



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



580.04 FIREARMS 01-10-23

PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to regulate the carrying of authorized firearms by Department personnel; set guidelines for the issuance, maintenance, and modification of firearms; and establish standards and specifications for firearms and related accessories used by officers.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Sacramento Police Department that all officers have available and know how to use authorized firearms and firearm-related accessories as part of their safety equipment.

PROCEDURE

A. DEFINITIONS

1. PRIMARY – The main duty handgun or optional duty handgun carried by officers. May be Department issued or personally owned.
2. SECONDARY – An optional duty handgun, Department issued or personally owned, authorized by the Chief of Police (COP), for use as an alternative to a primary handgun by command staff, specialized units, and specific sworn officers.
3. BACK-UP – An optional, personally-owned, department-approved handgun carried by officers in addition to the primary or secondary firearm.
4. ON DUTY – For the purpose of this order, “on-duty” includes regular working hours, as well as overtime, and off-duty work-related assignments or emergencies, when specifically required by the Department.
5. SA – Single Action.
6. SAO – Single Action Only.
7. DA – Double Action.
8. DAO – Double Action Only.
9. ACCESSORIES – Holsters, sights, grips, optical sighting devices, weapon-mounted lights, and/or any other accessories authorized by the Department Armorer.
10. TACTICAL WEAPON LIGHT – A device mounted on a firearm for illumination.
11. DUTY FIREARM – A firearm authorized by the department to be carried while on-duty.
12. MINIATURE RED DOT SIGHT (MRDS) – a non-magnified, electronic optic capable of being mounted to a pistol slide for use as the primary sighting system.
13. MILLED SLIDE – A pistol slide with a machine-cut recess and drilled and tapped holes to accept an MRDS and its mounting bolts.
14. SUPPRESSOR/OPTIC READY SIGHTS – Iron sights that are of sufficient height to be used in conjunction with an MRDS.
15. ADAPTER/SEALING PLATE – An adapter that allows a specific MRDS to be mounted on a particular optic-ready handgun.

B. GENERAL

1. Under normal circumstances, all shotguns and rifles inside Department facilities shall be unloaded, with the action open and the safety on.
2. Department personnel conducting firearm training inside a Department facility shall use authorized training cartridges.
3. Department personnel shall ensure that shotguns and patrol rifles are unloaded prior to storing them.
4. The Department Armorer shall maintain the specifications for authorized firearms and holsters



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



(both Department issued and personally owned). The armorer will also maintain the ammunition specifications.

5. On-duty Department personnel shall only use firearms, accessories, and ammunition that have been approved by the Department.
6. The Weapons Committee shall make recommendations for authorized firearms, accessories, and ammunition. The specifications will be approved by the deputy chief, Office of Operations (OOO).
7. Unattended firearms in a police facility shall be stored in a locked personal locker or in a designated locked safe at the officer's assigned police facility.
8. Except as provided below, Department-issued rifles shall not be taken home without sworn management approval.
 - a. Officers with marked home retention vehicles may keep their firearms secured in the locking devices of their vehicles.
 - b. Officers with alarmed, unmarked home retention vehicles may keep their rifles secured in the vehicle trunk with a cable lock or other locking device, with approval of their supervisor.
 - c. Firearms may be locked in a purpose-built gun safe within the officer's residence.
9. In compliance with California Penal Code Section 25140, any handgun stored in an unattended vehicle shall be locked in the vehicle's trunk, placed in a locked container out of plain view, or placed in a locked container that is permanently affixed to the vehicle's interior and not in plain view. A peace officer, when leaving a handgun in an unattended vehicle not equipped with a trunk, may lock the handgun out of plain view within the center utility console of that motor vehicle with a padlock, keylock, combination lock, or other similar locking device. This requirement applies to peace officers on or off-duty but would not apply to a peace officer during circumstances requiring immediate aid or action that are within the course of their duties.

C. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

1. The safe handling of firearms shall be the responsibility of every employee.
2. All firearms and ammunition shall be stored, placed, or transported in a position safe from unintentional discharge. Before transporting loaded seized firearms, employees shall inform a supervisor.
3. Upon receipt by Department personnel, all firearms shall be checked to determine if they are loaded.
4. Every firearm handled by Department personnel shall be treated as if the firearm were loaded.
5. The loading or unloading of firearms shall be conducted with full consideration of the consequences of an unintentional discharge per G.O. 580.03 (Discharge of Firearm).
6. When unloading a firearm, Department personnel shall:
 - a. Keep fingers off the trigger and out of the trigger guard.
 - b. Engage manual safety (if the firearm is equipped with a manual safety).
 - c. Point the barrel into a loading/unloading tube, or, if unavailable, point the barrel in a direction that minimizes the risk of injury and property damage.
 - d. Remove the magazine (if the firearm has a magazine).
 - e. Open the action/cylinder and remove any ammunition from the chamber(s) and fixed magazine to ensure they are empty.
7. Dry firing a firearm or practicing drawing a firearm while on duty or on City property is prohibited with the following exceptions:
 - a. Under the direct supervision of a Department firearms instructor.
 - b. When the Department Armorer is servicing or certifying a firearm.
8. When a Department employee takes possession of a unique firearm or firearm unfamiliar to them, the employee shall immediately contact their supervisor to determine how the firearm is



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



to be handled or who shall handle the firearm to render it safe.

9. When field stripping (disassembling) any firearms, Department personnel shall
 - a. Ensure that the firearm is unloaded.
 - b. Point the muzzle into a loading/unloading tube if they must pull the trigger for disassembly. If a loading/unloading tube is not available, they must point the muzzle in a direction that minimizes risk of injury and property damage.

D. PERSONALLY-OWNED FIREARMS

1. Officers choosing to carry personally-owned firearms or accessories while on duty shall contact the Department Armorer to ensure that the firearms, any modifications, and/or any accessories they want to carry are authorized.
2. The city will not reimburse, replace, or repair personally-owned firearms or accessories.
3. Officers choosing to carry personally-owned firearms shall return their Department-issued firearms to the armorer after qualifying with their personally-owned firearms.
4. Officers shall carry only Department-supplied ammunition in their personally-owned firearms while on duty.

E. AUTHORIZED HANDGUNS

1. Authorized duty handgun calibers shall be 9mm Luger, 40S&W, or .45ACP.
2. Personally-owned handguns shall be either Sig Sauer DA/SA, Sig Sauer DAO, Sig Sauer Striker Fired, or Glock Safe Action. SAO trigger configurations are not authorized.
3. Secondary Handguns
 - a. Command officers may carry a Department-authorized compact handgun, whether issued by the Department or personally owned.
 - b. Officers assigned in an undercover capacity may carry a Department-authorized compact handgun, whether issued or personally owned, if the officers:
 - (1) Obtain authorization from their division commander.
 - (2) Carry the handgun as a primary handgun only during undercover operations.
 - c. Officers may carry a personally-owned, Department-authorized compact handgun if they have approval from their division commander.
 - d. Officers assigned to administrative duties may carry a personally-owned, Department-authorized compact handgun if they have approval from the COP.
 - (1) Authorization requests shall be made by submitting a memo through the requesting officer's chain of command to the COP.
 - (2) Supervisor comments shall be documented on the memo as necessary.
 - e. Authorization shall be made for the duration of the officer's present assignment and shall be reviewed upon re-assignment.
 - f. All handguns shall pass a safety certification conducted by the Department Armorer.
 - g. All officers shall qualify with their secondary handgun.

F. BACK-UP HANDGUNS

Officers may carry any of the following backup handguns:

1. Any primary or secondary handgun.
2. Any personally-owned handgun, if
 - a. The handgun passes a safety certification by the Department Armorer.
 - b. The officer qualifies with the handgun.
 - c. The handgun must be of a caliber that accepts Department issued ammunition.
3. SAO trigger configurations are not authorized for backup carry.

G. CARRYING OF PATROL RIFLES

1. Rifles shall be issued to all eligible, trained officers together with the following equipment:
 - a. Sling.
 - b. Optical sighting device.



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDERS



- c. Soft case.
- d. Magazines.
- e. Ammunition.
2. The patrol rifles shall be modified to fire only in the semi-automatic mode except those rifles issued to SWAT.
3. Officers using a vehicle equipped with a rifle-locking device shall secure their rifles in that device. A loaded magazine may be inserted into the rifle. The bolt shall be closed, and the safety selector switch placed in the "on" position. No live cartridge shall be chambered while the rifle is stored in the vehicle. If the vehicle is not equipped with a locking device, the officer shall store their rifle in a soft case, unloaded, and secured with a cable lock in the rear of the vehicle while on duty.

H. PATROL RIFLE DEPLOYMENT

1. The rifle is a weapon that officers may use to overcome suspects who are armed or may be armed with handguns. It may also be used in other situations to provide a tactical advantage.
2. Officers shall not display the rifle on routine calls or incidents. The circumstances of each call or incident shall dictate the reasonableness of the deployment of the rifle.

I. PERSONALLY-OWNED RIFLES

1. Officers may provide their personally-owned rifles for duty use if the weapons meet current Department specifications and have been checked and approved for use by the Department Armorer.
2. Officers requesting to use a personally-owned assault weapon shall ensure that the officer is in full compliance with state and federal law, and G.O. 380.06 (Authorization for Officer Purchase or Receipt of Assault Weapon), and that the weapon is properly registered to them.
3. The Department Armorer shall record the serial number of the weapon to be approved, confirm the assault weapon's registration status, and retain a copy of the DOJ registration entry in Department records.
4. Patrol rifles shall be an AR-15 style or a closely designed mil-spec variant.
5. Officers seeking to purchase a weapon shall be responsible for ensuring suitability prior to purchase.
6. Suitable patrol rifles shall include the following features:
 - a. Caliber must be .223 Remington/5.56 mm NATO and capable of firing Mil Spec 855 or 193 ammo.
 - b. Fire mode of semi-automatic and safe only. NOTE: No personally-owned rifles may be full-automatic or multiple-round burst selective.
 - c. Zero magnification optic, holographic, or red dot sighting system (e.g., Eotech 512 or Aimpoint).
 - d. Aircraft grade aluminum or Mil-spec standard steel receiver.
 - e. Synthetic stock and grips; may include a collapsible stock and a sling.
 - f. Adjustable front and rear sights for variable windage and elevation conditions. Front and rear sights must be usable while the optic is in place.
 - g. Optional – Accessory rail or mounting point for backup sighting devices, vertical handgrips, or tactical weapon lights.
 - h. A direct gas impingement or gas piston operating system.
 - i. A minimum length to include a 16" barrel/26" overall and a maximum length to include a 20" barrel/40" overall.
 - j. May have a muzzle brake or compensator.
 - k. Ability to fit a standard AR-15/M16 magazine.



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



J. CARRYING OF FIREARM

1. Only authorized firearms shall be carried or possessed on duty.
2. A .380 caliber ACP handgun shall not be carried as a secondary handgun in uniform.
3. Officers shall not alternate between primary and secondary handguns unless authorized.
4. Backup handguns shall be carried concealed and in a holster.
5. A primary or secondary handgun shall be carried on duty, except when:
 - a. Interviewing prisoners.
 - b. In a jail or other facility where firearms pose a security threat.
 - c. Doing so will jeopardize a covert assignment. NOTE: Written approval by a captain or higher authority is required prior to working unarmed in a covert capacity.
6. Rifles shall be carried in the officer's vehicle at all times while on duty.
7. Officers shall attach slings to rifles at all times.

K. REGISTRATION AND SAFETY CERTIFICATION

1. All Department-purchased firearms carried on duty shall be listed on an SPD 983 (Departmental Gun Record) and delivered annually to the armorer for inspection.
2. Personally-owned firearms and holsters (including back-up handguns/holsters) shall be listed on an SPD 197 (Optional Duty Back-Up Weapon).
3. Officers shall contact the Department Armorer and request a safety inspection of any personally-owned firearm prior to duty use.
 - a. Officers shall provide a copy of the SPD 197 to the Department Armorer at the time of the safety inspection.
 - b. Officers shall provide the original SPD 197 to the Department Rangemaster and obtain a passing score on a department range qualification with any personally-owned firearm prior to duty use. The Department Rangemaster will then sign the original SPD 197.
 - c. The officer shall return the original SPD 197 form signed by the Department Rangemaster to the Department Armorer.
4. The Department Armorer shall:
 - a. Retain copies of all SPD 197 forms.
 - b. Perform annual safety certification inspection on all firearms. NOTE: It will be the responsibility of each officer to deliver his/her firearms to the armorer for the required annual servicing.
 - c. Return all personally-owned firearms that fail safety certification to their owners for necessary repairs. Personally-owned firearms shall not be carried until they have been safety certified by the armorer, and the officer has qualified their personally-owned firearm at a qualification shoot.
 - d. Enter the serial number of all Department-issued and personally-owned firearms into Versadex.
 - e. Perform necessary preventive maintenance and/or repair on Department-issued firearms.
 - f. Remove from service any Department-issued firearm not passing safety certification and issue replacement firearms as necessary.
 - g. Record all safety certifications (passed or failed) on each firearm.
 - h. Report safety issues and/or violations of this GO to the Evidence & Property Division manager. The Evidence & Property Division manager shall immediately report violations or safety issues to the affected office deputy chief.

L. MAINTENANCE

1. Officers shall ensure that all duty firearms are maintained in good working order. This includes normal cleaning and lubrication of the firearms monthly and after every qualification shoot.
2. Department-issued firearms shall not be disassembled beyond what is approved in training.



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



3. Department-issued firearms shall be immediately surrendered to the armorer for inspection whenever they appear to be damaged or malfunctioning in any manner.
4. Firearms shall not be altered from factory specifications unless approved and installed by the armorer.
5. Officers choosing to carry an MRDS are responsible for ensuring that the MRDS is securely mounted to the slide of their duty pistol and inspected by the Department Armorer or Department Rangemaster prior to use. Battery changes, secure mounting, and maintenance of the MRDS are the responsibility of the officer and shall be conducted per the manufacturer's recommendations.

M. DEFECTIVE WEAPONS

1. Any firearm identified as defective shall be taken out of service immediately and shall not be used until cleared by the Department Armorer.
2. Officers finding that a Department-issued firearm does not function properly shall turn the weapon in to the Department armory as soon as practical.
 - a. The Department Armorer will issue another firearm to the officer. If the armory is closed, the Watch Commander may issue a loaner firearm from the officer's area command.
 - b. If the armory is closed, the defective firearm may be placed in a tall evidence locker at the Evidence & Property Division, with the officer sending an email explaining the malfunction or the nature of the defect to the Department Armorer. The armorer shall arrange to issue a replacement or repair the malfunction during the next business day.

N. HOLSTERS

1. Officers shall use Department-authorized holsters for carrying primary, secondary, and back-up firearms on duty.
2. Officers may use one of the Department-issued holsters or purchase a Department-authorized holster without reimbursement from the city.
3. Uniform holsters shall meet the specifications as required in the Uniform Manual (RM 430.01).
4. Officers using a personally-owned holster for a primary, secondary, or back-up handgun on duty shall
 - a. Contact the armorer to ensure that the personally-owned holster is authorized.
 - b. Declare how they intend to carry the back-up handgun (e.g., left ankle, vest) on an SPD 197 (Optional Duty Backup Weapon).
 - c. Have the holster inspected by a Department Rangemaster and demonstrate proficiency with the holster by using it in a departmental qualification.

O. SHOULDER HOLSTERS

1. Plain clothes officers may wear a Department-authorized shoulder holster for their primary or secondary handgun with their deputy chief's written approval.
2. Officers assigned to the Air Operations Unit may wear a Department-authorized shoulder holster for their primary or secondary handgun without approval from their deputy chief. Handguns in shoulder holsters shall be secured by a lanyard while in flight.
3. Officers must complete training with the use of the shoulder holster by a Department Rangemaster and successfully complete a departmental qualification.

P. TACTICAL WEAPON LIGHT

1. The addition of tactical weapon lights shall be permitted for those personnel who are trained in the use of these systems.
2. The tactical weapon light shall have no visible laser or light/laser combination or tape switches/extensions that activate the light on the pistol grip or around the trigger guard.
3. Officers choosing to carry a tactical weapon light on a duty firearm shall:
 - a. Use a tactical weapon light that has been approved for use with duty firearms. NOTE: The Department Rangemaster and armorer shall maintain a list of Department-authorized



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



tactical weapon lights and related equipment.

- b. Successfully complete the Department orientation course regarding the proper use and handling of tactical weapon lights. Attendance for the orientation can be arranged through the Department Rangemaster or his/her designee.
4. Officers may install a tactical weapon light system on a Department-issued duty firearm or a personally owned duty firearm. With the exception of Department equipment issued to selected specialized units, all items related to the tactical weapon light system shall be purchased at the officer's own expense.
5. The tactical weapon light shall not be used for purposes of general illumination. It shall only be used when a firearm would normally be deployed, and illumination is needed.
6. The tactical weapon light shall only be attached or removed from the weapon after it has been rendered safe, the action is open, and/or the slide is locked back.
7. The tactical weapon light shall not be detached from any firearm while the firearm is loaded and/or the action is closed.

Q. MINIATURE RED DOT SIGHT (MRDS)

1. Officers choosing to carry a duty pistol equipped with an MRDS shall:
 - a. Only use an MRDS that has been authorized for use with duty firearms. The Department Armorer and Department Rangemaster shall maintain a list of Department-authorized MRDS and related equipment.
 - b. Prior to carrying the MRDS officers shall successfully complete the Department orientation course regarding the proper use of the MRDS. Attendance for the orientation shall be arranged through the Department Rangemaster or their designee.
2. Officers may utilize an MRDS on a personally-owned duty firearm that is specifically designed to allow the mounting of an optic. Examples would include the Glock MOS pistol or the SIG Sauer P320 pistol. Personally-owned MRDS-compatible duty firearms must be inspected and approved by the Department Armorer prior to initial qualification and duty use.
3. Officers may use a genuine Glock or SIG Sauer OEM replacement MRDS-compatible slide in lieu of the slide that originally came with the officer's personally-owned Glock or SIG Sauer P320 or P226 pistol.
4. Officers may not replace a Department-issued duty pistol's slide with an aftermarket MRDS-compatible slide. Department-issued duty pistols shall retain the original slide and have matching serial numbers on the slide and frame.
5. Officers may use a personally-owned duty pistol with a genuine OEM SIG Sauer or Glock slide that has been milled to accept an MRDS by a Department-authorized company. The Department Rangemaster and the Department Armorer shall maintain a list of companies that are authorized by the Department to perform slide milling services. Any milled slide shall be inspected by the Department Armorer prior to initial qualification and duty use.
6. Officers shall not have the slide of any Department-issued duty pistol milled to accept an MRDS.
7. Prior to duty use, officers shall re-zero the MRDS if it was removed and remounted on a duty pistol.
8. Officers shall verify the zero on their MRDS duty pistol bi-annually.
9. Backup iron sights shall be used on any MRDS-equipped duty pistol. The backup sights must be of sufficient height to be viewable and utilized within the optic lens.
10. Personally owned Glock MOS or SIG Sauer optic-ready duty pistols may be equipped with a Department-authorized aftermarket adapter plate and/or sealing plate to improve the MRDS fit and reliability. The Department Armorer and Department Rangemaster shall maintain a list of approved plate manufacturers.



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



R. WEAPONS COMMITTEE

1. The Weapons Committee shall consist of a:
 - a. Lieutenant.
 - b. Sergeant, Sacramento Police Academy.
 - c. Sergeant, SWAT.
 - d. Department Rangemaster.
 - e. Patrol representative.
 - f. Department Armorer
 - g. PSU representative.

S. AUDITS

1. The Evidence & Property Division manager shall coordinate an annual audit of all firearms.
2. The audit findings shall be forwarded to PSU.