

PINEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

SECTION 6: ENGAGEMENT STANDARDS

SUBJECT: 600 FIREARMS PROFICIENCY AND TRAINING

EFFECTIVE: 03/01/2015

1. POLICY. It shall be the responsibility of every officer to protect life and property. Inherent in such duty is the legal and moral responsibility for each officer to attain the highest degree of proficiency in their use of police firearms. It is the responsibility of the Department to require that officers be well trained in the handling of firearms as well as laws governing their use.

- A. Authorized duty weapon calibers: .38, .357, 9mm, 40 S&W, 45.
- B. Only departmental issued ammunition will be carried on duty.
- C. Authorized duty weapon type **will be** double action semi-automatic or revolver. Single action handguns will not be carried by department personnel unless authorized by the Chief of Police.

2. ANNUAL INSTRUCTION. Every officer who carries a firearm shall receive an appropriate amount of in-service training hours per year on the operation, safety, care and cleaning of firearms that they are authorized to carry. The Firearms Instructor shall coordinate such training for all officers including Reserve Officers, which shall include, but not limited to:

- A. Firearms care and maintenance;
- B. Firearms inspection; and Training may be individual or a combination of in-services, classroom, or simulated training. Simulation training involves situational interactive video or the use of paint marking rounds.

3. DEMONSTRATION OF PROFICIENCY. The following criteria and standards shall apply to all officers authorized to carry firearms:

- A. To minimally qualify with such certified firearm(s) at the time of employment, acquisition or change of duty weapon;
- B. Officers shall not be authorized to use or carry any firearm in an official capacity unless minimum qualification has been demonstrated and documented;
- C. Certification of qualification shall be made in writing by the Rangemaster. This certification shall become a part of the employee's training file;
- D. Failure to achieve minimum qualifications may lead to remedial training and may result in a suspension of duty or termination of employment; and
- E. Minimum qualifications to carry a firearm either on or off-duty will be established by the Rangemaster and will be based on the nature of the course.

4. FIREARMS RANGE QUALIFICATIONS. Every officer that is authorized to carry a firearm will qualify and participate in live firing exercises with the weapon(s), reloading devices and holster(s), which they carry on or off duty. Department members shall strictly adhere to all range rules.

- A. Two range qualifications will be scheduled during the calendar year. Each officer will be scheduled for and expected to qualify at all training sessions.

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B. Duty firearm.

Every authorized officer shall minimally qualify on different courses of fire with his or her duty

firearm not less than two times per calendar year on the firearms range;

C. Secondary weapon. A secondary duty weapon (occasionally referred to as a backup) may be carried by officers after the firearm has been approved by the department Rangemaster, and the officer has demonstrated proficiency and safety skills to the designated Rangemaster. The secondary firearm shall be totally concealed and carried in a safe and secure manner. It shall not be visible to public scrutiny and shall not be displayed or used except in emergency situations.

D. Ammunition.

Ammunition for mandatory qualifications will be furnished by the Department for department issued/authorized primary duty weapons.

E. Notification.

Whenever possible, a minimum of two weeks written notice will proceed the mandatory qualification and course to be fired.

F. Course of fire and targets.

These shall be determined by the Rangemaster.

G. Make-up.

Officers unable to participate in a regularly scheduled mandatory qualification will notify their Supervisor in advance. This notice will be considered, and if the reason for absence is valid, the Officer will be rescheduled for a make-up. However P.O.S.T. qualifications requirements of 12 months will be maintained with a 30 day grace period. After 30 day grace period the officer must complete the Pre-Academy Firearms course, pass a written exam with an 80% or higher, then must shoot the P.O.S.T. firearms qualifications course of fire four (4) times for an average score meeting the minimum qualifications requirements.

H. Record of training.

Record of all training, notices, excuses and make-ups will be maintained by the Department. Appropriate documentation will be maintained by the Rangemaster officer's training file. It is the responsibility of the Rangemaster to notify the Chief of Police in writing of those officers not participating in or who fail to qualify and why.

5. SHOTGUN POLICY. It shall be the policy of the Department to handle the arming of the Department personnel in accordance with Louisiana State Laws, Federal Regulations and Louisiana Peace Officer Standard and Training. Every authorized officer shall minimally qualify annually with a Department shotgun.

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6. PURPOSE. The purpose of the order is to establish procedures and guidelines for qualification requirements with respect to carrying and the use of a patrol shotgun.

7. DEFINITIONS.

Patrol Shotgun: A pump action that chambers a .12 gauge ammunition only.
Ammunition must be authorized by the department.

8. PROCEDURE. The Patrol Shotgun is not the primary shoulder weapon of the uniform officer. However, when intelligence information indicates the development of a situation that creates the need for a Patrol Shotgun to be used as the primary shoulder weapon.

These situations refer to but not limited to, hostage rescue, high-risk warrants service, barricaded subjects and high-risk traffic stops. These situations often involve the apprehension of armed and dangerous subjects.

- A. Policies and procedures governing the use of deadly force shall be applicable to the carrying and use of the Patrol Shotgun.
- B. This is an optional weapon. All expenses, including the cost of the rifle and ammunition, will be the responsibility of the individual officer.
- C. The qualification and carrying of a Patrol Shotgun is not mandatory. However a member who is authorized and chooses to carry a Patrol Shotgun will qualify with it annually. A member who is authorized to carry a Patrol Shotgun, and fails to qualify with that Patrol Shotgun shall surrender said firearm until they qualify.
- D. Only Fulltime P.O.S.T. certified personnel or Reserve Officers may be authorized by the Chief of Police or designee, to carry personally owned shotgun, which have been pre-approved by the department P.O.S.T. Firearms Instructor.
- E. Everyone must complete a Patrol Shotgun training class given by the department or an agency authorized by the department, with a passing score as set by the P.O.S.T. Firearms Instructor prior to being allowed to carry a carbine/rifle.
- F. Loading Instructions: Patrol Shotgun will be loaded with rounds in the magazine only. The chamber shall be **EMPTY**, the trigger pulled and the safety **OFF**.
- G. When deployed the chamber will be loaded with the **SAFETY ON** until the target is acquired.

9. PATROL CARBINE/RIFLE POLICY. It shall be the policy of the Department to handle the arming of the Department personnel in accordance with Louisiana State Laws, Federal Regulations and Louisiana Peace Officer Standard and Training.

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10. PURPOSE. The purpose of the order is to establish procedures and guidelines for qualification requirements with respect to carrying and the use of a patrol carbine/rifle.

11. DEFINITIONS.

Patrol Carbine/Rifle: A semi-automatic carbine/rifle that chambers a .223 caliber/5.56 NATO and .30 caliber ammunition only.

12. PROCEDURE. The Carbine/Rifle is not the primary shoulder weapon of the uniform officer. However, when intelligence information indicates the development of a situation that creates the need for a Carbine/Rifle to be used as the primary shoulder weapon. These situations refer to but not limited to, hostage rescue, high-risk warrants service, barricaded subjects and high-risk traffic stops. These situations often involve the apprehension of armed and dangerous subjects.

- A. Policies and procedures governing the use of deadly force shall be applicable to the carrying and use of the Carbine/Rifle.
- B. This is an optional weapon. All expenses, including the cost of the rifle and ammunition, will be the responsibility of the individual officer.
- C. The qualification and carrying of a patrol carbine/rifle is not mandatory. However a member who is authorized and chooses to carry a patrol carbine/rifle will qualify with it annually. A member who is authorized to carry a patrol carbine/rifle, and fails to qualify with that carbine/rifle shall surrender said firearm until they qualify.
- D. Only patrol rifle/carbine certified personnel maybe authorized by the Chief of Police or designee, to carry personally owned rifles, which have been pre-approved by the department P.O.S.T. Firearms Instructor.
- E. Everyone must complete a Patrol Carbine/Rifle training class given by the department or an agency authorized by the department, with a passing score as set by the P.O.S.T. Firearms Instructor prior to being allowed to carry a carbine/rifle.
- F. Loading Instructions: Rifles will be loaded with rounds in the magazine only. The chamber shall be **EMPTY**, the trigger pulled and the safety **OFF**.
- G. When deployed the chamber will be loaded with the **SAFETY ON** until the target is acquired.

13. MINIMUM PROFICIENCY. Every officer must achieve minimum proficiency qualification in the prescribed time in order to carry a firearm. Minimum proficiency is a condition of employment for officers who must carry a firearm in the performance of their duties. Scores resulting from each officer's training and qualification performances will be recorded and placed in the individual officer's training file.

14. FAILURE TO QUALIFY. An officer must achieve a passing score each range session attended. Any officer unable to appear for qualification or achieve the minimum

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qualifying score shall be rescheduled to qualify within 10 calendar days. Should the officer fail that attempt, the officer shall be assigned to administrative duty and the officer's right to carry a weapon revoked. Within 15 calendar days, the officer will be

provided individual firearms training and a final opportunity to qualify. Failure to qualify on that attempt shall be deemed cause for termination of employment.

- A. If an officer authorized to carry a firearm is temporarily disabled and is unable to participate in scheduled firearm qualifications, the qualification equipment is waived until such time as the officer is again physically capable of qualifying.
- B. If an officer authorized to carry a weapon is unable to participate in a scheduled firearm range qualification due to a schedule or assignment conflict, the officer can be excused by the firearms instructor or the Chief of Police providing the officer attends the next scheduled range day.
- C. Each officer will be required to clean his/her weapon after completing their course of fire. The weapon will be inspected by the Firearms Instructor before leaving the range.

15. SECURITY OF FIREARMS. All firearms not under the immediate personal supervision of an officer shall be securely located in the Department armory or other secure area.

- A. Security of duty and secondary firearms. Officers shall retain control of their firearms at all times. When entering a jail or processing prisoners, firearms shall be locked in a secure area or office gun locker. Particular care shall be exercised in safely storing firearms while off duty to insure they are not accessible to young children.
- B. Shotguns. A pre-service check prior to beginning every shift shall be conducted by every officer to assure him/herself that the shotgun in his or her patrol unit is patrol car ready, fully loaded and securely locked in the lock rack.
- C. Shotgun safety. Shotguns are provided to insure additional firepower in the event of a suspected or apparent armed resistance. Officers should only deploy the shotgun or any other specialty weapon as the tactical situation requires.
- D. Shotgun Lock Rack. The rack will be unlocked only when the shotgun is to be removed from the patrol unit in preparation for authorized use, cleaning or storage.
- E. Custody of shotgun. Shotguns released from the lock rack shall be removed from the patrol units being serviced or repaired or while the vehicle is disabled.
- F. Security of firearms. The shift supervisor shall insure that the Department armory is secure at all times.

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16. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUPERVISORS. It is the responsibility of each supervisor authorized to use weapons to be familiar with the contents herein and to insure compliance. Supervisors shall report noncompliance and inconsistencies to the Chief of Police in writing. The authorized training supervisor has a specific responsibility to thoroughly review this section, at least annually, to insure compliance and to insure that the section reflects the current state law and recent court decisions regarding the use of firearms and deadly physical force. Noncompliance and/or recommended changes shall be made in writing to the Chief of Police.

17. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF RANGEMASTER. Special responsibilities will include the following:

A. Maintenance of accurate and current records regarding:

1. Firearms proficiency and qualifications of each officer required to carry a firearm
2. Weapons inspection records for all authorized on and off-duty service weapons including brand, model, caliber and serial number;

18 WEAPONS INSPECTIONS. Supervisors are responsible for periodically inspecting the condition and status of the weapons carried by their subordinates. Supervisors shall ensure that officers carry clean, charged and fully loaded (including all magazines or speed loaders) firearms while on duty. These inspections, which shall be documented by the supervisor shall occur not less than annually. In addition, member's firearms shall be inspected during qualification.

By order of

Darrell Basco
Chief of Police