



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



580.04 FIREARMS 2-20-18

PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to regulate the carrying of authorized firearms within the Department; set guidelines for their issue, maintenance, and modification; 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 and know how to use available authorized firearms and firearm-related accessories as part of their safety equipment.

PROCEDURE

A. DEFINITIONS

1. PRIMARY – The main duty handgun carried by officers.
2. SECONDARY – An optional duty handgun authorized by the Chief of Police (COP) for use by command staff, specialized units, and specific sworn officers.
3. BACK-UP – An optional personal 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 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.

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 Armorer shall maintain the specifications for authorized firearms and holsters (both 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 (OOC).
7. Unattended firearms in a police facility shall be stored in a locked personal locker or in a locked designated safe at their assigned police facility.
8. Department issued rifles and shotguns shall not be taken home without sworn management approval.



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



[REDACTED]

C. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

1. The safe handling of firearms shall be the responsibility of each 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, 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 one).
 - 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 one).
 - 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 Police Department firearms instructor.
 - b. When the Department armorer is servicing or certifying a firearm.
8. When a unique firearm or firearm unfamiliar to personnel is encountered, employees shall immediately contact their supervisor to determine how the firearm is 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 the firearm is unloaded.
 - b. Point the muzzle into a loading/unloading tube if they must pull the trigger for disassembly.
 - c. 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.



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



3. Secondary Handguns
 - a. Command officers may carry a Department authorized compact handgun, issued or personally owned.
 - b. Officers assigned in an undercover capacity may carry a Department authorized compact handgun, 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 request shall be made by submitting a memo through their 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 assignment and shall be reviewed upon re-assignment.
 - f. All handguns shall pass a safety certification.
 - g. All officers shall qualify with their secondary handgun.

F. BACKUP 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 caliber matches the ammunition supplied by the Department.
3. SAO trigger configurations are not authorized for backup carry.

G. CARRYING OF SHOTGUNS/PATROL RIFLES

1. Shotguns shall be issued to all officers, sergeants, and watch commanders who work in the OOO. Shotguns may be issued to other officers, sergeants, or units as authorized by the Deputy Chief, OOO.
2. Shotguns shall be loaded with an empty chamber, four live cartridges in the magazine, and with the safety on. No live cartridge shall be chambered while the shotgun is stored in the vehicle.
3. Rifles shall be issued to all eligible trained officers with the following equipment:
 - a. Sling.
 - b. Optical sighting device.
 - c. Soft case.
 - d. Magazines.
 - e. Ammunition.





SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



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.
3. Officers shall announce as soon as practical via radio that they are deploying 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. Pursuant to California State and Federal Law and G.O. 380.06 (Authorization for Officer Purchase or Receipt of Assault Weapon), officers requesting to use a personally owned assault weapon shall ensure that they are in full compliance 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 registration status, and retain a copy of the DOJ registration entry in Department records.
4. Patrol rifles shall be an AR-15 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.

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 are a security threat.
 - c. Doing so will jeopardize a covert assignment. NOTE: Prior written approval by a captain or higher authority is required prior to working unarmed in a covert capacity.



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



6. Rifles and shotguns shall be carried in the officer's vehicle at all times while on duty.
 7. Officers shall attach slings to shotguns and 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 forward the original SPD 197 to their supervisors for retention in their appraisal files (watch files). A copy of the SPD 197 shall be forwarded to the Department armorer.
 4. The armorer shall
 - a. Retain a copy 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 employees for necessary repairs. Personally owned firearms shall not be carried until they have been safety certified by the armorer and the officer has qualified with them 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 issued firearms.
 - f. Remove from service any 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 Property manager. The Property manager shall immediately report violations or safety issues to the affected office chief.
- L. MAINTENANCE
1. Officers shall ensure that all firearms are maintained in good working order. This includes normal cleaning and lubrication of the firearms monthly and after every qualification shoot.
 2. Issued firearms shall not be disassembled beyond what is approved in training.
 3. Firearm 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. The addition of tactical weapon lights shall be permitted for those personnel who are trained in the use of these systems.
- 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 a firearm that does not function properly shall turn the weapon in to the Department armory as soon as practical.
 3. 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.
 4. If the armory is closed, defective firearms may be placed in a tall evidence locker at Sequoia Pacific, with the officer sending the armorer an email explaining the malfunction or the nature of the defect. The armorer shall arrange to issue a replacement or repair the malfunction during the next business day.



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



N. HOLSTERS

1. Officers shall use Department authorized holsters for carrying primary/secondary/back-up firearms on duty.
2. Officers may use one of the Department issued holsters or purchase one at no cost to 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/back-up handgun on duty shall
 - a. Contact the armorer to ensure 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 range master 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. 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 range master and successfully complete a Departmental qualification.

P. TACTICAL WEAPON LIGHT

1. 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.
2. 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 In-Service range master and armorer shall maintain a list of Department authorized tactical weapon lights and related equipment.
 - b. Successfully complete the Department orientation course regarding the proper use and handling of tactical weapon lights. NOTE: Attendance for the orientation can be arranged through the In-Service range master or his/her designee.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The tactical weapon light shall not be detached from any firearm while the firearm is loaded and/or the action is closed.

Q. WEAPONS COMMITTEE

1. The Weapons Committee shall consist of a
 - a. Lieutenant.
 - b. Sergeant, OSS Police Academy.
 - c. Sergeant, SWAT.
 - d. Department range master.
 - e. Patrol representative.
 - f. Department armorer
 - g. PSU representative.



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



R. AUDITS

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