

# SPECIAL ORDER

*Justice Enhancement Series*



Title

**Weapons Qualification  
No-Show Consequences**

Series / Number

**SO-02-19**

Effective Date

**June 17, 2002**

Distribution

**A**

Expiration Date

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Related to

**GO-RAR-901.01 (Use of Firearms and  
Other Service Weapons)**

## I. BACKGROUND

It is the responsibility of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to provide weapons training that will enable its members to safely, effectively and efficiently handle any situation so as to reduce the probability of using deadly force. Toward that end, officers are required to qualify with their service pistol twice a year. This training is mandatory; therefore, in order to stress the seriousness of this training and to provide for fair and consistent discipline for instances of lateness or failure to fulfill the training commitment, the officer may face corrective or adverse action.

## II. POLICY

The policy of the Metropolitan Police Department is to ensure that every officer receives weapons training and upon failing to report for training the officer shall be subject to corrective or adverse action.

## III. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

### A. Qualification Requirements

1. All members shall qualify with their service pistol and authorized off-duty firearm every six months. Members shall be required to qualify *at least once* during the period between January 1st through June 30th and *at least once* during the period July 1st through December 31st. (CALEA 1.3.11)
2. Commanding officers shall ensure that all members of their command who are authorized to carry a department service pistol are in compliance with the bi-annual qualification requirements.
3. Any member failing to report for qualification as designated above shall, upon due notice from the Range Officer, have his/her police powers revoked until properly qualified, and shall be subject to corrective or adverse action. (CALEA 1.3.10)

### B. Penalties (CALEA 26.1.4)

1. Penalties for failure to report for training shall be administered as follows:
  - a. A member's first instance of an unjustified lateness or no-show for weapons training within a 12-month period shall result in a recommendation to his/her commanding officer for corrective action by the issuance of a PD Form 750 (Dereliction Report).
  - b. An officer's second instance of an unjustified lateness or no-show for weapons training within a 12-month period shall result in a recommendation to the commanding officer for corrective action by the issuance of a Letter of Prejudice or an Official Reprimand.
  - c. Each subsequent instance of unjustified lateness or no-show for weapons training within a 12-month period shall result in a recommendation to the Department Disciplinary Review Officer (DDRO) that the member be cited for adverse action.
  - d. In determining the appropriate penalty for a member's violation, the investigating official shall consider the totality of the circumstances surrounding the violation, including but not limited to the following:
    - (1) The reason for the latenesses or failures to appear, and
    - (2) The number of previous latenesses or failures to appear.

**C. Current Certification Status**

Any unjustified lateness or no-show which results in a member failing to be re-certified with his/her issued service pistol during the current re-certification phase will result in a recommendation to the Department Disciplinary Review Officer (DDRO) that the member be cited for Adverse Action.

\* This special order shall remain in effect until officially revised, rescinded or incorporated into the appropriate general order.

// SIGNED //  
Charles H. Ramsey  
Chief of Police