

3-03/210.05 - Revolvers/Semi-Automatic Pistols (On and Off Duty)

The authorized handgun issued by the Department shall be a 9mm Luger caliber (9mm parabellum) semi-automatic handgun as specified by the Weapons Training Unit.

In lieu of carrying the Department issued semi-automatic handgun, sworn members may elect to carry Department authorized optional handguns on-duty, off-duty, or as secondary on-duty back-up weapons.

The use of revolvers as the primary on-duty handgun for armed members has been phased out.

The Weapons Training Unit shall maintain a list of Department authorized handguns at the Biscailuz armory and on their Intranet website.

Members shall not carry any unauthorized firearm on-duty, off-duty, or for back-up.

Members working in uniform or conducting tactical operations shall carry a Department authorized on-duty semi-automatic handgun.

Sworn members working in business attire may carry a Department authorized off-duty semi-automatic handgun in lieu of an on-duty handgun. When working in business attire, the handgun barrel or holster shall not extend below the bottom edge of the coat or other similar apparel.

Sworn members carrying any Department authorized secondary on-duty back-up or off-duty handgun must securely carry the weapon concealed from view. In no case shall it be carried on the Sam Browne belt or exposed in the waistband area or pocket.

Sworn members assigned to specialized investigative units may, with sufficient justification, request approval from their Division Chief to carry firearms other than those which are authorized.

Department members shall carry any authorized semi-automatic handgun used on-duty, off-duty or as a secondary weapon in the following manner:

- Loaded, with a round in the chamber;
- Magazine loaded to the manufacturer's specified capacity;
- External hammer decocked; and
- External safety in the on position.

All handguns carried on-duty or off-duty, including secondary handguns, must be recorded with Personnel Administration as outlined in section 3-03/210.15, "Firearms Recording" of the Department Manual of Policy and Procedures, prior to carrying them.

All sworn members below the rank of Undersheriff who desire to carry a Department authorized revolver or semi-automatic pistol on-duty, off-duty, or for back-up other than the handgun issued them by the Department, must attend and satisfactorily complete an instructional and qualification course conducted by the Weapons Training Staff for that specific class of handgun, prior to carrying that handgun. Members seeking this training shall do so on their own time and at their own expense.

Grips

All authorized handguns shall have standard type wood, plastic, metal, or hard rubber grips. Stag, ivory, or light colored grips and grips with ornamentation are prohibited.

Members may, at their own expense, equip their Department-issued handgun with aftermarket grips as specified by the Weapons Training Unit.

Laser and Night Sights

Laser and night sights as specified by the Weapons Training Unit, are authorized for on-duty and off-duty use on Department approved pistols and revolvers. Laser or night sights may be installed on Department authorized handguns at the member's expense. Installation and maintenance shall be the responsibility of the individual member.

The installation of night sights on Department authorized pistols, by an approved vendor, shall be coordinated by the Weapons Training Staff at the Biscailuz armory.

All members below the rank of Undersheriff desiring to carry and use Laser sights on or off-duty, shall attend and satisfactorily complete an instructional and qualification course conducted by the Weapons Training Staff.

Magazines

Only those magazines specially designed and advertised by manufacturers as standard equipment may be used in Department-approved pistols. Extended magazines increasing the round capacity beyond that which was originally intended or advertised by the manufacturer are not authorized, except with specific written approval of the concerned Division Chief or Division Director.

Maintenance

Firearms shall be maintained in proper operating condition at all times. Anyone whose firearm has been dropped or who has a question regarding the safety, condition, timing or proper function of his firearm should have it checked by qualified armory personnel at the Weapons Training Unit.

The Department armorers are responsible for inspecting and making repairs to all Department-issued firearms.

Modifications

Sworn members shall not make, nor shall they permit to be made, any modification(s) to any Department approved handgun used on duty, off duty, or as back up without the approval of the Weapons Training Unit.

Safety Devices

All safety devices provided by the manufacturer shall be retained intact and be operable at all times.

Trigger Shoe

The use of a trigger shoe accessory on any Department-authorized handgun carried by a member is prohibited.

Used Firearms

Sworn members purchasing used handguns to be used in an official Department capacity shall submit them to the Weapons Training Unit for inspection and approval, prior to using such handguns on-duty, off-duty, or for back-up. Refer to section 5-09/400.00, "Used Firearms Purchased For Department Use - approval Procedure," of the Manual of Policy and Procedures.
