1. PURPOSE

This policy provides Mesa Police Department (MPD) members guidelines for the issuing, control and maintenance of Department authorized firearms and ammunition.

2. DEFINITIONS

Authorized Firearm: A firearm which has been approved for use by the Range Sergeant and Chief of Police, on which a member has qualified to carry for duty use. For a complete list of approved firearms, see DPM 1.6.5A1 Authorized Firearms & Accessories List.

Authorized Member: A member of the MPD who is authorized to carry a firearm in the course of their duties. This can include sworn law enforcement, both uniformed and plain clothes, as well as certain professional staff in positions required to carry firearms as authorized by the Chief of Police. Each member must meet specific certification and qualification requirements.

Backup Handgun: The second handgun a member may carry while on duty. If the situation dictates, when this weapon is the only one carried, the member must shoot the full AZPOST qualification with the backup handgun.

Department Owned: A firearm owned and issued to MPD members by the Department.

Grandfathered In: A provision in which an old rule continues to apply to some existing situations while a new rule will apply to all future cases.

Not On Duty: The hours when a member is not on duty for the MPD or another public agency pursuant to a joint task force or other similar agreement or working off-duty employment.

Off-Duty Handgun: A handgun carried outside of a duty capacity.

Primary Duty Handgun: The standard authorized handgun for duty use carried by an authorized member. Full AZPOST qualification is mandatory.

Secondary Primary Handgun: An alternate primary duty handgun that can be carried in place of the primary duty handgun. The member must shoot the full AZPOST qualification with the secondary primary handgun.

3. DEPARTMENT & PERSONALLY OWNED FIREARMS

3.1 Authorized Members & Authority to Carry On Duty [ALEAP 1.5]

A. Members authorized to carry firearms in the course of their duties include sworn law enforcement officers and certain professional staff positions as authorized by the Chief of Police. Authorized members shall qualify with the weapon prior to carrying on duty. For qualification requirements, see DPM 1.6.25 Department Firearms Qualifications.
B. Sworn and other authorized MPD members shall only carry firearms for duty use that have been approved by the Range Sergeant and the Chief of Police. For a complete list of approved firearms, see DPM 1.6.5A1 Authorized Firearms & Accessories List. Any changes to the list must be approved by the Range Sergeant and Chief of Police.
C. An Assistant Chief may authorize members to carry firearms for specialty assignments that are not on DPM 1.6.5A1 Authorized Firearms & Accessories List.
    1. In such cases, the Assistant Chief forwards a memo to the Range Sergeant with the type of firearm authorized and the member(s) authorized to carry it.
    2. The Range Sergeant or designee must inspect and approve the firearm prior to use.
D. Members authorized to carry firearms shall attend certification training and qualify with their firearm prior to being authorized for duty use. Authorized members shall attend qualification and additional training as directed by the Advanced Training Section.
E. For carrying guidelines, see DPM 1.6.10 Carrying Firearms.
F. Under exigent circumstances (tactical situation), a member may temporarily transfer their assigned weapon to another member that is certified to carry that type of weapon. Once the exigent circumstance has passed, the weapon shall be returned to the assigned member.

3.2 Department Owned Firearms

A. Only one Department owned handgun is issued per authorized member. The only exceptions are officers assigned to work an undercover assignment, SWAT, or plain clothes assignments as determined by the Chief of Police, and other sworn members approved by the Chief of Police.
B. The Range Sergeant or designee is responsible for issuing and re-issuing all Department owned firearms including primary duty handguns, secondary primary handguns, shotguns, rifles, and all SWAT firearms.
C. If a member is assigned an alternate primary duty handgun, secondary primary handgun, shotgun, rifle, 40mm, or SWAT firearm and transfers or

promotes to a unit that no longer requires the use of this weapon, the member shall return the firearm to the Range Sergeant or designee for inspection and reissuance.

D. Department owned firearms that a member qualifies on may be carried when not on duty.

3.3 Authorization to Carry Personally Owned Firearms

A. Members may carry a personally owned firearm in a duty capacity as their primary duty handgun, secondary primary handgun, and/or backup handgun if the firearm is authorized per DPM 1.6.5A1 Authorized Firearms & Accessories List. The member shall be qualified with the weapon(s) prior to carrying in a duty capacity.
B. Members are prohibited from carrying a personally owned shotgun or rifle on duty.

3.4 Grandfathered Firearms

A. Commencing with Lifecycle Replacement 2022, all Department owned primary duty firearms will be the Glock 9mm series. See DPM 1.6.5A1 Authorized Firearms & Accessories List.
B. Members previously authorized to deploy with another firearm as their primary duty weapon are grandfathered in on the weapon that has been inspected and in service by February 1, 2022, unless the firearm is prohibited per DPM 1.6.5A1 Authorized Firearms & Accessories List.
C. Previously carried and approved secondary primary and backup firearms are grandfathered in, unless the firearm is prohibited per DPM 1.6.5A1 Authorized Firearms & Accessories List, and will be supported until there is no more ammunition in stock.

4. DUTY FIREARMS SPECIFICATIONS

See DPM 1.6.5A1 Authorized Firearms & Accessories List for a comprehensive list of approved firearms authorized for duty use.

4.1 Primary Duty, Secondary Primary & Backup Handguns

A. All primary, secondary primary, and backup handguns shall:
   1. Be 9 x 19MM;
   2. Black, gray, or silver in color;
   3. Utilize a standard trigger pull of 5 pounds. Alternations to the trigger spring or housing are prohibited.
   4. Be inspected and approved by the Range Sergeant or designee.

B. MRDS guns shall have backup co-witnessing iron sights.
C. All factory finishes are authorized (except nickel).
D. Handgrips must be plain and black in color.

4.2 Shotguns

A. All shotguns shall:
   1. Be Department-issued;
   2. Be 12-gauge;
   3. Have a minimum trigger pull of 6 pounds; and
   4. Be designated as less lethal only.
      a. The shotgun shall have an international orange buttstock and forend designating the shotgun as less lethal.
B. For further information on Less Lethal Shotguns, see DPM 2.1.40 Less Lethal Shotgun Protocols.
C. SWAT shall follow guidelines under TAC 4.3 Weapons & Ammunition.

4.3 Rifles

A. All rifles shall:
   1. Be Department-issued;
   2. Have a minimum trigger pull of 5 pounds; and
   3. Be equipped with backup iron sights unless a variable power optic is installed.
B. For further information on rifles, see DPM 1.6.20 Patrol Rifle Protocols.
C. SWAT shall follow guidelines under TAC 4.3 Weapons & Ammunition.

5. FIREARMS ACCESORIES SPECIFICATIONS

5.1 General

A. All firearm accessories must meet the approval of the Range Sergeant.
B. All firearm accessories added to a Department owned firearm shall fall within existing policy and be assembled by the Range Sergeant or designee.
C. See DPM 1.6.5A1 Authorized Firearms & Accessories List for a list of approved firearms accessories authorized for duty use.

5.2 Miniaturized Red Dot Sights (MRDS)

A. Members shall attend transitional training as determined by the Range Sergeant before carrying a MRDS pistol and pass the AZPOST qualification with the MRDS pistol.
B. All MRDS pistols must be inspected and approved by the Range Sergeant or designee.

C. All MRDS duty pistols shall be equipped with co-witnessing back-up iron sights (BUIS) that can be used in the event of an optic failure.

5.3 Variable Power Optics

A. Variable power optics must be approved by the Range Sergeant and have a/n:
   1. 1.5x or less minimum magnification setting;
   2. Maximum magnification of 10x;
   3. Illuminated reticle or red dot;
   4. Approved throw lever installed; and
   5. Capped turrets.

6. FIREARMS INSPECTIONS

6.1 Department Owned Firearms

A. Department owned firearms are subject to periodic inspection.
   1. Indications of misuse or abuse are grounds for removal of a firearm from the member and/or disciplinary action.

B. The Range Sergeant or designee inspects and repairs all Department owned firearms. Department owned firearms returned to the armory must be inspected by the Range Sergeant or designee.

C. It is the member's responsibility to return any Department owned firearm to the Range Sergeant or designee when a problem or concern is identified.

D. Any Department owned firearm that fails inspection will not be authorized for duty use.
   1. The firearm that failed inspection must be turned in to the Range Sergeant or designee.
   2. The Range Sergeant or designee will issue the member a replacement firearm for duty use.
   3. If the Department owned firearm fails the inspection, the reason for the failure must be determined.
      a. If the reason for failure is other than normal mechanical failure, the Range Sergeant will write a memo and forward it to the Advanced Training Section Lieutenant.
      b. If the reason for failure is normal mechanical failure, the firearm is repaired by the Range Sergeant or designee.

6.2 Personally Owned Firearms

A. All personally owned firearms shall be inspected by the Range Sergeant or designee prior to being authorized for duty use. Any personally owned firearm that fails inspection will not be authorized for duty use.

1. For primary duty handguns, the member will be assigned a Department owned firearm until their personal firearm is authorized for duty use.

B. All personally owned firearms authorized to carry for Department use are subject to periodic inspection.

6.3 SWAT Firearms

A. The Tactical Team Lieutenant or designee shall conduct an annual audit of their firearms inventory and verify the accuracy of their firearms inventory with the Range Sergeant's inventory records. Refer to TAC 4.3 Weapons & Ammunition.

7. FIREARMS MODIFICATIONS, REPAIRS & REPLACEMENT

7.1 Department Owned

A. Members shall not:
   1. Repair, refinish, modify, or do any other work on a Department owned firearm except to clean it;
   2. Disassemble, remove parts, or take off the side plates of any Department-issued firearm in order to clean it other than field stripping the semi-auto.

B. Manufacturer trademarks or logos are acceptable as long as they are conservative in color and design.

C. Customized logos, slogans, pictures, or designs are prohibited (e.g., skulls, punisher, bones, etc.).

7.2 Personally Owned Firearms Authorized for Duty Use

A. All personally owned firearms for duty use that have any armory work done by a certified armorer other than the Range Sergeant or designee shall have the Range Sergeant or designee inspect the weapon before it is authorized for use. Proof of armory work (paperwork) must be shown from the certified armorer.
   1. Examples of armory work done by someone other than the Range Sergeant or designee include:
      a. Application of a firearm finish coating (e.g., NP3, Cerakote, etc.); and
      b. Modification or installation of aftermarket parts (e.g., rails, grips, stocks, sights, etc.).
   2. All modifications or aftermarket parts shall match the manufacturer color and be conservative in color and design.

B. Manufacturer trademarks or logos are acceptable as long as they are conservative in color and design.

C. Customized logos, slogans, pictures, or designs are prohibited (e.g., skulls, punisher, bones, etc.).

7.3 Firearm Repairs

A. The Range Sergeant or designee is responsible for the repair of all Department owned firearms or any authorized firearms damaged on duty.
B. The Range Sergeant or designee may repair an officer's personally owned primary duty handgun, secondary primary handgun, backup handgun and/or SWAT firearm.
    1. A similar Department owned firearm is issued temporarily for on duty use.
    2. Each officer who checks out a temporarily issued firearm is responsible for its care and cleaning.
C. Repair of Department owned firearms takes priority over the repair of personally owned firearms.
D. It is the member's responsibility to have the firearm inspected by the Range Sergeant or designee prior to being accepted back into inventory.
E. All rifles, shotguns, 40mm, and SWAT firearms are inspected and repaired through the Range Sergeant or designee.

7.4 Replacement

A. The member will submit the request for replacement of a Department owned firearm through the chain of command to the Division Commander.
    1. When the Division Commander has authorized the request, a replacement is issued.
B. When necessary, the Range may conduct a lifecycle replacement of Department owned firearms. Authorized members are eligible to purchase their retired duty weapon. Upon issuance of a new duty weapon, the member shall qualify prior to carrying in an on-duty capacity.

8. AMMUNITION & MAGAZINES

8.1 Issuance & Authority [ALEAP 1.5]

A. 9 x 19MM ammunition will be the only issued and approved caliber for Department owned pistols and on duty use.
B. Use only factory loaded ammunition.
    1. Explosive or incendiary loads, whether Department or personally owned, are prohibited.
    2. Members shall not alter issued ammunition.
    3. Ammunition will only be provided to weapons on the Authorized Firearms List or specialty weapons authorized by the Assistant Chief(s).

C. Carry the issued amount of ammunition when on duty.
   1. The Division Commander may make exceptions for officers assigned to undercover, covert, and plain clothes assignments.

8.2 Re-issuing

A. Ammunition is reissued, as required, by the Range Sergeant or designee when cartridges have been lost, expended, or when a member feels that ammunition may be tainted.
B. Proper reporting is required to account for ammunition loss or usage prior to issuance of any new ammunition.

8.3 Replacement

A. All Department-issued ammunition for service is replaced on an annual basis under the guidance of the Range Sergeant.

REFERENCES

- DPM 1.6.5A1 Authorized Firearms & Accessories List
- DPM 1.6.10 Carrying Firearms
- DPM 1.6.20 Patrol Rifle Protocols
- DPM 1.6.25 Department Firearms Qualifications
- DPM 2.1.40 Less Lethal Shotgun Protocols
- TAC 4.3 Weapons & Ammunition