



Kern County Sheriff's Office **Policies and Procedures**

TITLE: Distinguished Marksman Designation			NO: G-0210
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
EFFECTIVE: 06/03/2025	REVIEWED: 06/03/2025	REVISED: 06/03/2025	UPDATED: 06/03/2025

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Distinguished Marksman Designation is to enhance the firearms proficiency, motivation, and overall morale of sworn personnel within the Kern County Sheriff's Office. Recognizing that firearms training is a perishable skill, the program seeks to encourage ongoing development and refinement of marksmanship abilities beyond the standard quarterly qualifications.

Developed by the Firearms Training Unit, this initiative introduces a non-monetary, performance-based incentive designed to inspire continuous improvement and foster a culture of excellence in firearms handling. The Distinguished Marksman Designation aims to create a structured opportunity for personnel to demonstrate exceptional proficiency with their issued primary pistol.

Successful participants will be awarded a department-authorized lapel pin, signifying their achievement and promoting professional pride.

POLICY

The Distinguished Marksman Designation can be achieved by any Kern County Sheriff's Office, POST certified Deputy ranks, Park Ranger ranks, or PC 832 certified Detentions Deputy ranks. Employees will be given the chance to earn the Distinguished Marksman Designation on the day of their scheduled qualification.

POST certified Deputies and Park Rangers must achieve the Distinguished Marksman score on the date and time of their scheduled qualification, on their first attempt for that quarter. The Distinguished Marksman Designation cannot be achieved during a remediation or reshoot of any kind.

PC 832 certified Detentions Deputies must request to shoot the Distinguished Marksman course immediately following their qualification after having first attained a perfect 36/36 score on their PC 832 firearms qualification, during their first attempt on that date, and having maintained armed status for a minimum of 12 months prior to the test.

Lapel Uniform Pin

Upon successful completion of this achievement, the employee will be awarded a ¾ inch in diameter lapel pin. The lapel pin will be worn with in accordance with KCSOPPM K-0900.



Level of Achievements

Upon the recipient's first successful completion of this achievement, the recipient will be awarded a lapel uniform pin by the Rangemaster or designee. This lapel uniform pin will be a lifetime achievement, and the recipient will be authorized to wear this pin for the duration of their career. You can only earn one (1) pin within the same calendar year.

If the recipient achieves this award in any subsequent year (does not have to be consecutive), they will receive an additional pin that will have a number in the center of the pin, signifying how many times the recipient has earned this achievement. The maximum number of achievements for this program will be five (5) total.

Course of Fire

The qualification course for the Distinguished Marksman Designation will be the current POST pistol qualification course of fire (30 rounds), with the same time constraints. The only difference between the courses of fire is the size of the target zone. The target areas to achieve the Distinguished Marksman Designation are reduced in size.

The qualification course requires three (3) magazines loaded with ten (10) rounds in each magazine. If the shooter encounters a non-shooter induced malfunction, they must properly clear the malfunction to be awarded an alibi (a second attempt at the string of fire). The shooter must get a perfect score to accomplish this achievement, and the target will be scored by the Rangemaster or designee and must be verified by at least one (1) additional rangemaster or assistant rangemaster.

The qualification course is as follows:

- **3 Yard Line:** Draw and fire 2 rounds to the body (3 seconds).
- **3 Yard Line:** Draw and fire 2 rounds to the body and then fire 2 rounds to the head (6 seconds).

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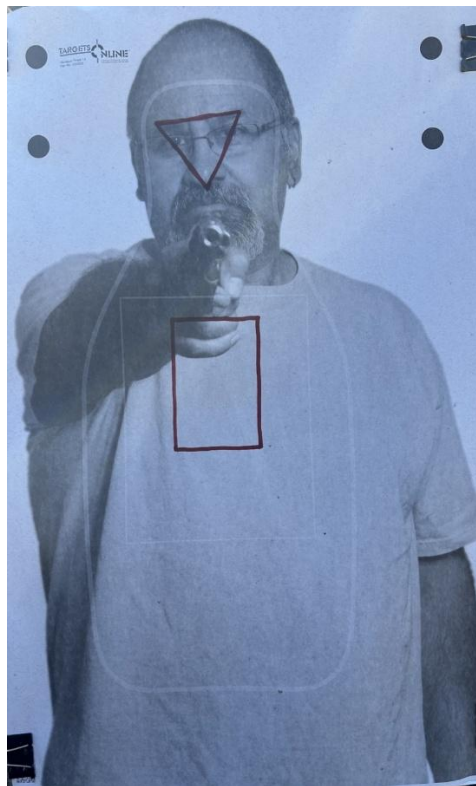
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- **5 Yard Line:** Draw and fire 2 rounds to the body and then fire 2 rounds to the head (7 seconds), then conduct a speed reload.
- **5 Yard Line:** Draw and fire 2 rounds to the body (4 seconds). This drill will be completed two (2) times.
- **7 Yard Line:** Draw and fire 2 rounds to the body (5 seconds), then conduct a tactical reload with proper communication. This drill will be completed three (3) times.
- **10 Yard Line:** Draw and fire 2 rounds to the body (5 seconds). This drill will be completed three (3) times.
- **20 Yard Line:** Draw and fire 2 rounds to the body (no time limit).
- **20 Yard Line:** Draw and fire 1 (one) round to the body, conduct a speed reload, and fire 1 (one) round to the body (no time limit).

Target

The Distinguished Marksman course of fire will utilize the same qualification target that is currently used for POST certified employees' qualification course. The target zones will be the triangle inside the head of the silhouette, and the small rectangle box within the torso of the silhouette. The target areas for the Distinguished Marksman Designation are bold outlined in the target image below.

At a minimum each bullet fired must be accounted for and the bullet hole must perforate the inside section of the line, however slight, of the required targeting area to be counted as a positive hit.



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