

**Nebraska State Patrol Recruit Class 57**  
**Journal: Week #5**

Week 5 for Class 57 started Sunday Evening on 20March2016. We were told that Week 5 “Range Week” was going to be a whole new challenge and would be very dynamic. We were told as well, that we were going to have a lot of eyes on us, with multiple Troopers from all over the state coming to the Training Academy to instruct Class 57 on firearm training. We were 21 recruits strong and very eager to start the intensive firearm training that the Nebraska State Patrol requires.

The initial firearm training the class went through was just getting familiar of the Glock 21 SF and how to properly maintain and disassemble it with ease. After that it was to the shooting line. Throughout the week, Camp 57 fired thousands of rounds down range, and with over a dozen of Firearm Instructor’s, many received one on one training.

Tuesday was a very big day for us; we stayed out on the range till 2300 or 11pm at night so that we could shoot under low light situations and use our mounted lights and learn how to shoot with a flashlight in our off hand. The weather was not in our favor, and we took it head on because we understood that the challenges we faced in the academy, will be nothing compared to what we could face out on the road after graduation.

Wednesday we went straight to the range and shot a practice qualification course to see how we would do after two straight days of consistent shooting and the results were great. We also went over shot placement and went over more training on clearing jams and practiced how the clear them properly. It was also today that the class received their duty issued AR-15s. We went over a lot of nomenclature about this firearm.

Thursday’s highlight of the day would have to be the Class shooting the dueling tree challenge against each other. This challenge required the class to use everything we learned to shoot with great accuracy and speed against an opponent. The winning recruit then had the pleasure in competing against the Lead Firearm Instructor.

Friday was a big day. Colonel Brad Rice conducted our formal inspection, and though many were nervous, we had a very good inspection but still had room for some improvements. After the formal inspection we went out to the range and shot back to back final qualifications. All 21 recruits qualified with high scores, which was by far the result of outstanding instruction by the many instructors we had throughout the week. Another major part of Friday was the Class running a combat obstacle course set up by the Firearm instructors. The week was filled with adverse opportunities and tough challenges but we really got focused and worked as a team throughout.

***For It Is Our Duty***