



EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy Manual

POLICY 502

Firearms

POLICY 502

EFFECTIVE DATE: 8/19/26

SUPERSEDES DATE: 10/16/24

ACCREDITATION STANDARD: N/A

502.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for issuing firearms, the safe and legal carrying of firearms, firearms maintenance, and firearms training. This policy does not apply to issues related to the use of firearms that are addressed in the Use of Force or DFIT policies. This policy only applies to those members who are authorized to carry firearms.

502.1.1 AUTHORIZATION TO CARRY FIREARMS (C.R.S. 16-2.5-101) and (C.R.S. 16-2.5-103(2))

1. A person included in the provisions of this article and who meets all standards imposed by law on a peace officer is a peace officer, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person other than a person designated in this article is a peace officer. A peace officer may be certified by the peace officer standards and training board pursuant to part 3 of article 31 of title 24, C.R.S., and, at a minimum, has the authority to enforce all laws of the state of Colorado while acting within the scope of their authority and in the performance of their duties, unless otherwise limited within this part.
2. A peace officer certified by the peace officers' standards and training board shall always have the authority to carry firearms, concealed or otherwise, subject to the written firearms policy created by the agency employing the peace officer. All other peace officers shall have the authority to carry firearms, concealed or otherwise, while engaged in the performance of their duties or as otherwise authorized by the written policy of the agency employing the officer.
3. A Deputy who does not have a full POST Certification is authorized to carry a concealed weapon while engaged in the performance of their duties. When not on duty, a deputy who is not POST Certified has the right to open carry under Colorado law. A Reserve Deputy or a Deputy who is not POST certified will be issued a concealed weapons permit under C.R.S. 16-2.5-101 (2) upon completion of either the Reserve or Non-Certified Academy.
4. As used in every statute, unless the context otherwise requires, "law enforcement officer" means a peace officer.
5. A Deputy Recruit who has met all Colorado POST and EPSO rules for employment and is attending the Basic Academy is authorized to possess Office-issued firearms for the duration of that Academy in accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws.

502.2 DEFINITIONS

The following terms used in this policy are defined in the [Sheriff's Office Glossary of Terms](#).

Cruiser Ready Condition
Tactical Condition
Fire Condition
Safe Condition

Storage Condition
Back-Up Weapon
Off-Duty Weapon
Optical Weapon Sight (OWS)

Primary Duty Weapon System
Secondary Duty Weapon System
Tactical Weapon Light

502.3 POLICY

The Sheriff's Office will equip its members with firearms to address the risks posed to the public and Office members by violent and sometimes well-armed persons. The Office will ensure firearms are appropriate and in good working order and that relevant training is provided as resources allow.

502.4 USE OF FIREARM DIRECTIVES

502.4.1 DISPLAY OF FIREARMS

Except for training and educational presentations, employees shall not draw or display their personally owned or department-issued firearms to the general public unless circumstances cause the employee to believe it may be necessary to lawfully use these items in accordance with the provisions of this policy.



EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy Manual

POLICY 502

502.4.2 FIREARMS DISCHARGE

Except during training or recreational use, any member who discharges a firearm intentionally or unintentionally, on or off-duty, including euthanizing an animal, shall make a verbal report to their supervisor as soon as circumstances permit. If the discharge results in injury or death to another person, additional statements and reports shall be made in accordance with the policy. If a firearm was discharged as a use of force, the involved member shall adhere to the additional reporting requirements outlined in the Use of Force Policy.

1. If on duty at the time of the incident, the member shall file a written report and provide a recorded statement to investigators in accordance with the Use of Force and DFIT policies unless otherwise directed.
2. If off-duty at the time of the incident, a written report shall be submitted or a recorded statement in accordance with the Use of Force and DFIT policies unless otherwise directed by a supervisor.
3. For accidental discharge of a firearm, refer to EPSO Policy for internal Complaint Handling/Investigation Procedure for additional guidance

502.4.3 DESTRUCTION OF ANIMALS

Members are authorized to use firearms to stop an animal when the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety, and alternative methods are not reasonably available or would likely be ineffective. When there is sufficient advance notice that a potentially dangerous animal may be encountered, office members should develop reasonable contingency plans for dealing with the animal (e.g., fire extinguisher, EMDT device, oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, animal control officer). Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any member from shooting a dangerous animal if circumstances reasonably dictate that a contingency plan has failed or becomes impractical.

In addition to general training regarding the use of firearms, the Training Director shall ensure that training is provided on encounters with dogs in the course of duty as required by CRS § 29-5-112. At a minimum, the training must cover the policies and procedures adopted by this office.

502.4.4 INJURED ANIMALS

Deputies may euthanize an animal when, in their judgment and the opinion of a licensed veterinarian, the animal is experiencing extreme pain or suffering or is severely injured, disabled, or diseased past recovery and where other dispositions are impractical. In the event a licensed veterinarian is not available, the animal may be euthanized at the request of the owner or by the written certificate of two persons called to view the animal (CRS § 35-42-110). Injured wildlife may be euthanized whenever the deputy determines that no other reasonable action would be practical, humane, or effective for the rehabilitation of the wildlife (2 CCR 406-14:1405).

502.4.5 WARNING AND OTHER SHOTS

Warning shots are not authorized. Shots fired for the purpose of summoning aid are discouraged and may not be discharged unless the member reasonably believes that they appear necessary, effective, and reasonably safe.

502.4.6 DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Firearms shall not be carried by any member, either on or off-duty, who has consumed any amount of an alcoholic beverage, taken any drugs or medication, or has taken any combination thereof that would tend to affect the member's senses or judgment adversely. Provisions for undercover investigative operations may be made with the Investigation Commander's approval.

502.4.7 FIREARM STORAGE

Personnel authorized to carry firearms are responsible for the safe and secure storage of all Sheriff's Office firearms. Sheriff's Office-issued handguns, shotguns, rifles, and approved backup or off-duty handguns that are not in the immediate control of an authorized employee will be stored safely and securely either by utilizing the issued gunlock, a locking storage device, or in a weapons locker. Handguns will not be left in plain view inside a Sheriff's Office vehicle or privately owned vehicle. The handguns should be stored in a glove box that can be locked or in the vehicle's trunk. The rifle or shotgun should be secured in a Sheriff's Office vehicle utilizing a locking gun rack or in the vehicle's trunk.



EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy Manual

POLICY 502

502.4.8 FIREARM STORAGE AT HOME

Members shall ensure that all firearms and ammunition are locked and secured while in their homes, vehicles, or any other area under their control and in a manner that will keep them inaccessible to children and others who should not have access. Members shall not permit office-issued firearms to be handled by anyone not authorized by the Office. Members should be aware that negligent firearm storage could result in civil liability.

502.4.9 FIREARM SAFEKEEPING

Office-issued firearms shall be placed into safekeeping with the Range Supervisor / Range Master when the member will be unable to report for duty for more than 30 days. The first-line supervisor of a member unable to report for duty is responsible for coordinating the delivery of the weapon to the Range Supervisor / Range Master. Examples of situations when a weapon(s) should be placed into safekeeping may include, but are not limited to:

1. FMLA/Medical Leave.
2. Military Deployment.
3. Administrative Leave.

502.4.10 FIREARM MAINTENANCE

1. Personnel authorized to carry firearms are responsible for the maintenance and serviceability of their equipment. Firearms are to be cleaned and inspected regularly to ensure serviceability.
2. Personnel will inspect their firearms, holsters, and ammunition before any duty assignment.
3. Personnel will clean their firearms following any duty where weather or circumstances will likely soil the weapon.
4. Personnel will clean their firearms following any training or qualification.
5. Immediate Supervisors are strongly encouraged to periodically inspect all weapons to verify personnel are following the weapon maintenance policy.

502.5 AUTHORIZED FIREARMS

Members shall only use firearms that are issued or approved by the Office and have been thoroughly inspected by the Range Supervisor / Range Master. Except in an emergency or as directed by a supervisor, no firearm shall be carried by a member who has not qualified with that firearm at an authorized Office range.

502.5.1 DUTY WEAPONS UNIFORMED DEPUTIES AND SECURITY OFFICERS

The Office-issued duty weapon for deputies and security officers is the Glock Model 45 MOS5 semi-automatic in 9mm. Any duty Glock Model 45 handguns carried as a primary duty weapon must be equipped with a weapon-mounted light such as the Streamlight TLR-1HL, Trijicon Ruggedized Miniature Reflex Sight (RMR), and self-illuminating sights powered by tritium vials or similar, also known as "Night Sights."

502.5.2 SPECIALIZED UNITS

The following is a list of authorized special teams' weapons. Duty ammunition for these weapons varies and is approved by the Training Section.

1. Remington Model 700 Sniper Rifle, Caliber.308
2. LWRC international Model AR-10 (R.E.P.R.), Caliber.308
3. Heckler-Koch MP-5 Submachine Gun, Caliber 9mm
4. Ruger 10-22, semi-automatic rifle (suppressed), Caliber.22 (e)
5. Colt M-16/AR-15/MK18, Caliber 5.56/.223
6. Winchester and Marlin "Lever Action" Carbine, Caliber 30/30
7. Remington Model 1187, semi-automatic, 12 GA Shotgun.
8. Remington Model 870, pump-action, 12 GA Shotgun.

Due to the nature of tactical team deployments, certain modifications such as shortened barrels, suppressors, telescopic sights, and laser aiming devices may be approved for their applications only.

1. No modifications are to be made without specific prior approval from respective division commanders.



EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy Manual

POLICY 502

502.5.3 PLAINCLOTHES DEPUTIES

Plainclothes deputies assigned to a special unit or plain clothes assignments may be issued a Glock Model 45 MOS5 or Glock 43 in 9mm. If a deputy is assigned to a plainclothes assignment, either temporarily or full-time, and the deputy is not issued a Glock 43, the deputy may utilize a personally owned weapon as an alternate primary duty weapon while working in their plain clothes assignment. Assignments, when an alternate primary duty weapon may be used, include but are not limited to:

1. VNI or similar undercover assignments.
2. Investigations Division.
3. Internal Affairs.
4. Out-of-state extraditions.
5. Sworn member attending training or other administrative functions while armed.

A deputy who chooses to carry an alternate primary duty weapon must have the weapon inspected annually by the Range Supervisor / Range Master in accordance with this policy. Additionally, the alternate primary duty weapon must meet the following criteria:

1. The alternate primary duty weapon must meet the manufacturer requirements outlined in Policy 502.6.
2. The alternate primary duty weapon must be a semi-automatic pistol with a total capacity of at least 7 rounds (6 + 1).
3. The alternate primary duty weapon must be chambered in 9mm, 40 S&W, or 45 ACP.
4. Deputies should carry a reload for the alternate primary duty weapon if carrying the reload would not compromise their safety.

The following additional guidelines will be adhered to:

1. Complete weapons qualification at least twice yearly with the issued Glock 43 or personally owned alternate primary duty weapon (whichever is applicable). The course will be designed by the Range Supervisor / Range Master and specific to these firearms and forms of carry.
2. If the deputy carries their primary duty weapon in a position other than the traditional strong side duty belt holster position, they must qualify with their duty weapon from all other positions the weapon is routinely carried, i.e., tactical vest mounted holster.

When plainclothes deputies transition to a uniformed assignment, they must carry an Office-issued Glock Model 45 MOS5.

502.5.4 AUTHORIZED BACKUP FIREARMS

Sworn personnel desiring to carry an office or personally owned backup handgun are subject to the following restrictions:

1. The handgun will meet the requirements set forth in this policy.
2. Only one backup handgun may be carried at a time.
3. The purchase of the handgun will be the responsibility of the member, and the Office will provide the ammunition.
4. The handgun shall be carried concealed at all times and in such a manner as to prevent unintentional cocking, discharge, or loss of physical control.
5. The Range Supervisor / Range Master/Armorer shall inspect the handgun before being carried and, after that, shall be subject to inspection whenever it is deemed necessary.
6. Before carrying the backup handgun, members shall qualify from the position; it will be carried under range supervision and, after that, shall qualify in accordance with the office qualification schedule. Members must demonstrate proficiency and safe handling.

Security officers are not authorized to carry a backup handgun while performing their duties.

502.5.5 AUTHORIZED OFF-DUTY FIREARMS

The carrying of firearms by fully POST Certified members while off-duty is permitted by the Sheriff but may be rescinded should circumstances dictate (e.g., administrative leave). Members who choose to carry a firearm while off-duty, based on their authority as peace officers, will be required to meet the following guidelines:

1. A deputy may carry his issued duty handgun or a personally owned handgun while Off Duty.
2. The purchase of the personally owned handgun and ammunition shall be the member's responsibility.



EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy Manual

POLICY 502

3. If using a personally owned weapon, it must meet the requirements set forth in 502.6 - Firearms Storage, Inspection, and Registration.
4. The handgun shall always be carried concealed and in such a manner as to prevent unintentional cocking, discharge, or loss of physical control.
5. It will be the member's responsibility to submit the handgun to the Range Supervisor / Range Master/Armorer for inspection before being personally carried. After that, the handgun shall be subject to periodic inspection by the Range Supervisor / Range Master.
6. Before carrying the off-duty handgun, members shall qualify from the position it will be carried under range supervision and, after that, shall qualify in accordance with the office qualification schedule. Members must demonstrate proficiency and safe handling.
7. Members shall only carry office-authorized ammunition.
8. When armed, deputies shall carry their badges and Sheriff's Office identification cards under circumstances requiring possession of such identification.

Security Officers are not authorized to carry Office-issued weapons while not in uniform. Security Officers are not law enforcement officers and must adhere to all state statutes and local ordinances related to the carrying of personally owned firearms by civilians when off duty.

502.5.6 SECONDARY DUTY WEAPONS SYSTEMS 12 GAUGE DUTY SHOTGUNS

The purpose of the duty shotgun is to enhance the tactical capabilities of law enforcement personnel by augmenting the service pistol and patrol rifle, as appropriate. Shotguns will be deployed according to policy and training. 12 Gauge shotguns will be issued as required by the assignment. Authorized ammunition is 00 Buckshot. Rifled Slugs may also be issued when deemed tactically necessary. The Range Supervisor / Range Master/Armorer must inspect all shotguns before duty use. Deputies must first qualify with the shotgun before carrying it on duty. If a deputy changes weapons, they must qualify with the new shotgun before carrying it on duty. Deputies authorized to carry a shotgun desiring to carry a personally owned shotgun while on duty must meet the following criteria:

1. Written approval from their respective bureau chief.
2. The weapon will be inspected and approved by the Range Supervisor / Range Master/Armorer before written approval and qualification.
3. 12-gauge pump or semi-auto made by an approved manufacturer in 502.6 - Firearms Storage, Inspection, and Registration.
4. Must have an operational safety mechanism and a sear disconnect.
5. A barrel length of at least 18 inches and no more than 21 inches.
6. Rigid or collapsible shoulder-mounted stock in universal or pistol-grip configuration.
7. Pistol grip stocks without a shoulder buttstock are not authorized.

Security officers are not authorized to carry a shotgun while performing their duties without prior approval from the Range Supervisor / Range Master.

502.5.7 DUTY PATROL RIFLE

The purpose of the patrol rifle is to enhance the tactical capabilities of law enforcement personnel by augmenting the service pistol and shotgun, as appropriate. Patrol rifles will be deployed in accordance with Office policy and training.

1. The Sheriff's Office will issue the AR-15 Platform in 5.56/.223 Remington caliber consistent with 502.6 – Firearms Storage, Inspection, and Registration.

The Range Supervisor / Range Master/Armorer will inspect all Patrol Rifles before being issued. It will be test-fired and zeroed to the individual deputy before qualification. Should a deputy change firearms, they must qualify with the new patrol rifle before carrying it on duty. Deputies must complete a 24-hour Patrol Rifle training and qualification course before being authorized to deploy the Patrol Rifle on duty.



EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy Manual

POLICY 502

The basic load of duty ammunition shall be three duty magazines loaded to their designated capacity. If a magazine will not hold the specified number of rounds, it will be returned to the Range Supervisor / Range Master for repair or replacement. Additional personally owned magazines are authorized and must be loaded to the same specifications as above.

Deputies authorized to carry a Patrol Rifle, desiring to carry a private weapon while on duty must meet the following criteria:

1. The weapon will be inspected and approved by the Range Supervisor / Range Master/Armorer before written approval and qualification.
2. Personally owned weapons will be limited to the AR-15 Platform, in 5.56 /.223 Remington caliber, and must be inspected by the Range Supervisor / Range Master before carrying the rifle for duty.
3. Personally owned rifles are to be periodically inspected as required by the Range Supervisor / Range Master.
4. Must have an operational safety mechanism and a sear disconnect.
5. A barrel length of at least 14.5 inches and no more than 20 inches.

502.6 FIREARM STORAGE, INSPECTION, AND REGISTRATION

The Sheriff's Office authorizes the use of weapons by approved and reputable firearms manufacturers. They include:

1. Benelli, Beretta, Bushmaster, Canik, Colt, CZ, Daniel Defense, DPMS, Fabrique Nationale Herstal (FN), Glock, Heckler-Koch, Kahr, Kimber, LWRC International, Marlin, Mossberg, Olympic Arms, Para-Ordnance, Remington Arms, Rock River, Ruger, SigArms, Smith and Wesson, Springfield Armory, Taurus, Walther, and Winchester.
2. Authorized calibers for "Backup" and "Off Duty" weapons are limited to—380 ACP, 38 Special, 357 Magnum, 9mm, 40 S&W, and 45 ACP.

This list is not meant to be all-inclusive and is subject to change, modifications, or updates based on the recommendation of the Range Supervisor / Range Master, with the approval of the chain of command up to the Undersheriff. Other manufacturers may be approved for off-duty carry only with the approval of the Range Supervisor / Range Master.

All approved weapons will be appropriate for Office members based on national standards and practices and inspected at least once during the calendar year. This is required to ensure that the weapon is serviceable and suitable for law enforcement purposes.

To maintain the integrity of the firearms program, only the Range Supervisor / Range Master/Armorer or designee is authorized to approve or make any changes to a weapon, including changes to the stocks, grips, trigger, and sights or firing mechanism.

All firearms used for duty and off-duty purposes will be inspected and approved by the Range Supervisor / Range Master/Armorer before qualification and being carried.

A record will be maintained by the Range Supervisor / Range Master of all weapons that are submitted for inspection and registration. That record will include the make, model, caliber, and serial number of each weapon.

Modifications to weapons that affect their adherence to factory specifications, their safety, or their reliability will be cause for rejection by the armorer.

Any weapon that is damaged or consistently malfunctions will be reported to the armorer. The armorer will inspect the weapon to determine the extent of the damage and/or the cause of the malfunction. If the weapon is found to be unsafe or in need of repair, it will be removed from service. Once repairs are made, the armorer will inspect the weapon and return it to active service.

Usually, the cost of repairing a privately owned weapon is the responsibility of the individual deputy. However, the armorer is authorized to make repairs that are within their capability and to use minor parts that the Sheriff's Office furnishes. All such work will be at no cost to the deputy.

When a weapon is repaired by someone other than the armorer, it will not be returned to active service until the armorer has inspected it and verified its serviceability.

502.7 AUTHORIZED EQUIPMENT



EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy Manual

POLICY 502

502.7.1 WEAPON MOUNTED LIGHT

The Weapon Mounted Light (WML) is a task-specific tool and does not replace the need for a Primary Flashlight. Personnel utilizing the WML are reminded that the use of the WML may not be consistent with general search procedures. To effectively use the light, the weapon should be in a "cover down" or "on target" or while searching in a manner consistent with generally accepted practices.

Personnel are authorized to mount a WML only to weapons equipped with a rail-mount system. No laser-aiming device may be attached to the weapon, whether or not it is incorporated with a WML. Before carrying a WML on duty, personnel are required to complete the following:

1. Alternative WML systems will be inspected and approved before deployment by the Range Supervisor / Range Master.
2. Personnel must pass the qualification course for the specific weapon system on the day and dim light Office-approved courses while demonstrating proficiency with the WML.
3. At no time will handgun WML grip switches be authorized.
4. WMLs will remain attached to the weapon at all times, and handguns with lights attached will be kept in an issued holster designed for such attachment.

502.7.2 OPTICAL WEAPON SIGHTING SYSTEMS (OWS)

The Office-issued Duty Weapon has a Trijicon Ruggedized Miniature Reflex Sight (RMR). The RMR is mounted, allowing for sighting independent of the iron sights. All personnel will receive training on this RMR before being authorized to carry the duty weapon.

1. Approved RMR systems will always remain attached to the weapon; Range Supervisor / Range Master or their designee are the only members permitted to remove or repair the RMR system.
 - a. Members are prohibited from modifying, removing, or repairing RMR systems in any way.
2. The Office will bear the responsibility of battery replacement periodically as prescribed by the Range Supervisor / Range Master.
3. The Office will bear the responsibility for all maintenance of the RMR system
4. Before approval to carry a duty weapon in any capacity, all members must successfully qualify on the duty weapon for Office approved Day and Dim Light qualification.

The Office-issued Patrol Rifle is equipped with an optical weapon sight. The mounted OWS allows for co-witnessing of the front and rear backup iron sights. Personnel will receive training on this OWS during the required 24-hour Patrol Rifle User class.

Personnel that are authorized to deploy a shotgun or patrol rifle and desire to change to a different OWS, attach an OWS to an Office-issued shotgun, or attach an OWS to an approved personally owned Patrol Rifle or shotgun are required to complete the following:

1. Personnel choosing to change to a different OWS are responsible for the purchase and maintenance costs.
2. The OWS and mounting system will be inspected and approved by the Range Supervisor / Range Master, and weapons so equipped must also have co-witnessed front and rear backup iron sights.
3. Approved OWS systems will always remain attached to the weapon.
4. Complete documented training developed by the training section on the application and use of the OWS for that weapon system.
5. Personnel must pass the qualification course for the specific weapon system while demonstrating proficiency with the OWS.
6. After successful completion, personnel will be required to annually meet the requirements set forth for that weapon system with the attached OWS.

502.7.3 HOLSTERS

Only office-approved holsters and magazine carriers listed in the Uniform Regulations policy shall be used and worn by deputies while in uniform. Members shall periodically inspect their holsters and magazine carriers to ensure they are serviceable and provide the proper security and retention of the handgun and spare magazines.

Holsters worn by deputies in a plainclothes assignment or worn while off-duty shall, at a minimum, adhere to the following:



EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy Manual

POLICY 502

1. Made of a sturdy material including but not limited to Kydex, polymer, and/or leather with an attachment that is strong and durable.
2. Possess the ability to contain a handgun and its attachments (weapon-mounted lights, Optics, etc.) securely, including covering the entire trigger guard.
3. Have at least level one retention.
4. If the duty weapon is to be carried off-duty, the holster must secure the weapon, weapon-mounted light, and optic.

502.8 AUTHORIZED AMMUNITION

Ammunition used for duty and off-duty purposes is restricted to approved calibers and manufacturers. Approved manufacturers include Barnes, Speer, Remington, Federal, Winchester, and Hornady. See the Ammunition Addendum for additional information regarding approved ammunition.

1. Ammunition will be issued or supplied by the Office under the following conditions:
2. Primary, secondary, and authorized backup duty firearms.
3. Authorized training, practice, and qualifications.
4. Off-duty ammunition is the responsibility of the individual.
5. Reloads are not authorized except for training or practice.
6. Only ammunition approved by the Range Supervisor / Range Master will be utilized for duty carry and training.
7. Because new types of ammunition are constantly being developed, it is not possible to provide a comprehensive list of brands prohibited. However, under no circumstances are hand-loaded, exploding, liquid-filled, or armor-piercing bullets to be used in any weapons except when specifically authorized for a tactical operation by the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.

Duty Load Requirements:

Duty, Off Duty, and Backup semi-auto handguns will be carried with round chambered, appropriate safety engaged, and a fully loaded magazine in the weapon. Back-Up and Off-Duty Revolvers will have the cylinder fully loaded.

1. Uniformed deputies and security officers will carry a fully loaded handgun with at least two additional fully loaded magazines.
2. Staff officers wearing full-dress uniforms (Eisenhower jackets) can carry a fully loaded weapon (without additional magazines).
3. Plainclothes deputies will carry a fully loaded handgun and two additional fully loaded magazines.
4. Deputies assigned to undercover work will carry a fully loaded handgun and at least one additional fully loaded magazine when practical. Sworn personnel actively engaged in covert operations, whose safety or mission could be compromised by compliance with this policy, may be granted permission by a supervisor to be exempt from compliance.
5. Off-duty certified deputies will carry a fully loaded handgun; it is recommended deputies also carry at least one full reload. The deputy will also have their badge and Office-issued ID card in their possession.
6. Off-duty non-certified deputies may carry a handgun. Non-certified deputies will carry a fully loaded handgun; it is recommended deputies also carry at least one full reload. The deputy will also have their Office-issued CCW card in their possession.
7. Handgun Magazines will be loaded to capacity as specified by the manufacturer.
8. No high-capacity magazines (beyond the capacity of those issued by the Office) will be authorized to carry with Office-issued handguns. No modifications to the magazines used for on-duty carry are authorized. Only the Glock magazines with original manufacturer (no off-brand or after-market) magazines will be authorized for use with the Office-issued weapon.
9. Additional personally owned handgun magazines are authorized and must be loaded to the same specifications as above.
10. If a magazine will not hold the specified number of rounds, it will be returned to the Range Supervisor / Range Master for repair or replacement.

Patrol Rifle:

The minimum basic load of duty ammunition shall be all magazines should be loaded to their total manufacturer-recommended capacity with a minimum of two magazines. The Patrol Rifle will be carried in the "Cruiser Ready Condition" until deployed.

1. Office-issued magazines will be loaded to their total manufacturer-recommended capacity.
2. Additional personally owned magazines are authorized and must be loaded to the same specifications as above.



EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy Manual

POLICY 502

Duty Shotgun:

The minimum basic load of duty ammunition is 10 rounds of 00 Buckshot and 5 rounds of rifled slugs. The tubular magazine should be fully loaded, with the remaining rounds in an ammunition carrier. The Duty Shotgun will be carried in the "Cruiser Ready Condition" until deployed.

502.9 FIREARMS TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

All sworn personnel shall attend and complete firearms training per the requirements listed in this section. Either a Dim Light Training or Dim Light Qualification is required annually.

502.9.1 FIREARM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

All personnel authorized to carry firearms shall qualify annually and/or semi-annually with all issued or personally owned weapons they are authorized to deploy or carry.

1. Sworn personnel who are not issued a shotgun or patrol rifle may qualify with a "Range" Shotgun or Patrol Rifle to meet the "optional" qualification requirement (if certified) or as deemed necessary by their Division Commander.

The required semi-annual weapon qualification for all authorized personnel is:

1. Primary Duty Handgun.
2. Duty Shotgun.
3. Duty Patrol Rifle.
4. Duty Backup handgun.

The optional semi-annual weapon qualifications for sworn personnel are:

1. Off-duty handgun.

Personnel must qualify with any handgun from the position typically carried.

1. Duty handgun qualification requires the deputy or security officer to carry and draw their weapon from a duty belt and holster position typically worn on duty.
2. Off-duty and backup weapons qualification requires the deputy to carry and draw the weapon from a holster in the position of concealment regularly used.

All personnel must wear a ballistic vest during firearm qualification and training, unless qualifying with an off-duty firearm.

1. Personnel who are issued a vest or required to wear a ballistic vest in performing their regular duties shall qualify and train while wearing their ballistic vest.

Specialized Assignments: All sworn deputies assigned to SWAT or SRT may exceed the semi-annual qualification requirement per their standard operating procedures.

502.9.2 FIREARMS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

All personnel authorized to carry a weapon must complete an annual training session successfully. This will be separate and in addition to the Weapon Qualification requirements.

The Training Section will determine the curriculum, days, and hours. Curriculum may include, but is not limited to:

1. Proper application of "Deadly Force."
2. Decisional and Tactical scenarios.
3. Daylight and Dim-light conditions.
4. Weapon Management and Marksmanship.

Specialized Assignments: All sworn deputies assigned to SWAT or SRT may exceed the annual training requirement per their standard operating procedures.

502.9.3 FIREARMS QUALIFICATION PROCESS



EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy Manual

POLICY 502

Weapon Qualification Procedures: Personnel have a total of three (3) attempts to pass the current weapon qualification courses. Personnel may receive up to 30 minutes of remedial training between their 2nd and 3rd attempt. Qualification failure on 3rd attempt:

1. If the failure is with the employee's issued Duty Handgun, the employee will then complete a "Off Duty" qualification course. Notification to their immediate supervisor by the Range Supervisor / Range Master will be completed as soon as possible.
2. This will allow the employee to retain possession of their weapon, but it will not be used in any official capacity, on or off duty, until remedial training is successfully completed. Personnel driving a county vehicle may drive said vehicle to an appropriate location to be determined by the employee's immediate supervisor. The vehicle will be parked there until the employee successfully completes remedial training. Personnel will report to remedial training in their POV.
3. A remedial training session will be scheduled for the employee no earlier than the next day but within 3 days. (Example: Employee fails to qualify on Monday, Remedial must be scheduled no later than Thursday).

If a deputy fails to qualify with an issued weapon after three attempts, they shall be required to attend four (4) consecutive quarterly training sessions with the particular weapons system. The training sessions shall be at least four hours and not exceed ten hours. The initial four-hour training session before the fourth attempt at qualification will count toward the first of four quarterly training sessions.

Training sessions may include but are not limited to an extra day of firearms in-service training, training workshops, individual remedial training, or an academy firearms training day. The Range Supervisor / Range Master shall determine the training needs of each individual.

The Range Supervisor / Range Master will keep a log of deputies who fail to qualify after three attempts and shall notify the deputy of upcoming training opportunities that will satisfy the requirements for the four quarterly training sessions. The Range Supervisor / Range Master will notify the deputy and the deputy's chain of command when the training requirement has been satisfied.

Failure to Pass Remedial Training with Primary Duty Firearm: If the employee fails to qualify after four (4) hours of remedial training, they will be required to appear before a board to show cause why they should not be subjected to administrative or disciplinary action.

1. The board will consist of the Training Sergeant, the Range Supervisor / Range Master, and the employee's immediate supervisor and division commander.
2. At the board's discretion, the employee may be required to complete additional remedial training, or the employee may be subjected to administrative or disciplinary action.
3. After failing to qualify after 5 attempts with their duty weapon, it will be the recommendation of the Training Section, Range Supervisor / Range Master, to terminate the employee. A recommendation will be made that a Disciplinary Action Board be convened to carry the termination recommendation forward to the Sheriff.

Secondary Weapon Systems: If a Deputy fails with a secondary weapon system, such as a Shotgun or Patrol Rifle, the Deputy may not deploy that weapon system until successfully completing rifle or shotgun remedial training.

1. The Deputy's Supervisor will be contacted, and if the weapon is an Office-owned weapon, it will be taken by the Range Supervisor / Range Master for safekeeping until remedial training is completed.
2. The remedial training will follow the same procedure as described above.

Unlike a disqualification with a Duty Handgun, a Deputy may still report for duty after failing to qualify with a secondary weapon system. Due to this, the remedial training will be scheduled as soon as feasible for both the deputy and the Range Supervisor / Range Master.

Back-Up and Off-Duty Weapons: If a Deputy fails with a Backup or Off-Duty Weapon, the Deputy may not carry that weapon or attempt an additional qualification until they attend a handgun workshop with that weapon and qualify on the appropriate course.

Failure to Report for Required Qualification or Training: Personnel will be responsible and will be held accountable for their qualification and training requirements.

1. The Training Section will not send out reminders on who needs to attend training sessions or needs qualifications.



EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy Manual

POLICY 502

2. If an authorized employee fails to meet the qualification requirements outlined in this policy for any weapon(s) they carry, they are not authorized to deploy the weapon(s) until they report to the range and qualify with it.
3. Personnel who repeatedly fail to meet qualification and training requirements may be referred to the Internal Affairs Unit for further investigation.

502.10 FLYING WHILE ARMED

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has imposed rules governing law enforcement officers flying armed on commercial aircraft. The following requirements apply to deputies who intend to be armed while flying on a commercial air carrier or flights where screening is conducted (49 CFR 1544.219):

1. Deputies wishing to fly while armed must fly in an official capacity, not for vacation or pleasure. They must need to have the firearm accessible, as determined by the Office based on the law and published TSA rules.
2. Deputies must carry their Sheriff's Office identification card bearing the deputy's name, a full-face photograph, identification number, the deputy's signature, and the signature of the Sheriff or the official seal of the Office. They must present this identification to airline officials when requested. The deputy should also carry the standard photo identification needed for passenger screening by airline and TSA officials (e.g., driver's license, passport).
3. The Sheriff's Office must submit a National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) message before the deputy's travel. If approved, TSA will send the Sheriff's Office an NLETS message containing a unique alphanumeric identifier. The deputy must present the message on the day of travel to airport personnel as authorization to travel while armed.
4. An official letter signed by the Sheriff authorizing armed travel may also accompany the deputy. The letter should outline the deputy's need to fly armed and detail their itinerary. It should include that the deputy has completed the mandatory TSA training for a law enforcement officer flying while armed.
5. Deputies must have completed the mandated TSA security training covering deputies flying while armed. The Office-appointed instructor shall give the training.
6. It is the deputy's responsibility to notify the air carrier in advance of the intended armed travel. This notification should be accomplished by early check-in at the carrier's check-in counter.
7. Any deputy flying while armed should discreetly contact the flight crew before take-off and notify them of their assigned seat.
8. Discretion must be used to avoid alarming passengers or crew by displaying a firearm. The deputy must always keep the firearm concealed on their person. Firearms are prohibited in carry-on luggage and may not be stored in an overhead compartment.
9. Deputies should try to resolve any problems associated with flying armed through the flight captain, ground security manager, TSA representative, or other management representatives of the air carrier.
10. Deputies shall not consume alcoholic beverages while aboard an aircraft. Or within eight hours before boarding an aircraft.