The Daily Observation Report (DOR) and Narrative Evaluation are key components of the Field Training Program. In combination, these forms document the trainee’s level of performance for each required category and clearly identify areas of competency, outstanding performance, or the need for remedial training.

Numeric and NICS Rating Scales

In order to effectively track the trainee’s progress, the FTO uses the DOR to rate each observed behavior using one of two rating scales: Numeric or NICS. The Numeric Scale measures performance on a sliding scale between 1 and 7. The NICS Scale uses three ratings: NI–Needs Improvement, C–Competent, and S–Superior. Each observed behavior is rated according to POST’s Standardized Evaluation Guidelines (SEGs) as described in Appendix 1 in the FTP Guide. Agencies decide which rating method best meets their particular needs.

A rating of “1” or “N/I” indicates the observed behavior is Unacceptable or Needs Improvement, a rating of “4” or “C” meets the minimal standard of Acceptable or Competent, and “7” or “S” indicates the trainee’s performance is at a Superior level. The DOR also provides checkboxes if a behavior is not observed (N/O) or if the trainee is not responding to training (NRT). The trainee, FTO, and FTO SAC are required to sign all DORs.

Narrative Evaluation

Any ratings of “1” or “7” on the numeric scale or “N/I” or “S” on the NICS scale require a documented situation (DS) to describe the event which resulted in either of those ratings. The FTO checks the DS box on the DOR and documents the event using the Narrative Evaluation form. The trainee, FTO, and FTO SAC are required to sign all Narrative Evaluations.

Both the DOR and Narrative Evaluation forms contain detailed instructions. They can be printed and filled in by hand or filled in electronically. The Narrative Evaluation form includes continuation pages for additional comments. The trainee, FTO, and FTO SAC are required to initial all continuation pages.

The following links will open the applicable files for the DOR and Narrative Evaluation form for either the Numeric or NICS rating scales:

DOR & Narrative Evaluation – Numeric Scale
DOR & Narrative Evaluation – NICS Scale