


<p style="text-align: center;">STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT</p> 	Type of Directive: Policy and Procedure	Updated: 12-09-2019
	Title: On and Off Duty Firearms	No. 13.1
	Issuing Authority: Chief Joseph McNeil	Issued: 01-18-2018
	Reference: This policy rescinds/replaces 13.A-1, 13.1A2, 13.1.1, 7.1	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish a procedure for authorized firearms to be used by sworn members of Stratford Police Department. The equipment listed in this policy does not preclude the use of specialty weapons by Department Tactical Team members during training and operational assignments.

POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Stratford Police Department to define the type and caliber of firearms that are authorized for on duty and off duty use. This policy does not prevent an officer from carrying a non policy compliant firearm under such officer's state pistol permit.

PROCEDURE:

Sworn police personnel working under their authority as Stratford Police Officers, both on and off duty, will comply with these specifications and regulations.

On-Duty Personnel

Sidearm

Uniform Officers - Officers working on duty and in uniform will carry the Department issued GLOCK 17 or 19 only. Detectives or Plainclothes Officers - Detectives or Officers working in plain clothes, will carry the Department issued GLOCK 17,19 and 43X only.

Officers acting under the authority of the Town of Stratford will carry a 9mm semi-automatic firearm. Officers previously carrying a .380 ACP or a .38 Special Revolver in the Police Administration or Detective Bureau are grandfathered and may continue to carry those calibers.

The above will not preclude Officers from carrying a different type and caliber of weapon for special assignments and with the approval of the Chief of Police.

Weapon Light/Laser

Officers of the Stratford Police Department are authorized to use weapon mounted lights or laser sights on their duty sidearm. The individual officer will be responsible for the purchase of such options. The units

mounted on a department weapon must be of good quality and the officers who elect to carry laser sights shall qualify with the laser at least once per recertification cycle. The holster for such weapon and light/laser shall meet the department security standards.

Requirements

The ammunition for on duty use will be determined by the firearms training staff with the authorization of the Chief of Police. No other ammunition will be authorized for on duty use with the exception of supervised training.

Other weapons may be authorized from time to time, by the Chief of Police for limited purpose usage. These weapons will be subject to the same guidelines as the department issued Glock 17 and 19 9mm handgun.

Officers will carry their identification cards and badge with them at all times. Officers will maintain their firearm and accessories and keep them in good serviceable condition. Items that are worn or damaged will be repaired or replaced.

Officers will report in writing, and as soon as is practicable, all accidental or deliberate discharge of their firearm when done in the performance of their duty. This does not include practice firing, test firing, or demonstrations, conducted on a range.

Off-Duty Personnel

The carrying of off duty firearms is encouraged but not required by the department. Off-duty personnel acting under the authority of the Town of Stratford may carry a firearm of the following calibers. To be covered by the Stratford Police Department the officer must qualify with the off duty firearm once per year. The officer will be responsible to provide all training and carry ammunition. Authorized calibers include .380ACP, 9millimeter, 38special, 40caliber, .357magnum or .357sig and 45ACP.

Back Up Firearms

Officers may carry a secondary or back up weapon. The Make, Model, and Serial Number, will be recorded the same as the service weapon. The firearm will be of high quality and approved by the Chief of Police if not a standard make or model. The firearm carried may be 9mm, .380ACP or 38 special. The firearm will only be used as a back-up firearm for emergency purposes. It will not be relied upon nor take the place of the service weapon.

Patrol Rifle

Members of the Stratford Police Department have been trained in the use and deployment of the RUGER Model 8500 AR-15 platform rifle. It is the intention of the Stratford Police Department to have patrol rifle options available to each shift by allowing qualified officers to carry the rifles on patrol.

The department will supply rifles to primary patrol vehicles. Officers shall be allowed to carry their own RUGER 8500 rifle on patrol so long as they conform to the standards set forth in this policy.

In the deployment of the patrol rifle, the continuum of force must be considered and all other options must be evaluated. The patrol rifle has the same standards as set forth in the department's firearms and use of force policies. Therefore the patrol rifle should be deployed as an option when deadly force could be an alternative and is tactically feasible. The patrol rifle does not replace the officer's sidearm, but is a tool to be considered during special circumstances when it would be advantageous for the safety of police officers and the public on scene.

Shotgun

Members of the Stratford Police Department have been trained in the use and deployment of the Mossberg 500/590 and 590 A1 series of shotgun. It is the intention of the Stratford Police Department to have shotgun options available to each shift by allowing qualified officers carry the shotguns on patrol.

Ammunition

Duty ammunition will be selected by the firearms training officers. The Chief of Police will approve the ammunition selection.

Only factory ammunition will be accepted. No reloads are authorized under this policy. Handgun, Rifle and shotgun ammunition will be provided for duty use by this department. Training ammunition will be provided for all duty firearms.

Training ammunition for off duty and backup weapons will be provided by individual officers electing to carry such firearms. Only factory new ammunition will be allowed for this purpose.

This policy does not limit the use of other specialty munitions by the department's Special Operations Team of officers carrying the less lethal shotguns.

Pre-Deployment-Patrol Rifles

Patrol rifles will be pre-assigned to primary patrol vehicles and supervisor cars. These weapons will be locked inside the patrol car, in the rifle rack during normal patrol. The rifles will be removed for daily inspection by the assigned officers and for authorized deployment. If a patrol car is to be taken out of service for repairs or maintenance then the rifle will be removed and properly stored in the department arms room. If a vehicle is left vacant for an extended period the patrol car and rifle will be secured inside the department's garage until it is filled for a patrol shift.

In the event that an officer is driving a cruiser not equipped with a rifle rack the rifle shall be carried in the trunk of the car, inside a rifle case.

Patrol officers will be required to drive the assigned car for their beat. Each rifle will be labeled to correspond with the number of the patrol car. The patrol rifle will be carried in a CRUISER SAFE condition while on patrol. The officer will load the patrol rifle when it becomes necessary to deploy the weapon in accordance policy and training, and return the rifle to the car in a cruiser safe condition when no longer needed.

Pre-Deployment-Patrol Shotgun

Department shotguns will be stored in the police department arms room. The weapons will be stored unloaded, with the action open and empty with the safety on. Officers taking a shotgun from the arms room will sign the weapon out at the beginning of each shift and sign it back in when returned. If officers exchange the weapon at the change of shift, each officer is still responsible for signing out the weapon.

At the time the shotgun is checked out the officer will verify that the firearm is functioning properly. Any damage or malfunctions noted shall be reported to training lieutenant in writing so that the equipment can be repaired or replaced.

The shotgun will be carried in a CRUISER SAFE condition while on patrol. The officer will load the tubular magazine with "OO" buck with the action closed and chamber empty. The officer shall carry the tactical slug rounds in the side saddle of the weapon. The safety shall be on and the weapon stored in a gun case. While on patrol the shotguns will be carried in the trunk of the car.

Maintenance

Department armorers will routinely maintain the department sidearm, patrol rifles, and shotguns. Any problems, malfunctions or maintenance issues shall be reported to the department training lieutenant in writing and the weapon shall be made safe and secured in the department arms room until an armorer returns the firearm to service. Officers will be responsible for the cleaning of their issued Glock and the sidearm are subject to periodic inspection.

Personal Rifles

Officers may purchase and carry RUGER MODEL 8500 rifles in caliber 5.56/.223. The rifles may be modified as follows. Hand guards may be changed to include utility rails. A light may be added to the hand guard as well as a grip. A tactical sling may be added in the VTAC/511 Mark 1 model either padded or unpadded. And only MAGPUL magazines are authorized. The officer will have the option of adding a holographic or red dot reflexive sight to the rifle.

Personal weapons will have to be secured in the rear of the patrol vehicles in a rifle case (not provided).

Any officer who carries a personal rifle will have to qualify with their rifle yearly.

Personal Shotguns

Officers may purchase and carry personal MOSSBERG 500, 590 or 590 A-1 model shotguns for patrol use. The shotguns may have fixed or collapsible stocks and tactical slings. Officers have the option to also add a tactical light and red dot optic to the shotgun.

Personal weapons will have to be secured in the rear of the patrol vehicles in a rifle case (not provided).

Any officer who carries a personal shotgun will have to qualify with their shotgun yearly.

Deployment

The patrol rifles or shotgun are to be assigned and carried by Patrol Personnel, School Resource Officers and Detectives who are qualified to carry the weapons on patrol. The patrol rifles or shotguns can also be carried on special details when needed or with the authorization of the shift commander. The officer responsible for the patrol rifle or shotgun will adhere to the department's use of force policy at all times. Some situations in which a rifle may be deployed include, but are not limited to armed robberies, active shooter situations and calls for service where firearms are present or have been displayed.

Training

All officers must qualify yearly with any firearm they carry under this policy and P.O.S.T. standards.