SEMINOLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE GENERAL ORDER	NUMBER: G - 51
	RESCINDS:
SUBJECT:	**Weapons Policy**
EFFECTIVE:	**November 14, 1994**
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I. PURPOSE:

This directive provides procedures for the issue, care, and deployment of lethal and less-lethal weapons except for the Taser, addressed in a separate directive. It also addresses Halt Dog Repellant by Field Service Specialists, Civil Process Specialists, Seminole County Probation Officers and Victim Advocates. For purposes of this directive, the titles Deputy, Deputy Sheriff, Detention Deputy, and Court Security Deputy (collectively "Deputies") are used synonymously.

II. SCOPE:

A. The lethal and less-lethal defensive weapons and ammunition described in this directive are the only weapons and ammunition authorized by Sheriff's Office personnel in their official law enforcement capacity, whether on or off duty. The use of issued weapons for recreational purposes is prohibited (this does not apply to weapons used in authorized law enforcement competitions).

B. As used in this directive, the term Armorer refers to the official Sheriff's Office Armorer(s) as authorized by the Captain of the Professional Development Division (hereafter Professional Development), or the Captain of the Special Services Division.

III. GENERAL:

A. Only that degree of response to resistance necessary to accomplish lawful objectives is authorized for self-defense, defense of another, to overcome physical resistance to arrest, or to prevent the escape of an arrested person.

B. Only Deputies demonstrating proficiency with authorized weapons and civilians, authorized and demonstrating proficiency with an Individual Protective Device (hereafter referred to as IPD), are permitted to carry them.

C. Deputies carrying any weapon pursuant to their authority as a law enforcement officer when not in uniform will keep their weapons hidden from public view unless engaged in a law enforcement action.

D. Weapons are not used in a careless manner, including reckless intimidation.

E. Lethal and less-lethal defensive weapons will be used consistent with training.

F. Deputies involved in the negligent or unintentional discharge of a lethal weapon must be re-qualified by a firearms instructor before returning to duty. Carrying a weapon is a requirement of the job assignment.

G. Deputies who suffer illness or injury that may affect the ability to use a weapon may be required to re-qualify with their weapon before returning to duty.

H. For the purpose of this general order and related general orders, "Annual Training" refers to a requirement that it must be completed every twelve (12) months.

I. The Professional Development Division is authorized to test, evaluate, demonstrate, and carry, in or during a training setting, weapons, ammunition and equipment not yet authorized for all members.

IV. SECURITY OF WEAPONS:

A. All weapons, including ammunition magazines, knives that could be used as a weapon, expandable batons, and oleoresin capsicum spray, will be secured in provided lockers or within a vehicle's trunk before Deputies enter the controlled and secured area of:

1. Correctional facilities (jails),
2. Holding cells at the Seminole County Courthouses,
3. Holding cells and secured interview rooms in the Criminal Investigations Division,
4. Juvenile Assessment Centers and,
5. Mental health facilities.

NOTE: Exceptions may be made during emergencies involving hostages, barricaded suspects, and public order events. However, Deputies may enter these secured facilities only upon the commanding officer's approval in charge of the scene.

B. On or off duty, Deputies are responsible for the security of their weapons. Firearms and other weapons will be kept safely secured to prevent access by juveniles or another unauthorized person. When storing agency-issued or approved weapons:

1. Secure firearms with a trigger lock.

a. The Sheriff's Office provides trigger locks for all issued firearms.

b. At their own expense, Deputies provide trigger locks to secure personally owned firearms approved by the Sheriff's Office as line of duty weapons, off duty weapons, or secondary weapons.

2. Issued less-lethal weapons will be stored at locations where they are not accessible to juveniles or other unauthorized persons.

NOTE: If Deputies have a key or combination-controlled area to store weapons, and if they use this area to secure weapons, the use of trigger locks is optional.

C. Issued firearms are surrendered to the Armorer before an employee goes on an extended leave of more than seven calendar days unless the firearm is taken on leave in accordance with the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004.

D. Firearms and weapons must be adequately secured to prevent theft or unauthorized access, as noted below:

1. When an employee is off-duty and not operating the vehicle, firearms and weapons must be removed from the occupant compartments of Sheriff's Office vehicles unless they are properly stored and secured in an agency-mounted/installed and locked vehicle gun vault or securely stored in the trunk.

2. When vehicles are left unattended at a repair or maintenance facility, all weapons and firearms must be removed from the vehicle and properly secured.

V. AUTHORITY TO CARRY DEFENSIVE WEAPONS:

A. Deputies are authorized to carry and use approved weapons subject to the following:

1. They must have demonstrated proficiency in the use of a weapon.

2. Deputies who have completed the Sheriff's Office Field Training Program and are authorized for solo duty status are authorized to carry approved weapons while on or off duty in accordance with Sections 790.051 and 790.052, Florida Statutes.

3. Deputies who have not completed the Field Training Program and are not authorized for solo duty status can carry agency-issued weapons only while on duty.

4. Deputies in training may be authorized to carry weapons for purposes such as graduations and swearing in ceremonies with the approval of the Captain of the Professional Development Division

B. Only approved weapons may be carried by personnel within the scope or course of their official duties or when acting at any time under color of law or carried within their assigned vehicle. Exceptions are allowed when weapons are being transported as evidence or when weapons meeting the criteria of this directive are transported to the Armorer for approval before firing range qualification.

C. Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 (Chapter 44 of Title 18 Section 926 United States Code):

1. Deputies having the authority from the Sheriff to carry weapons and enforce the laws of the state may carry concealed firearms within the United States. Deputies are required to carry their official Sheriff's Office identification credentials whenever carrying a firearm pursuant to this authority.

2. In accordance with the Act:

a. Concealed weapons are not permitted on private property when prohibited by the owners or on State or Local government property, installation, building, base or park when prohibited by law.

b. The Deputy may not be the subject of any disciplinary action by the agency.

c. The Deputy must meet established Sheriff's Office standards requiring a qualification in the use of a firearm.

d. The Deputy must not be under the influence of alcohol or any intoxicating or hallucinatory drug.

e. The Deputy must not be prohibited by federal law from possessing firearms.

f. Firearm does not include any machinegun as defined in Section 5845 of the National Firearms Act any firearm silencer (as defined in section 921 of Title 18; or any destructive device as defined in Section 921 of Title 18.

3. Deputies shall conduct themselves in accordance with the General Orders Standards of Conduct and Weapons Policy.

4. This policy does not address the carrying of firearms by retired Deputies under the Act.

VI. ISSUING AND RECORDS OF DEFENSIVE WEAPONS:

A. *Lethal Weapons (Firearms):*

1. Only Deputies trained in the use of lethal weapons are authorized to carry them.

2. Before they may be carried in the performance of duty, lethal weapons are reviewed, thoroughly inspected, and approved by the Armorer. Any weapon failing this review and inspection will be noted by the Armorer and will not be carried by an employee until any noted deficiency is corrected. Any lethal weapon that cannot be repaired to the satisfaction of the Armorer will not be authorized for service.

3. The Armorer retains an electronic record of firearms that documents the type, model, and serial number of all firearms authorized for use. The Special Services Captain (or designee) maintains all firearms assigned to the Special Services Division. Therefore, any maintenance, repair, issuance, storage, and all inventory records of any firearms assigned to the Special Services Division is the responsibility of the Special Services Captain (or designee).

4. Firearm serial numbers are verified during firearms training.

B. *Less-lethal Weapons (Sworn On-Duty):*

1. Approved less-lethal weapons for Deputies:

a. Taser (see G-51A, Tasers)
b. Bean Bag (optional)
c. ASP
d. Oleoresin Capsicum Spray (IPD)

2. Before being carried in the performance of duty, less-lethal weapons must be reviewed, thoroughly inspected, and approved by a certified weapons instructor before being issued to new-user employees. Any weapon failing this review and inspection will not be issued until the noted deficiency is corrected. Less-lethal weapons that cannot be repaired to the satisfaction of the instructor will not be issued.

3. Once issued, the assigned employee is responsible for the inspection of the issued weapon consistent with their training. Any baton or IPD that fails inspection shall be replaced by

Material Supply. Any less-lethal bean bag shotgun or Taser that fails inspection shall be replaced by Professional Development.

4. No weapon is issued by Professional Development until the employee has received training for the weapon.

5. Only Deputies trained in the use of less-lethal weapons are authorized to carry them.

6. Professional Development (or designee) maintains a record of issued Tasers and impact munitions delivery systems (bean bags).

7. Oleoresin Capsicum Spray (IPD) and Taser cartridge(s) shall be inspected, and expiration dates verified and documented during semi-annual Vehicle Inspections to ensure expiration dates are not exceeded.

8. Professional Development is responsible for issuing all batons and IPDs at the completion of approved new user training. Professional Development will obtain the anticipated number of ASPs and IPDs, including holders and scabbards, from Material Supply based on the anticipated enrollment of an upcoming course. Professional Development will return completed debit slips for all issued equipment to Material Supply once issued, and return all unassigned batons, scabbards, IPDs, and holders.

9. Material Supply documents issuance of all batons and IPDs, and documents the expiration date of the IPD.

C. Halt Dog Repellant – (*Civilian On-Duty*)*:*

1. Halt Dog Repellant is approved for Civilians On Duty only.

2. Before being issued and carried in the performance of duty, less-lethal weapons must be examined by Material Supply for leakage and confirm it has not expired. Any weapon failing this inspection will not be issued until any noted deficiency is corrected. Less-lethal weapons that cannot be repaired will not be issued.

3. Upon completion of Halts Dog Spray training with Professional Development, Field Service Specialists, Civil Process Specialists, Seminole County Probation Officers, and Victim Advocates may be authorized to carry Halt Dog Repellant.

4. Professional Development is responsible for issuing Halt Dog Repellant at the completion of approved training. Professional Development will obtain the anticipated number of Halt Dog Repellant canisters (and holders) from Material Supply based on the anticipated enrollment of an upcoming course. Professional Development will return completed debit slips for all issued equipment to Material Supply once issued and return all unassigned Halt Dog Repellant canisters.

5. Material Supply documents issuance and expiration date of Halt Dog Repellant.

6. Halt Dog Repellant shall be inspected, and the expiration date documented in the Vehicle Inspection Report to ensure expiration dates are not exceeded.

7. Civilian employees are not authorized to carry and/or deploy Halt Dog Repellant while off duty.

D. Less-lethal Weapons (Off-Duty):

1. Deputy Sheriffs are authorized to carry and deploy less-lethal weapons while off duty within the scope of Sheriff's Office Written Directives. Any deployment of a less-lethal weapon while off

duty must be immediately reported to the deputy's immediate supervisor, an SNP Sergeant, or the deputy's Lieutenant or Manager in their absence.

E. *Impact, Breaching, Chemical Munitions:*

1. Only Deputies trained in the use of such munitions (and shotguns/launchers explicitly designed for this use) are authorized to carry them. Deputies will examine munitions before use and return to the Armorer any damaged munitions or those having any other abnormalities that could cause malfunctions.

2. Munitions and shotguns/launcher delivery systems are issued only to trained employees authorized to use them.

VII. DISARMAMENT:

Deputies should not become disarmed in a hostile environment. Surrendering a weapon to the demands of an armed suspect does not necessarily reduce danger, and it may mean giving away the only chance for survival. Therefore, every tactical tool available should be used to avoid surrendering a weapon.

VIII. AUTHORIZED FIREARMS AND ACCESSORIES:

A. Ammunition:

1. Only ammunition approved by the Armorer and described in this directive is authorized for use in issued firearms. Duty ammunition for issued firearms is as follows:

a. Duty Handguns:

1) 9mm: 115-147 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point and cavity - filled)
2) .45 ACP: 180-230 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point and cavity-filled)
3) .45 ACP, 200-230 grain, Speer Gold Dot Hollow Point
4) .22 LR 32-40 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point and cavity-filled)
5) 9mm 124 grain Speer Gold Dot Hollow Point (Special Services)
6) 9mm 135 grain Hornaday Flex Lock

b. Duty Shotgun (Pump)

1) 12 Gauge 2.75" 8 or 9 pellet buckshot
2) 12 Gauge 2.75" 1oz slug
3) 12 Gauge CTS Super Sock Less Lethal (in designated LL shotguns only)
4) 12 Gauge DefTech Drag Stabilized Beanbag (in designated LL shotguns only)
5) 12GA, door breaching round

c. Duty Shotgun (Semi-automatic)

1) 12GA, Federal/Speer 1 oz Rifled Slug, 2.75"
2) 12GA, Federal/Speer #4 Buckshot, 2.75-3" Magnum

d. AR-15/M-16/M-4 Duty Rifle

1) 5.56 55-77 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point/soft point/cavity filled)
2) 5.56 55-77 grain ball ammunition
3) .223/5.56mm Hornady 55-64 grain TAP Barrier (Special Services)

e. Accuracy International Rifle

1) .308/7.62 168 grain Federal Tactical Bonded Tip (Special Services)
2) .308/7.62 168 grain Hornady ELD-M (Special Services)

2. Professional Development may use specialized ammunition (such as birdshot) for training personnel in firearms training programs. However, this ammunition is for range use only and is not issued or authorized for duty use.

3. Modification or alteration of any approved ammunition is prohibited. The use of hand-loaded or reloaded ammunition is prohibited. Frangible training ammunition for duty use is prohibited.

4. Ammunition for use in approved on-duty plainclothes secondary or off-duty firearms must be factory produced and of jacketed, semi-jacketed, soft, or hollow point design.

5. All deputies carrying a personally owned weapon on duty on which they have qualified will carry ammunition that fits the following criteria:

a. Handguns:

1) 9mm: 115-147 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point and cavity - filled)
2) 9mm 124 grain Speer Gold Dot Hollow Point (Special Services)
3) 9mm 135 grain Hornaday Flex Lock (Special Services)
4) .45 ACP: 180-230 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point and cavity-filled)
5) .22 Magnum 40-60 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point/soft point/cavity filled)
6) .25 ACP 30-80 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point/soft point/cavity filled)
7) .32 ACP 40-90 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point/soft point/cavity filled)
8) .380 ACP 80-110 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point/soft point/cavity filled)
9) .38 Special 90-180 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point/soft point/cavity filled)
10) .38 Super 90-180 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point/soft point/cavity filled)
11) .357 Magnum 90-180 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point/soft point/cavity filled)
12) .357 Sig 90-180 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point/soft point/cavity filled)
13) .40 S&W 125-240 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point/soft point/cavity filled)
14) .41 S&W Magnum 125-240 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point/soft point/cavity filled)

15) .44 S&W Magnum 125-260 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point/soft point/cavity filled)
16) 10mm Auto 140-240 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point/soft point/cavity filled)

b. Rifle/Carbine:

1) .308 Winchester/7.62 NATO 150-168 grain expanding ammunition (hollow point/soft point/cavity filled)
2) .223 caliber (5.56mm), 62 grain TAP Barrier (SWAT)
3) .223 caliber (5.56mm), 60 grain TAP Urban (SWAT)
4) .308/7.62 168 grain Federal Tactical Boned Tip (Special Services)
5) .308/7.62 168 grain Hornady ELD-M (Special Services)
6) 9MM 115-147 grain Gold Dot Hollow Point (Special Services, MP-5)

6. Firearm magazines must contain the same make and type of ammunition. Mixing ammunition in firearm magazines for duty use is not authorized.

B. *Handguns:*

1. *On duty (Primary):*

a. Unless a Deputy has obtained permission to carry a personally owned handgun while on duty, the Armorer issues all handguns. The Armorer issues an appropriate firearm consistent with the Deputy's duties. Special Services Division weapons are maintained at the Special Services Division and are issued by the Special Services Captain or designee.

b. Circumstances may require Deputies to carry handguns that do not resemble police-type handguns (during special undercover assignments, for example). These handguns must meet the same approval, inspection, and qualification requirements as those approved for other firearms. Certain circumstances outlined in this policy require the Sheriff's approval.

c. The armorer will issue a Glock 47 to all deputies for use in performance of their duties. Deputies assigned to the Special Services Division may be issued a Glock 21, 43X and/or 47 at the discretion of the Captain, based on assignment. . All deputies issued a firearm will receive the appropriate weapon-mounted light, optic system, magazines, holster, and pouches. Material Supply and/or the Special Services Division will provide the appropriate holster and magazine pouches for the deputy's issued firearm. All deputies must qualify with an issued firearm before carrying said firearm on duty. All Deputies will maintain weapon proficiency by qualifying annually and by successfully passing weapon training evolutions established by the Professional Development Division.

NOTE: Uniformed personnel carry one of the above handgun models chambered in. 9mm (except Special Services or those authorized by the Sheriff).

d. Deputies may carry their personally owned handguns on-duty in uniform, subject to the following constraints:

(1) The handgun must be chambered in 9mm or .45 ACP.

(2) The handgun must be carried in an Alien Gear or Safariland holster with ALS and SLS capability. The holster must be in plain black or black basketweave

pattern.. The magazines must be capable of being carried in Safariland or Gould & Goodrich magazine pouches. The pouches must be in a black basketweave pattern or plain black.

(3) The handgun must be capable of accepting a weapon-mounted light of the Surefire X300 or Streamlight TLR1 or 7 pattern.

(4) The grip portion/frame of the firearm must be black.

(5) The handgun must have a capacity of at least seven rounds in the magazine.

(6) The deputy must start their shift with a minimum of 36 rounds of ammunition in the weapon or loaded in spare magazines on their person.

(7) If the handgun is single-action only, the deputy must have completed the single-action transition course through the Professional Development Division. Single-action-only handguns must have either a grip safety or a firing pin block safety in addition to a thumb safety for approval.

(8) If the handgun is equipped with an optical sight, the deputy must have completed the optic transition course through the Professional Development Division. The optic must be within the parameters of this General Order, specifically VIII.B.1i. The deputy must maintain weapon proficiency as depicted above in VII.B.1c.

(9) The deputy who wishes to carry their own handgun on-duty bears all expenses for holsters, optics, magazines, pouches, maintenance and .45 ACP practice ammunition (if applicable). All duty ammunition will be provided through the armorer.

(10) Any deputy wishing to carry a personally owned handgun on-duty must submit the weapon to inspection and approval through the agency lead armorer. If the handgun is not one of the following brands and/or has been modified other than cosmetically from factory specifications, the deputy must receive explicit approval from the Captain of Professional Development to carry the weapon on-duty.

(11) The following brands unmodified from the factory other than cosmetics do not require the approval of the Captain of Professional Development unless the agency lead armorer, in their sole discretion, believes such approval should be sought. Those brands are Glock, Smith and Wesson, CZ, Sig Sauer (see Note below regarding the Sig P320), Walther, Colt, Springfield Armory, Staccato, Beretta, Heckler & Koch, Fabrique Nationale (FN), and Kimber. Should a deputy wish to carry a personally owned handgun on-duty in uniform other than these, they must submit the weapon for inspection by the agency lead armorer and the Captain of Professional Development.

(12) A deputy choosing to carry a personally owned weapon who discharges that weapon in a deputy-involved shooting (on or off duty) may have that weapon held as evidence by the appropriate investigating agency. That weapon could also be held as evidence and preserved until all pending litigation, including civil litigation, has been resolved. The Sheriff's Office will not replace the personally owned weapon during that time period with anything other than the standard-issue Glock 47.

(13) If authorized to carry a personally owned handgun as their on-duty/primary handgun Deputies must surrender their agency-issued handgun, optic system, magazines, and WML to the Armorer.

NOTE: The Sig Sauer P320 handgun shall not be carried and is not authorized for use in the performance of any Sheriff's Office duty or activity.

e.. *Handgun Lighting Systems:*

(1) *Standard Flashlight:*

A standard flashlight is a utility device used for performing functions in low light conditions where it is not practical, safe, or prudent to use the WML. Examples include vehicle searches, issuing traffic citations at night or reading maps.

(2) *Weapons Mounted Light:*

The WML system issued to deputies for use on their handguns is the Streamlight TLR 1 or 7. Deputies may utilize their own Surefire X300 series at their own expense. No other WML will be used on issued handguns without the approval of the lead armorer. Deputies will carry the WML mounted on their handguns.

(3) The Special Services Division and those authorized by the Sheriff are issued the Glock 21 or Glock 47 handgun with a Surefire X Series WML. Special Services Division members are authorized to use other WML systems at the direction of the Special Services Captain or designee.

f. Non-uniformed Deputies who wish to carry a personally owned handgun while working in plainclothes duty must be approved as specified below, and their firearm must meet the following criteria:

(1) .380 - .45 caliber,

(2) Semi-automatic or revolver design,

(3) Double action only, or double/single action (transitional),

(4) Has a manual de-cocking mechanism (double-action-only and revolver handguns excluded),

(5) Must have a firing pin block mechanism or transfer bar safety, or

(6) Single action pistol as described in VIIII B(5) of this directive.

g. A deputy desiring a personally owned handgun on-duty must qualify with any issued firearm before carrying said firearm on-duty and maintain weapon proficiency by qualifying annually and by successfully passing weapon training evolutions established by the Professional Development Division.

h. Professional Development will retain copies of the approval. If the handgun is disposed of (sold), Deputies must submit a written disposal statement to the Armorer.

i. *Optic Equipped Handguns*

(1) All optic-equipped handguns must meet every other specification in this General Order and must be carried in a holster as defined in this General Order.

(2) All costs for optic-equipped personally owned handguns are the responsibility of the Deputy who wishes to carry the optic-equipped handgun. This includes the holster, batteries, and maintenance/repair expenses. All these items remain the property of the purchasing deputy.

(3) Any deputy who wishes to carry an optic-equipped personally owned handgun on duty or as an approved secondary/off-duty weapon must complete the Pistol Optics New User course offered through the Professional Development Division. In addition, any deputy who wishes to carry an optic-equipped personally owned handgun on duty or as an approved secondary/off-duty weapon must achieve a score of 80% or greater on the qualification course after the Pistol Optics New User course.

(4) The following optics are approved for pistols under this policy:
- Sig Romeo 1 Pro, Romeo Zero
- Aimpoint ACRO, T1, T2
- Trijicon RMR series and SRO
- Leupold Delta Point Pro
- Holosun 507/509 Series
-Steiner MPS
-Holosum EPS, SCS, 508, 407
-Sig Romeo X
-Romeo X Pro
-Sig Rome M17 and Romeo 2
Vortex Defender series
Osight SE series

(5) Any optic attached to a personally owned handgun for duty or an approved secondary/off-duty weapon must be attached either through a plate system (factory) or direct milled to the slide by a machine shop/gunsmith as approved by Professional Development. No agency-issued weapons will be milled without the approval of the Captain of the Professional Development Division.

(6) Any optic equipped handgun for duty or secondary/off-duty use must be equipped with a set of traditional (iron) sights co-witnessed with the optic.

(7) The Special Services Division Captain may authorize the issuance of Vortex PST for the .308 rifle, and the Holosun 509T for the 9mm.

The holster's purchase will be the deputy's responsibility and remains the deputy's property.

2. *Secondary and Off-Duty Handgun:*

a. If a secondary or off-duty handgun is carried on duty to supplement the primary handgun, it is with the understanding that it is to be used when the primary handgun is

lost or malfunctions and becomes depleted of ammunition or during similar emergency circumstances.

b. Secondary and off-duty firearms are carried on a Deputy's person, completely and safely concealed to prevent loss or negligent discharge.

c. Secondary and off-duty firearms may be a revolver or semiautomatic in design.

d. Secondary and off-duty firearms of semiautomatic design must meet the following design criteria:

(1) .22 - .45 caliber,

(2) Single-action, double action only, transitional trigger,

(3) Manual de-cocking mechanism (transitional trigger only),

(4) Firing pin-block mechanism (DAO, transitional handguns only),

(5) Single-action semi-automatic handguns must meet the following design criteria:

(a) 9mm, .380, .357, .40, or .45ACP,
(b) Manual thumb safety,
(c) Operational grip safety,
(d) Half-cock notch on the hammer.

NOTE: Deputies wishing to carry a single-action semi-automatic handgun for on-duty/plain clothes, off-duty, or secondary purposes must attend and complete a single-action handgun course provided by Professional Development.

e. Secondary and off-duty firearms of revolver design must meet the following criteria:

(1) .22 - .45 caliber,
(2) Double action,
(3) Transfer bar safety mechanism.

NOTE: When operating a Sheriff's Office vehicle, Deputies will have an approved firearm of at least .380 caliber or greater.

f. Deputies wishing to carry a secondary and/or off-duty handgun must meet the approval and testing requirements of Paragraph 1(f) above.

NOTE: Secondary handguns (not off-duty handguns) may be single-action derringers if they are small, easily concealable, and are between .22 - .45 caliber.

(1) Firearms and firearm accessories must be natural color; black, grey, tan, OD green, blue steel, nickel, brushed nickel, or stainless steel. Pastel or bright colors such as pink, purple, blue, etc., are not authorized for on-duty, off-duty secondary firearms and accessories. Orange stock less-lethal shotguns are exempt from this provision.

C. *Holsters:*

1. All on-duty handguns will be carried in a holster.

2. Uniformed Deputies will carry an Alien Gear or Safariland ALS/SLS holster (with WML attached).

3. Secondary and off-duty handguns must be secured to the body in a manner that prevents loss or unintentional discharge.

4. Only holsters approved by the Armorer may be used during uniformed duty; Special Services Division members assigned to SNP will carry the issued Glock 21 or 47 in the holster approved by the Special Services Division Captain.

5. Non-uniformed Deputies must use a holster, which covers the trigger guard of the handgun and incorporates a minimum of one of the following:

   a. Thumb release safety strap
   b. Internal locking mechanism
   c. Friction tension retention

D. *Shotguns:*

1. Regular Duty:

   a. Deputies are authorized to carry 12-gauge pump action and semi-automatic shotguns issued by the Armorer. If a deputy wishes to carry a personally owned shotgun on duty, it must be of a pump or semi-automatic design, and subject to approval through the personally owned weapon approval process. Personally owned shotguns that have a pistol grip without a buttstock are not authorized for on duty carry.

2. Impact Munitions (less lethal):

   a. Impact munitions will only be deployed from dedicated 12-gauge shotguns, approved by the Armorer, and equipped with bright orange or yellow stocks and forearms. Only Combined Tactical Systems 12-gauge Supersock, or DefTech 12-gauge Drag Stabilized impact munitions, will be loaded in dedicated impact munitions shotguns.

   NOTE: Impact munitions will not be loaded into or discharged from regular duty shotguns.

3. The Special Services Captain may authorize the use of other shotguns as it pertains to the division and assignment.

E. *Rifles:*

1. Only those rifles approved by the Armorer may be carried on duty. The Special Services Captain may authorize the use of other weapons platforms as it pertains to the division and assignment.

2. The following types and models of rifles are authorized:

   a. Colt M16A1 or M16A2,

   b. Colt AR15 or M4 type design by an approved manufacturer,

c. Heckler & Koch Models 41, and 91, MP-5 type design (must be specifically authorized by the Armorer),

e. .30 caliber carbine of the M1 design*****,

f. Sig Sauer M400,

i. Grand Power Stribog 9mm (Special Services use only)

j. Accuracy International .308 caliber (Special Services use only),

k. Springfield St. Victor, .308 caliber AR10 (Range and Water use only)

NOTE: Rifles marked with an asterisk (*) are no longer issued. However, Deputies previously approved to carry one of these rifles may continue to carry them provided they maintain their training and proficiency. If one of these rifles is replaced by a Deputy or agency, the replacement rifle must be replaced by a rifle of the AR15/M16/M4 design.

3. The following accessories are authorized for use with personally owned rifles:

a. Weapon-mounted light capable of one-hand operation,
b. Night sights,
c. 30-round (maximum) magazine,
d. Magazine clamp (for clamping two parallel magazines),
e. Factory-authorized stock,
f. Sling (mandatory for personal rifles),
g. Non-magnification sighting systems, and
h. Vertical or angled forearm attachment/grip.
i. Magpul 40 round magazine

NOTE: If a non-magnification sighting system (optic) is used, the weapon must be equipped with a sighting system that can be co-witnessed through the optic.

4. The following accessories are authorized for use with agency-issued rifles:

a. Weapon-mounted light,
b. Sling,
c. 30 round magazine
d. Magazine clamp,
e. Bolt Assist Device (BAD Lever) is approved on SWAT rifles only, and
f. Vertical or angled forearm attachment.
g. Magpul 40 round magazine

NOTE: Other agency issued AR10, AR15 or M4 style rifles or carbines may contain accessories consistent with assignment, as determined by the Sheriff's Office Armorer or the Special Operations Captain.

5. The following provisions regulate magnified optics for all members other than those assigned to Special Services Division.

a. All members desiring to equip a personally owned rifle for duty use or their issued agency rifle with a magnification system must complete the new user magnification training course as promulgated by Professional Development. The individual member will bear all costs for the magnification system and related equipment. That

equipment is their property and will be removed from the rifle upon separation from the agency.

b. Deputies who wish to equip their rifles with a low-power variable optic (LPVO) may purchase one at their own expense within the following criteria:

(1) The LPVO must have a bottom end of magnification of no greater than 1.1.

(2) The LPVO must be in a mount that co-witnesses with iron sights, or the rifle must be equipped with a secondary sighting system such as offset iron sights or an offset red dot sight.

c. Deputies who wish to equip their rifles with a separate magnification device (magnifier) may purchase one at their own expense within the following criteria:

(1) The magnifier must be capable of no greater magnification than 6x.

(2) The magnifier must be attached to the rifle in a mount that allows for the magnifier to be swung out of line with the optic without tools.

(3) The placement of the magnifier must allow for the mounting of iron sights, either co-witnessed or offset.

d. Users shall be required to complete an annual re-qualification course as set by the Professional Development Division.

6. Optics (Non-Magnification) that are installed on an agency or personal rifles must be from one of the following manufacturers:

a. Aimpoint
b. Bushnell
c. C-More
d. EoTech
e. Leupold
f. Meprolight
g. Redfield
h. Trijicon
i. Weaver
j. Sig Sauer Romeo4b/h (4a is authorized for SWAT only)
k. Burris

7. *Deployment:*

a. Rifles may be used when there is a need to:

(1) Swiftly contain a fluid, life-threatening situation,

(2) Maximize the use of cover when confronted with a hostile subject outside the effective range of handguns and

(3) Engage in counter-sniper operations and respond to other critical incidents as part of a Special Weapons and Tactics Team operation.

b. Rifles are encased and carried in the trunk or cargo area of Sheriff's Office vehicles. They may be deployed when distance would make them more reliable choices than a handgun.

c. Rifles are carried in the following safe mode:

(1) The magazine is removed,

(2) It is inspected to ensure its chamber is empty,

(3) The action is closed,

(4) It is encased and carried in the trunk or cargo area of a Sheriff's Office vehicle,

(5) The safety is in the **on** position,

(6) Authorized ammunition is loaded in the magazine, and

(7) The dust cover is closed (M16/AR15/M4/AR10).

d. If a vehicle is equipped with an electronic locking rifle rack, the rifle will be carried in the cruiser-ready configuration:

(1) Safety on,
(2) Empty chamber,
(3) Bolt forward,
(4) Dust cover closed, and
(5) Loaded magazine inserted.

e. When deployed, rifles are carried in the low-ready position consistent with training.

(1) A round may be chambered upon exiting the vehicle.

(2) The safety is in the **on** position until circumstances indicate danger may be imminent.

(3) Fingers are kept outside the trigger guard until the rifle is intentionally discharged.

(4) When the danger is resolved, the rifle is made safe by returning the safety to the **on** position, removing the magazine, and removing the round from the chamber.

8. Deputies desiring to carry a personally owned rifle must:

a. Request approval from an authorized agency Armorer.

b. Demonstrate satisfactory competency and qualify on the approved course of fire administered by an agency authorized firearms instructor.

c. Final approval is granted by the Range Master/Lead Armorer.

d. Personally owned rifles are limited to AR 15, M4, HK design, and semi-automatic firing systems. Personally owned Class III NFA firearms must be approved by the Sheriff. Such Class III firearms are limited to short-barrel rifles. Fully automatic

personal firearms are not authorized for duty use. It is the responsibility of the employee to maintain the appropriate BATF/E documentation to legally possess the firearm.

9. Copies of the firearm approval are retained by Professional Development. If the rifle is disposed of (sold), Deputies must submit a written disposal statement to the Armorer.

10. If authorized to carry a personally owned rifle, Deputies must surrender any issued rifle to the Armorer.

11. *Distribution of Rifles:*
Upon completing the authorized training course, uniformed Deputies assigned to Seminole Neighborhood Policing Communities will be issued an M16/AR15 design rifle. The rifle is assigned to the individual Deputy, not to the Community Office or Community Service Area. Deputies will store their rifles either in an electronic rack, gun vault, or encased in the trunk cargo area of their assigned vehicle.

F. *Submachine Guns:*
Authorized (for Special Services Division use only) submachine guns are the H & K MP5 and its variants, and the STRIBOG model SP9 and its variants capable of firing 9mm ammunition. Highly specialized weapons, submachine guns will only be carried and used consistent with training.

G. *Breaching/Impact/Distraction Devices/Chemical Agent Armament:*
Authorized for SWAT, Hazardous Device Team, Emergency Response Team, Special Response Team, and inside the correctional facility use only, the Defense Technologies 40 and 37mm launcher, Pepperball blast, and Pepperball launchers are designed to deliver chemical agents and breaching/impact munitions. Authorized projectiles designed and used in this device may be ceramic, steel, or other material, including gas projectiles.

1. Defense Technologies 40mm launchers, with 40mm chemical agent ferret rounds and 4mm impact rounds.

2. Pepperball launcher with glass breaching rounds, marking, inert, Live, Live-MAXX, and Live-X Projectiles.

3. Defense Technologies or CTS door breaching rounds containing ceramic, steel, or other materials (SWAT Only).

4. ALS TRMR – LE Distraction Device.

5. Defense Technology OC Vapor Aerosol Grenade.

6. Pepperball Blast System

7. Sabre Red Aerosol Grenade and Fogger/Vapor

H. If the use of a specialized weapon is determined necessary by the High Risk Incident Commander to resolve an emergency situation and such weapon is not among the authorized weapons described in this directive, the High Risk Incident Commander may approve the temporary use of such weapon (and supporting equipment including munitions) to resolve the emergency.

I. Firearms retained as evidence and scheduled for legal disposal by the Sheriff's Office may be retrieved by the Armorer and issued to employees, provided they meet the specifications of this directive.

IX. FIREARM MAINTENANCE:

A. Employees are responsible for keeping their weapons clean, corrosion-free, and in operational readiness. Corrosion (rust) on weapons or magazines will not be tolerated. Employees may be held responsible for repair costs when carelessness results in rust or other preventable damage.

B. Firearms are kept clean, lubricated, and in proper working order.

C. Only solvents and lubricants specially designed for use on firearms are authorized.

D. Beyond what is necessary for routine cleaning and maintenance, only the Armorer, or a civilian gunsmith approved by the Armorer, may disassemble or service any approved firearm, including any personally owned firearm carried in the line of duty.

1. In the absence of the Armorer, emergency repairs may be authorized by the Lieutenant of Professional Development.

2. Authorized repairs are specified on a repair order submitted to the gunsmith.

E. Modifying or altering an approved firearm without prior approval of the Armorer is not permitted.

X. INSPECTION:

A. Supervisors will conduct periodic visual inspections of all approved weapons. Still, they will conduct semi-annual, documented inspections of all approved weapons including ammunition per the General Order Inspections and Quality Assurance.

B. During qualification, weapons instructors inspect all approved firearms and Tasers to verify serial numbers. Inspection/training records, including test scores, are submitted to Professional Development.

C. Any weapon determined unsafe by a supervisor, weapons instructor, Armorer, Deputy, or Field Service Officer shall be immediately removed from service for repair or replacement.

1. If the weapon is a firearm or Taser, the Armorer shall be contacted as soon as possible by the Deputy to schedule repair or replacement.

2. If the weapon is a less-lethal weapon, it shall be returned to the Purchasing Coordinator by the employee's supervisor accompanied by a purchasing request for a new weapon. If the weapon is an oleoresin capsicum spray canister, proper disposal by the supervisor is permitted.

3. A weapon removed from service is replaced with a similar weapon. An employee may be required to be re-certified or retrained before resuming duty in which the weapon is required.

XI. OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY:

A. Oleoresin Capsicum Spray (IPD) is an aerosol canister with a 10% solution of the inflammatory agent oleoresin capsicum. First Defense, Model MK3 and Sabre Red MK3 are the authorized IPDs. If an OC canister carries an expiration date, employees shall ensure their canisters are not expired. Expired canisters will be replaced through Material Supply.

B. *Methods of Use:*

1. IPDs should be used as a supplement to, rather than a replacement for, other tactics and control techniques.

2. The use of an IPD is authorized after verbal dialogue has failed, and the only alternative is to physically approach and attempt to take a resisting suspect into custody. This is a Level #4 response used to control a subject exhibiting a Level #4 resistance.

3. An IPD will not be used on a passively resistant suspect.

4. Use of an IPD is authorized against an animal if it indicates it will attack and has an opportunity to do so.

5. Before an IPD is discharged, Deputies warn other law enforcement officers present they are about to act and disengage from contact with the suspect. The Deputy preparing to use the IPD should loudly speak:

"OC!" "OC!" (or similar language)

then immediately

"DISENGAGE!" (or similar language)

6. An IPD should be discharged at the suspect's face at a distance of not less than three feet. The IPD is discharged in two bursts of one-half to one second duration.

7. Before discharging an IPD, precautions should ensure that innocent bystanders are not in the spray area. Precaution should also be taken not to discharge the spray when wind or breeze might blow it back on the user.

8. Unless absolutely necessary, prisoners should not be transported in Sheriff's Office vehicles for 15 - 20 minutes after being sprayed. This allows the inflammatory agent time to dissipate, as IPD residue in a closed vehicle can affect the transporting Deputy and other prisoners. Circumstances may require prisoners to be transported from a scene as quickly as possible (for example, if the confrontation occurs in hostile crowds).

9. The Sabre Red MK3 IPD contains enough product for 10 (ten) one-second deployments. After five deployments, the IPD should be replaced through Material Supply.

C. *Confronting Persons Armed with an IPD:*

1. An IPD discharge, within range, can immediately disable a Deputy with potentially disastrous consequences.

2. If confronted by a hostile person armed with an IPD, Deputies should place themselves at a safe distance outside its range.

3. Possession of an IPD by another person does not necessarily create a threat of imminent death or great bodily harm. Deputies must evaluate all relevant factors to determine the intentions and ability of any person to use the IPD against them. Deputies should also consider responding with the appropriate degree of force necessary, including deadly force, to gain control of a situation.

XII. BATON:

A. Armament Systems and Procedures (ASP), Model F26 (926), and Model F21 are the less-lethal expandable batons approved for use by Deputies.

1. *Method of Use:*

The expandable baton is an intermediate weapon when empty-handed control becomes ineffective or when the situation does not merit deadly force. This is a Level #4 response used to control a subject exhibiting a Level #4 resistance.

2. Baton strikes are made to temporarily incapacitate and gain control of a hostile person and are targeted to less-lethal areas except in incidents involving deadly force.

3. The use of an expandable baton should be accompanied by loud, repetitive verbal commands directing the person to some action or inaction.

4. Deputies are responsible for maintaining their batons in clean working condition.

B. The baton authorized for use by Corrections' Special Response Team is the standard aluminum, 52-inch riot baton.

XIII. IMPACT MUNITIONS:

A. Impact munitions are defined as any projectile designed to stun, temporarily incapacitate, or cause temporary discomfort to a person or animal without penetrating the body.

B. *Methods of Use:*

1. Impact munitions are to be used under the same circumstances with which other impact weapons, such as the expandable baton, are used. Impact munitions provide Deputies with a greater distance or safety zone when confronted by a suspect offering Active Physical Resistance or greater Impact munitions are a Level #4 response used to control a suspect exhibiting a Level #4 resistance or greater.

2. Impact munitions may be used to temporarily incapacitate and gain control of a hostile person and are targeted to less-lethal areas except in incidents involving deadly force.

3. Impact munitions may be used to startle a bear away from humans or a a , hazardous situation to the animal. Impact munitions on bears are intended to drive them back into their natural environment and should only be utilized when other methods, such as noise, have failed or are too dangerous to attempt.

4. The use of impact weapons will be accompanied by loud, repetitive verbal commands directing a person to some action or inaction.

C. *Approved Equipment:*

1. Except for some SWAT, Hazardous Device Team, Special Response Team, or Emergency Response Team applications, the only approved impact munitions are the Combined Tactical Systems 12-gauge Supersock rounds or the DefTech 12-gauge Drag Stabilized rounds.

2. Impact munitions may be deployed only from dedicated weapons equipped with bright orange or yellow stocks and forearms.

3. CO2 Propelled .68 caliber paintball guns are authorized for bear hazing only. Such weapons will be approved and issued by the Special Services Division (hereafter Special Services). Only Deputies who have completed the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Bear Hazing Permit Process will be authorized to utilize a paintball gun or 12 gauge Supersock/DefTech DS for bear hazing. If impact munitions are utilized for bear hazing by a permitted user, notification will be made to the Special Services Range and Water Unit and FWC.

NOTE: At no time will Deputies mix impact munitions with lethal munitions.

D. Impact and chemical munitions authorized only for SWAT, Hazardous Device Team, Special Response Team or Emergency Response Team use include:

1. 12-gauge or 40mm Oleoresin Capsicum or CS (ortho-chlorobenzalmalononitrile) munitions that are dispersed through impact or pyrotechnics,

2. 12-gauge or 40mm impact munitions containing a wood, rubber, or beanbag projectile,

3. Hand-thrown Oleoresin Capsicum or CS (ortho-chlorobenzalmalononitrile) munitions that disperse its agents by compressed air or pyrotechnics,

4. Hand-thrown impact munitions that release rubber pellets by pyrotechnics, and

5. Hand-thrown noise-flash pyrotechnic diversion devices,

6. Pepperball projectiles.

XIV. HALT DOG REPELLANT:

A. Halt Dog Repellant is an IPD containing a 0.35% solution of the inflammatory agent oleoresin capsicum. This device is issued to Field Service Specialists, Civil Process Specialists, Seminole County Probation Officers, and Victim Advocates by Professional Development upon completion of new-user training. Material Supply is responsible for replacing expired or used Halt Dog Repellant as needed.

B. *Methods of Use:*

1. Use of the Halt Dog Repellant is authorized on animals if they indicate they will attack and have an opportunity to do so.

NOTE: This repellant is not authorized for use on humans.

2. Before discharging an IPD, precautions should be taken to ensure innocent bystanders are not in the spray area. Precaution should also be taken not to discharge the spray when wind or breeze might blow it back on the user.

3. The repellant should be discharged at the animal's face at a distance of no less than three feet. The repellant is discharged in two bursts of one-half to one second in duration.

XV. NEGLIGENT & ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM:

A. Negligent Discharge is a discharge of a firearm involving carelessness by the user. Negligent discharge involves a failure to follow policy and procedure for weapons handling. The term “accidental discharge” involves discharge caused by a mechanical or chemical malfunction in the gun itself, the magazine, or the ammunition. This policy applies to address both negligent or accidental discharge of a firearm by agency personnel regardless of whether it occurs on duty or whether it involves an agency-issued firearm.

B. In all situations, the employee must report the incident to their immediate supervisor. If injury to any person has occurred, the employee will also contact 911 and immediately render aid to the injured person.

C. If the incident occurred within Seminole County or within counties contiguous to Seminole County, including Brevard and Osceola counties by virtue of their close proximity via toll roads and the

interstate highway system, and involved sworn or certified agency personnel, the following additional procedures apply:

1. The involved employee will immediately notify an on-duty supervisor who will respond to the scene. The employee will complete a written or typed statement for the responding supervisor explaining the facts of the situation.

2. The supervisor will interview the involved employee and other persons present to determine the facts surrounding the discharge.

3. If property damage exists, the supervisor will photograph it (if a camera is not available to the supervisor, a Crime Scene Analyst will be called to photograph the scene. Depending upon the location of the incident, consent to enter and photograph may be needed.

4. If the incident occurred while on duty and as a result of the discharge, an injury occurred, the supervisor will follow the procedures outlined in General Order 49, Response to Resistance.

5. Supervisors will complete a CJIS report (attaching the employee's statement) summarizing the incident. The report is submitted to the involved employee's Chief through the chain of command before the supervisor goes off-duty. The fact that photographs were taken or an injury resulted shall be noted in the report.

6. The supervisor will relieve the employee from line duty pending remedial firearms re-qualification. This will be reflected in the supervisor's report.

7. The Undersheriff will uphold the temporary relief from duty or reassign the employee to another position where a firearm is not a requirement of the job function until a satisfactory level of proficiency has been achieved.

8. If the discharge appears to be intentional in nature, or if they believe circumstances merit further investigation, supervisors will order the response of the Major Crimes Unit and Forensic Services to assume responsibility for the investigation.

9. If the discharge results in injury or the discharge appear to be intentional in nature, the involvement of another investigating agency may also be considered.

D. If the incident occurred outside of the area outlined in Paragraph C above, the following additional procedures apply:

1. The involved employee will immediately notify an on-duty Seminole County Sheriff's Office supervisor. The on-duty supervisor will ensure that the applicable law enforcement agency having jurisdiction has responded to the scene.

2. The supervisor will request the investigating agency obtain a written or typed statement from the involved employee.

3. The supervisor will request the investigating agency photograph any damages.

4. Supervisors will complete a memorandum summarizing the incident. The report is submitted to the involved employee's Chief through the chain of command before the supervisor goes off-duty. The investigating agency's case number shall be noted in the report so that records can be obtained.

8. The supervisor will verbally relieve the employee from line duty pending remedial firearms re-qualification (this can be verbally conveyed over the telephone). This will be reflected in the supervisor's memorandum.

9. The Undersheriff will uphold the temporary relief from duty or reassign the employee to another position where a firearm is not a requirement of the job function until a satisfactory level of proficiency has been achieved.

E. In all circumstances, Professional Standards will conduct an administrative review of the circumstances surrounding the discharge incident.

F. Negligent discharge from a policy standpoint does not mean negligence from a legal doctrine standpoint.

XVI. ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM DURING FORMAL WEAPONS TRAINING:

A. Formal Firearms Training is an agency-sanctioned firearms training or qualification event supervised by a designated firearms instructor.

B. Accidental Discharge is the event of a firearm discharging at a time not intended by the user due to a mechanical failure.

C. If a discharge occurs, the Range Instructor completes a memorandum documenting the incident and forwards it to the Deputy's Captain/Director through the Range Instructor's chain of command.

D. If an accidental discharge is suspected, the Deputy's firearm will be surrendered to an agency authorized armorer for examination.

E. If the firearm were determined to have mechanically failed, resulting in an accidental discharge, the Range Instructor would make arrangements for the Deputy to receive another firearm until the issued firearm is repaired or replaced. If the firearm did not malfunction, the Deputy would receive remedial training specific to the negligent discharge.

XVII. FLYING WHILE ARMED:

A. Federal law and commercial airline carriers restrict individuals from carrying a firearm or weapon aboard a commercial aircraft. Only the Sheriff or his designee may approve Deputies to fly in an armed capacity.

B. Deputies that have an official need to fly in an armed capacity must first complete the Law Enforcement Officer's Flying Armed course, as per the Code of Federal Regulations, and follow the procedures noted herein. The Professional Development Section maintains a list of sworn, full-time law enforcement officers (deputies and task force personnel) that have completed this course. The course will be offered on an as-needed basis.

C. To fly in an armed capacity, 49 C.F.R. 1544.219 (a)(1) states armed law enforcement officers must meet the following requirements:

1. Be a federal law enforcement officer or a full-time municipal, **county**, or state law enforcement officer who is a direct employee of a government agency.

2. Be sworn and commissioned to enforce criminal statutes or immigration statutes

3. Be authorized by the employing agency to have the weapon in connection with assigned duties.

4. Has completed the training program "Law Enforcement Officers Flying Armed."

D. In addition to the requirements set forth above and as outlined in 49 C.F.R. 219 (a)(2), Deputies must need to have the firearm and/or weapon accessible from the time they would otherwise check the firearm and/or weapon until the time it would be claimed after deplaning. The need to have the firearm and/or weapon accessible must be articulated by each traveling Deputy and approved by the Sheriff's Office chain of command. The need to have the firearm and/or weapon accessible must be based on the following:

1. The provision of protective duty, for instance, assigned to a principal or advance team or on travel, is required to be prepared to engage in a protective function.

2. The conduct of surveillance operation.

3. On official travel, required to report to another location, armed and prepared for duty.

4. Control and carriage of a prisoner (Deputies must comply with the provisions of 49 C.F.R. 1544.221)

E. Deputies requiring a firearm in the performance of their duties to travel on commercial airlines must first send a request to the Sheriff via the chain of command as soon as practical but at least twenty-four hours in advance of the initial flight, outlining the requirements noted above in this policy.

1. The Sheriff or designee will approve or disapprove the request and notify the Division Captain or Director accordingly.

2. The Division Captain or director, or supervisory designee, of the requesting Deputy will coordinate with a supervisor in the Communications Division and provide the travel information and itinerary of the traveling Deputy.

3. The Communications Division supervisor will compile the necessary information to include the departing and destination airports (including layover airports), flight numbers, the Deputy's identity, reason and scope of travel, and the full itinerary.

4. The Communications Division Supervisor will send an electronic message to the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) with the requisite information.

5. NLETS will transmit a message and unique LEOFA (Law Enforcement Officer Flying Armed) alphanumeric identifier to the Communications Division, provided to the Deputy flying in an armed capacity.

6. The NLETS documentation must be retained by the Deputy's supervisor and a copy must be provided to the traveling Deputy for presentation at each airport in the itinerary.

7. Deputies must have a copy of the NLETS message and unique LEOFA alphanumeric identifier for each airport in the itinerary. Failure to reference the NLETS message and unique alphanumeric identifier to T.S.A. and airport security will result in denial to the sterile area of the airport.

8. On the day of travel, the Deputy will check in with the commercial airline and identify his/herself as a law enforcement officer flying armed. Deputies will complete the airline's documentation if requested.

9. Deputies will proceed to the T.S.A. security checkpoint designated for law enforcement and provide their unique LEOFA alphanumeric identifier from NLETS, along with their Sheriff's Office-issued badge and credentials, boarding pass, a second form of government Identification, and the required airline-specific flying armed paperwork. Deputies will

complete the T.S.A. checkpoint sign-in log entry and proceed to their boarding gate once the above requirements have been verified.

10. At the boarding gate, Deputies will provide their airline armed-traveler paperwork to the gate agent, informing the airline employee of their presence and status. The gate agent will identify if additional armed law enforcement officers are traveling on the flight to prevent a "blue on blue" situation.

11. Deputies will meet with the Pilot in Command, Federal Air Marshals, Federal Flight Deck Officers, and/or other law enforcement officers on board the flight, as directed.

    NOTE: If the Pilot in Command of the aircraft denies a deputy carrying a firearm and/or weapon aboard the aircraft, the Deputy must be prepared to check the items into a secure container. The Pilot in Command is the final authority, and the Deputy must comply with their decision.

12. If the Deputy has a connecting flight or subsequent flight upon return, they will follow the procedures outlined herein at each airport.

F. When flying armed onboard an aircraft, deputies will yield to Federal Air Marshals (FAM), Federal Flight Deck Officers (FFDO), or airline personnel trained to handle most situations. Deputies must exercise sound judgment and only intervene when it is absolutely necessary or when requested by FAM, FFDO, or airline personnel. Discharging a firearm on board an aircraft should only be considered a last resort to protect the integrity of the aircraft and to prevent serious bodily injury or death.

G. Deputies sworn as federal law enforcement officer will adhere to the policy of the federal agency (i.e., F.B.I., U.S. Marshal's Service, D.E.A., etc.) if the Deputy is authorized to fly in an armed capacity by the federal agency. This policy shall apply if the Deputy is not authorized to fly in an armed capacity by the federal agency.

H. Deputies shall not carry a weapon or firearm on a commercial airplane while off-duty. Off-duty deputies must follow commercial airline policies and federal law.

I. Deputies may not consume alcoholic beverages or medications that would impair the Deputy at least eight hours in advance of the flight or during the flight.

J. Deputies that have been approved to fly armed shall only carry a firearm that has been approved pursuant to General Order 51 and demonstrated proficiency with the firearm. Deputies may carry a Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW/Taser) as a secondary, non-lethal alternative if they have demonstrated proficiency pursuant to General Order #51A. A CEW/Taser may not be carried in lieu of a firearm, only as a backup weapon.

K. Deputies shall NOT carry Oleoresin Capsicum or any other chemical weapon aboard an aircraft.

L. Firearms and weapons must be carried on the Deputy's person in a secure, concealed, and discreet manner at all times while traveling. Deputies will dress in a manner to blend in with the traveling public while ensuring firearms and weapons are completely concealed and unnoticeable.

M. If the date or route of travel changes from the original itinerary submitted to NLETS, a new NLETS message would be required. Deputies must coordinate with their supervisor and the Communications Division to obtain a unique LEOFA alphanumeric identifier reflecting the change.

N. Deputies may not fly outside of the United States in an armed capacity unless approved by the Sheriff and authorization has been obtained by the U.S. Department of State.