

# WOONSOCKET POLICE DEPARTMENT

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CHIEF OF POLICE



TYPE OF ORDER	NUMBER/SERIES	ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
General Order	310.04	5/16/2025	5/16/2025
SUBJECT		PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES	
Department-Issued Handguns		3/26/2013, 7/13/2015, 10/1/2017	
ACCREDITATION		RE-EVALUATION DATE	
CALEA Standards: 1.3.9, 1.3.10, 1.3.11 RIPAC Standards: 2.17, 2.18, 2.19, 2.22		9/29/2020, 9/27/2022, 5/16/2025	
INDEX		DISTRIBUTION	
Weapons Procedures		Sworn Personnel	

## DEPARTMENT ISSUED HANDGUNS

### I. PURPOSE

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

### II. POLICY

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

### III. PROCEDURE

The Woonsocket Police Department has selected the Glock 47 MOS 9mm as its primary duty firearm. The department has also opted for issuing the Glock 45 MOS 9mm for select officers working specialized assignments. Each weapon is issued to the officer equipped with a Holosun 509T green dot weapon-mounted optic and a Streamlight TLR7-X rail-mounted light. This selection was based on research and testing. This

weapon was selected for its superior quality, proven durability, and ease of operation. [RI 2.17\(a\)](#)

Any officer accepting a department-issued handgun will carry it at all times when on duty, including court, special details, and assignments. (Officers may opt for personally owned weapons for court appearances for concealability reasons, provided they have registered and qualified with the weapon.)

#### **A. DUTY CARRY**

All sworn department personnel will carry their weapon while on duty unless special circumstances arise. In the event a different weapon is carried, this weapon will be subject to approval by the Chief of Police. This approval will be based on the alternative weapon system that is being considered for duty carry. A member of the armorer team will research the alternative weapon. Issues of safety features, ease of function, and caliber will be considered. Once a weapon is found to be appropriate for the intended use, a list of these weapons and officers permitted to carry them will be maintained in the armory files.

**The carry system for patrol officers will be the authorized holster for all uniformed patrol situations.** This holster will be carried in a manner consistent with the department's uniform policy. Administrators and detectives will be allowed to use a more compact holster for comfort and concealment ability.

#### **B. OFF DUTY CARRY**

Under Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL), officers are permitted to carry a weapon while off duty. In all cases, their weapon is to be carried in an approved holster and is to be concealed from public view. The holster is to be examined by a department armorer to ensure it is safe to operate and demonstrate how to properly secure the weapon.

The decision to carry an off-duty weapon is solely left to the discretion of the officer. The Woonsocket Police Department does not mandate officers to carry a weapon while off duty. If an officer chooses to carry a weapon while off duty, that officer will handle the weapon in a manner that would be considered safe and appropriate. All officers are required to obey all laws that pertain to concealed carry, which includes but is not limited to firing in a compact area and possession of a firearm while intoxicated.

If an officer carries their duty weapon out of the city, they are to do so in a manner that is within the local and state laws of that jurisdiction. At no time may an officer carry their duty weapon in a manner that would violate the local or state laws in any jurisdiction.

Qualification with off-duty weapons is required and will be conducted by the department's armorers/firearms instructors.

Officers are responsible for the safe storage of their weapons when off-duty in compliance with [RIGL § 11-47-60.1](#), entitled "Safe Storage - Unsafe storage of a firearm".

**C. AMMUNITION** [RI 2.17\(b\)](#)

All department personnel will carry the ammunition issued by the Woonsocket Police Department. Any ammunition other than that which is issued needs the approval of a department armorer. This approval will be based upon research that addresses the ballistic information supplied by the manufacturer, as well as information supplied by other police agencies. Only department-approved ammunition will be used in department weapons. No ammunition shall be altered in any way without the express permission of the Chief of Police.

All uniformed patrol officers will carry two loaded magazines on their duty belts at all times. The description of the duty belt can be found in the uniform policy. All members of the Operations and Detective Divisions are not required to carry two spare magazines on their belts, but shall have them readily available while on duty.

All department members will practice with ammunition approved by this department. At no time shall an officer fire any ammunition from their duty weapon that is not approved by the Chief of Police or designee.

**1. STORAGE** [RI 2.17\(f\)](#)

When an officer's duty weapon is not being carried on their person, it is the officer's responsibility to ensure the weapon is being stored safely. If the officer elects to bring their weapon home, it is to be secured and away from other members of the household. Unless exigent circumstances exist, no officer shall leave their duty weapon loaded and unattended in a personal vehicle.

**2. PERSONAL WEAPONS**

Weapons that are not owned by the Woonsocket Police Department shall not be used for any duty assignments without written authorization from the Chief of Police. Any special weaponry shall be obtained by the Woonsocket Police Department in a manner approved by the Chief of Police.

In the event a personal weapon needs to be used, the officer will be required to qualify with that weapon and receive written permission from the Chief of Police

before its use. A department armorer shall inspect the weapon and maintain a record of it within the armory files.

#### **D. TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Under R.I.G.L., all sworn, full-time members of the department will qualify at least once annually. The course of fire used for this qualification will be designed to suit the needs of this department and approved by the Rhode Island Police Officers Standards and Training (RIPOST) [RI 2.22](#) and shall include training and qualification in the following areas:
  - a. Decision shooting; [RI 2.22\(a\)](#)
  - b. Reduced lighting shooting; [RI 2.22\(b\)](#)
  - c. Moving targets; [RI 2.22\(c\)](#)
  - d. Use of cover; [RI 2.22\(d\)](#)
  - e. Non-dominant hand shooting; [RI 2.22\(e\)](#)
  - f. Alternate position shooting; [RI 2.22\(f\)](#)
  - g. Reloading drills; [RI 2.22\(g\)](#)
  - h. Malfunction drills. [RI 2.22\(h\)](#)
2. Qualifications will be pass or fail. [RI 2.18\(a\)](#) In the event, a weapon or carry system is used that varies from the standard department issue, officers will be required to train and qualify with this equipment.
3. An officer's duty weapon and its ammunition must be presented to a certified firearms instructor or armorer during the annual department firearms training session. The firearms instructor or armorer shall perform a documented safety inspection of both the sidearm and ammunition for serviceability and functionality.
4. In the event an officer is unable to pass a qualification session satisfactorily, the instructor performing the qualification will attempt to assess any deficiencies. The officer will be allowed to re-qualify one time. In the event the officer cannot qualify the second time, their duty weapon will be taken and the officer's duties adjusted until they successfully qualify. [RI 2.19\(c\)](#)
5. All training and qualification functions will be designed and instructed by the department's armorers/firearms instructors and approved by the Chief of Police. Records of all qualifications and training sessions will be maintained in the training files. [RI 2.19\(a\)](#)

#### **E. INSPECTION AND REMOVAL OF WEAPONS FROM SERVICE**

1. All weapons approved for on-duty, off-duty, and backup use will be submitted to a certified firearms instructor or armorer for inspection. [RI 2.17\(c\)](#) In the case of

less-lethal weapons, all approved weapons will be inspected before initial issuance and/or upon replacement. This inspection will be to ensure the weapon is serviceable, in a safe operating condition, and of an authorized type/caliber.

2. When a duty weapon fails inspection, the range officer or armorer will advise the officer and provide written notice to the Operations Captain of the failure. The officer will not utilize the weapon until deficiencies are corrected. The Operations Captain or their designee will provide an officer with a serviceable duty weapon in the event of an inspection failure to utilize for duty purposes.
3. When an off-duty or backup weapon fails inspection, the range officer or armorer will advise the officer and provide written notice to the Operations Captain of the failure. The officer will not utilize the weapon until any deficiencies are corrected.
4. If a sidearm fails the inspection, it may be resubmitted for re-inspection once the necessary repairs have been completed (at the 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. [RI 2.17\(d\)](#)

#### **F. FIREARMS REGISTRATION** [RI 2.17\(e\)](#)

1. Once an on-duty, back-up, and/or off-duty weapon has been inspected and an officer has qualified with the weapon, a firearms instructor or armorer shall log the weapon(s) into the firearm qualification log.
2. Upon completion of the annual qualification period, the firearm qualification log shall be submitted to the Training Lieutenant for their approval. Once the log is checked to verify that all weapons are authorized and of an approved caliber, the Operations Captain shall document their review, and copies of the documentation shall be maintained in the Operations Division. [RI 2.19\(b\)](#)
3. The Training Lieutenant will annually file a copy of each officer's qualification log and ensure the information is updated in the department's database.
4. Firearms instructors or armorers will notify the Operations Captain in writing of any additional weapons that are inspected and qualified outside of the agency's annual qualification period. Officers will be responsible for ensuring any deletions needed for the log are submitted to the Operations Captain in writing when such changes occur outside of the department's annual qualification period.
5. A representative of the Operations Division or designee will conduct a quarterly review of the original Woonsocket Police Department Annual Firearm Qualification Records to verify compliance with the procedures outlined in this order.

#### **G. VIOLATION OF FIREARMS POLICY**

If an officer violates the weapons policy of the Woonsocket Police Department, the disciplinary procedures specified in the rules and regulations and department policy will be followed. While attending training functions, the department armorer/instructor will have the authority to remove an officer from the training

location for any unsafe handling or inappropriate conduct. A report will be forwarded to the Chief of Police for review and any disciplinary action. If an armorer/instructor observes any violation of this policy regarding unauthorized weapons or carry methods, an immediate notification will be made to that officer's supervisor, and a report forwarded to the Chief of Police.

#### **H. ACCESSORIES**

1. Department-issued handguns are equipped with Holosun 509T green dot weapon-mounted optics and Streamlight TLR7-X rail-mounted lights.
2. Any other accessories that can be attached to the department-issued weapons must be approved by the Chief of Police or their designee.
3. Any accessories to be used on the duty weapon must be properly installed and inspected by an armorer before use. If an accessory is intended to be installed or removed quickly, the accessory and the officer's knowledge of its use must be evaluated by an armorer.

#### **I. MODIFICATIONS**

Officer(s) shall not modify their duty weapon in any way without proper approval from the Chief of Police. Modifications will include, but are not limited to, altering the action, removal, and replacement of a factory part, and changes to the sights.

#### **IV. EXEMPTION**

Detectives assigned to the Vice Unit are exempt from the issued duty-weapon carry requirement during specified undercover operations as dictated by the Vice Unit Officer-in-Charge. Otherwise, detectives will carry the issued duty weapon.

Per order,  
*Thomas F. Oates, III*  
Chief of Police

*Written directives published within PowerDMS are in full force and effect on the referenced dates and have been approved by the Chief of Police.*