



MARYLAND CAPITOL POLICE

OPERATIONS DIRECTIVE



Issued and Approved Firearms

Distribution:	All Sworn Employees	Index:	OPS 08.03
Responsible Unit:	Support Services Division	Rescinds:	8-101.2
Issued:	July 2, 2019	Revised:	September 17, 2020

.01 Purpose

To delineate the firearms approved for carry and use by MCP sworn personnel.

.02 Policy

Police employees will utilize only authorized and approved firearms in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws. In addition, MCP will set standards for both agency issued and agency approved firearms.

.03 Definitions

PRIMARY FIREARM: The duty weapon issued by the department to police officers. The current primary firearm is the Glock, Model 17, 9mm, semi- automatic handgun.

PATROL RIFLE: A lightweight, compact rifle or carbine, chambered in .223 Remington or 5.56X45 NATO calibers. Patrol rifles are generally fed from a detachable box magazine and is capable of semi-automatic fire only.

.04 Procedures

A. Range Master Responsibilities

1. The Range Master will be responsible for the maintenance, issuance and inventory of all firearms.
2. The Range Master will:
 - a. document when a firearm is issued to a police officer;
 - b. maintain inventory records of all firearms that have been received by MCP and issued to MCP personnel;
 - c. review requests for approval to carry personally owned weapons; and
 - d. complete biannual inventories of all firearms and immediately notify the Commander of Support Services Division (SSD) of any discrepancies.

B. Issuance Firearms

1. MCP firearms will be issued to individuals or commands.
2. Shotguns can be assigned to a division and will be the responsibility of the commander.
 - a. When there is a change of commanders, all firearms assigned to the unit will be physically inventoried by both the incoming and outgoing commanders.
 - b. The inventory will be documented using Form 17 signed by both the incoming and outgoing commanders.
 - c. The original Form 17 will be forwarded to SSD within 30 days of the command change.

3. Firearms inventory discrepancies will be immediately reconciled with the assistance of the Range Master.

C. Transfer of Agency Firearms

1. Commanders who take possession of a firearm for administrative purposes will record the transfer on a Form 111.
 - a. Firearms may remain at the unit for a period of 30 days.
 - b. If an officer is placed on extended leave or suspended for more than 30 days, a Form 111 and a Form 17 explaining the circumstances will accompany the weapon to SSD.
2. The Range Master will authorize the transfer of firearms.
 - a. No firearms will be transferred without first being sent to SSD.
 - b. Any firearm returned or scheduled for transfer will be forwarded to SSD accompanied by a Form 17 explaining the reason for return or transfer.
 - c. The Range Master will complete all forms associated with the return or transfer of the firearm.

D. Personally Owned Firearms

1. All personally owned firearms must be approved prior to being carried by officers either on or off-duty.
2. Unless authorized by the Chief of Police or his designee to carry an alternative, the only handgun that will be carried while on duty is the issued primary firearm. Secondary handguns are not permitted.
3. Upon approval, officers may carry personally owned shotguns or patrol rifles in place of issued shotguns and rifles. The use and carry of personally owned weapons will be in strict compliance with this directive and all other directives and regulations related to the permissible and safe use of firearms.
4. Officers must first demonstrate proficiency in use, carrying and cleaning of firearm to a range instructor prior to approval.
5. An officer requesting to carry a personally owned firearm will:
 - a. submit a **Form 101 - Request Approval to Carry Weapon** to the Range Master;
 - b. provide a copy of the Form 77R, Application to Purchase a Regulated Firearm;
 - c. ensure that the firearm is inspected by a firearms instructor certified for that weapon;
 - d. have a range instructor certify the employee's proficiency with the weapon; and
 - e. return the Form 101, and copy of the Form 77R to employee's commander for final review.
6. The commander receiving the request will:
 - a. note on the form whether the firearm is approved or not approved;
 - b. provide the requesting officer with a copy of the signed Form 101; and
 - c. ensure the original of the request is placed in the officer's personnel file.
7. Any adjustment or modification to an approved personally owned firearm requires prior approval and a re-inspection by a range instructor prior to use and carry.
8. Officers approved to use and carry a personally owned firearm are responsible for all expenses associated with repairing and maintaining these weapons.
9. Once approved, the officer must complete annual qualifications courses as outlined in [OPS 08.04](#).

E. Off-Duty Handguns

1. A handgun may be used as an off-duty weapon if it:
 - a. is a semi-automatic handgun;
 - b. uses .380 caliber or larger ammunition;
 - c. has at least an eight pound trigger pull;
 - d. is double action only;
 - e. contains a firing pin block;
 - f. does not have or require grip safety or grip cock; and
 - g. holds at least six rounds.
2. If a handgun that holds fewer than eight rounds is used as an off-duty weapon, a second magazine must be carried.

F. Shotguns

1. Only shotguns that have been issued or approved by MCP will be used while on duty.
2. When authorized to carry an agency shotgun on duty, the officer will only utilize ammunition that has been issued by the agency.
3. If a shotgun is carried in a patrol vehicle, the following safety precautions will be followed:
 - a. Shotguns may be carried in a patrol vehicle with a fully loaded magazine, but no ammunition will be carried in the chamber (car-carry condition).
 - b. The weapon will be transported in the trunk of the vehicle in a locked container or carrying case approved by the Range Master.
 - c. Shotguns will not be transported in the passenger compartment of any state owned or leased vehicle.
4. Approval of personally owned shotguns will be limited to one such weapon per officer at any time.

G. Patrol Rifles

1. Only patrol rifles that have been issued or approved by MCP will be used while on duty.
2. Personally owned patrol rifles that meet the following requirements may be approved for on-duty use:
 - a. Uses .223 Remington and/or 5.56 NATO ammunition;
 - b. Has a barrel length of at least 14 inches;
 - c. Is capable of semi-automatic fire ONLY;
 - d. Has a magazine capacity of 30 rounds or fewer; and
 - e. An armorer's checklist has been completed.
2. The manufacturers of patrol rifles that are currently approved are:
 - a. ADCOR;
 - b. Armalite;
 - c. Bushmaster;
 - d. Colt;

- e. FN Herstal;
- f. Heckler & Koch;
- g. Les Baer;
- h. L.W.R.C.;
- i. Rock River;
- j. Sig (M400 series only);
- k. Smith & Wesson;
- l. Stag; and
- m. Tavor.

- 3. Approval will be limited to one rifle per officer at any time.
- 4. Aim Point, Eotech, Trijicon, and Vortex low-magnifying (no more than 3X magnification) or powered optics may be mounted on patrol rifles, after qualifying on an approved MPCTC course.
- 5. Single and double point slings may be used.
- 6. Police officers will successfully complete the qualification requirements for patrol rifles as outlined in [OPS 08.04](#) in order to carry an approved patrol rifle on-duty.
- 7. The procedures for the transport and carry of patrol rifles is outlined in [OPS. 08.06](#).

H. Ammunition

- 1. Only ammunition that has been issued or approved by the Range Master will be used in primary or off-duty handguns carried or worn by sworn personnel.
- 2. The only ammunition approved for carry in the primary firearm is 9mm, 124 grain, jacketed hollow point round issued by the agency.
- 3. The shotgun ammunition that is issued and/or approved for carry is .12 gauge, 00 buck or rifled slug ammunition.
- 4. The ammunition which issued and/or approved for carry in the patrol rifle is .223 or 5.56 caliber 55 grain jacketed hollow point, or an approved ballistic equivalent.
- 5. Ammunition that is new and factory manufactured by Remington, Cor-Bon, Winchester, and Federal may be carried in off-duty handguns.
- 6. Officers must provide their own ammunition for their off-duty weapons for range qualifications. Failure to bring ammunition will result in the officer not being able to qualify with their off-duty weapon.

I. Holsters

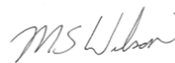
- 1. Only holsters, magazine pouches and gun belts that have been issued or approved by the agency may be used by on-duty police officers in conjunction with the issued primary firearm.
- 2. When in uniform, the primary firearm will be carried in the agency issued Safariland holster with the Automatic Locking System (ALS) or approved Safariland holster that accommodates a weapons mounted light system as outlined in J. below.
- 3. Officers in non-uniform or covert assignments will carry the handgun in an approved holster that provides concealment and Level 2 retention.
- 4. The Range Master must approve holsters used by officers for off-duty handguns.
- 5. An officer must qualify with the holster that they intend to carry off-duty.

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J. Weapon-Mounted Lighting Systems

1. An officer who wishes to use a weapon-mounted light system will:
 - a. submit a Form 17 to their commander requesting approval to utilize a weapon mounted light while on duty; and
 - b. include the make and model of light system they are requesting approval to use.
2. Upon receiving a request for the use of a weapon mounted light system, the commander will review and forward the request to the Range Master for final approval.
3. Approved Light Systems
 - a. Only weapon-mounted light systems from the following vendors are approved:
 - (1) Streamlight;
 - (2) SureFire; and
 - (3) Insight.
 - b. Any weapon-mounted light will be equipped with a toggle switch for on/off operation.
 - c. Pressure switches, modifications from factory settings and lasers are not permitted.
4. Approved Holsters for Weapon Mounted Light Systems
 - a. The Safariland, Model 7378 ALS® holster is the only holster approved for purchase that accommodates a weapon-mounted light system. Officers must specify "plain black, hard plastic finish" when ordering.
 - b. The following model numbers will be used when purchasing holsters:
 - (1) Right Hand: 7378-832-61
 - (2) Left Hand: 7378-832-62
5. Use of Lighting System
 - a. When carrying a weapon-mounted light system, an officer must also carry a flashlight on his gun belt.
 - b. Under no circumstance, will the weapon-mounted light be used for general illumination unless there is justification to have the weapon un-holstered.

Approved:



Colonel Michael S. Wilson
Chief of Police 09/17/2020