


POLICY 114.0	FIREARMS (APPROVALS/QUALIFICATIONS/LOANERS)	
	REVISED: 07/14, 12/17, 3/20, 02/21, 07/21, 07/24, 10/24	RELATED POLICIES: 117.1, 114.4
	CFA STANDARDS: CHAPTERS 4 AND 10	REVIEWED: AS NEEDED THIS VERSION EFFECTIVE DATE: OCTOBER 24, 2024

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to describe the Department approved firearms, ammunition, accessories, loaner procedures and their qualification requirements. The lists of specific Department approved firearms, rifles, shotguns, ammunition and accessories are maintained by and accessible through the Training Unit. These lists are maintained outside of this policy due to their periodic updates and changes.

B. POLICY

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department has undertaken the task of examining and testing numerous types of firearms and ammunition in an effort to identify which of these items best serves the needs of the Department, its officers, and the community. All officers are required to utilize only the firearms, ammunition, and accessories approved by the Department and specified in this policy. The Training Unit shall maintain a record on each firearm approved by the agency for official use. All officers must be trained and demonstrate proficiency in the use of each authorized weapon prior to utilizing such weapons in the performance of their duties. No civilian member of the Department is authorized to carry firearms while on duty with the exception of SWAT Medics as addressed in the SWAT policy.

C. FIREARMS FOR SWORN PERSONNEL

- 1. Uniformed Personnel:
 - a. While on duty, only firearms approved by the Chief of Police will be carried.
 - b. Handguns must chamber a 9mm cartridge or with a barrel length from three (3) to five (5) inches. All semi-automatic handguns must contain a firing pin safety or other safety system preventing the weapon from discharging without the trigger being pulled, or if the weapon is dropped. Firearms shall not be performance modified from their manufacturer’s original state unless approved by the Training Unit Sergeant or his/her designee. Firearm modifications and/or repairs will be identified, documented and/or repaired prior to Department Qualification by the Training Unit.

- (1). Sworn personnel are only authorized to carry semi-automatic handguns which chamber a 9mm cartridge for their duty firearm. The issued firearm is a Glock Model 45, chambered in 9MM with an attached aimpoint acro and flashlight.
 - c. All uniform firearms will be carried in holsters issued by the Department.
 - d. Uniformed officers shall carry a minimum of two (2) reloading devices on their duty gun belt or outer ballistic vest carrier.
 - e. Secondary firearms, when carried, shall be in a secure holster and concealed from plain view and must adhere to the plain clothes approved carry list.
2. Plainclothes Personnel:
- a. While on duty, only firearms approved by the Chief of Police will be carried.
 - b. All handguns must chamber in 9mm cartridge. All semi-automatic handguns must contain a firing pin safety or other safety system that prevents the weapon from discharging without the trigger being pulled, or if the weapon is dropped. Plainclothes officers may also carry any weapon described above for uniformed personnel.
 - c. All plainclothes firearms will be carried in a holster. When in plain clothes, the officer's badge must be clearly displayed.
 - d. The issued firearm is a Glock Model 45, chambered in 9MM with an attached aimpoint acro and flashlight.
 - e. Plainclothes officers must have a minimum of one (1) reloading device for their approved duty firearms.
 - f. Secondary firearms, when carried, shall be in a secure holster and concealed from plain view and must adhere to the plain clothes/off duty approved firearms list.
 - g. Personnel assigned to SID
 - (1). Given the special nature of assignments some SID personnel are involved in, other firearms, including revolvers and smaller caliber handguns are permitted to be carried after receiving approval from the Chief of Police. The Training Unit shall maintain a copy of all letters authorizing such firearms.
 - (2). When SID assigned personnel are acting in a capacity to conceal, they are police officers, the following is permitted:
 - (a). An officer's badge does not need to be displayed.

- (b). A reloading device is not mandatory to be carried.
 - (c). Less conspicuous holsters are permitted to be worn.
- (3). If SID personnel are wearing clothing or insignias that identify themselves to the public as police officers (Outer ballistic vest, Police T-shirts, chain badges etc.) then they will follow the guidelines in the “Plainclothes Personnel” of this policy including the firearm guidelines.

3. Firearms Qualification:

- a. The Training Unit will maintain all firearms training and qualification records. The CJSTC form 86A will be maintained in the officer’s training file as set forth by CJSTC rule 11B-27.00212(14). Rifle and Shotgun qualifications will be recorded in the Department’s Rifle Qualification Form and the Shotgun Qualifications Form respectively.
- b. All sworn officers will qualify with their duty firearms annually. If an officer wants to carry a secondary duty, off-duty, special assignment or special purpose tactical firearm, officers will also qualify with those firearms once annually and must adhere to the approved carry list. Additionally, the firearm will be inspected and approved by the Training Sergeant or a qualified firearms instructor prior to qualifications. A record of the firearm will be documented either on the CJSTC form 86A, the Department Rifle Qualification form, or the Shotgun Qualification form.
- c. An officer shall meet the firearm standards set by FDLE, CJSTC rule 11B-27.00212(14), prior to being authorized to carry any firearms. The Training Unit must meet the reporting standards on all even-numbered years. During odd numbered years, officers must demonstrate proficiency on a qualification course in order to be authorized to carry any firearm.
- d. Any officer who fails to meet the standard set by FDLE with their primary firearm shall not perform the duties of a sworn officer as set forth by CJSTC rule 11B-27.00212(14). If the officer fails to shoot a qualifying score, he/she will be assigned to an administrative duty position and not be allowed to perform the duties of a sworn officer, operate a marked police vehicle, or work off-duty details, until such time he/she can shoot a qualifying score. The Training Unit will, within one (1) week, offer a four (4) hour remedial training class and the officer will then be given another opportunity to shoot a qualifying score. If an officer requires the four (4) hour remedial handgun course to qualify for three (3) consecutive years, on the third year, the officer is required to attend a basic handgun course.
- e. All sworn officers who carry a duty handgun will attend a handgun retraining course no less than once every thirty-six (36) months.
- f. For duty weapons qualifications, officers shall dress as follows:

- (1). All sworn personnel may wear their duty uniform.
 - (2). When not in uniform, officers will wear professional attire with nonrestrictive pants with pockets and closed toe shoes.
 - (3). Officers' equipment shall consist of the weapon(s) and duty gear they wear while on duty, including loading devices and body armor.
4. Firearms Carried While Off-Duty (Absent a Current /Valid Florida CCF License/constitutional carry):
 - a. It is the intention of this policy that off-duty sworn personnel may carry any firearm which has been approved for on-duty use.
 - b. Any officer carrying a firearm while off-duty must also carry their badge and Department identification.
 - c. All firearms carried by Department personnel while off-duty shall conform to the requirements set forth in this policy.
5. Special Assignment and Special Purpose Tactical Firearms:
 - a. Special duty firearms of a type not approved in this policy may only be carried with the written permission of the Chief of Police. The Training Unit shall maintain a copy of all letters authorizing such firearms.
 - b. Special purpose tactical firearms are defined as any firearm other than those approved in this policy.
 - c. Special purpose tactical firearms will be supplied to personnel by the Department, as necessary.
 - d. Special purpose privately owned tactical firearms will be carried and used only with the written permission of the Chief of Police. The Training Unit shall maintain a copy of all letters authorizing such firearms.
6. Carrying Firearms Out of State:
 - a. In July 2004, H.R. 218 became Federal law and can be found in Chapter 44 of Title 18 U.S. Code, section 926B. This law allows sworn officers to carry a concealed firearm across state lines. The requirements of H.R. 218 state that the sworn officer must meet the qualification standards of the agency to carry a firearm, have full statutory arrest powers, not subject to current Department restrictions by order of the Chief of Police, and must carry the Department issued photo identification card. Sworn officers who travel across state lines and carry their firearm must adhere to Department policy regulating the carrying of weapons while off-duty in addition to the full context of H.R. 218.

- b. The ability to carry a firearm while on board an aircraft is covered by Federal regulation Title 49 CFR 1544.219 “Carriage of accessible weapons”. The following procedures must be conducted prior to a sworn officer being able to carry a firearm on board an aircraft:
 - (1). The Chief of Police or their designee will not sign the required letter authorizing the carriage of the firearm unless a sworn officer has met all the requirements of the regulation which include, but are not limited to the following:
 - (a). Certification from the “Flying Armed” training class. Personnel shall contact the Training Unit to complete this training.
 - (b). An email to the Chief of Police via the sworn officer’s chain of command identifying the need to have the weapon accessible from the time he/she would otherwise check the weapon, until the time it would be claimed after deplaning.
 - (2). Sworn officers wishing to fly armed must submit a National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) message prior to travel. The NLETS message sent by the Department will replace the current original letter of authority signed by the Chief of Police.
 - (3). Once the NLETS message is received by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), a return NLETS message will be sent to the Department with an eight (8) character Unique Alphanumeric Identifier for verification at the airport on the day of travel.
 - (4). Failure to use the NLETS message in lieu of the Original Letter of Authority (Chief’s Letter) will result in denial to the sterile area for failure to comply with the “Letter of Authority” requirements delineated in 49 CFR 1544.219.

7. Loaner Firearms:

- a. If an officer requires a loaner weapon due to a pending shooting investigation, the Support Services Bureau Captain or his/her designee shall be contacted. The Training Unit Sergeant or his/her designee shall also be contacted via Communications to assist with the issuance of a loaner weapon.
- b. When practical and prior to returning to full duty with the loaner weapon, the officer shall qualify by the same standards as discussed previously in this policy.
- c. Loaner weapons are available from the range armory.

- d. Loaner weapons will be issued on a need basis, usually when the officer's issued weapon cannot be utilized (i.e., malfunctioning, repairs, investigations, etc.).
 - e. The officer in need of a loaner firearm or his/her supervisor must complete a "Loaner Weapon Out" form/card (Z-608-A). The form/card can be found on top of the loaner firearms locker. By signing the form/card, the officer/supervisor accepts responsibility for the firearm's proper return. The Weapon Out form/card shall include documentation of the reason for the firearm loan (on back) and an estimated amount of time the firearm is needed. Firearms shall not be loaned in excess of ninety (90) days unless approved by the Support Services Bureau Captain or his/her designee.
 - f. Loaned firearms must be returned to the Training Unit Sergeant or their designee who will inspect and ensure the firearm is in working condition and cleaned before being returned to the loaner firearms locker.
 - g. The Training Unit Sergeant or their designee shall maintain loaner firearms records to assure compliance with this policy. The Training Unit Sergeant shall conduct quarterly inspections and inventories of all loaner firearms. The results will be forwarded to the Major of the Support Services Bureau for review.
8. Red Dot Sights for Handguns:
- a. Prior to carrying an authorized RDS on or off duty, officers must attend and successfully complete the Departments 16 hours RDS training and qualification course. If an officer does not successfully complete the course, he/she will not be eligible to use the RDS.
 - b. The Training Unit shall maintain a list of Department approved RDS manufactures, models and handgun slide milling manufactures /vendors.
 - c. RDS mounting:
 - (1) RDS ready handgun from the manufacturer (Glock, Sig Sauer, etc.).
 - (2) Pre milled slides purchased by Department approved manufacturers/vendors.
 - (3) Original factory slide sent out to be milled by Department approved manufactures/vendors.

D. RIFLES FOR SWORN PERSONNEL

- 1. Fort Lauderdale Police Officers who have completed the required 16-hour training and qualification course are authorized to purchase and carry Department approved long guns chambered in .223 caliber.

2. When carried on duty and not in use, these weapons must be securely locked in the vehicle via a department approved rifle rack or lock box. Until a rifle rack or lock box is installed in the vehicle, the weapons must be kept locked in the trunk with the trunk release button locked or disconnected. When off-duty and the vehicle is unoccupied, if there is no rifle rack or lock box, the rifle must be locked with a cable lock through the trigger guard or receiver to a portion of the trunk, so the weapon cannot be easily removed.
3. All weapons must be designed to fire a single shot with each trigger pull. No weapon may fire multiple shots with a single trigger pull.
4. Sworn personnel are authorized to carry personally owned rifles. It is required that these rifles are selected from the Department's list of authorized rifles only. Personally owned rifles shall not be performance modified from their manufacturer's original state unless approved by the Training Unit Sergeant or his/her designee. Approved accessories may be added to the exterior of the rifle which will be inspected by the Training Unit Sergeant or their designee prior to qualification.
5. Personally owned rifles which require maintenance or repair will need to be repaired by an authorized armorer. It shall be the responsibility of the officer who qualified with and carries the rifle to have it repaired. Any rifle that requires maintenance or repair shall not be carried until inspected by the Training Unit.
6. Department owned rifles shall be issued to qualified personnel only. Care and maintenance of the Department issued rifle will be the responsibility of the receiving officer.
 - a. The Training Unit Sergeant or their designee will inspect the rifles during annual qualifications or as needed. If a rifle is found to be in poor/neglected condition, the inspector will retain the rifle, and have it reissued once the rifle is restored to an acceptable condition.
 - b. An officer who fails to properly maintain an issued Department rifle, as identified by the Training Unit Sergeant or their designee, will lose his/her privilege to carry a department issued rifle. The officer will be required to attend a basic rifle class for recertification prior to being authorized to carry another Department issued or personally owned rifle.
 - c. Department owned rifles will not be modified in any way. Approved accessories may be added to the rifle but only by an approved Department armorer.
7. Rifle Qualifications:
 - a. Prior to carrying an authorized Patrol rifle, officers must attend and successfully complete the Department Rifle Certification course. If an officer does not successfully complete the course, he/she will not be eligible to carry the rifle.

- b. Rifle certified officers who continue to carry a personally owned or Department issued rifle will be required to prove proficiency no less than once annually on the Department's rifle qualification course.
- c. Officers must demonstrate proficiency in the safe manipulation of the rifle as part of the qualification course.
- d. Officers must qualify using any optical sight accessory along with the iron sights prior to carrying the rifle on duty.
- e. If an officer fails to meet the qualification standards, he/she will not be authorized to carry the rifle and must attend the 4-hour remedial rifle course. The officer will be given another opportunity to qualify after the remedial course. If the officer fails to qualify, then he/she will be required to return the Department issued rifle (if applicable) and will be removed from the eligibility list. If the officer further wishes to carry a rifle, he/she will be required to complete the basic rifle certification course. If an officer requires the 4-hour remedial rifle course to qualify for three (3) consecutive years, on the third year, the officer is required to attend the basic rifle certification course.
- f. All sworn officers who carry a personally owned rifle or have a department issued rifle will attend the Advanced Patrol Rifle retraining course no less than once every thirty-six (36) months.

E. SHOTGUNS FOR SWORN PERSONNEL

- 1. Shotguns are authorized to be carried by sworn personnel who have successfully completed a shotgun familiarization course and pass the Department's shotgun qualification course. Included in the qualification course is the requirement of the officer to demonstrate safe manipulation of the shotgun. If the officer does not successfully complete the courses, he/she will not be eligible to carry a shotgun.
- 2. The shotguns must utilize slings and be chambered for 12-gauge 00 buckshot and rifle slugs and have an 18"-20" barrel. Shotguns shall not be performance modified from their manufacturer's original state unless approved by the Training Unit Sergeant or his/her designee. Shotgun modifications and/or repairs will be identified and documented prior to Department Qualification by the Training Unit.
- 3. Shotgun Qualifications:
 - a. Shotgun certified officers who continue to carry a personally owned or Department issued shotgun will be required to qualify no less than once annually on the Department's shotgun qualification course.
 - b. Officers must qualify using any approved optical sight accessory along with the iron sights prior to carrying the shotgun on duty.

- c. If an officer fails to meet the qualification standards, he/she will not be authorized to carry the shotgun and must attend the 4-hour remedial shotgun course. The officer will be given another opportunity to qualify after the remedial course. If the officer fails to qualify, then he/she will be required to return the Department issued shotgun (if applicable) and will be removed from the eligibility list. If the officer further wishes to carry a shotgun, he/she will be required to complete the basic shotgun certification course. If an officer requires the 4-hour remedial shotgun course to qualify for three (3) consecutive years, on the third year, the officer is required to attend the basic shotgun certification course.
- d. All sworn officers who carry a personally owned or Department issued shotgun will attend the Advanced Shotgun retraining course no less than once every thirty-six (36) months.

F. AMMUNITION

- 1. Officers shall only use agency approved ammunition while on duty.
- 2. Uniformed or plainclothes officers on administrative assignment are not required to carry extra ammunition or reloading devices while in a Police Department building.
- 3. Officers are authorized to carry more ammunition than provided for in this policy, however, it must be of the same type as currently issued by the Department.
- 4. For extenuating circumstances beyond the normal operating hours of the Department's Police Supply, extra ammunition has been placed in the small Police Supply room. This room is adjacent to Police Supply and is accessible to sworn supervisors.

G. WEAPONS / FIREARMS INSPECTIONS

- 1. Training Unit personnel shall inspect all weapons for safety prior to qualification. All weapons/firearms shall be inspected and approved by the Training Unit Sergeant or a qualified firearm instructor prior to the officer carrying the weapon.
- 2. A sworn supervisor may, at any time, inspect any weapon carried for use by a subordinate.
- 3. All firearms carried will be maintained to factory specifications.
- 4. In the event that a sworn supervisor/firearms instructor believes any weapon to be functionally questionable or unsafe, the Training Unit will be notified. The Training Unit will inspect the weapon as soon as practical. In the interim, a loaner weapon of the same manufacturer and model from the loaner weapons locker in the Training Unit will be issued to the officer.

5. If an officer's weapon is found functionally unserviceable, he/she can be issued a weapon of the same manufacturer and model from the loaner weapon locker.
6. If the Training Unit personnel or Department armorer finds a weapon dysfunctional, the officer owning the weapon shall notify his/her supervisor prior to returning to duty. The dysfunctional weapon shall be taken out of service and must be repaired by an agency approved armorer and re-inspected as soon as possible, prior to the officer using the weapon for duty purposes. Once repaired, the weapon shall be inspected by the Training Unit personnel or Department armorer, prior to use for duty.