

	DELMAR POLICE DEPARTMENT	
	Policy 6.2 Firearms and Qualification	
	Effective Date: 01/01/15	Replaces: 1-18
	Approved: <u>Ivan Barkley</u> Chief of Police	
	Reference: DPAC: 1.3.8	

I. POLICY

The following regulations apply to the wearing, carrying, or use in an official capacity of all issued and personal firearms. Only firearms and ammunition meeting Department specifications listed in Section VIII of this policy may be used by employees in law enforcement responsibilities, both on and off duty.

II. PURPOSE

To establish policy and procedures governing the care and maintenance of issued weapons and ammunition, the selection and use of holsters, off-duty weapons, firearms training, and qualification.

III. FIREARMS: ON DUTY

- A. Uniformed officers in law enforcement assignments will wear the issued sidearm, loaded with department issued ammunition, while on duty. Plainclothes officers and uniformed officers in administrative or technical assignments may wear either the issued sidearm or an approved personal sidearm loaded with department approved ammunition. All officers will be armed with a sidearm while on duty, or operating a department vehicle, or in uniform. Plainclothes officers wearing a sidearm in public view must prominently display their badge at all times, either on their belt (directly next to the firearm) or on a chain around their neck.
- B. Officers may carry approved personal firearms while on duty to supplement issued firearms, provided they meet the specifications listed in Section VIII, A of this policy, and all requirements of Section IV of this directive are satisfied. Supplemental firearms must be concealed from public view when not in use.
- C. Officers will carry sufficient ammunition to fully reload the issued sidearm two times. Non-uniformed officers and officers in administrative assignments may carry the reloads in their vehicles instead of on their persons. It is highly recommended that all personnel carry at least one reload/magazine on their person at all times while armed.

IV. FIREARMS: OFF DUTY

- A. Officers are encouraged to carry a firearm while off duty but are not required to do so unless they are in uniform or operating a Police Department vehicle.
- B. No officer may wear, carry or use a firearm while his or her ability to use the firearm is impaired for any reason.
- C. Unless the officer is in uniform, all firearms carried while off duty must be concealed from public view when not in use.
- D. Firearms will be carried in a properly fitting holster designed to carry that particular firearm. Only fanny packs designed to hold firearms securely are authorized.
- E. If a firearm is carried in a purse, the purse must be specifically designed to hold a handgun utilizing a dedicated pouch; OR if a standard purse is being used, the firearm must be secured in a properly fitting holster to prevent loss or accidental discharges.
- F. For approved procedures for storage of firearms in PPV's, refer to Policy 4.9, Section IV, F. *Departmental firearms will be removed from the vehicle occupant area of an officer's personal vehicle when the vehicle is unattended, such as when the vehicle is parked at a shopping center, or is parked overnight at the officer's residence. These items should be locked in the trunk of the vehicle (a covered cargo area is not considered a trunk for the purpose of this policy and there can be no access to the trunk via a rear seat of a vehicle equipped with a trunk. If the vehicle is equipped with an electronic trunk release that can be activated when the vehicle is off, then that function must be disabled prior to storing the items listed above. If the vehicle has a manual trunk release, then that release must be locked at all times when storing the items listed above inside a trunk of a vehicle) or stored in the officer's residence or station locker. Officers may utilize a departmentally approved lockable weapon storage type box to secure equipment, such as their weapon and radio, in vehicles that do not have a trunk. This approval will come from the Patrol Commander.*

V. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- A. All Police Officers:
 - 1. Must demonstrate proficiency in the use of all authorized firearms before being granted approval to carry such firearms. Officers who are unable to qualify with an issued firearm must complete mandatory remedial training before resuming official duties. Officers who are unable to qualify with an authorized personal firearm may not carry the firearm.
 - 2. Must receive in-service training on the department's use of force policies at least annually.
 - 3. At least quarterly, must demonstrate proficiency with any approved firearm that the officer is authorized to use, except officers authorized to use the .223, 6.8 or 308 caliber carbine or rifle must qualify with that firearm semi-annually.

4. Except where authorized in writing by the Chief of Police or his/her designee, are prohibited from carrying or using in an official capacity any firearm or ammunition that has been altered, tampered with, or whose construction or mechanical condition has been changed from the original manufacturer's specifications.

B. Administrative Commander:

1. Will establish written procedures for review, inspection, and approval of all firearms intended for use by each police officer in the performance of duty, prior to carrying, by a qualified firearms instructor or armorer; and a process to remove unsafe firearms.
2. Will provide mandatory remedial training for those employees who are unable to qualify with an authorized firearm, before resuming official duties.
3. Will ensure that all firearms proficiency training is monitored by a certified firearms instructor.
4. Will document all firearms training and proficiency results.
5. Will ensure that all police officers who are authorized to carry firearms are instructed in and issued a copy of the Department's policies on firearms and the use of force before being authorized to carry them; and that such instruction and issuance is documented.
6. Will specify the length of remedial training programs for all officers failing to qualify with firearms. Based on the demonstrated skills and proficiency, remedial training may be set quarterly, tri-annually, or at any interval which will ensure proficiency as determined by the Administrative Commander.

VI. SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS

- A. Officers will maintain all firearms and ammunition in a clean and operable condition at all times.
- B. When not in use, firearms will be kept in a secure place, inaccessible to all persons who are not members of the Department.
- C. Except during emergencies and formal training, firearms may be loaded or unloaded only at a loading/unloading canister.
- D. Officers will obey all orders issued by firearms qualification instructors at any approved firing range.
- E. Officers with firearms that need repair, inspection or adjustments, especially if a loaner firearm will be required, should contact a departmental armorer. If the need is outside of the armorer duty hours, the firearm must be turned in to the Administrative Commander. A replacement unit will be issued until the original firearm is returned to the officer.

- F. All repairs made by departmental armorers will be documented on an armorer's log sheet and forwarded to the Administrative Commander. (DPD Form 6.2-A)

VII. INSPECTIONS

- A. The departmental armorer will conduct an informal inspection of all issued firearms for cleanliness and functionality at least quarterly.
- B. The departmental armorer will perform a detailed inspection of all issued firearms and ammunition at least annually, and will document each inspection on the department's pistol (DPD Form 6.2-B) and or rifle (DPD Form 6.2-C) inspection form. This includes the Glock Pistol and Departmental Patrol Rifle.
- C. All department authorized personal firearms that are carried while on duty will be inspected at least annually by a departmental armorer. This includes a Patrol Rifle.
- D. Before the inspection, all firearms will be unloaded and cleared at a loading/unloading container.
- E. The armorer will inspect all firearms, ammunition and magazines, noting the type and condition of each.
- F. The armorer will ensure that all officers go to the loading/unloading area and reload their firearms after the inspection is complete.
- G. Violations of any firearm and/or ammunition regulation discovered during inspection will be corrected immediately. Supervisors will follow up on previously discovered violations of firearm and ammunition policies to ensure that corrective action has been successful.
- H. All violations will be documented. The supervisor may exercise his or her discretion as to the form of documentation.

VIII. APPROVED WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION

- A. Approved Manufacturers for agency issue or personal carry
 - 1. Handgun
 - a) Glock
 - b) Smith @ Wesson
 - 2. Patrol Rifle
 - a) Colt
 - b) LWRC

- c) Remington
- d) Rock River Arms
- e) Winchester

B. Authorized calibers of handguns/rifles for agency issue

- 1. .45 ACP
- 2. 40 S&W
- 3. .380 ACP
- 4. 5.57 NATO / .223 cal.
- 5. 6.8 mm
- 6. 308 WIN

C. Authorized ammunition for agency issue

- 1. Federal Premium L/E 45 Auto 230 gr. Hydra-Shok JHP
- 2. Federal Premium 40 S&W 180 gr. Hydra-Shok JHP
- 3. Federal Premium L/E 380 Auto 90 gr. Hydra-Shok JHP
- 4. Hornady 5.56 NATO 75 gr. BTHP T2 TAP
- 5. Hornady 308 WIN 168 gr. BTHP TAP Precision
- 6. SSA 6.8mm SPC 110 gr. Nosler AccuBond