


/P/BP FORM 290		 <p style="text-align: center;">PITTSBURGH BUREAU OF POLICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“...honor, integrity, courage, respect, and compassion.”</i></p>		SUBJECT: “GENERAL FIREARMS AND LESS LETHAL REGULATIONS”		ORDER NUMBER: 34-01	
				PLEAC STANDARD: 1,3,8 a.b.c.d.		PAGE 1 OF 12	
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1.0 POLICY / PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to provide officers with guidelines associated with the use, safety, maintenance, and qualification requirements related to firearms authorized by the Bureau of Police while on-duty and off-duty.
- 1.2 It is the policy of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police that officers adhere to the requirements established herein to ensure the safe handling and use of authorized firearms. See also:

General Order 12-6 Use of Force
 General Order 17-10 Drugs and Alcohol Policy
 General Order 30-1 Operation of Bureau Vehicles
 General Order 42-5 Sniper / Hostage / Barricaded Individual
 General Order 70-4 Firearms Training
 General Order 12-7 Discharge of Firearms

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Authorized Firearm – Any make, model or caliber of firearm that meets the designated requirements and specifications of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police that has been approved by the Chief of Police or his / her designee for general or individual use by members of this Bureau. This includes primary service firearms, secondary firearms, shotguns, less lethal shotguns, and rifles used by members of this bureau.
- 2.2 Primary Service Firearm – The firearm authorized by the Bureau of Police to be carried as part of the service uniform and related equipment for uniformed personnel or the authorized firearm to be carried by plainclothes officers.
- 2.3 Secondary Firearm – Any authorized firearm other than the primary service firearm that is carried on duty (as a back-up weapon) or off-duty in an authorized concealed manner.
- 2.4 Firearms Qualifications – Compliance to standards established by the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) and the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police.
- 2.5 Less Lethal Firearm / Munitions – The less lethal weapons systems and kinetic energy projectiles authorized by the Bureau of Police. These munitions include:
- 2.5.1 Launchable chemical munitions – Munitions deployed to interior or exterior locations for the purpose of area denial or space deprivation by rendering those areas temporarily uninhabitable.
- 2.5.2 Kinetic energy projectiles – Projectiles that, when deployed to areas of a suspect’s body, are considered less likely to cause death or serious physical injury.
- 2.6 Director of Training – Supervisor assigned by the Chief of Police and approved by MPOETC as the Training Academy Director.

- 2.7 Lead Instructor – Officer assigned by the Training Academy supervisors to oversee the safe and efficient operation of the PBP shooting range, the initial and annual firearms qualification of PBP personnel, any additional or supplemental firearms training, and the maintenance and repair of firearms.
*The instructor holding this title could be day to day or project specific.

3.0 LICENSE TO CARRY FIREARMS BY PBP MEMBERS

- 3.1 Sworn police officers working within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and employed by the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police are exempt from licensing requirements for the carrying of a concealed firearm. Members are bound by the rules and regulations of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and therefore are limited to carrying only those firearms authorized within this policy.
- 3.2 Nothing in the policy shall be interpreted from precluding a member from carrying a concealed firearm not authorized in this policy, off-duty, when that member is in possession of the valid concealed carry license and otherwise legally eligible to possess a firearm. Members should not act in a police capacity; however, these restrictions shall not be interpreted to restrict any sworn member from defending himself or herself, or another, from imminent serious bodily injury or death.
- 3.3 No member shall be permitted to obtain license to carry firearms applications for any other person without written permission from the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

4.0 GENERAL RULES

- 4.1 Officers shall report to their immediate supervisor any use of prescription drugs or other medication that they reasonably believe would impair their ability or judgment to use a firearm as per General Order #17-10 "Drugs and Alcohol Policy."
- 4.2 Officers shall always secure their firearms in such a manner as to restrict irresponsible use.
- 4.3 All authorized firearms shall be carried in a safe and secure manner.
- 4.4 While on-duty, members shall wear the authorized primary service firearm on his/her person in an authorized holster. The primary service firearm shall not be carried in a purse, attaché case, etc.
- 4.4.1 All members while in PBP uniform, shall carry black in color duty weapons (firearm), to include hand grip, hand guard, or grip adapter accessories. This also includes any / all other authorized accessory to the firearm.
- 4.5 Removal of firearms from their holsters for other than authorized purposes such as tactical use, training and qualification, inspection or cleaning and maintenance is unauthorized. Any careless, flippant, or casual use or display of a firearm will constitute grounds for disciplinary action.
- 4.6 An on or off-duty officer should refrain from carrying or storing a firearm in any circumstances where an unnecessary risk of loss, theft or misuse could exist.
- 4.7 Officers must be armed when in uniform and/or operating a marked patrol vehicle, whether on or off duty.
- 4.8 Approval of firearms for individual primary service firearm use, and secondary firearm use shall be at the discretion of the Lead Instructor or their designee (a qualified firearms instructor), after having observed, at a minimum:
- 4.8.1 The officer's knowledge and safe-handling ability of each firearm approved for use
- 4.1.2 Successful completion of an approved course of fire with a passing score.
- 4.9 Some vehicles in operation by the Bureau of Police have a trunk-release feature easily accessible from within the vehicle. For this reason, officers are reminded of General Order 30-1 "Operation of Bureau of Police Vehicles" Section 4.10 which states "Drivers shall not permit the engine of any vehicle to be left running while the vehicle is unattended and unoccupied. When it is necessary to leave the Bureau of Police vehicle unattended, the operator shall, except in an emergency, remove the ignition key and then lock the vehicle." It is imperative that Bureau of Police vehicles are

locked when officers leave the vehicle to protect against the possibility of theft of the shotgun, less lethal shotgun/patrol rifle from the trunk by an unauthorized activation of the trunk release if the vehicle is left unattended.

- 4.10 If the officer's police vehicle becomes disabled due to a crash or the departmentally issued shotgun, less lethal shotgun / patrol rifle is damaged in any manner through use or transport, the shotgun / patrol rifle shall be returned to the shift supervisor, who shall ensure that it is delivered to the Firearms Section for a thorough inspection.

5.0 APPROVED EQUIPMENT

- 5.1 **Firearm (Handgun)** – Only the following types of firearms are authorized to be carried by members of the Bureau of Police: Glock models 17, 19,21,22,23,26,27,30,30s, 36, 43, 43x .and 45.

5.1.1 Colt, Smith & Wesson, or Ruger revolvers with a barrel length of no less than (2") two inches or no more than (6") six inches capable of accepting city issued ammunition.

5.1.2 Members hired before May 29, 1990, are eligible to carry the Smith & Wesson (4") four-inch Model 64 issued by the City of Pittsburgh. Members may purchase at their own expense, and carry, the approved black in color, Glock semi-automatic handgun(s), following successful completion of the Glock Transitional Course.

5.1.3 Members hired on or after May 29, 1990, at their own expense, shall carry the approved, black in color, Glock semi-automatic handgun(s).

5.1.4 The following firearms will be authorized for duty use for Plainclothes Officers, Plainclothes Detectives, Bureau Detectives, Supervisors, and Command staff while in plainclothes. In addition, Officers, Detectives, and Supervisors, assigned to desk duty (Not applicable for Zone / Sub-Station Desk Officers in PBP Uniform) or to such an assignment that is administrative or investigatory in nature, and not involved in field duty, may carry: Glock models 17,19, 19x (tan), 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 30, 30s 36, 43, 43x (black), 43x (silver slide), 48 (black) and the 48 (silver slide). These weapons are also authorized as secondary weapons and off duty use.

**Note: The 19x (tan), 43x (silver slide), and the 48 (silver slide) weapons are not to be worn in uniform.

5.1.5 Colt, Smith & Wesson, or a Ruger revolver with a barrel length of no less than (2") two inches and no more than (6") six inches, capable of accepting city issued ammunition.

5.1.5.1 Approved Equipment - Dot Sight (RDS) approval for handgun:

For Glock Models 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 45:

Trijicon RMR Type 2 Red Dot Sight

Leupold Deltapoint Pro Part Number 119688

Holosun 509T-RD X2 red or green reticle

Holosun 508T X2 Red Dot

Holosun EPS Red Dot

For Glock Models 43x, 48:

Trijicon RMR cc Red Dot Sight

Holosun EPS CARRY red or green reticle

5.1.5.2 - Requirements:

Slides must be a Glock Modular Optic System (MOS) issued from the manufacturer.

§ Modifications are not permitted.

Approved holster: Safariland Model# 7360RDS-28325-481 or 7360RDS-28325-482

§ Must match the rest of the duty belt (i.e., basket weave, black)

In addition, all pistols shall be equipped with iron sights of the appropriate height for the RDS.

5.1.5.3 - Firearms Section:

Shall mount all RDS's prior to the start of the transition course

§ Members are not permitted to mount their own sights

Batteries shall be changed by the firearms staff once per calendar year at annual qualifications

Will address any maintenance and functions issues

Any officer requesting to carry an approved RDS on a Glock MOS shall complete the two-day RDS transition course hosted by the Training Academy.

Any member who carries an RDS shall qualify during annual MPOETC qualifications, as they are to carry the firearm (with the RDS) and complete a short-modified qualification with iron sights.

At no time shall officers be permitted to carry either duty, off-duty, or backup weapons utilizing the RDS without first completing the transition course.

Officers hired after 2022 shall only be permitted to purchase a Glock MOS for duty carry and the RDS of their choice from the approved list of equipment.

5.1.6 All firearms are subject to a basic inspection, at the discretion of a shift supervisor, and / or if needed, further inspection by the Firearms Section, to promote cleanliness, safety, compliance, and operability of the firearm. If an inspection of a firearm is conducted, it shall be done in a safe manner, and at the clearing barrel provided at each zone / unit location.

5.1.7 All members will be required to complete a MPOETC approved qualification course of fire prior to carrying **any firearm** as a primary service firearm, a secondary firearm, or an off-duty firearm.

5.2 **Shotguns** – The carrying of a departmentally issued shotgun is only permitted by authorized SWAT members.

5.2.1 The SDD/ SWAT supervisor shall ensure a current list of all SWAT officers who have qualified with a shotgun is available.

5.2.2 Only departmentally issued shotguns are authorized to be carried by SWAT members: The authorized shotgun is the Remington 870p 12 gauge.

5.2.3 SDD / SWAT supervisors will be responsible for the inspection of departmentally issued shotguns prior to issuance.

5.3 **Patrol Rifle** – The carrying of a departmentally approved patrol rifle or an approved personally owned patrol rifle by the Bureau of Police members is permitted only under the conditions set forth in this section.

5.3.1 The Director of the Training Academy shall ensure that a current list of officers who have qualified with the patrol rifle is available each month.

5.3.2 Any officer who requests to carry an authorized patrol rifle during his/her normal tour of duty must first successfully complete the approved training and qualification program. Officers must then successfully requalify annually to maintain his/her patrol rifle certification. Supervisors will be notified immediately when officers are disqualified.

5.3.3 Only Bureau approved patrol rifles are authorized to be carried by members of the Bureau of Police.

5.3.3.1 The Bureau maintained patrol rifles are the Smith and Wesson M&P 15 rifles and the Colt Law Enforcement M4 Carbines.

5.3.3.1.1 Bureau Patrol Rifles will be individually assigned. All patrol rifles will be zeroed specifically to the one officer assigned to deploy it.

5.3.3.2 Members may, at their own expense, request to carry a personally owned patrol rifle. Personally-owned patrol rifles will preferably be black, or earth tone in color, approved by the Firearms Section and /or the Chief of Police or his / her designee. Rifles shall not have any markings, writings, symbols, paintings, or adornments that conflict with the values of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and not deemed offensive to contemporary community standards.

Engraving – Members may engrave their initials or name (first initial, last name) and badge / badge number onto their personal rifle with the approval of the Firearms Section. Members should ensure that the engraving does not damage, alter, or affect the normal function of the rifle. Any / all-additional engraving shall require approval from the Chief of Police or his / her designee.

All patrol rifles must meet the requirements listed below:

- Factory built M4 carbine
 - Gas operated (Direct Impingement)
 - Caliber: 5.56 x 45 NATO
 - A4 Type receiver
 - 10.3" to 16" barrel with a Flash Hider
 - Semi-Safe trigger group
 - Telescoping, Adjustable Buttstock

5.3.3.3 All personally owned patrol rifles are subject to approval by the Firearms Section. Personally owned patrol rifles will meet or exceed the quality and function of rifles which are maintained by the Bureau.

5.3.3.4 All authorized Patrol Rifles will be equipped with, an electronic sighting system, Back-up sighting system, weapons light, and a Sling. The Firearms Division will maintain a current list of all authorized models.

5.3.3.4.1 Bureau approved electronic sighting systems will include Aimpoint red dot sights, EO Tech holographic weapons sights, Trijicon MRO, and the Vortex SPARC AR. Sighting systems will have no optical magnification.

5.3.3.4.2 Back-up sighting systems maybe be fixed or flip-up. Sights will be able to be co- witnessed through the electronic sighting systems field of view.

5.3.3.4.3 Weapons lights must be able to be activated by left and right support hand. Light must have a minimum output rating of 150 lumens.

5.3.3.4.4 Bureau approved tactical slings will include Blue Force Vickers Combat slings (2 point) and Magpul multi-mission slings (2-1 point).

5.3.3.4.5 Approved Equipment

5.3.3.4.6 Members may, at their own expense, request to carry a personally owned suppressed rifle. The 10.3-inch barrels are the only Short Barrel Rifles to be permitted for use with a suppressor. Purchase of a 10.3-inch SBR, requires a tax stamp. Purchase approved suppressor, requires a tax stamp. The upper and lower receiver serial numbers must match. The SBR must be purchased as a complete rifle. Purchasing a new upper receiver to accommodate a suppressor is prohibited.

5.3.3.4.7 Brand: Surefire, Model(s): SOCOM556-RC2, Caliber Spec: 5.56 / .223, Color: Black, Gas Buster Charging Handle –

5.3.3.4.8 The charging handle must be either by the same manufacture of Officer's suppressed rifle, or one of the following:

- PRI – M84 gas buster charging handle,
- Radian – Raptor SD Ambi charging handle or Raptor SD-SL Ambi charging handle or
- Geissle SCH charging handle.

5.3.3.4.9 Muzzle device(s) must be compatible with approved and same make as the suppressor. The mounting and maintenance will be conducted by the Firearm Staff only. Inspections of the equipment will be done twice annually to ensure proper equipment, cleanliness, and operability.

5.3.3.4.10 Any member of the PBP who wishes to carry a suppressed rifle shall complete the PBP Suppressor Training Course followed by a new rifle qualification.

5.3.3.5 Optional Equipment

5.3.3.5.1 Modifications from factory spec. must be inspected and approved by the Firearms Section. All upgrades must be manufactured by a reputable manufacture and enhance the function of the patrol rifle.

5.3.3.5.2 Members may elect, at their own expense, the following upgrades:

Pistol Grip
Ambidexterous Safety Selector (Ambi-Selector Lever)
Sling Adaptor Plate
Adjustable Stock
Charging Handle
Handguard
Rail mounted forward grip
FlashHider

5.3.3.5.3 The Firearms Section will install authorized equipment or upgrades to include mounting, training, qualification, zero, and data entry or direct Members to factory authorized repair centers.

5.3.3.5.4 All repairs or part replacements will be the sole financial responsibility of the Member.

5.3.4 Shift supervisors will be responsible for the basic inspection of PBP departmentally issued patrol rifles prior to issuance. When the PBP patrol rifle is returned at the end of the shift, the shift supervisor will conduct a basic inspection to ensure that the weapon is unloaded, clean, functions properly, and the tamper proof tape is still secure. If any possible problem or questionable condition is detected, the patrol rifle(s) shall be taken to the Firearms Section for further inspection. Supervisors and Officers shall ensure that privately owned rifles meet all the standards set forth in this policy. All rifles are subject to a basic inspection, at the discretion of a shift supervisor, and / or if needed, further inspection by the Firearms Section, to promote cleanliness, safety, compliance, and operability of the rifle. When an inspection of a PBP rifle or personally owned rifle is conducted, it shall be done in a safe manner, and at the clearing barrel provided at each zone / unit location.

5.3.4.1 Officers shall not take home a PBP owned rifle without prior permission of a shift supervisor. If permission is granted, the PBP rifle shall be returned to the duty location / unit as soon as reasonably possible. While the PBP rifle is in the possession of the officer, the officer is fully

responsible for the PBP rifle to ensure against loss, theft, or damage. (Ref to General Order 31-05 "Lost / Stolen / Damage Uniform / Equipment Claim" Sections 2.1, 2.4, 2.4.1, 2.5, 2.5.1). Shift supervisors will account for all PBP rifles assigned to their duty location / respective unit daily and will note if all PBP rifles are accounted for.

5.3.5 Patrol rifles shall be "cruiser / patrol loaded" and secured in the police vehicles weapons rack or in the departmentally issued transporting case in the trunk of the Bureau of Police vehicle. Cruiser / patrol is such a condition that the rifle is in a state where:

Bolt is forward with no round in the chamber
Dust cover is closed
Safety is on the "safe" position
Loaded magazine is inserted into the magazine well

5.3.6 Officers may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstances where the officer can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed to gain a tactical advantage

5.3.6.1 Bureau supervisors and officers SHALL NOT deploy the patrol rifle as an entry weapon or in situations where an Entry Team should be used, except when immediate action / intervention is necessary to save lives, such as an active threat or an eroding critical incident.

5.3.6.2 Supervisors and officers are reminded of General Order 42-5 "Sniper / Hostage / Barricaded Subjects" sections 3.0 and 4.0, which address their respective responsibilities when responding to calls of this nature.

5.4 LESS LETHAL WEAPONS - The carrying of departmentally issued less lethal weapons/munitions is permitted only under the conditions set forth in this section.

5.4.1 Any authorized Officer who has successfully completed the annual less lethal weapons qualification may be issued a less lethal weapon.

5.4.2 The senior ranking supervisor of any team or section that employs less lethal weapons shall ensure that a current list of officers who have qualified with less lethal weapons is sent to the Director of the Training Academy. The list shall be maintained at both the Training Academy and at within that team or section.

5.4.3 Only departmentally issued less lethal weapons and munitions are authorized to be carried by authorized officers of the Bureau of Police. The following are the authorized less lethal weapons systems:
The Remington 870 12-gauge shotgun specifically modified to indicate it as a less lethal weapon and used with the beanbag round.
Penn Arms 40mm munitions launcher.
Federal Lab 37 mm gas gun.

5.5 SWAT WEAPON SYSTEMS – The carrying of departmentally issued Sniper Weapon Systems (SWS), carbines and, sub machine guns and munitions launching systems is permitted only under the conditions set forth in this section. The deployment of these weapons systems is subject to SWAT operational procedures.

5.5.1 Only SWAT officers who have successfully completed the approved qualification courses may be issued an approved SWAT weapon system.

5.5.2 The Special Deployment Division Commander shall ensure that the Tactical Operations Section maintains a current list of SWAT officers who have qualified with all SWAT weapon systems. This list shall be sent to the Director of the Training Academy and the list shall be maintained at the Training Academy and at the SWAT duty location.

5.5.3 Only departmentally issued weapon systems that have been approved by the Chief of Police are authorized to be carried by qualified SWAT officers while on duty.

- 5.5.4 SWAT officers are permitted to maintain departmentally issued SWAT weapon systems on-duty and off-duty to facilitate rapid emergency deployment to critical incidents. Officers maintaining departmentally issued weapon systems off-duty shall adhere to all security and safety precautions as set forth in this General Order.
- 5.6 All firearms that have been issued through the Firearms Section are the property of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and, except with the permission of the Chief of Police, will not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of. Except for handgrips as specified by this policy, no modifications will be made to any City issued firearm.
- 5.6.1 Upon suspension or termination of service for any reason, the City issued firearm will be returned immediately to the Firearms Section.
- 5.6.2 Upon successful completion of the Glock transition course, the City owned revolver will be returned to the Firearms Section
- 5.7 Holsters – Only approved holsters meeting the following criteria shall be worn:
Shrouded trigger guard
Method of retention
Ability to draw and re-holster with one hand
Establish the proper grip while drawing the firearm.
Level 2 retention or greater.
Designed specifically for the firearm intended to be carried within.
- 5.7.1 The Safariland Model #6280 SLS and Safariland Model # 6360 are approved City issue duty holsters for both the Glock and Smith & Wesson Model 64. Both models are required to be equipped with a hood guard accessory which provides additional protection for the retention system.
- 5.7.1.1 Holsters possessing similar qualities to the Safariland model #6280 and #6360, are approved for use by members of the Bureau of Police
- 5.7.1.2 Safariland Models #7280, #070 and SLS/ALS Model #6365
- 5.7.1.3 Before any member is permitted to use one of the above holsters, they must first qualify with the holster and demonstrate proficiency with the holster to the approval of Firearms Staff.
- 5.7.2 Failure to demonstrate proficiency with a holster may result in the member failing firearms qualification.
- 5.7.3 A member wishing to purchase and utilize a holster that possesses similar qualities to the holsters listed above must forward a Form #54, Special Report, to his / her Commander, listing the brand name, model number, and retention level of the holster they wish to carry. The Commander will forward the request to the Firearms Section who will approve or disapprove the request.
- 5.7.3.1 If a request is disapproved by the Firearms Section, the reason for disapproval must be documented in the form of a Special from the Director of the Training Academy to the commanding officer of the member requesting the holster.
- 5.7.3.2 Approved requests for holsters other than those listed above will be maintained in the Zone personnel jacket of the individual officer as well as on file in the Firearms Section of the Training Academy.
- 5.7.4 Shoulder holsters and concealed carry shirts are not authorized for primary duty use.
- 5.8 Ammunition – Only department issued ammunition is authorized and approved for use in any approved firearm.
- 5.8.1 The .38 Special +P, 9mm, .40 S&W, .45ACP and .223 are authorized for the Primary Service and Secondary firearm.
- 5.8.2 Bureau approved 00 buckshot and/or rifled slug is/are the authorized round to be carried in departmentally issued shotguns by qualified officers.

5.8.3 While on duty, reloading devices (i.e., magazines or speed loaders) shall be worn in an approved ammunition carrier upon the member's person, and may be subject to inspection and approval by the Firearms Staff.

5.8.4 Specialized ammunition for SWAT Tactical Operations:

5.8.4.1 Bureau approved .223 / 5.56mm ammunition and any approved special application ammunition.

5.8.4.2 Bureau approved 12-gauge 00 buckshot, slug, and any other approved special purpose ammunition or munitions.

5.8.4.3 Bureau approved 37mm or 40mm special application launchable munitions.

5.8.4.4 Bureau approved .308 / 7.62mm ammunition and any approved special application ammunition.

5.8.4.5 Bureau approved .50 caliber ammunition and any approved special application ammunition.

6.0 REGISTRATION / INSPECTION / MAINTENANCE OF FIREARMS

6.1 All authorized firearms possessed by a member that will be carried as primary service and /secondary firearms and individually owned patrol rifle shall be registered with the Firearms Section of the Bureau of Police Training Academy.

6.2 All members, upon reporting for annual qualifications, shall present their primary service firearm and, if applicable, their secondary firearm to the Firearms Staff for a visual and functional inspection.

6.3 It will be the responsibility of the Firearms Section to maintain a database, which contains information pertaining to the registered firearms such as make, model, caliber, and serial number of authorized firearms as well as the officer who owns the weapon or to whom the weapon is assigned.

6.3.1 This database shall be updated weekly during the annual qualification period.

6.3.2 The Firearms Section will maintain additional documentation of approved personally owned patrol rifles to include current configuration, non-factory accessories, authorized installer, and a photo.

6.3.3 The Firearms Section shall conduct an annual review of the information contained in this database. Information pertaining to officers who have retired, resigned, or have been terminated shall be expunged from the database.

6.3.4 A paper copy of the retired/resigned/terminated officer's firearms information will be archived by the Firearms Section.

6.4 The officers assigned to the Training Academy Firearms Section will perform an annual inspection of all departmentally owned firearms.

6.5 In addition to the Firearms Section, the Tactical Operations Section of SWAT will maintain and conduct annual inspections of all SWAT maintained weapon systems.

6.6 An inspection report of departmentally owned firearms will be prepared by the Firearms Section and be submitted to the Tactical Training Division Supervisor.

6.7 Any Primary Service, Secondary firearm, or Individually owned Patrol rifle carried by an officer whether on or off-duty, except for firearms used for recreational purposes, must be inspected, and approved by the Training Academy's Firearms Section, and the officer shall be qualified in the use of such firearm prior to carrying that firearm.

6.8 Authorized personnel shall maintain firearms in a clean and safe-operating condition. Firearms will be subject to inspection by authorized personnel. Officers must safely unload their firearms prior to inspection.

6.9 A member shall not lend, sell, or otherwise dispose of a Primary Service or Secondary firearm that the member purchased him/herself unless the transaction has been made through a duly authorized and licensed dealer. The exception shall be during an emergency at which time a member may temporarily lend his/her firearm to another member.

7.0 TRAINING

7.1 Only those officers that have successfully completed firearms qualifications in accordance with MPOETC (Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission) and have demonstrated proficiency with the firearm are authorized to carry a firearm on or off duty.

7.1.1 It will be the responsibility of the Firearms Section to maintain training records, which identify the qualifying certified firearms instructor, course of fire information and scores for each approved firearm with documentation as to the prescribed course of fire requirements.

7.1.2 Any officer failing to meet the minimum standards set forth by MPOETC and/or failing to demonstrate proficiency with their firearm will need to be rescheduled for remedial firearms training. This remedial firearms qualification/training will be scheduled for the next training day or as soon as possible. The firearms section will notify the failing officer's commander of the need for remedial qualification/training.

7.2 While on-duty or off-duty, no member will arm him/herself with any firearm unless the officer has qualified with such firearm, the exception shall be during an emergency.

7.3 All personnel will be required to adhere to firearms qualification standards specified by MPOETC.

7.4 Any officers on alternate / light duty may not be scheduled to qualify until they return to full duty.

8.0 CARRYING FIREARMS WHILE OFF-DUTY

8.1 While members are permitted to carry authorized firearms during off-duty hours, they are encouraged to refrain from doing so when there is likelihood that they will be consuming alcoholic beverages or medications. When armed off-duty, members shall have in their possession their badge and identification card issued by the Bureau of Police.

8.2 Any secondary firearm carried off-duty by a PBP member using the sworn police officer concealed carry license exception, except for firearms used for recreational purposes, must be authorized under Section 5 of this policy, and the officer shall be qualified in the use of such firearm prior to carrying that firearm.

8.3 Only those officers that have successfully completed firearms qualifications in accordance with MPOETC (Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission) standards and have demonstrated proficiency with the firearm are authorized to carry a firearm while off-duty.

8.4 Any secondary firearm carried by an officer, except for firearms used for recreational purposes, shall be carried in a holster which is affixed to the body, possess a method of retention and a shrouded trigger guard. Firearms shall be stored in such a manner to prevent access to untrained or unauthorized persons.

8.5 Any officer working in a light duty, transitional duty, or modified duty capacity, is eligible to carry a firearm, provided he / she can discharge the firearm, has passed the MPOETC firearm qualification course, and has been medically cleared to do so. Officers with medication considerations, mental illness, or injury, that would cause impairment of judgement to appropriately exercise the use of deadly force, are prohibited from carrying a firearm.

8.5.1 Officers who are defendants on a Final PFA, or any other active protection from abuse order which provides for the relinquishment of firearms, and are suspended while they are on light duty, transitional duty, or modified duty capacity, are prohibited from carrying firearms specified within the relinquishment section of the PFA.

8.6 Any officer who is on compensation should not act in a police capacity; however, these restrictions shall not be interpreted to restrict any sworn member from defending himself or herself, or another, if necessary, from imminent serious bodily injury or death.

- 8.6.1 Officers on compensation with medication considerations, mental illness, or injury, that would cause impairment of judgement to appropriately exercise the use of deadly force, are prohibited from carrying a firearm.
- 8.6.2 Officers who have a PFA order against them, or any other active protection from abuse order which provides for the relinquishment of firearms, and are suspended while on compensation are prohibited from carrying firearms specified within the relinquishment section of the PFA.
- 8.6.3 Any officer who is on compensation and using their PBP badge and identification card with the intended purpose of utilizing the police exception of the Pennsylvania concealed carry licensing requirement as described in 6106 of the PA Crimes Code shall be limited to carrying only those firearms authorized within this policy. Members should not act in a police capacity; however, these restrictions shall not be interpreted to restrict any sworn member from defending himself or herself, or another, if necessary, from imminent serious bodily injury or death.

9.0 FIREARMS MODIFICATIONS AND REPAIRS

- 9.1 There will be no temporary or permanent modification (including any which may void the manufacturer's warranty of the weapon), addition, or deletion made to any service firearm whether purchased individually or as issued by the Quartermaster through the Firearms Section except handgrips, handguards or grip adapters approved by the Firearms Section.
- 9.2 Laser sights are not authorized for use with any firearm.
- 9.3 Officers are prohibited from carrying as a primary or secondary firearm any firearm that has a ported barrel or slide.
- 9.4 A Primary Service or Secondary firearm which has become defective, inoperable, damaged due to wear in the normal course of duty, or which may create a safety hazard shall be taken immediately to the Firearms Section for inspection and repair.
- 9.5 The Firearms Section shall retain approval oversight over all firearms and modifications.

10.0 NOTICE OF MALFUNCTIONS OF FIREARMS EQUIPMENT

- 10.1 Any time a piece of firearm equipment such as the holster, magazine or magazine pouch malfunctions, an officer should complete a PBP Form #81 "Lost, Damaged or Stolen Equipment Report" and forward it through the chain of command.
- 10.2 A copy of the Form #81 shall also be forwarded directly to the Firearms Section who shall be responsible for noting any trends that may develop regarding malfunctions in firearms and firearms equipment. The Firearms Staff shall inform the Director of the Training Academy about these potential trends so that the appropriate action may be taken to rectify these problems.

11.0 REPORTING OF LOST OR STOLEN FIREARMS

- 11.1 Any time a firearm(s) or rifle(s) owned by a member of the Bureau of Police, or a departmentally issued firearm(s) or rifle(s), is lost, or taken in a burglary or theft, a police report shall be filed immediately upon the discovery that it has been lost or stolen. A copy of the police report will be forwarded to the Chief's Office and distributed to all duty locations. The police report must contain a complete description of the firearm(s) / rifles(s) that was lost or stolen.

12.0 REPLACEMENT FIREARMS OBTAINED FROM THE TRAINING ACADEMY

- 12.1 Any time the Primary Service firearm of a member is lost, stolen, or misplaced; a replacement firearm may be provided to the officer by the Firearms Section. The replacement firearm may only be issued with the approval of the Chief of Police or designated appointee.
 - 12.1.1 If shots are fired during a critical incident, the weapon of the involved officer(s) will be collected by the Investigating Unit and a replacement weapon will be issued through the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Training Academy as soon as possible.

- 12.1.2 The involved officer will maintain possession of the replacement firearm until his/her weapon is returned.
- 12.1.3 If the officer(s) has another weapon which they are qualified to carry on-duty, they may elect to use that weapon rather than accept the issued replacement if the weapon meets current regulations.
- 12.1.4 The officer's weapon will be taken to the Allegheny County Department of Laboratories to be examined, test fired, and returned to the officer(s) when testing is complete.
- 12.2 The replacement firearm provided by the Firearms Section must be the same type of firearm with which the officer has qualified (i.e., Glock 19 for a Glock 19 or S & W Model 64 for an S & W Model 64.)
- 12.3 Any replacement firearm must be immediately returned to the Firearms Section as soon as possible
- 12.4 Officers involved in a critical incident involving discharge of a firearm shall meet with the Firearms Section prior to their return to work. They will be required to complete a course of fire at the discretion of the Firearms Section. The purpose is not to qualify the officer, rather it is intended only to provide the officer with the opportunity to assess their own readiness and comfort level with respect to weapon handling.

Approved by:



Thomas Stangrecki
Acting Chief of Police