



DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL STANDING ORDER

AG REVIEW BY:	ORIGINATION DATE: 09/14/20	APPROVED BY: George Togliatti, Director <i>Original Signature on File</i>
REFERENCES:	DATE EFFECTIVE: 9/14/20	SUBJECT: Firearms
PROCESSED BY: Director's office	REVISION DATE:	STANDING ORDER NUMBER: 09/014/20

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes procedures for the acquisition, use and documentation of training in the use of duty firearms. The Director of Public Safety or his/her designee shall approve all duty firearms before they are acquired and utilized by any officer of this Department. Officers shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and regulations concerning firearms. The Department Firearms Committee should provide recommendations to the Director concerning firearms issues and education.

AUTHORIZATION TO CARRY FIREARMS

Only sworn personnel who have met all state and Department standards and have been authorized by the Director of Public Safety shall have the peace officer privilege to carry a firearm on- and off-duty (NRS 202.350(4)).

- a. A division chief may establish procedures specifying circumstances in which firearms will not be carried because of protocol, security or other concerns.
- b. A non-sworn employee who wishes to carry a concealed firearm at work must adhere to policy titled Concealed Firearms at Work.

DEFINITIONS

Additional Primary - A handgun, either Division or personally owned, that can be used as an alternative primary handgun due to the unique nature of specific duties.

ATF - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Authorized Armorer - A person who has been certified by the manufacturer of the firearm to inspect, service, and repair the make and model of a particular firearm.

Authorized Gunsmith - A person who is schooled in the art of designing, making or repairing small firearms.

Backup Handgun - A handgun approved for carry on-duty in addition to the primary handgun.

Duty Firearm - A Department approved firearm that is carried by a Department sworn officer in the course of their duty, including handguns, rifles and shotguns.

Firearms Instructor -DPS officer certified and qualified to conduct range activities as prescribed by the DPS Firearms Manual.

Lead Firearms Instructor - The firearms instructor who has been designated by the other firearms instructor(s) as the ultimate authority for the range session/activity currently taking place.

Primary Handgun - A handgun, either Division or personally-owned, that has been approved for carry as the officer's primary duty weapon.

Threat Level Specifications for Handgun Holsters - The various holster securities encompass; a thumb break hammer strap, a finger break trigger guard strap, a front-sight rail, and a trigger guard restraint. A threat level I holster requires one of the above holster securities; a threat level II holster requires two of the above holster securities; a threat level III holster requires three of the above holster securities. Each holster manufacturer individually determines threat level of their products.

Weapon Mounted Optic (also known as red dot sight/RDS/MRDS) – a non-magnifying reflex sight, inclusive of all components, for firearms that provides the user an aimpoint in the form of an illuminated dot.

SAFE HANDLING OF FIREARMS

The intent of this policy is to promote proper firearm safety on- and off-duty. Employees shall maintain the highest level of safety when handling firearms.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- a. Officers shall only display or handle any firearm in furtherance of legitimate enforcement duties, training or maintenance.
- b. Officers shall be governed by all rules and regulations pertaining to the use of the range and shall obey all orders issued by the Firearms Instructors.
- c. Any officer who discharges a firearm, unintentionally or intentionally, on- or-off duty, except during training or recreational use, shall make a verbal report to his/her supervisor as soon as circumstances permit. Discharges may require an investigation and/or a written report. It is the responsibility of the Division Chief or their designee to direct that an investigation and/or written report be completed.
- d. Officers shall not clean, repair, load or unload a handgun anywhere in the Department, except where clearing barrels are present.

- e. Shotguns or rifles removed from vehicles shall be loaded and unloaded in a safe manner outside of the vehicle.
- f. Officers shall not place or store any firearm or other weapon on Department premises except where the place of storage is locked.
- g. No one shall carry firearms into any jail section or any part thereof when securing or processing a prisoner, but shall place all firearms in a secured location.
- h. Any duty weapon authorized by the Department that is found to be malfunctioning or needing service shall not be carried and shall be promptly presented to a Department/Division Firearms Armorer for inspection. Any weapon determined to be in need of service or repair during an inspection by the Department/Division Firearms Armorer, will be immediately removed from service. If the weapon is the officer's primary duty weapon, an appropriate replacement weapon will be issued to the officer until the duty weapon is again rendered serviceable.
- i. Officers shall immediately report to their supervisor the loss or theft of any duty firearm. If applicable, officers will file a theft report with the appropriate law enforcement agency as soon as possible.
- j. Division Chiefs may authorize alterations or modifications to Department approved firearms as established in the Department of Public Safety Firearms Manual (DPSFM).

STORAGE OF FIREARMS

Officers shall ensure that all firearms are locked and secured while in their possession, homes, vehicles or any other area under their control in a manner that will keep them inaccessible to children and irresponsible adults and in accordance with NRS 202.300.

- a. Duty firearms carried in vehicles will be secured at all times.
- b. A firearm that is stored in a locked vehicle trunk or vehicle shotgun/rifle locking rack will be considered secured.

AUTHORIZED WEAPONS

The Department reserves the right to regulate the characteristics of firearms carried under its authority and limits them to certain types and models. Division Chiefs may issue their authorized personnel firearms appropriate to the division mission or approve personally owned firearms as designated in this policy and the DPSFM. All firearms shall have a standard manufacturer's law enforcement finish and shall not have unauthorized engraving or other features that are solely for decoration. Modifications to the firing mechanisms or other internal parts of any firearm, other than those approved by the manufacturer for that specific firearm for law enforcement use, are specifically prohibited. When consistent with guidelines established by the DPSFM, Division Chiefs may by directive, permit and regulate changes to grips or sights and the addition of accessory devices.

No duty firearms will be carried that have not been thoroughly inspected by a qualified armorer. All duty weapons shall be subject to inspection at any time.

DUTY WEAPONS

- a. Primary Handguns:
 - 1. Primary handguns must be semi-automatic.
 - 2. Each Division will issue a Division owned handgun to each officer as his/her primary handgun. Except as outlined below, officers will carry the primary handgun in the performance of their law enforcement duties.
 - 3. With the approval of the concerned Division Chief, personally owned handguns meeting the specifications set forth in Appendix A of the DPSFM may be authorized as an officer's primary handgun in lieu of the Division issued handgun. Officers choosing to carry a personally owned handgun as their primary weapon may or may not be issued a Division owned handgun.
- b. Shotguns
 - 1. Division Chiefs may issue shotguns appropriate to the Division's mission or a specific task at hand.
 - 2. With the approval of the concerned Division Chief, personally owned shotguns meeting the requirements of Appendix A of the DPSFM may be authorized.
- c. Rifles
 - 1. Division Chiefs may authorize their officers to carry a Department issued or personally owned patrol rifle.
 - 2. Personally owned rifles must meet the specifications set forth in the DPSFM.
- d. Special Application Weapons
 - 1. Division Chiefs may authorize such special application weapons as may be necessary for specific tasks or purposes. The authorization shall be in writing and signed by the Division Chief a copy forwarded to the Training Division.

AUTHORIZED ADDITIONAL PRIMARY OR BACKUP WEAPONS

At the discretion of the Division Chief or their designee, officers may be authorized to carry an additional primary or backup handgun. Division Chiefs or their designee shall follow the approval process outlined in the DPSFM. The Firearms Committee shall establish an approval process which provides appropriate documentation of the approval to carry and the firearm authorized.

Officers desiring to carry an additional primary or backup weapon are subject to the following restrictions:

- a. The weapon shall be of good quality and workmanship and comply with manufacture requirements outlined in the DPSFM for personally owned weapons.
- b. Although the Division may authorize more than one additional primary or backup weapon for an individual officer, only one backup weapon may be carried at a time.

- c. Officers choosing to carry an additional primary will qualify utilizing a primary qualification course.
- d. The purchase of backup handgun training ammunition shall be the responsibility of the officer, unless provided at the discretion of a Division Chief.
- e. The backup handgun shall be carried out of sight at all times and in such a manner as to prevent accidental cocking, discharge or loss of physical control.
- f. Duty ammunition for additional primary or backup weapons shall be provided by the officer's Division and is the only ammunition authorized for on-duty use.
- g. Personnel shall comply with the Department approval process authorizing the carrying of additional primary or backup weapon, including completion and submission of all required paperwork found in the DPSFM.

AUTHORIZED OFF-DUTY WEAPONS

The Department does not encourage nor discourage the carrying of off-duty firearms.

The Department's Firearms Policy, Use of Force Policy, and any other relevant policy will apply to any sworn Department employee, who while off-duty, acts in the capacity of a peace officer.

CARRYING FIREARMS OUT OF STATE

Officers are cautioned that individual states may enact local regulations that permit private persons or entities to prohibit or restrict the possession of concealed firearms on their property, or that prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on any state or local government property, installation, building, base or park. Federal authority (18 USC § 926B and C) may not shield an officer from arrest and prosecution in such locally restricted areas.

Visiting active and retired peace officers from other states are subject to all requirements set forth in 18 USC § 926B and C.

AMMUNITION

Officers shall carry only Department authorized ammunition. All duty and range ammunition for the primary handgun, shotgun and rifle, shall be provided by the officer's division of assignment and is the only ammunition authorized for use.

- a. Duty ammunition for additional primary or backup handguns shall be provided by the officer's Division and is the only ammunition authorized for on-duty use.
- b. Division Chiefs may provide range (training and qualification) ammunition at their discretion for backup weapons.
- c. Ammunition will meet the specifications as set forth in the DSPFM, including Appendix B. Divisions shall follow those specifications.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Firearms shall not be carried by any officer who has consumed any amount of an alcoholic beverage or taken any drugs that could adversely affect the officer's senses or judgment. The exception would include sworn personnel consuming alcohol in the performance of their duties. Officers will adhere to division directives regarding the consumption of alcohol and the carrying of firearms.

PERSONALLY OWNED WEAPONS

The Department/Division does not assume responsibility for maintenance of, or loss or damage to, personally owned firearms. Costs for inspection and repair of personally owned firearms shall be the responsibility of the officer. Damage to or loss of personally owned weapons may not be reimbursable by the state.

- a. **Handguns** - Division Chiefs or their designee may authorize their officers to carry a personally owned semi-automatic handgun as a primary, on-duty weapon in lieu of the Department/Division issued handgun.
 - 1. Personally owned handguns must meet the specifications set forth in the DPSFM including Appendix A. All restrictions, exemptions and qualifications apply.
 - 2. Exceptions may be granted by the Division Chief, in writing, when special needs and circumstances are shown.
 - 3. Custom, special edition, performance center, competition or similar firearms will not be approved for duty use.
 - 4. Officers choosing to carry a personally owned handgun as their primary weapon may or may not be issued a Division owned handgun.
- b. **Additional Primary or Backup Handguns** - Division Chiefs or their designee may authorize officers to carry personally owned Additional Primary or Backup handguns.
 - 1. Personally owned additional primary or backup handguns must meet the specifications set forth in the DPSFM, including Appendix A. All restrictions, exemptions and qualifications apply.
 - 2. Backup handguns shall be carried concealed, secured in a holster, and shall not be unnecessarily displayed.
- c. **Shotguns** - Division Chiefs or their designee may authorize their officers to carry one personally owned shotgun.
 - 1. Personally owned shotguns must meet the specifications set forth in the DPSFM, including Appendix A. All restrictions, exemptions and qualifications apply.
 - 2. Those authorized to carry a personally owned shotgun may be required to turn in the Department shotgun, if one was issued.

- d. **Rifles** - Division Chiefs or their designee may authorize their officers to carry one personally owned rifle.
 - 1. Personally owned rifles must meet the specifications listed in the DPS Rifle Manual and in the DPSFM, including Appendix A. All restrictions, exemptions and qualifications apply.
 - 2. The Firearms Committee shall be consulted in the Division's rifle approval process to provide current information regarding pertinent ATF regulations and functional issues.

APPROVAL PROCESS FOR PERSONALLY OWNED FIREARMS

No officer shall carry a personally owned weapon until approval is granted in the format set forth in Appendix C of the DPSFM. The approval or denial of the request to carry a personally owned firearm shall be indicated on the form and a copy returned to the requesting officer. A request for approval shall be accompanied by the following:

- a. Firearm Inspection Report, contained in section 4 of the DPSFM, documenting that a Department Armorer or an authorized gunsmith who is certified to repair the make and model of the firearm, disassembled and inspected the personally owned firearm for defects and malfunctions. The report may be completed by the Department Armorer or authorized gunsmith. Modifications to the firing mechanisms or other internal parts of any firearm, other than those approved by the manufacturer for law enforcement use, are specifically prohibited.
- b. Documentation of the requesting officer's qualification with the personally owned firearm as set forth in section 4 of the DPSFM.
- c. A Division Chief or designee may deny a request or send it to the chairman of the Firearms Committee for evaluation. The Firearms Committee may request additional information from the Division Chief and may ultimately recommend the Division Chief approve or deny a request.
- d. Division Chiefs or their designee approving the carry of a personally owned firearm or related attachments shall include in the approval process a documented admonition to the officer that damage to or the loss of any such equipment may not be reimbursable by the State under the Nevada Revised Statute and/or the Nevada Administrative Code and that the officer is responsible for maintenance costs.
- e. Division Chiefs or their designee approving the carry of personally owned firearms shall include in the process documentation that the officer has completed a Department authorized qualification course of fire, and that he or she has been advised of and understands applicable federal law restricting the possession and ownership of certain firearms, magazines, and related equipment. Originals of the documentation shall be kept at the concerned Division. Respective divisions will maintain documents (DPSFM Section 4) concerning the carrying of personally owned firearms. Officers who have been approved to carry a personally owned firearm shall notify their supervisor, in writing, when the approved firearm will no longer be carried. This information will be forwarded to the Training Division to facilitate appropriate documentation.

HOLSTERS

Holsters shall be designed for the specific handgun and selected in accordance with the directives of the officer's Division.

- a. All handguns carried on the person, including concealed handguns, shall be secured in a holster made to fit the weapon. Concealed carry holsters must hold the firearm in such a manner as to prevent accidental cocking, discharge or loss of physical control.
- b. Holsters worn on the uniform duty belt shall meet threat level II or greater specifications.
- c. All fanny packs and purses used to carry firearms on-duty must be designed specifically for weapon carry and have at a minimum a built in restraint covering the trigger guard and retention strap.

Weapon Mounted Optics

No officer shall add any optic system, in whole or in part, whether owned and issued by the department or personally owned until approval is granted in the format set forth in the DPSFM. Division Chiefs may authorize, purchase and/or issue Division optics for any department issued weapons at their discretion. The Department/Division does not assume responsibility for maintenance of, or loss or damage to personally owned optics systems. Costs for inspection and repair of personally owned optics systems shall be the responsibility of the officer. Damage to or loss of personally owned optics systems may not be reimbursable by the state. Approval of a request to use weapon mounted optics may be revoked by a Division Chief or their designee at any time.

Officers desiring to add and use personally owned optics to a firearm are subject to the following restrictions:

- a. Personally owned optics systems must meet the specifications set forth in the DPSFM including Appendix C. The manufacturer of the firearm the optic system is being added to must certify an optics system as compatible. The firearm manufacturer must machine the mounts for the optics system.
- b. Officers are required to complete a DPS approved weapon mounted optics course prior to carrying such a system on duty.
- c. Any weapon that an optics system is mounted to must have a back-up, traditional sighting system capable of being aligned even with the optics system in place. Dovetail (rear sight) mounts are not authorized.
- d. Officers are required to complete all authorized qualification courses of fire that include both optic system and traditional weapon mounted sights.

DUTY FIREARMS PROFICIENCY

Biannually, every officer shall demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency of 70% in the use of each duty firearm he/she is authorized to use. An officer failing to demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency with any duty firearm he/she is authorized to use may not carry or use the duty firearm until he/she participates in the remedial duty firearm course provided by the Department (NAC 289.230(5)(a)).

At least annually, all personnel carrying a duty firearm will receive training on the Department Use of Force Policy and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding (NAC 289.230(5)(e)).

QUALIFICATION

All sworn personnel are required to qualify biannually and show weapons proficiency with each authorized weapon on an approved range course or as directed by the Division Chief.

- a. All qualification standards are set within the DPSFM.
- b. The Department/Division will provide opportunities for its officers to qualify.
- c. It is the individual officer's responsibility to maintain proficiency.
- d. Divisions which employ peace officers shall, by Directive, establish a minimum qualification interval of at least twice per calendar year.
- e. Divisions requiring weapons qualification are encouraged to separate the qualifications by at least 30 days.
- f. Multiple qualifications during a single session to *make-up* missed shoots or to *qualify for the year* by holding concurrent sessions at midyear, are generally discouraged. Accommodations will be made to make up qualification shoots missed due to extended illness, military leave or administrative leave.
- g. Each Division shall maintain accurate, retrievable documentation of qualification for all peace officers in their employ. The concerned firearms instructor(s) will ensure the original or copy of the range qualification roster is properly and immediately completed and forwarded to the Training Division for inclusion in the proper DPS Training Division database.

NON-QUALIFICATION

If an officer is unable to qualify for any reason, including injury, illness, duty status or scheduling conflict, that officer shall submit a memorandum to his/her immediate supervisor prior to the end of the required shooting period. Officers who fail to demonstrate duty firearms proficiency as required by law, or who fail to qualify over a six month period, will be relieved from field assignment and appropriate disciplinary action may follow (NAC 289.230(5)(a)).

Officers who fail to qualify on their first shooting attempt shall be provided remedial training by the Firearms Instructor(s) immediately. The Firearms Instructor(s) will provide for immediate removal from all duties requiring the carrying of firearms for officers who, after two attempts, fail to qualify at a given qualification session. A Department supervisor from the affected Division shall respond to the range and provide written notification to the officer of such removal. Upon request of the supervisor, if the lead instructor has determined that time exists, and instructor staff is available to complete a remedial session, then the officer will be afforded the opportunity at that time. If not, then the officer will need to be scheduled for a remedial session as soon as practical, but no later than 60 business days after the first qualification attempt.

The lead firearm instructor will provide notification in writing on the "Fail to Qualify or Show Proficiency Notice" to officer(s) removed from firearms related duty, that they are prohibited from carrying a firearm under the authority of the Department while on-duty or off-duty.

An officer who fails to qualify and has been removed from duties requiring the carrying of firearms shall be provided remedial training until proficiency is demonstrated and they successfully qualify on the course of fire that they originally failed or a determination is made that proficiency is unattainable and other corrective/disciplinary action ensues.

- a. Additional range assignments may be required until consistent weapon proficiency is demonstrated.
- b. Officers shall be given credit for a range qualification after remedial training and a qualifying score is obtained.
- c. No range credit will be given for unauthorized range makeup or failure to qualify after remedial training.

FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR/ARMORER DUTIES

The range will be under the exclusive control of the Firearms Instructor(s). All officers attending will follow the directions of the Firearms Instructor(s). The Firearms Instructor(s) will maintain a roster of all officers attending the range and will submit range scores to the Training Division after each range date. Failure of any officer to sign in and out with the Firearms Instructor(s) may result in non-qualification.

The range shall remain operational and accessible to Department officers during hours established by the Department.

The Department/Division Firearms Armorer(s) has the responsibility of making periodic inspection, at least once a year, of all duty weapons carried by officers of this Department to verify proper operation.

The Department/Division Firearms Armorer(s) has the authority to deem any personally owned weapon unfit for service. The officer will be responsible for all repairs to his or her personal weapon and it will not be returned to service until inspected by the Department/Division Firearms Armorer(s).

The Firearms Instructor(s) has the responsibility to ensure each officer, on a yearly basis, can demonstrate proficiency in the care and cleaning of the duty weapon used (NAC 289.230.5(a)).

The Firearms Instructor(s) shall complete and submit to the Division Chief and Training Division documentation of the courses provided, including the qualifications of each instructor who provides training, a description of the training provided and a list on a form that has been approved by the Executive Director of P.O.S.T. of each officer who completes the training.

FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR PROFICIENCY

Firearms instructors must maintain an average score of not less than 90% in any calendar year with each type of weapon carried on duty.

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

Personal and Department owned duty firearms shall be inspected annually to determine the safety and functioning of the weapon. Duty firearms shall be maintained in a clean, serviceable condition. It is the individual officer's responsibility to ensure any firearm carried is clean and in good working order. Since the use of personally owned weapons is at the option of the individual officer, that officer will be responsible for the furnishing, maintenance and repair of such weapon.

- a. Firearms will be disassembled, inspected, and cleaned by a qualified armorer or gunsmith at least annually.
 1. A Firearm Inspection Report, DPSFM (Section 4), will be completed to document the inspection and cleaning.
 2. For division issued firearms, this will be done by Department Armorer.
 3. It is the officer's responsibility to have personally owned firearms inspected.
- b. Any firearm believed to be malfunctioning or unsafe will be immediately removed from service and will not be carried until inspected and/or repaired.
- c. Firearms removed from service to be inspected or repaired will not be returned to service until a Department Armorer or an authorized gunsmith has certified that the firearm is functioning properly. Such certification shall be made on the Firearms Inspection Report, DPSFM (Section 4) and submitted to the officer's supervisor, who will in turn forward the document to the Division Armorer.
- d. Pursuant to a request by an officer to check the operation of a firearm which has been approved for carry, Department Armorer or Firearms Instructor shall examine it for safety and proper function and may make appropriate recommendations regarding repair.
- e. All firearms will be inspected by a Firearms Instructor before each qualification shoot for cleanliness and compliance and there will be range inspection documentation kept regarding each firearm's inspection outcome.
- f. Maintenance and repair records will be maintained for all division issued firearms by respective division armorers.
- g. When practicable, firearms shall be cleaned and properly lubricated at the conclusion of range activities prior to the officer's departure. When immediate cleaning is not practicable, the cleaning should be done no later than the next scheduled shift.
- h. Divisions should adopt directives which support this policy and provide for supervisory inspection of firearms.

REPAIR OR MODIFICATIONS OF DUTY WEAPONS

Weapons that are property of the Department may be repaired or modified only by a person certified as an armorer or gunsmith in the repair of the specific weapon, either the Department/Division Firearms Armorer(s) or other authorized person.

All repairs and/or modifications of Department owned weapons not performed by the Department/Division Firearms Armorer(s) must be authorized in advance by the Department/Division Firearms Armorer(s).

Any repairs or modifications to the officer's personally owned weapon shall be done at his/her expense and must be approved by the Department/Division Firearms Armorer(s).

FLYING WHILE ARMED

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has imposed rules governing law enforcement officers flying armed on commercial aircraft. The following requirements apply to personnel who intend to be armed while flying on a commercial air carrier or flights where screening is conducted (49 CFR 1544.219):

- a. Officers wishing to fly while armed must be flying in an official capacity, not for vacation or pleasure purposes.
- b. Officers must carry their Department identification card, which must contain a full-face picture, the officer's signature and the signature of the Director of Public Safety or the official seal of the Department, and must present this identification to airline officials when requested. The officer should also carry the standard photo identification needed for passenger screening by airline and TSA officials (e.g., driver license, passport).
- c. In accordance with TSA procedures, the Department will obtain a message containing a unique alphanumeric identifier from the TSA through the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) prior to the officer's travel. The officer must present the message to airport personnel as authorization to travel while armed on the day of travel.
- d. An official letter signed by the Director of Public Safety or his designee authorizing armed travel must accompany the officer. The letter must outline the officer's need to fly armed, must detail his/her itinerary and should include that the officer has completed the mandatory TSA training for law enforcement officers flying while armed.
- e. Officers must have completed the mandated TSA security training covering officers flying while armed. The training shall be provided by the Department.
- f. It is the officer's responsibility to notify the air carrier in advance of the intended armed travel. This notification can be accomplished by early check-in at the carrier's check-in counter.
- g. Discretion must be used to avoid alarming passengers or crew by displaying a firearm. The officer must keep the firearm concealed on his/her person at all times. Firearms are not permitted in carry-on luggage and may not be stored in an overhead compartment.

- h. Officers should not surrender their firearm but should try to resolve any problems through the flight captain, ground security manager or other management representative of the air carrier.
- i. Officers shall not consume alcoholic beverages while aboard an aircraft or within eight hours prior to boarding an aircraft.

INVENTORY CONTROL AND TRACKING

Division owned and issued firearms will be accounted for using a firearms tracking and inventory system. This system should enable the Division to:

- a. Identify which officers are in possession of specific firearms.
- b. Identify the physical storage location for each weapon.
- c. The system should be facilitated through the use of a "Firearms Inventory and Control Document" illustrated in DPSFM.
- d. Every Division employee who is responsible for issuing firearms, receiving firearms, storing firearms, or placing firearms outside of the Division's control for repair or special assignment will be accountable for following these provisions.
- e. Each Division and sub-command within will conduct an annual firearms inventory/audit to ensure firearms under their control are accounted for and the provisions of this policy are being followed.



Weapon Mounted Optic Duty Use Agreement

The information in this duty use agreement outlines the rules and regulations of weapon mounted optics for duty use. Officers are encouraged to seek guidance from their regional Firearms Coordinator prior to purchasing an optic ready firearm and/or optics system.

Optic Ready Firearms

- All firearms must be an approved brand listed in the Department of Public Safety Firearms Manual (DPSFM).
- Handguns must be semi-automatic only.
- A certified armorer or regional firearms coordinator must inspect firearms prior to mounting.
- Firearms are required to have a back-up iron sight sighting system that are capable of being aligned upon the optic system being mounted to the handgun.
- Handguns are to be chambered in 9MM, .40 S&W, .45 ACP only.
- Non-Factory milled slides and dovetail (rear sight) mounts are not authorized.
- Weapon mounted lights are recommended

Optics System

Approved optics system must be capable of being shut off manually.

A list of authorized optics systems will be found in the DPSFM Appendix C.

Holsters

- Holsters must meet the requirements outlined in the DPSFM. A holster with an optics shroud (Safariland RDS type or similar) that provides protection for the optics system is recommended.

Certification

Officers are required to complete a Department of Public Safety approved weapon mounted optic course prior to carrying such a system on duty.

- Prior to the weapon mounted optic course, a regional firearms coordinator must inspect the firearm and optics system.
- The regional firearms coordinator will be responsible for mounting the optic and ensuring the firearm meets the specifications outlined in DPS policy and the DPSFM.
- Officers must pass the weapon mounted optic qualification with a passing score of 80%.
- Officers may be required to purchase their own ammunition for the certification course.
- It is the user/s responsibility to purchase any additional training ammunition required to re/qualify or re/zero any personally owned optics system.

Maintenance

Routine maintenance and proper functioning of the optics system shall be the responsibility of the Officer.

- Officers will inspect the optics system for cleanliness and proper brightness prior to each shift.
- The Officer may install top mounting batteries.
- The regional firearms coordinator will install bottom mounting batteries requiring the optic to be removed prior to installation (Trijicon RMR). Following battery replacement the optic must be re-zeroed prior to duty use.
- Duracell batteries are the only approved battery type.
- Batteries will be changed annually. The regional firearms coordinator will record the date the battery was changed.
- It is the user/s ultimate responsibility to purchase/maintain the RDS to include but not limited to, the battery, etc.

Firearm Zeroing

- Officers will zero the optics system at least twice per year. Range staff will record all zeroing dates.
- If Officers observe a shift or variations in zero, optic use will be discontinued and only iron sights will be used until the firearm is re-zeroed.

DPS Policy 308.4.10 Weapon Mounted Optics

308.4.10 Weapon Mounted Optics

No officer shall add any optic system, in whole or in part, whether owned and issued by the department or personally owned until approval is granted in the format set forth in the DPSFM. Division Chiefs may authorize, purchase and/or issue Division optics for any department issued weapons at their discretion. The Department/Division does not assume responsibility for maintenance of, or loss or damage to personally owned optics systems. Costs for inspection and repair of personally owned optics systems shall be the responsibility of the officer. Damage to or loss of personally owned optics systems may not be reimbursable by the state. Approval of a request to use weapon mounted optics may be revoked by a Division Chief or their designee at any time.

Officers desiring to add and use personally owned optics to a firearm are subject to the following restrictions:

- Personally owned optics systems must meet the specifications set forth in the DPSFM including Appendix C. The manufacturer of the firearm the optic system is being added to must certify an optics system as compatible. The firearm manufacturer must machine the mounts for the optics system.
- Officers are required to complete a DPS approved weapon mounted optics course prior to carrying such a system on duty.
- Any weapon that an optics system is mounted to must have a back-up, traditional sighting system capable of being aligned even with the optics system in place. Dovetail (rear sight) mounts are not authorized.
- Officers are required to complete all authorized qualification courses of fire that include both optic system and traditional weapon mounted sights.

Acknowledgment of Understanding

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above user agreement.

Officer Signature

Date

Firearms Coordinator Signature

Date

Chief/Designee Signature

Date