



TIVERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDERS

Subject: Department Authorized Weapons		General Order Number: 390.20
Section: 300- Law Enforcement Operations		Subsection: 90- Use of Force/Weapons
Amends/Supersedes: 3-2, 390.20 (09/22/2017), 390.20 (05/18/2023)		
Effective Date: 09/22/2017	Revised Date: 03/27/2024	Review Date: As Needed
Per Order Of: Patrick W. Jones, Chief of Police		
RIPAC: 2.17, 2.18, 2.22		
Distribution: Sworn Department Members		

NOTE: This written directive is for the internal governance of the Tiverton Police Department, and is not intended and should not be interpreted to establish a higher standard of care in any civil or criminal action than would otherwise be applicable under existing law.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the type and specification of the department issued weapons, the types, and specifications of ammunition approved for use, and to identify the procedures for review, inspection, and approval of department-issued weapons. Also, this policy will explain the process of how to remove unsafe weapons, the procedure for maintaining a record on department-issued weapons, the in-service training requirements, and define the proficiency required to carry and use the department-issued weapons.

II. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Tiverton Police Department that all full-time sworn personnel who are issued weapons are familiar with and abide by this directive.

III. PROCEDURE

A. DUTY WEAPONS

1. The department issued handgun is the Smith & Wesson M&P 2.0 4.22-inch 9mm.
 - a. In addition, officers assigned to an administrative capacity shall be issued a compact version or comparable version of the department issued full size handgun.
2. Any officer accepting a department issued duty handgun agrees to carry it at all times when on duty to include court, special details and assignments.
3. If the officer chooses to carry a personally owned firearm, he/she must first obtain permission, in writing, from the Chief of Police. The department issued duty weapon

- will be immediately surrendered to the department armorer who will notify, in writing, the Uniform Division Commander and the Chief of Police.
- a. Officers will be permitted to carry or use approved firearms only after they have demonstrated proficiency with such firearms in the presence of a department firearms instructor.
 - b. The firearm and its ammunition (if different from department issued ammunition) must be presented to the department armorer. The department armorer shall inspect both the firearm and ammunition for serviceability and functionality.
 - c. Proficiency testing will be in accordance with qualification standards approved by the Rhode Island Commission on Police Officers Standards and Training (RI POST) and the Chief of Police.
 - d. If the officer fails to qualify with an off-duty weapon, his/her authorization to carry that particular weapon will be denied pending qualification.
4. The only authorized handgun caliber for on-duty use is 9mm.
 5. An officer's duty weapon and its ammunition must be presented to a certified armorer during a department firearms training session. The armorer shall inspect both the weapon and the ammunition for serviceability and functionality.
 6. Less lethal weapons approved for use:
 - a. O.C. Spray
 - b. Baton
 - c. Electronic Control Weapon (Taser ©)
 - d. Less Lethal Shotgun (bean bag)
 7. The department armorer will forward a list annually to the Uniform Division Commander and the Planning and Training Division of all approved weapons carried by officers. The department armorer will maintain a complete record of each weapon approved and issued to officers. The department armorer will track the assignment of department issued weapons using the SHIELD Suite (LEFTA Systems).

B. OFF-DUTY WEAPONS

1. Sworn members of the Tiverton Police Department are authorized, but not obligated to carry their department issued or authorized sidearm off-duty.
2. The use of issued or personally-owned weapons carried off duty shall be in compliance with General Order 390.10 *Use of Force*.
3. While on duty and off duty, police officers shall carry only weapons and ammunition authorized by and registered with the department. This provision does not apply to off-duty recreational shooting or weapons the officer does not intend on carrying in a concealed fashion.
4. Officers are responsible for the safe storage of their weapons when off-duty in compliance with RIGL 11-47-60.01.
5. Off-duty weapons shall be carried safely and concealed from public view. In addition, when armed and attired in plain clothes, officers shall carry their department issued identification card.

C. AUTHORIZED HANDGUN AMMUNITION

1. The only department authorized handgun ammunition type is jacketed or semi-jacketed 9mm Luger 147 grain hollow point (Speer LE G2).
2. Officers may not carry or use any other handgun ammunition not defined as jacketed or semi-jacketed hollow point.

D. AUTHORIZED SHOTGUN AND SHOTGUN/LESS-LETHAL AMMUNITION

1. The only department authorized shotgun is the Remington 870 Express Magnum 12 gauge.
2. The only authorized shotgun ammunition for on-duty use is 12 gauge “OO” buckshot containing nine (9) pellets and 12-gauge slug.
3. The only authorized less-lethal shotgun ammunition is the 12 gauge stabilized Triton Bean Bag (ALS1212T)

E. WEAPON RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Retention
 - a. Searching officers shall holster handguns prior to any physical contact to conduct any type of search (Refer to General Order 350.10 *Prisoner Search and Transportation*).
 - b. Officers shall remove and secure their weapons prior to entering the booking room and/or cell block area and prior to interviewing arrestees/prisoners or suspects (Refer to General Order 350.30 *Holding Facilities*).
 - c. Officers needing to secure their weapons shall use lockboxes in the sally port and in the booking room hallway. The key to the lockbox shall be removed and retained by the officer. The door on the lockbox shall be checked to ensure it is secured.
2. Care, Cleaning and Security
 - a. Officers are responsible for the care, cleaning and security of departmental weapons issued to them.
 - b. Officers are responsible for the safe storage and handling of firearms/weapons in their custody.
 - c. Officers shall not loan their department issued weapons to any other person, nor surrender it to anyone except a superior or other person in lawful authority.
 - d. All reasonable precautions shall be taken to keep department and off-duty weapons away from all unauthorized personnel.
3. Issuance of Weapons
 - a. The department armorer shall issue a personally assigned departmental weapon to authorized personnel. The department armorer will maintain an updated inventory of all department issued weapons.
4. Malfunctioning, Unsafe and Obsolete Weapons
 - a. Departmental firearms which malfunction, are unsafe or are no longer needed shall be brought to the attention of a firearms instructor/armorer.

IV. DEPARTMENT FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR/ARMORER:

- A. The duties of this assignment include but are not limited to:
 - 1. To inspect all weapons at least annually to ensure that they are approved, clean and operable.
 - 2. To repair malfunctioning weapons (to be performed by an authorized armorer and/or gunsmith as needed).
 - 3. To maintain records of issuance, care and maintenance of departmental weapons and associated items.
 - 4. To issue departmental ammunition.
 - 5. To inspect for serviceability of personally owned firearms that are authorized for on-duty or off-duty use.
 - 6. To maintain a record of all firearms which have been determined as serviceable and with which officers have qualified. This record shall include: officer's name and identification number, make and model of weapon, and the serial number of the weapon.

V. INSPECTION AND REMOVAL OF WEAPONS FROM SERVICE

- A. All weapons approved for on-duty and off-duty will be submitted to a certified armorer for inspection. In the case of less-lethal weapons, all approved weapons will be inspected prior to initial issuance and/or upon replacement by a certified instructor for that weapon. This inspection will be to ensure the weapon is serviceable, in a safe operating condition, and of an authorized type/caliber.
- B. When an on-duty or off-duty weapon fails inspection, the armorer will advise the officer and provide written notice to the Uniform Division Commander. The officer will not utilize the weapon until deficiencies are corrected. The armorer will provide an officer with a serviceable duty weapon in the event of an inspection failure to utilize for duty purposes.
- C. If a firearm fails the inspection, it may be resubmitted for re-inspection once the necessary repairs have been completed (at officer's expense, in the case of personally owned weapons). Meanwhile, if currently registered, the weapon shall be removed from the officer's list of authorized weapons.

VI. FIREARMS REGISTRATION

- A. Upon completion of the annual qualification period, the *Sworn Officer Firearm Qualification Form* or *Non-Sworn Firearm Qualification Form* for each officer shall be submitted to the Planning and Training Division, who shall maintain copies of the documentation.

VII. QUALIFICATION

A. Rules

1. All officers shall be required to achieve a minimum qualifying score on a prescribed course of fire as required by state law, at least annually.
2. All officers authorized to carry any firearm must qualify with an authorized department firearms instructor prior to utilizing the weapon in the performance of their duties.
3. Prior to being issued a firearm, and at least annually, each officer shall be required to have instruction and demonstrate a knowledge of the laws concerning the use of authorized weapons and knowledge of the department's policies concerning use of force, escalating force and deadly force.
4. Prior to being issued a firearm, and at least annually, each officer shall be required to have instruction on recognized safe handling procedures for the use of department authorized weapons.

B. POST Submission

1. In accordance with RIGL 11-47-5.3, the officer in charge of firearms instruction (senior firearms instructor) shall submit to the Rhode Island Commission on Police Officers Standards and Training (RI POST), on an annual basis, a proposal for the training and qualification of officers on all firearms which they are authorized to carry or use in the performance of their official duties. Each proposal shall include training and qualification in the following areas:
 - a. Decision shooting
 - b. Reduced lighting shooting
 - c. Moving targets
 - d. Use of cover
 - e. Non-dominant hand shooting
 - f. Alternate position shooting
 - g. Reloading drills
 - h. Malfunction drills
2. A copy of the proposal will be forwarded to the Planning and Training Division who shall maintain copies of the documentation.