

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER**

Subject: USE OF WEAPONS & AMMUNITION	General Order: 808
Effective Date: October 15, 2019 Revision Date: February 4, 2025	Distribution: All Sworn Employees

I. PURPOSE

This general order establishes policy and procedure for issuing and carrying Department authorized weapons and restraint devices.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Meridian Township Police Department to provide its officers with an array of techniques, implements and weapons for the purpose of defending themselves or other persons, or to secure unruly or dangerous subjects while in the lawful performance of their duties.

Officers shall successfully complete all required training and policy instruction prior to being issued any weapon. Each officer is also required to successfully complete periodic training and proficiency testing as required by the Department, in the use of issued weapons, implements and defensive techniques.

Officers shall only equip themselves with weapons and ammunition issued or approved by the Department (See Appendix A).

III. PROCEDURE

Revised

A. HANDGUNS HANDLING AND CARRYING

1. Handguns may be discharged:
 - a. To protect an officer or another person from an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury.
 - b. To prevent the escape of a subject who is fleeing from an inherently violent felony crime, and the officer has probable cause to believe that the subject poses a threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others.
 - c. While on the firing range during a recognized handguns training program.

New

2. Euthanizing animals:

- a. Officers may discharge a handgun to destroy an injured animal for humane purposes (such as an animal with severe injuries) or

an animal that is a threat to public safety, provided a more desirable or safer option is not readily available.

- b. Whenever possible, Ingham County Animal Control should be contacted to handle a domestic animal in lieu of euthanizing the animal with a handgun.
 - c. Supervisory approval is required prior to euthanizing an injured domestic animal. All efforts to locate the owner of a domestic animal shall be made prior to dispatching an injured domestic animal.
 - d. Officers may discharge their handgun to euthanize deer during the deer cull.
3. The Chief of Police or his/her designee shall authorize all weapons and ammunition used for law enforcement duties.
4. All handguns, including secondary and personally owned, shall be either double action only or double action first round, single action thereafter, or striker fired.
5. Officers are required to carry their issued handgun at all times while on duty, except as specified within this directive.
6. Officers must carry all handguns including personally owned and secondary, in a holster or sleeve or the internal pocket of the external vest carrier whether on or off duty.
 - a. Uniformed officers must carry their primary issued handguns in a departmentally issued holster, while on duty.
 - b. On duty officers in plain clothes, such as officers assigned to the investigations unit, shall carry their handgun in a holster approved by a Range Master while performing their duties. The handgun may be worn concealed or unconcealed, depending on their assignment.
 - If the handgun is exposed, a badge will be worn on the belt, adjacent to the handgun, or on a chain around the neck, to easily identify the officer. Investigators will normally wear their handgun in this manner.
 - If the handgun is carried concealed, a badge will be carried on the officer's person so that it can be readily displayed if needed. A Field Training Officer in the Shadow Phase of training is expected to carry their handgun in this manner

- c. Off duty officers who elect to carry handguns shall carry the handgun in a holster concealed and away from the public view so as to avoid alarming the public or other police officers.
- 7. Duty situations that may not require a handgun:
 - a. Personnel assigned to out-of-state duties, such as extraditions, conferences or training, will go unarmed unless otherwise approved by the Chief of Police. Personnel carrying a weapon must comply with all weapons regulations of the travel carrier and jurisdictions they enter.
 - b. Personnel on undercover assignments may, with prior supervisory approval, complete specific assignments without a handgun if the nature of the assignment so dictates. In such instances, the officer and the supervisor each remain responsible for arranging for backup assistance from other officers and ensuring that backup officers are informed of the undercover officer's unarmed status.
 - c. Officers shall comply with regulations prohibiting handguns, and other weapons, in secure areas such as jails, etc. Officers shall ensure their handguns(s) and all other weapons are safely secured.
 - d. Officers on training assignment, off-site and not in uniform, may go unarmed.
 - e. Other situations as allowed or directed by the Chief of Police.
- 8. Probationary officers still assigned to the Field Training Program shall not carry handguns off duty under their statutory authority as a Meridian Police Officer.
- 9. Personnel may carry a second weapon while on duty.
 - a. A second gun will be carried in a secure concealed manner, out of the view of the public. Its purpose is that of a back-up handgun when the primary handgun cannot be used.
 - b. Secondary handguns may be Department issued or furnished by the employee. If the secondary weapon is provided by the employee, its maintenance and repair shall be the responsibility of the employee.

- c. The handgun, including sights, grips, holsters and modifications shall be authorized and inspected by the Department and the employee must show proficiency in its use.
- d. Only approved manufacturers, models and calibers will be authorized for use (See Appendix A).

10. Off Duty Handguns

- a. Officers are not required to carry a handgun while off duty. Officers electing to carry a handgun off duty, under their statutory authority as a police officer, or a second handgun while on duty, may only carry handguns and ammunition approved by the Department (Appendix A) and in full compliance with Department General Orders.
- b. Officers must satisfactorily complete a Department approved qualification course of fire prior to carrying such handguns and on an annual basis thereafter. It is not the intent of this directive to limit the type or class of weapons/equipment utilized by officers while engaged in sporting events or activities.
- c. There are a variety of factors officers should consider before carrying a weapon while off duty. Some of those factors include:
 - If carrying the weapon would unreasonably impede the nature of their activity.
 - Whether there would be a safe place for temporary storage of the weapon, such as during participation in social or athletic events.
 - Whether the ability to effectively utilize the handgun may be impeded by physical limitations, the presence of non-law enforcement persons, or the potential ingestion of alcoholic beverages or medically prescribed controlled substances.
- d. While carrying an authorized off duty weapon, the officer shall at all such times have in his/her possession their Department issued identification card.
- e. The handgun will be carried in a holster in a concealed manner out of the view of the public.
- f. Off duty weapons may be Department issued or furnished by the employee. If the off duty weapon is provided by the employee,

its maintenance and repair shall be the responsibility of the employee.

- g. All weapons, including sights, grips, holsters and modifications are subject to an annual inspection of the Department.
- h. Only approved manufacturers, models and calibers will be authorized for use.

11. Weapon Mounted Lighting System

- a. Sworn personnel will be issued a Department approved weapon mounted lighting (WML) as an attachment to their on-duty primary weapon. No other (WML) shall be allowed on that handgun.
- b. The (WML) shall be mandatory as an attachment to the issued primary handgun while performing duties requiring or related to a patrol function.
- c. Sworn personnel may furnish a (WML) on their issued back up handgun or a personal firearm approved by this policy. Any (WML) purchased by the employee is subject to approval by the Chief of police or their designee before its use.
- d. The (WML) may be removed if necessary for maintenance, court appearances, plain clothes assignments, etc.
- e. The handgun shall be unloaded and rendered safe before attaching or removing the lighting system.

B. AMMUNITION

- 1. All ammunition carried under the authority of the department shall be authorized by the Department (See Appendix A).
- 2. Ammunition for Department owned primary and secondary weapons as well as Department authorized rifles owned by employees will be issued by the Department.
- 3. Ammunition for personally owned handguns will not be provided by the Department.
- 4. Annually, personnel will be issued new ammunition for any handgun issued by the Department.

C. PATROL RIFLE/SHOTGUN USE

1. Officers assigned to patrol cars will equip their patrol cars with a shotgun and/or rifle and ammunition provided by the Department. The long weapons shall be secured in the patrol unit with the maximum allowable number of rounds of ammunition in the magazine and none in the chamber, the action closed, and the weapon on safe.
2. Officers shall complete patrol rifle and shotgun training and satisfy minimum proficiency standards set by the Department prior to carrying or deploying the patrol rifle or shotgun.
3. It is expected that Department authorized rifles owned by employees and purchased through payroll deduction will be used on-duty.

Revised D. INSPECTIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND RANGE MASTER DUTIES

1. The Range Master shall be responsible for maintaining:
 - a. A record of all handguns, owned by the Department, including make, model, serial number, barrel length, date of purchase, finish, etc.
 - b. The assignment history of each Department owned handgun to include the officer's name and dates assigned,
 - c. The maintenance history for each Department owned handgun, and d) the record of sale and disposition of each Department owned handgun when disposed from Department use.
 - d. A record or all personally owned handguns being carried under statutory authority as a MTPD police officer
2. The Range Master shall be responsible for scheduling and documenting an annual safety inspection conducted by department armors of all handguns, rifles, and shotguns owned by the department.
3. Personally owned handguns being carried under statutory authority as a MTPD officer must be inspected annually by a department armorer.
4. Any officer may immediately remove from service any firearm deemed to be unsafe. The Range Master and the Chief of Police must be notified in writing of the removal. The Range Master shall assign an armorer to inspect the firearm and determine if it is safe. The firearm will not be put back into service until it is deemed safe. A replacement firearm will be issued if repairs cannot be made.

5. Officers are responsible for all care and maintenance of privately owned firearms approved as secondary and/or off duty firearms. Department armorers will not alter, modify or make repairs to any personal firearms.

E. CARRYING WEAPONS ON COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT

1. Carry of a handgun on a commercial aircraft shall only be allowed with written permission of the Chief of Police. Circumstances which may warrant carrying a handgun on a commercial aircraft include:
 - a. Prisoner escort
 - b. Required to report to another location armed and prepared for duty
 - c. Hazardous surveillance
2. Officers flying armed with a firearm must have completed required FAA training.
3. Officers authorized to carry handguns on a commercial aircraft must declare their weapons, presenting the airline representative with a letter from the Chief of Police and police issued photo/signature identification.
4. Handguns may be carried in checked baggage. They must be declared, tagged, unloaded and in a Department provided or approved locked bag within the checked baggage.
5. Personnel carrying a firearm on a commercial aircraft must comply with all weapon regulations of the travel carrier and jurisdiction they enter.
6. Chemical sprays and EMDs may not be carried on a commercial aircraft in any circumstance.

F. ARMOR CONTAINMENT SYSTEM USE – HANDGUNS SAFETY

1. Employees loading, unloading or conducting a safety inspection of handguns inside the police building shall use one of the armor containment safety stations provided for that purpose; and in accord with the posted instructions.
2. Armor containment devices have been installed at five locations throughout the Department.
 - Cadet Desk

Revised

- Second Floor Armory
 - Men's Locker Room
 - Women's Locker Room
 - Evidence Processing Room
3. Citizens and untrained employees should not be allowed to handle or clear handguns in the Public Safety Building.

Revised G. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SAFETY ACT

Officers shall not transport Department owned equipment, weapons or implements or exercise any police powers granted by the Township, outside the State of Michigan without written permission from the Chief of Police. The Chief of Police may authorize exceptions for situations where the officer is on duty and on a Department assignment or is off duty.

Officers of this department are authorized to carry a concealed handgun in all other states subject to the following conditions (18 USC 926B):

1. The officer shall be qualified to carry the handgun they wish to carry outside of the state.
2. The officer shall first receive written permission from the Chief of Police prior to leaving the state with the handgun.
3. The officer shall carry his/her Meridian Township identification card whenever carrying the handgun.
4. The officer may not be the subject of any current disciplinary action.
5. The officer will remain accountable to all department general orders if they choose to carry a handgun outside of the state of Michigan.

Officers are cautioned that individual states may enact local regulations that permit private persons or entities to prohibit or restrict the possession of concealed handguns on their property, or that prohibit or restrict the possession of handguns on any state or local government property, installation, building, base, or park. Federal authority may not shield an officer from arrest and prosecution in such locally restricted areas.

New H. LEOSA FOR FORMER OFFICERS AND RETIREES

1. At the Chief's discretion, retirees may be issued MTPD retiree identification cards upon separation from employment at Meridian Township.

2. The police department may also provide a range date and time for former officers and retirees who meet the definition of a qualified law enforcement officer as defined in federal law 18 USC 926C to qualify to carry a concealed weapon.
3. MTPD may provide a certified range officer to conduct the MCOLES handguns qualification including both the educational component and the mechanical component. The range officer will ensure all standards set forth by MCOLES for LEOSA qualification are met for each former officer or retiree.
4. Records of range qualification will be kept by the Chief's Administrative Assistant at MTPD in accordance with the State of Michigan General Retention Schedule.
5. At the Chief's discretion, former employees and retirees who meet the requirements for carrying a concealed handgun listed under LEOSA will be issued a LEOSA card. The card shall list, at a minimum, the department's name, the card holder's name, and the expiration date which shall be listed as one year after the card holder's qualification date. Only those who complete the handguns qualification hosted by MTPD will be issued an MTPD LEOSA card.
6. It shall be the former employee or retiree's responsibility to notify MTPD should they no longer be eligible for LEOSA and to turn in their LEOSA card to the department.

I. CONCEALED PISTOL LICENSE

1. Employees who have a Concealed Pistol License shall promptly provide a copy to the Chief of Police upon request.
2. Employees shall not carry Department owned equipment, weapons or implements while off duty under the Concealed Pistol License.

New

J. PROHIBITED WEAPONS AND USE OF WEAPONS

1. The use of equipment or other objects not designed or designated as weapons, but used as such, requires "last resort" circumstances. Last resort situations are when certain immediate and drastic measures must be undertaken in order to protect human life. The actions taken will be evaluated in the context of reasonableness and will generally be treated as the use of deadly force.

2. Officers shall not unnecessarily brandish or use any handgun or other weapon as an intimidation device.
3. Carrying or using non-approved weapons is prohibited. Prohibited weapons include, but are not limited to, sap gloves, saps, black jacks, billy clubs, brass knuckles, martial arts weapons, non-folding knives, and non-issued batons.
4. Officers may carry folding pocket knives of legal length and description. Knives are only intended to be used as utility tools rather than as weapons.
5. Officers shall not modify, alter, or change the issued/authorized tools, weapons, or implements approved for carry under this directive without specific written approval of the Chief of Police or his designee.
6. Department handguns shall not be handled by persons not employed by the Meridian Township Police Department or by untrained employees, except during Department approved maintenance and service.

K. SAFETY AND SECURITY OF WEAPONS

Officers are responsible for safely handling and securing their weapons, whether in the workplace, or elsewhere.

1. In the workplace
 - a. Weapon safety guidelines for handguns shall be followed at all times.
 - b. Weapons shall not be left unsecured.
 - c. All weapons placed in gun boxes shall be secured by locking the cover and taking the key.
 - d. Weapons may be stored in lockers if the locker is secured with a lock.
 - e. Handling of a weapon should be kept to a minimum. Situations where handling of a weapon is permissible include:
 - Start and end of shift, while changing into or out of uniform, or during inspections conducted by a supervisor.
 - Maintenance by a Department approved weapons instructor or armorer.

- Under the direction of a Department approved trainer.
- Whenever necessary for a law enforcement related purpose, such as securing a weapon prior to entering a holding cell, etc.
- Cleaning a handgun in designated areas (Pelong Room or the evidence processing room).

2. In the Home

- a. Officers are bound to follow the law set forth in Public Act 17 of 2023 regarding the security of handguns in their homes in the presence of minors.
- b. All handguns shall be handled safely.
- c. All handguns left unattended in the home, or elsewhere, shall be secured.
- d. A handgun should be secured in a locked container or with a gun safety lock.
- e. All handguns shall be kept away from children or other unauthorized persons.

L. RESTRICTIONS

1. Weapons shall not be exhibited or displayed contrary to this policy.
2. Approved equipment, weapons or implements shall not be modified without the written permission of the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

IV. CANCELLATIONS

None

Authorized by:



Rick Grillo, Chief of Police

Index as:

Handguns, Use of
Handguns, Off Duty
Off Duty Weapon
Second Weapon

Standard 1.10.1
Standard 1.10.2
Standard 1.10.3

Application: This directive constitutes department policy, and is not intended to enlarge the employer's or employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It shall not be construed as the creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims insofar as the employer's or employee's legal duty as imposed by law.

REVISED - APPENDIX A

MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT APPROVED/AUTHORIZED INDIVIDUAL OFFICER WEAPON/IMPLEMENT LIST

Handguns:

Glock Model 45 MOS (primary handgun), equipped with either night sights or suppressor height sights

Remington Model 870 12 gauge shotgun

Colt AR-15 5.56 NATO caliber patrol rifle

Sig Sauer AR-15 5.56 NATO caliber patrol rifle

Remington 700 rifle .308 caliber (may only be carried by a member of the Special Response Team trained in the use of this weapon, during the deer cull by members of the deer cull, or with authorization from the Chief of Police or his / her designee)

Ruger 350 Legend AR-556 350 Legend (may only be used during the deer cull by members of the deer cull team or with authorization from the Chief of Police or his / her designee)

Primary Handgun Optics:

Trijicon RCR or RMR Reflex Sight

Secondary Weapons:

1. Department issued Glock Model 43
2. A double action only or double action first shot and single action thereafter with a caliber range from .380 to .45. Examples include:

Beretta	.380-.45
Glock	.380-.45
Heckler & Koch	.380-.45
Remington	.380-.45
Ruger	.380-.45
Sig Sauer	.380-.45
Smith and Wesson	.380-.45
Springfield Armory	.380-.45
Taurus	.380-.45

Rifle Purchase Program:

Rifles must be a high-quality AR-15 .223/5.56 NATO rifle from a major manufacturer. The rifle must have a direct impingement gas system, be semi-automatic only, with no overt logos, engravings or embellishments, and cannot have a folding stock. It must meet the criteria for military specification. Examples of acceptable manufactures include but are not limited to:

- Colt
- Sig Sauer
- BCM
- Springfield Armory
- Daniel Defense
- FN
- Troy Industries

Off Duty Weapons:

1. Department issued Glock Model 43
2. A double action only or double action first shot and single thereafter with a caliber range from .380 to .45. Examples include:

Beretta	.380-.45
Glock	.380-.45
Heckler & Koch	.380-.45
Remington	.380-.45
Ruger	.380-.45
Sig Sauer	.380-.45

Smith and Wesson	.380-.45
Springfield Armory	.380-.45
Taurus	.380-.45

Other Weapons:

Sabre Red canister/spray

Pepperball system high-pressure air launcher

Taser 10 Energy Weapon with 45' cartridge

Implements:

Legal length folding knives (not issued) – optional

Smith and Wesson (or Peerless) Handcuffs - as issued

Munitions:

Sage International, smoke grenade

Defensive Technologies, flashbang grenade (may only be carried by a member of the Special Response Team trained in the use of the munitions)

Ammunition:

Ammunition must be approved by the Chief of Police, or his designee (Range Master).

Semi-auto pistol - 9 mm, 124 grain, Hollow-point

Shotgun - 12 gauge 00 buck

Patrol Rifle .223 caliber, 55-grain soft point

Pepperball System -Pepperball OC, Inert, Marking, and Glass Breaking projectiles

Remington/Ruger rifle- .308 and 350 Legend, 110 grain – 168 grain and 120 grain to 200 grain respectively

Second and off duty ammunition:

A high grade, commercial, hollow point, expanding, projectile shall be used in a back-up firearm and/or off duty firearm. A list of acceptable manufacturers is listed below. Use of hand loads or reloads is prohibited. Military ball ammunition or full metal jacket ammunition shall not be used, except for during practice. Use of other factory ammunition will require approval by the Range Master and will be reviewed

on a case by case basis.

Acceptable manufacturers:

- Federal
- Winchester
- Speer
- Remington
- Hornady
- Cor-Bon

Bullet weight:

For an on-duty back up gun, the following calibers and bullet weights have been approved;

.380	-	88gr	to	102gr
.38 special	-	90gr	to	158gr
9mm	-	115gr	to	147gr
.357 mag/sig	-	110gr	to	165gr
.40 S&W	-	155gr	to	180gr

An off duty gun includes the above rounds as well as;

.45 ACP/GAP	-	165gr	to	250gr
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