course requires 2 head shots at 7 yard line.
2. Score body of target and total.
3. Score head shots as 4's and 5's and total. Head shots must be touching or above an imaginary line 10" below the top of the head.
4. Deduct 5 points each from the body total for any body shots beyond 32 hits.

# Interim CBP Use of Force and Firearms Guidelines

## Attachment 2

CBP Academy 60 Round Course of Fire

# CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (CBP ACADEMY) SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL 60 ROUND COURSE OF FIRE

| DISTANCE | STAGE | POSITION | MAGAZINES  | SHOTS                     | TIME   | DESCRIPTION/COMMANDS   |
|----------|-------|----------|--|---------------------------|--------|--|
| 3 YDS    | 1     | Standing | 2 Magazines<br>17 Rounds (+1)                                      | 2                         | 3 Sec  | Prepare two (2) seventeen round magazines. Load, charge and holster. Top the weapon off with one (1) round. Eye level, two handed. Secure the second magazine in the pouch.<br><br>Target faces, draw and fire 2 shots. When target edges, <b>COVER</b> the target. On the next two (2) facings, fire two (2) shots in two (2) seconds on each facing. <b>SCAN AND HOLSTER</b>   |
|          | 2     | Standing | 1 <sup>ST</sup> Facing<br>2 <sup>ND</sup> & 3 <sup>RD</sup> Facing | 2                         | 2 Sec  |  |
| 7 YDS    | 1     | Standing | 1 <sup>ST</sup> Facing   | 6                         | 6 Sec  | Target faces, draw and fire six (6) shots in six (6) seconds.<br><b>SCAN AND HOLSTER</b><br><br>Target faces, draw and fire two (2) shots center mass and one (1) shot to the head. When target edges <b>SCAN AND HOLSTER</b> .<br><br>Target faces draw and fire two (2) shots to the center mass and one (1) shot to the head, <b>COMBAT RELOAD and fire two (2) shots center mass and one (1) shot to the head. SCAN AND HOLSTER. TOP OFF THE MAGAZINE.</b><br><br>Draw and fire two (2) shot center mass and one (1) shot to the head. <b>SCAN AND HOLSTER.</b><br><br>Target faces, draw and fire two (2) shots center mass in four (4) seconds. When target edges, <b>COVER THE TARGET.</b><br><br>On the next two (2) facings, fire two (2) shots center mass in three (3) seconds on each facing. <b>COME TO READY PISTOL, TRANSFER THE WEAPON TO THE WEAK HAND.</b><br><br>Bring the pistol to high search. Target faces, fire six (6) shots center mass <b>WEAK HAND ONLY. EXECUTE PROPER CLEARING PROCEDURES AND HOLSTER A SAFE AND EMPTY WEAPON.</b> |
|          | 2     | Standing | 1 <sup>ST</sup> Facing   | 3                         | 6 Sec  |  |
|          | 3     | Standing | 1 <sup>ST</sup> Facing   | 2                         | 4 Sec  |  |
|          | 4     | Standing | On 2 <sup>ND</sup> & 3 <sup>RD</sup> Facing                        | 2                         | 3 Sec  |  |
|          |       |          |  | <b>(24 Rds)<br/>Total</b> | 12 Sec |  |

# CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (CBP ACADEMY) SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL 60 ROUND COURSE OF FIRE

| DISTANCE | STAGE | POSITION   | MAGAZINES                                   | SHOTS                       | TIME   | DESCRIPTION/COMMANDS  |
|----------|-------|--|---|-----------------------------|--------|---|
| 15 YDS   | 1     | Standing Weak Side/<br>Kneeling Strong Side<br>Barricade | 2 Magazines<br>6 Rounds Each                | 12                          | 35 Sec | Prepare two (2) magazines with six (6) rounds each. Secure one (1) magazine in magazine pouch. Load, charge and holster with a six (6) round magazine.<br><br>Target faces, fire six (6) shots from the standing weak side barricade position, <b>COMBAT RELOAD</b> with the 2 <sup>nd</sup> six (6) round magazine, drop down to a kneeling strong side barricade position and fire six (6) more shots in thirty-five (35) seconds. <b>EXECUTE PROPER CLEARING PROCEDURES.</b>   |
| 25 YDS   | 1     | Standing Weak Side<br>Standing Strong Side<br>Barricade  | 2 Magazines<br>1 - 8 Rounds<br>1 - 6 Rounds | 12<br><br>(12 Rds)<br>Total | 60 Sec | Prepare two (2) magazines, one (1) with six (6) rounds and one (1) with eight (8) rounds. Secure the six (6) round magazine in magazine pouch. Load, charge and holster with the eight (8) round magazine.<br><br>Target faces, fire six (6) shots from the weak side standing barricade position, <b>TACTICAL RELOAD</b> with the six (6) round magazine, move to a strong side standing barricade position and fire six (6) more shots in sixty (60) seconds. <b>EXECUTE PROPER CLEARING PROCEDURES AND HOLSTER A SAFE AND EMPTY WEAPON. A LIVE ROUND SHOULD EJECT.</b> |
|          |       |  |   | (12 Rds)<br>Total           |        |   |

NOTE: U.S. CUSTOMS CAT #1 TARGET WILL BE USED.

TOTAL ROUNDS = 60  
POSSIBLE SCORE = 300

**SCORING:**

1. Course requires 4 head shots at 7 yard line.
2. Score body of target and total.
3. Score head shots as 4's and 5's and total. Head shots must be touching or above an imaginary line 10" below the top of the head.
4. Deduct 5 points each from the body total for any body shots beyond 32 hits.

# Interim CBP Use of Force and Firearms Guidelines

## Attachment 3

OBP 72 Round Course of Fire

## CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (OBP) 72 ROUND SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL COURSE OF FIRE

| DISTANCE   | STAGE | POSITION                                      | MAGAZINES   | SHOTS  | TIME  | DESCRIPTION/COMMANDS  |
|------------|-------|---|---|--|-------|---|
| 1.5<br>YDS | 1     | Standing, one handed,<br>hip level bent elbow | Weapon loaded<br>with 12 rounds.  | 1,2,3<br><br>(6 Total)   | 2 Sec | <p>Prepare at least four (4) eleven round magazines. Load, charge and holster. Top the off weapon with one (1) round. Scan and perform checkpoints to the holster. Top off magazine pouch.</p> <p>When the threat appears, draw and fire 1 shot. When threat goes away, scan and perform post firing procedures to the holster. On the next facing, fire 2 shots, returning to the holster after the threat goes away. On the third facing fire 3 shots. Scan and holster</p> <p>Note: Prior to holstering throughout this entire 72 round course of fire, the shooter will perform the following checkpoints prior to holstering his/her weapon. After threat goes away, lower the pistol to high search, pause, take finger off of the trigger and scan. Bring weapon to ready pistol, pause and scan.. Check condition of the weapon, holster with a shooting grip, pause and scan. Snap weapon into holster</p> |
| 3 YDS      | 1     | Standing, two handed<br>point shoulder        | Weapon loaded<br>with 12 rounds<br>with an additional<br>11 rd magazine<br>available for an<br>emergency<br>reload  | 1,2,3<br><br>(6 Total)   | 3 Sec | <p>When target appears, draw and fire 1 shot, re-holster. On the second facing draw and fire 2 shots, re-holster. On the third facing draw and fire 3 shots. When slide locks to the rear after the last shot, perform an emergency reload top off the weapon and perform checkpoints back to the holster.</p>  |
| 7 YDS      | 1     | Standing, two handed.                         | Weapon loaded<br>with 12 rounds<br>with an additional<br>11 rd magazine<br>available for an<br>emergency<br>reload. | 1 +1<br>2+2<br>3+3<br><br>(12 Total<br>on part 1<br>of 7 yard<br>line) | 3 Sec | <p>Target faces, draw and fire 1 shot, when threat edges away, shooter will go to high search, finger on the trigger and the hammer forward. When target reappears, the shooter will fire 1 additional shot. After the threat goes away, the shooter will perform post firing procedures to the holster. On the next series the shooter will repeat this process firing 2 shots from the holster and 2 additional shots from high search. On the third series the shooter will repeat this process firing 3 shots with 3 additional shots from high search. The shooter will perform an emergency reload, checkpoints to the holster and top off the weapon.</p>  |

# CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (OBP) 72 ROUND SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL COURSE OF FIRE

| DISTANCE | STAGE | POSITION   | MAGAZINES  | SHOTS  | TIME      | DESCRIPTION/COMMANDS  |
|----------|-------|--|--|--|-----------|---|
| 7 YDS    | 2     | Standing two handed, right hand only and left hand only. | Weapon loaded with 12 rounds with an additional 1 1 rd magazine available for an emergency reload. | 2+1  | 6 seconds | Transition to right handed shooting. When the threat appears, the shooter will draw and fire two shots two handed, transition to right hand only and fire one additional round right hand only for a total of 3 shots in 6 seconds.   |
|          |       |  |  | 3  | 5 Seconds | When the threat goes away, the shooter will come to high search right hand only, the finger on the trigger and the hammer forward. When the threat reappears, the shooter will fire an additional 3 shots right hand only in 5 seconds. When the threat goes away, the shooter will reestablish a two handed grip and execute checkpoints to the holster.                                     |
|          |       |  |  | 2+1  | 6 Seconds | Transition to left handed shooting. When the threat appears, the shooter will draw and fire two shots two handed, transition to left hand only and fire one additional round left hand only for a total of 3 shots in 6 seconds.  |
|          |       |  |  | 3  | 5 Seconds | When the threat goes away, the shooter will come to high search left hand only, finger on the trigger with the hammer forward. When the threat reappears, the shooter will fire an additional 3 shots left hand only in 5 seconds. The shooter will perform an emergency reload and execute checkpoints to the holster.   |
|          |       |  |  | (A total of 24 round to be fired on the 7 yard line) |           | At this point the instructor will either have the shooters perform a proper clearing procedure, or allow them to remain loaded and remind them of the condition of their weapon.<br><br><b>Score the targets. 36 shots for possible 180 points. Reface with a new target, writing front half score and name on new target in preparation for the second half of the qualification course.</b> |

## CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (OBP) 72 ROUND SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL COURSE OF FIRE

| DISTANCE | STAGE | POSITION             | MAGAZINES   | SHOTS  | TIME   | DESCRIPTION/COMMANDS   |
|----------|-------|----------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 15 YDS   | 1     | Standing             | Start with loaded weapon with 12 rounds. Have 2 11 round magazines in magazine pouch for reloads. | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4   | 3 Seconds<br>4 Seconds<br>5 Seconds<br>6 Seconds | Draw and fire 1 round, checkpoints to the holster.<br>Draw and fire 2 rounds checkpoints to the holster.<br>Draw and fire 3 rounds, checkpoints to the holster.<br>Draw and fire 4 rounds, checkpoints to the holster.   |
|          | 2     | Standing to Kneeling | Weapon loaded with 12 rounds with an additional 11 rd magazine available for an emergency reload. | 2+2  | 12 Seconds                                       | If the shooter did not fire the correct number of rounds, he/she must adjust the number of rounds in their weapon. The weapon must have 1 round in the magazine and 1 round in the chamber.<br>Shooter will draw and fire 2 shots, perform and emergency reload while dropping to the kneeling position and fire two rounds in the kneeling position. When the threat goes away the shooter goes to the kneeling high search position with their finger on the trigger and the hammer forward. |
|          | 3     | Kneeling             | 1 magazine loaded with an 11 rd magazine for a magazine exchange.                                 | 1<br>2<br>3  | 3 Seconds<br>4 Seconds<br>5 Seconds              | When threat appears, shooter will fire one round. When the threat goes away, shooter will return to kneeling high search.<br>When threat appears, shooter will fire two rounds. When the threat goes away, shooter will return to kneeling high search.<br>When threat appears, shooter will fire three rounds. When the threat goes away, shooter will perform a magazine exchange, holster, snap in and come to their feet.  |
|          |       |                      |   | (A total of 20 rounds are to be fired from the 15 yard line) |  |  |

## CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (OBP) 72 ROUND SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL COURSE OF FIRE

| DISTANCE | STAGE | POSITION   | MAGAZINES   | SHOTS   | TIME       | DESCRIPTION/COMMANDS  |
|----------|-------|--|---|---|------------|---|
| 25 YDS   | 1     | Right side barricade, standing and kneeling. Shooter will start one step to the right and one step to the rear of the barricade. | Start with a loaded weapon and have an 11 round magazine available for a magazine exchange. | 8   | 30 Seconds | When the threat appears, the shooter will step into cover, draw and fire 4 rounds in the standing right side barricade position. The shooter will move back into cover with his/her finger off of the trigger, kneel on their right knee and fire 4 rounds in the kneeling right side barricade position. When the threat goes away, the shooter will perform a magazine exchange, holster, snap in and come to their feet.   |
|          | 2     | Left side barricade, standing and kneeling. Shooter will start one step to the left and one step to the rear of the barricade.   |   | 8<br><br>(A total of 16 rounds will be fired from the 25 yard line) | 30 Seconds | When the threat appears, the shooter will step into cover, draw and fire 4 rounds in the standing left side barricade position. The shooter will move back into cover with his/her finger off of the trigger, kneel on their left knee and fire 4 rounds in the kneeling left side barricade position. When the threat goes away, the shooter will perform a proper clearing procedure, holster, snap in before coming to their feet.<br><br><b>Score second half which consists of 36 shots for a possible 180 points. Add front half totals and the back half totals.</b> |

NOTE: TQ-15 TARGET WILL BE USED.

TOTAL ROUNDS= 72  
 POSSIBLE SCORE = 360  
 MINIMUM PASSING SCORE= 252 or a 70%

# Interim CBP Use of Force and Firearms Guidelines

## Attachment 4

U. S. Customs and Border Protection

Employee Acknowledgement

As a CBP Employee who is authorized to carry a firearm, you are required to comply with and be thoroughly familiar with all aspects of this interim guidance. You have been provided a complete copy of the interim CBP Use of Force and Firearms Guidelines and have been given the opportunity to discuss the contents of this document with your supervisor or other management official.

By signing this statement, you acknowledge your possession of a copy of the interim CBP Use of Force and Firearms Guidelines and your personal obligation to comply with all sections therein.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Officer's Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Officer's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Duty Station

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor's Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor's Signature