

PB FORM 290  PITTSBURGH BUREAU OF POLICE <i>"...honor, integrity, courage, respect, and compassion."</i>		SUBJECT: "GENERAL FIREARMS AND LESS LETHAL REGULATIONS"	ORDER NUMBER: 34-01
		PLEAC STANDARD: 1.3.8 a, b, c, d	PAGE 1 OF 10
RE-ISSUE DATE: 5/1/2017	EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/1/15	ANNUAL REVIEW DATE: SEPTEMBER	RESCINDS: ALL PREVIOUS
			AMENDS: ALL PREVIOUS

1.0 POLICY OR 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 in order to ensure the safe handling and use of authorized firearms.
- See also General Order 12-6 Use of Force
- See also General Order 17-9 Member's Accused of being under the influence of Drug/Alcohol
- See also General Order 30-1 Operation of Bureau Vehicles
- See also General Order 42-5 Sniper/Hostage/Barricaded Individual
- See also General Order 70-4 Firearms Training
- See also General Order 12-07 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 Firearms/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 are exempt from licensing requirements for the carrying of a concealed firearm. Members who still wish to obtain a license to carry firearms are further reminded that they are still 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 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 #17-9 "Members Accused of Being Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs."

4.2 Officers shall secure their firearms at all times 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.

4.5 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 his 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.

4.8.2 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.

5.1.1 The approved Primary Service firearms and Secondary firearms include:

5.1.1.1 [REDACTED]

5.1.1.2 [REDACTED]

5.1.1.3 Members will be required to purchase, at their own expense, a [REDACTED] prior to beginning the MPOETC approved firearms training course, unless that member was hired prior to May 29, 1990 and chooses to still qualify with the [REDACTED].

5.1.1.4 Members will be required to complete an MPOETC approved qualification course of fire prior to carrying any firearm as a Primary Service firearm or Secondary firearm.

5.1.2 Members hired before May 29, 1990:

5.1.2.1 Will carry the [REDACTED] issued by the City of Pittsburgh

5.1.2.2 May, at their own expense, carry the [REDACTED] following successful completion of the [REDACTED]

5.1.3 Members hired on or after May 30, 1990, at their own expense, will carry either of the [REDACTED].

5.1.4 Police Officers, Detectives, Sergeants and Supervisors assigned to desk duty or to such an assignment which is administrative or investigatory in nature, and not involved in field duty, may carry:

5.1.4.1 [REDACTED]

5.1.4.2 [REDACTED]

5.2 SHOTGUNS – [REDACTED].

5.2.2 [REDACTED]

5.2.3 [REDACTED]

5.2.4 [REDACTED]

5.3 PATROL RIFLE – The carrying of a departmentally approved patrol rifle by 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 in the course of his/her normal tour of duty must first successfully complete the approved training and qualification program. Officers must then successfully requalify bi-annually in order 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

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. All patrol rifles must meet the requirements listed below.

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,

. The Firearms Division will maintain a current list of all authorized models.

5.3.3.4.1 Bureau approved electronic sighting systems will include

5.3.3.4.2

5.3.3.4.3 Weapons lights must be able to be activated by left and right support hand.

5.3.3.4.4 Bureau approved tactical slings will include

5.3.3.5 Optional Equipment

5.3.3.5.1 Modifications from factory spec. must be inspected and approved by the Firearms Division. 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

- Ambidextrous 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 upgrades or direct Members to factory authorized repairs 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 inspection of departmentally issued patrol rifles prior to issuance. When the patrol rifle is returned at the end of the shift, the shift supervisor will conduct a cursory 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 shall be taken to the Firearms Section for further inspection.

5.3.5 [REDACTED]

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:

[REDACTED]

5.5 SWAT WEAPON SYSTEMS – [REDACTED]

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:

[REDACTED]

5.7.1 [REDACTED]

5.7.1.1 [REDACTED]

5.7.1.2 The following are examples of approved holsters for use by members of the Bureau of Police:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

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 the 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 City issued ammunition is authorized and approved for use in any approved firearm.

5.8.1 [REDACTED]

5.8.2 [REDACTED]

5.8.3 [REDACTED]

5.8.4 [REDACTED]

5.8.4.1 [REDACTED]

5.8.4.2 [REDACTED]

5.8.4.3 [REDACTED]

5.8.4.4 [REDACTED]

5.8.4.5 [REDACTED]

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, with the exception of 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 by an officer while off-duty – with the exception of 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, with the exception of 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 who is on compensation or assigned to transitional duty with a limitation that would exempt him/her from firearms training shall not be permitted to carry a firearm while off-duty.

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) owned by a member of the Bureau of Police 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 also distributed to all duty locations. The police report must contain a complete description of the firearm(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 as long as 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 [REDACTED].

12.3 Any replacement firearm must be immediately returned to the Firearms Section as soon as possible.

12.4 Officers involved in a critical incidents 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:



Scott Schubert
Chief of Police