

RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE OR ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR

CARRYING AND USE OF WEAPONS

Purpose: This directive establishes departmental policy concerning firearm usage, related equipment, and other weapons approved for use by sworn members of the North Little Rock Police Department. This directive governs the handling and training associated with the approved weapons.

Policy Statement: It is the policy of the department to provide adequate weapons for use by sworn members. Members will be trained in the service and proficiency of these weapons. Off-duty and secondary use of specifically approved and registered weapons with the department are included in this policy.

Summary of Changes:

Definitions:

Senior Firearms Instructor (SFI): The senior ranking certified firearms instructor assigned to the Training Unit.

Approved Weapons and Ammunition List: List maintained by the SFI or designee.

Procedure:

1. Departmental Firearms

1.1 Officers will only carry department-issued firearms while on duty or performing police functions, except as otherwise provided for within this policy.

1.1.1 Every weapon intended for use will be inspected and approved by the SFI or designee before issuance. [CALEA 4.3.1c]

1.1.2 The Property Room will maintain complete records of every department-issued firearm. Records will include a complete description of the issued weapon, the receiving officer, the date of issuance, and the approving official. [CALEA 4.3.1e]

1.1.3 The Training Unit will ensure all personnel authorized to carry lethal and less-lethal weapons are instructed in Policy Directives 11-1, *Response to Resistance or Assaultive Behavior*, 11-3 *Carrying and Use of Weapons*, and 11-8 *Less-Lethal Weapons*, before authorization to carry such weapons. Documentation of instruction is required. [CALEA 4.3.4]

1.2 Handguns:

1.2.1 The standard-issue handgun is the Glock 22. Officers working undercover assignments may also be issued a Glock 27 handgun. [CALEA 4.3.1a]

1.2.2 Approved ammunition for the department-issued handguns is maintained on the *Approved Weapons and Ammunition List*. [CALEA 4.3.1b]

1.3 Members will not carry departmental issued firearms outside of the State of Arkansas with the following exceptions:

1.3.1 Agency authorized duty assignments, i.e., training, prisoner transport, or investigations.

1.3.2 Officers assigned to multi-jurisdictional task forces, while on authorized assignment with the task force; or

1.3.3 When authorized by the Chief of Police.

1.4 Shotguns:

1.4.1 Only department-issued shotguns, as listed on the *Approved Firearms and Ammunition List*, will be carried by this department's on-duty officers. Shotguns will be used only by officers trained and proficient in their use. [CALEA 4.3.1a], [CALEA 4.3.2]

1.4.2 Approved ammunition for the department-issued shotguns is maintained on the *Approved Weapons and Ammunition List*. [CALEA 4.3.1b]

1.4.3 Department-issued shotguns not stored at the department or a substation will be stored in the trunk or locking box of the police unit when the officer is not on-duty, if applicable, otherwise they will be stored following section 7.9 of this policy. If applicable, the vehicle trunk-unlocking device should be deactivated, making it inoperable when the ignition is not on. Officers assigned to an SUV without a locking box should store their shotguns in their residence. [CALEA 4.3.1f]

1.5 Less-Lethal Weapons/Impact Munitions:

- 1.5.1 Only department-issued shotguns (orange markings) and 40mm launchers, as listed on the *Approved Firearms and Ammunition List*, will be used as less-lethal weapons. These weapons are to be used with less-lethal ammunition only. [CALEA 4.3.1a]
- 1.5.2 Approved ammunition for the department-issued less-lethal weapons is maintained on the *Approved Weapons and Ammunition List*. [CALEA 4.3.1b]
- 1.5.3 Less-Lethal shotguns and 40mm launchers will only be used by personnel trained and qualified in their use. [CALEA 4.3.2]

2. Off-Duty Firearms

- 2.1 Officers may carry a firearm while off duty.
- 2.2 Officers employed in an off-duty capacity performing a law enforcement function will carry their department issued firearms.
- 2.3 Personally owned off-duty weapons and ammunition must be inspected, approved, and registered by the SFI, or designee, before being carried. Non-departmental issued off-duty firearms must be approved through the chain of command and the Chief of Police's office. Only double-action revolvers and double-action pistols, or striker-fired semi-automatic pistols of the calibers listed in the *Approved Weapons and Ammunition List* will be approved. [CALEA 4.3.1a, b, c]
- 2.4 Members will register off-duty weapons with the officer's name and ID number, make, model, caliber, and serial number. The member will also note any modifications. [CALEA 4.3.1e]
 - 2.4.1 Exception to this rule will be the department-issued on-duty weapon which officers may carry off-duty.
- 2.5 The SFI or designee will maintain a list of all weapons approved for off-duty use. [CALEA 4.3.1e]
 - 2.5.1 Weapons not on the approved list must be evaluated by the SFI, or designee, with the final approval from the Chief of Police.
- 2.6 Officers who modify a weapon approved for off-duty or secondary use must re-submit the weapon for approval.
- 2.7 Officers must use discretion as to when and where a firearm is carried. EXAMPLE: Officers are not to have a weapon when they are consuming alcohol or under the influence of alcohol or prescription medication.
- 2.8 Officers may be authorized up to two approved off-duty weapons.
- 2.9 This policy should not be construed to restrict the legitimate possession and use of firearms or ammunition for sporting and recreational use.

3. Secondary Firearms

- 3.1 Officers may carry one secondary/backup weapon while on duty, provided it is registered and approved as provided herein.
- 3.2 The secondary weapon is to be viewed only as a weapon of last resort. Officers will limit the use of a secondary firearm to those instances where an officer's use of deadly force is authorized, and the officer's primary firearm has been:
 - 3.2.1 Lost, stolen, or rendered inoperable during the specific incident authorizing the use of deadly force.
 - 3.2.2 Exhausted of ammunition under circumstances that clearly limit the officer's ability to reload immediately; or
 - 3.2.3 When an act of an assailant(s) prevents the officer from being able to employ the primary weapon in a situation where deadly force is authorized. EXAMPLE: When an officer is being disarmed or is in the process of being disarmed.
- 3.3 Secondary firearms will be subject to the same registration, inspection, training, and approval guidelines as those for off-duty firearms. [CALEA 4.3.1a, b, c,]
- 3.4 Only one secondary firearm will be authorized for an officer at any given time.
 - 3.4.1 If an officer authorized to carry a secondary firearm wishes to have a different secondary, the officer must submit the new weapon through the approval and registration process.
 - 3.4.2 The officer will not be permitted to carry the first firearm once the new weapon has been approved.
- 3.5 The SFI or designee will forward updated information on officers with approved and registered secondary weapons to the division commanders.
- 3.6 On-duty possession of an unregistered and unapproved firearm is considered a violation and will result in disciplinary action.
 - 3.6.1 While secondary firearms are optional; they will be subject to inspection by any supervisor. [CALEA 4.3.1c]
- 3.7 Supervisors who detect violations of Section 3 of this policy will place the offending officer on administrative leave and submit a full report through the chain of command to the Chief of Police immediately.

4. Ammunition

- 4.1 On-duty firearms will be loaded with authorized department issued ammunition only.
- 4.2 Off-duty and secondary firearms will be loaded with ammunition of an approved caliber and configuration as listed in the *Approved Weapons and Ammunition List*.
- 4.2.1 Ammunition must be factory loaded. Hand-loaded ammunition is prohibited.
- 4.3 The Training Unit will issue ammunition for department-issued firearms.
- 4.4 Officers will be responsible for furnishing ammunition for their off-duty and secondary firearms. Ammunition must be factory loaded from the *Approved Weapons and Ammunition List*. [CALEA 4.3.1b]
- 4.5 The SFI or designee will maintain records of the use and distribution of ammunition used by the department.

5. Training and Proficiency

- 5.1 Officers will maintain proficiency in using their weapons following the training standards of this department. Only sworn agency personnel demonstrating proficiency in using agency-authorized weapons will be approved to carry such weapons. [CALEA 4.3.2, 4.3.3]
 - 5.1.1 Officers must qualify to use department-issued handguns at least once annually to satisfy state minimum standards.
 - 5.1.2 Officers must participate in annual handgun qualifications and quarterly firearms training unless excused by the Chief, Assistant Chief, or their respective division commander, who will notify the SFI or the Training Unit Commander.
 - 5.1.3 Officers assigned the use of a shotgun must qualify with that weapon at least once annually.
 - 5.1.4 Officers assigned the use of a rifle must qualify with that weapon at least once annually.
 - 5.1.5 For officers assigned to special operations units, please refer to the respective unit policy under section 40.
 - 5.1.6 Officers authorized to carry a Conducted Energy Weapon/CEW (Taser) are required to demonstrate proficiency with that weapon at least once annually.
 - 5.1.7 Officers authorized to use less-lethal weapons are required to demonstrate proficiency at least once annually.
 - 5.1.8 All weapons proficiency training will be monitored by a certified weapons or tactics instructor. This training will include a review of the appropriate Response to Resistance/Assaultive Behavior policy directives. [CALEA 4.3.3a]
- 5.2 Officers who carry an off-duty or secondary firearm will demonstrate proficiency in using that firearm before being permitted to carry the weapon. [CALEA 4.3.2]
 - 5.2.1 Officers will be required to qualify with their chosen off-duty or secondary weapons annually.
- 5.3 The Training Unit will maintain records of officers' proficiency training. [CALEA 4.3.3b]
- 5.4 Any officer who fails to qualify with the department-issued sidearm after two (2) consecutive attempts on the firearms range will be referred for remedial training by a certified firearms instructor while still at the range. [CALEA 4.3.3c]
 - 5.4.1 If an officer undertaking remedial training is unable to qualify after the training session, the firearms instructor providing the remedial training will notify the SFI and the Training Unit Commander, who will then notify the member's division commander and the Chief of Police
 - 5.4.2 The division commander, upon such notification, will immediately place the unqualified officer on administrative leave with pay. The SFI will take possession of the officer's firearm and marked patrol unit if assigned. The SFI will make arrangements to transport the officer to their residence. The officer will report to the Training Unit the next working day for additional training. The officer will remain with the Training Unit until the officer qualifies or the Training Unit Commander determines that remedial training will be fruitless. [CALEA 4.3.3c]
 - 5.4.3 If the officer does not respond satisfactorily to the remedial training and remains unqualified, the Training Unit Commander will provide written notification to the Chief of Police.
 - 5.4.4 Any officer who fails to demonstrate proficiency with any authorized, less-lethal weapon or tactic will not be authorized to use that weapon or tactic until proficiency has been demonstrated. [CALEA 4.3.3c]
 - 5.4.5 The Training Unit will provide remedial training to any officer who fails to demonstrate a required proficiency and notify the officer's supervisor and division commander of the deficiency.

6. Maintaining Department Issued Firearms

- 6.1 Department-issued firearms will be kept in clean and serviceable condition.
 - 6.1.1 Service firearms will be subject to inspection without notice by a supervisor, SFI, or designee. [CALEA 4.3.1c]
- 6.2 Officers will submit department issued firearms to a department armorer upon request for a detailed inspection. [CALEA 4.3.1c]
- 6.3 The Training Unit will maintain records on each service firearm.
 - 6.3.1 Any deficiency in maintenance or care will be noted and corrected.
 - 6.3.2 The officer's immediate supervisor will be notified in writing of any deficiency noted.
- 6.4 Officers will not make any modifications, repairs, or adjustments to department-issued firearms without the approval of the SFI or designee.
- 6.5 Any officer whose department-issued firearm sustains damage of any kind will notify the Training Unit as soon as possible. Any weapon found to be unsafe or inoperable will be immediately removed from service until the weapon is repaired. [CALEA 4.3.1d, e]
- 6.6 Department armorers will make any repairs or adjustments they are qualified to make.
 - 6.6.1 Other repairs will be referred to a manufacturer or some other authorized repair center.
 - 6.6.2 A written report will be submitted to the SFI on each firearm repaired.
 - 6.6.3 If the armorer cannot make immediate repairs, a temporary replacement weapon will be issued.

7. Handling of Firearms and Ammunition

- 7.1 No officer will allow a department-owned firearm to be used by any person, other than officers of this department, without the permission of the Chief of Police or a department armorer.
- 7.2 As a safety precaution (not applying in police matters), members will carry no shotgun or rifle inside department buildings unless the weapon is unloaded and the breach is open. [CALEA 4.3.1f]
- 7.3 Shotguns and rifles stored in police vehicles will have the breach closed (dust cover on rifles will also be closed).
 - 7.3.1 Officers will store shotguns and rifles in designated, secure locations with the safety selector in the "safe" position.
 - 7.3.1.1 Officers will store shotguns and rifles with a loaded magazine of department-issued ammunition.
 - 7.3.1.2 Officers will not store shotguns and rifles with a live round in the chamber.
- 7.4 Officers will store shotguns designated for less-lethal (orange markings) and 40mm launchers with only authorized ammunition in the magazine and the chamber empty. These are never to be loaded with conventional ammunition.
- 7.5 Officers will not unholster firearms in any public place except for legitimate law enforcement purposes.
- 7.6 On-duty officers will carry sidearms with fully loaded magazines and a live round in the chamber ready for use.
 - 7.6.1 Uniformed officers will carry a minimum of two extra, fully loaded magazines.
 - 7.6.2 Officers, while on-duty, uniformed and non-uniformed, will use only those holsters that the SFI or designee have approved and are listed in the Approved Weapons Ammunition List.
- 7.7 Officers carrying sidearms, on-duty or off-duty, while not in uniform will prominently display police identification or badge or carry the sidearm concealed from public view.
- 7.8 Secondary firearms will be carried on an officer's person in a concealed holster, securely fastened and accessible.
 - 7.8.1 Authorized holsters for secondary firearms will be a vest holster or a bellyband holster. In certain circumstances, undercover officers may also utilize an ankle holster if needed. [CALEA 4.3.4]
- 7.9 Departmental-issued firearms will be secured to prevent unauthorized use when stored in an officer's home. [CALEA 4.3.1f]
 - 7.9.1 Loaded firearms will be either locked in a case or locked with a trigger safety device. Loaded firearms that cannot be locked in a case or with a trigger device will be unloaded and secured with a department supplied firearm-disabling device.

8. Use of Firearms

- 8.1 Any law enforcement use of a firearm must comply with applicable law and Policy Directive 11-1.
- 8.2 Any officer who discharges any firearm, accidentally or purposely, while on-duty or acting in the capacity of a police officer other than during firearms training will immediately notify an on-duty supervisor.

- 8.2.1 If an officer discharges a weapon at anyone to employ deadly physical force, the Detectives Division will conduct an investigation as per Policy Directive 11-6, (Use of Deadly Force Response).
- 8.2.2 This agency's response to an officer-involved shooting will be the same even if the shots fired do not strike any persons.
 - 8.2.2.2 The Detectives Division will investigate any accidental discharge resulting in a loss of life or injury under Policy Directive 11-6, (Use of Deadly Force Response).
- 8.2.3 For any weapons discharge, other than training that is not to employ deadly force and does not cause injury to another person, the officer will notify an on-duty supervisor and document the incident with call notes or an incident report.
 - 8.2.3.1 The notified supervisor will advise the officer's division commander of the firearm discharge.
 - 8.2.3.2 If the investigating division commander determines the incident needs further investigation, the commander, will notify the Detectives Division.
- 8.2.4 The incident will be reviewed at each level in the involved officer's chain of command. The Professional Standards Unit may also review the incident.
- 8.2.5 A copy of the incident file, excluding recommendations and findings, will be forwarded to the SFI for training purposes by the involved officer's division commander.
- 8.2.6 After final review, completed incident files will be forwarded to the Support Services Division to be filed like any other report.
- 8.2.7 Professional Standards files, if any, will be filed following established procedure for files of that type.
- 8.2.8 The Professional Standards Unit will conduct an annual analysis of all weapon discharges, other than training, to determine trends that may necessitate equipment upgrades, policy changes or training needs.

9. Other Authorized Weapons

- 9.1 Officers are authorized to carry a collapsible style impact weapon or a PR24 baton.
 - 9.1.1 A certified weapons instructor will train officers in the use of impact weapons and batons before being carried. [CALEA 4.3.2]
 - 9.1.2 Any authorized impact weapon or baton found to be defective will be removed from service and submitted to the Support Service Division and exchanged for a baton in proper working order. [CALEA 4.3.1d]

10. Specialized Weapons and Ammunition

- 10.1 Specialized weapons (carbines, fully automatic weapons, sniper rifles, Honor Guard shotguns and rifles) including suppressors, and laser aiming devices, will be authorized only for those members who are qualified with and whose assignments require such weapons.
- 10.2 The Chief of Police, or designee, will authorize the use of all specialized weapons and ammunition.
- 10.3 It will be the responsibility of all Team Leaders to ensure the Training Unit Commander is supplied with a list of all specialized weapons and ammunition utilized by their unit (SWAT, Narcotics, SRT, Honor Guard, etc.). [CALEA 4.3.1e]
- 10.4 The types and specifications of all specialized weapons and ammunition authorized for use by specialized units will be forwarded by the Special Operations Commander, or Deputy Commander, to the Training Unit to be listed on the *Approved Weapons and Ammunition List* maintained by the SFI and Training Unit Commander. [CALEA 4.3.1a, b]

11. Firearms Range [CALEA 4.3.5]

- 11.1 The department will utilize the firearms range at Camp Joe T Robinson Army Base (Camp Robinson) when available and follow all rules and regulations of the base. When Camp Robinson is not available, every effort will be made to use a range close to the city.
- 11.2 Firearms range will be utilized for annual qualifications and any training involving live firearms or explosives.
 - 11.2.1 The Training Unit will advise Camp Robinson of planned training and follow any restrictions put forth by the base. [CALEA 4.3.5a]
- 11.3 The Training Unit will maintain a copy of safety procedures and range rules to be reviewed before every training event. [CALEA 4.3.5b]
- 11.4 A designated Officer in Charge (OIC) and Range Safety Officer (RSO) will be present during all times the range is in use. [CALEA 4.3.5c]

- 11.5 Camp Robinson has ranges able to accommodate the use of handguns, rifles, and explosives. Only department approved ammunition and equipment will be permitted for use on the range. [CALEA 4.3.5d]
- 11.6 All members participating in range training will bring personal safety equipment to include eye and ear protection. All officers will wear their issued ballistic protection. [CALEA 4.3.5e]
- 11.7 Range supervisory personnel will be certified firearm instructors. During range, training supervisory personnel will also include members with medical response training. [CALEA 4.3.5f]
- 11.8 The Training Unit will be responsible for storage of ammunition and weapons used for training. When applicable after range training the Training Unit will issue replacement ammunition. [CALEA 4.3.5g]

Patrick Thessing
Chief of Police