

<b>MESA POLICE</b>  Department Policy Manual	<b>Carrying Firearms</b>	<b>DPM 1.6.10</b> Effective 01/10/2013 Revised 03/18/2024
Approved by: <b>Chief of Police</b>	Chapter: <b>Firearms</b>	Page: <b>1 of 3</b>

## 1. PURPOSE

This policy provides Mesa Police Department (MPD) members guidelines for carrying of authorized firearms.

## 2. GENERAL CARRYING GUIDELINES

### 2.1 Firearms On Duty

- A. When in uniform, officers authorized to carry Department issued firearms will place the primary duty holster and firearm on the strong-hand side of the gun belt.
- B. While on duty in plainclothes, officers will carry the duty firearm in one of the following approved methods:
  1. Outside strong-hand waistband or cross draw waistband holsters.
  2. Inside waistband holsters securely fastened to clothing to prevent the holster from dislodging from the waistband when the weapon is drawn.
  3. Shoulder holsters (concealed when in view of the public).
  4. Ankle holsters.
  5. An approved purse/fanny pack designed to holster a weapon.

### 2.2 Firearms Off Duty [ALEAP 1.5]

- A. Carrying a firearm off duty is authorized with recommended preference to weapon as listed on [DPM 1.6.5A1 Authorized Firearms List](#). [ALEAP 1.5]
  1. Display or use is governed by the same orders that apply to on duty use.
  2. The Range will no longer qualify or issue duty ammo for off-duty firearms.
  3. Officers can carry a concealed weapon in the state of Arizona under the protections provided to all citizens by the constitution, federal law, and state law.
  4. For situations where the legal protections are derived from being a certified AZPOST peace officer in the state of Arizona, officers can only carry a concealed weapon listed in [DPM 1.6.5A1 Authorized Firearms List](#).
    - a. Current law prohibits carrying a concealed weapon into some establishments. If an officer takes a handgun into this establishment using the peace officer exception, then the weapon shall adhere to policy and must be on [DPM 1.6.5A1 Authorized Firearms List](#).
    - b. Officers traveling to another state that does not have a civilian CCW law but wish to carry a concealed weapon under the [Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act \(LEOSA\) HR 218](#), then the weapon shall adhere to policy.

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## 2.3 Multiple Firearms

- A. When carrying multiple firearms:
  1. Carry the primary duty firearms in an approved manner.
  2. The secondary firearm will be concealed, if carried, in such a manner that it can be readily accessible and not fall from the officer's body.

## 2.4 Carrying Identification While Armed

- A. Officers will carry their Department identification card and badge at all times when armed.
  1. The only exception applies if the appropriate Assistant Chief determines the nature of the assignment restricts adherence.

## 2.5 Prohibitions

- A. Effective November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, due to safety concerns, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Sig Sauer P320 handgun is prohibited for both on-duty and off-duty use and is not recommended for personal use.

# 3. CARRYING OUT-OF-STATE/ON AIRLINES

## 3.1 Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) Guidelines

- A. As of July 15, 2009, the TSA requires that any law enforcement officer flying while armed must submit a National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) message to TSA prior to travel.

## 3.2 Carrying Department Firearms on Commercial Airlines

- A. If it is necessary for an officer to carry their Department-issued firearms on a commercial aircraft, the officer will submit a request through the chain of command to the Chief of Police or their designee for approval.
  1. The request for approval will have proof/verification of attendance to the required "Flying while authorized to carry their Department-issued firearm while flying on a commercial airline, the officer will provide detailed flight information to the Chief of Police armed" training.
  2. The office of the Chief of Police will verify the requesting officer has completed the "Flying While Armed" training before an "Original Letter of Authority (OLA)" or NLETS message is provided to the TSA.
    - a. The list of officers who have completed this training is maintained by the administrative staff in the office of the Chief of Police.
    - b. Although the TSA does not require an OLA most airlines require the officer to possess the OLA at the airport.

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3. The office of the Chief of Police or designee will process the request and forward to the Criminal Justice Information Division (CJID) who will send an NLETS message to the TSA notifying them of the officer's travel.
4. If approved by the Chief of Police or designee the officer will:
  - a. Receive an OLA signed by the Chief of Police or designee.
  - b. Receive a copy of the NLETS message.
  - c. Be provided with both at the time of their travel.

### 3.3 Carrying Department Firearms Out of State for Investigations

- A. Officers should coordinate any out-of-state follow-up investigations and interviews with the law enforcement agency having local jurisdiction.

## REFERENCES

- [DPM 1.6.5A1 Authorized Firearms List](#)