



*San Diego County*

**SHERIFF**

Kelly A. Martinez  
Sheriff

Detention Services Bureau, Detention In-Service Training Unit

GC 7922.000 - Work Phone

## LINE-UP TRAINING

### Common Shooting Errors

### Topic # 84

*After discussing/reviewing the below training material in line-up (briefing), sworn staff shall sign off as completed in LMS. In the event a staff member is not present when this topic is discussed in line-up, they shall independently read, review, and complete the training.*

*By clicking "Yes" to "Have you completed this activity?" in LMS, you are attesting that you have viewed, read, and completed the training activity.*

#### I. PURPOSE

To familiarize staff with commonly observed shooting errors.

#### II. DISCUSSION

##### Fundamentals of Marksmanship:

1. **Stance:** Provides stability for recoil management and follow through. Forward center of gravity and natural point of aim (hips and chest facing threat) reinforces shooting stance and posture.
2. **Grip:** Provides control of muzzle flip and return of sight alignment on target. Your grip encompasses the entire structure: Hands, wrists, forearms, and elbows.
3. **Trigger Control:** Once the trigger is prepped (Wall), isolating the trigger finger to minimize activating other fingers while applying constant pressure straight to the rear. Learning how to prep the trigger during recoil before the sights settle is the most difficult fundamental to master, and the first fundamental to diminish under pressure.
4. **Sight Focus/Target Focus:** The human eye can only focus on 1 object at a time. Therefore, iron sight shooters, must *focus on the front sight* to deliver precise shots on target. Iron sight shooter can train to shoot with both eyes open to deliver accurate shots (combat accuracy with acceptable margin of error within target) on target while maintaining a wider field of view. For Pistol Mounted Optic shooters, you must *focus on the target* while keeping both eyes open. It allows the shooter to deliver fast and accurate shots on target while maintaining a wider field of view and situational awareness.



## Common Shooting Errors

1. **Anticipation:** Subconsciously attempting to counter the felt recoil by physically pushing forward before the shot.
2. **Breaking the wrist:** Poor leverage on grip and not stiffening the wrist/forearms.
3. **Trigger finger placement:** The trigger finger should rest flat and evenly against the trigger face allowing constant pressure against it straight to the rear. If the trigger finger rests at an angle against the trigger face, pressure will be applied against the sides causing the gun to move to the left or right when pressing the trigger.
4. **Jerking the trigger:** Applying too much pressure too fast to the trigger. Not prepping and pressing the trigger.
5. **Curling:** Gripping too hard with dominant hand (white knuckle) causing the hand to curl in. Difficult to isolate trigger finger for smooth prep and press when the entire hand is tense.
6. **Thumb placement:** Pressing down on slide release with dominant hand thumb can cause the slide to not lock to the rear when magazine runs dry. Applying too much pressure against the slide with support hand thumb can cause failure to feed malfunctions.

