

GENERAL ORDER CHANGE



Subject
GO-RAR-901.01 (Handling of Service Weapons)

Topic / Number
GOC-08-08

Effective Date
November 10, 2008

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

I. REMOVE FROM:

GO-RAR-901.01

Pages 3, 4, 5, and 6

INSERT:

GO-RAR-901.01

Pages 3, 4, 5, and 6 (revised 10/15/08)

II. RESCIND: N/A

ADD: N/A

III. NOTES:

1. On page 4, Part IV.B.3:

"3. Carry more than the requisite amount of service ammunition as applicable to the authorized firearm they are using;"

was replaced with:

"3. Carry any more, nor any less, than the requisite amount of service ammunition applicable to their authorized service pistol:

a. While on duty, three (3) fully loaded magazines and one round in the chamber; and

b. While off-duty, at least one (1) fully loaded magazine and one round in the chamber.

NOTE: Members approved to carry a revolver must have the cylinder fully charged;"

2. On page 6, Part V.B.1.d., as follows, was deleted:

"d. Carry any more ammunition than the capacity of their Department-issued service pistol plus two extra magazines."

IV. RESCISSION OF OTHER DOCUMENTS: N/A

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy L. Lanier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police

CLL:PH:JGW:SG:PHC

5. Functional Firing – The un-scored firing of fifty (50) rounds of ammunition to test the proper functioning of a new, re-issued or exchanged weapon.
6. Non-Deadly Force – Any use of force that is neither likely nor intended to cause death or serious physical injury.
7. Patrol Rifle – The Department-issued rifle. The Department currently issues the Colt AR-15A3.
8. Pistol – Any handgun. The Department issues the Glock Models 17, 19, and 26 in addition to the Sig Sauer P226 (for specialized units). The compact versions of these pistols are authorized for use as an off-duty weapon. Some members are authorized to use their previously approved .38 caliber revolver as an off-duty weapon.
9. Privately Owned Firearms – Firearms other than those issued by the Department or authorized by the Department for off-duty police use. Privately owned firearms include those firearms lawfully possessed under the laws of an officer's place of residence.
10. Serious Use of Force – Lethal and less-lethal actions by MPD officers including:
 - a. All firearm discharges by an MPD officer with the exception of range and training incidents and discharges at animals;
 - b. All uses of force by an MPD officer resulting in a broken bone or an injury requiring hospitalization;
 - c. All head strikes with an impact weapon;
 - d. All uses of force by an MPD officer resulting in a loss of consciousness, or that create a substantial risk of death, serious disfigurement, disability or impairment of the functioning of any body part or organ;
 - e. All other uses of force by an MPD officer resulting in a death; and
 - f. All incidents where a person receives a bite from an MPD canine.
11. Service Ammunition – Any ammunition issued or authorized by the Department.

12. Service Weapon – Any instrument issued or authorized by the Department, used offensively or defensively to control or overcome a police subject, carried or kept readily available by MPD members, including:
 - a. Firearm (e.g., pistol or handgun);
 - b. Aerosol chemical dispenser (e.g., OC Spray);
 - c. Baton or ASP;
 - d. Tear gas; or
 - e. Any other specialty weapon issued to the Emergency Response Team.
13. Shotgun – Any Department-issued shotgun; may be described as a “regular” shotgun or a “folding-stock” shotgun, each requiring distinctive training and certification.
14. Use of Force – Any physical contact used to effect, influence or persuade an individual to comply with an order from an officer. The term shall not include un-resisted handcuffing or hand control procedures that do not result in injury or complaint of pain.

IV. RULES

- A. No member shall draw and point a firearm at or in the direction of a person unless there is a reasonable perception of a substantial risk that the situation may escalate to the point where lethal force would be permitted. When it is determined that the use of lethal force is not necessary, as soon as practicable, the firearm shall be secured or holstered.
- B. Members shall not:
 1. Possess any unauthorized firearm for on-duty or off-duty use in the District of Columbia. All firearms must have proper authorization and permits;
 2. Individually obtain service ammunition from any source except through the Firearms Training and Tactics Unit, Metropolitan Police Academy (MPA);
 3. Carry any more, nor any less, than the requisite amount of service ammunition applicable to their authorized service pistol:
 - a. While on duty, three (3) fully loaded magazines and one round in the chamber; and
 - b. While off duty, at least one (1) fully loaded magazine and one round in the chamber.

NOTE: Members approved to carry a revolver must have the cylinder fully charged;

4. Leave any issued or authorized firearm unattended in any automobile or other location that is readily accessible to other individuals;
5. Store firearms at home where they may be visible and/or accessible to children and other persons; or
6. Play or toy with firearms.

V. REGULATIONS

A. Use and Discharge of Firearms

1. Except for qualification, target practice or competition on an approved range, members shall not use any Department-issued firearm, authorized off-duty pistol or service weapon, on duty or off duty, unless in conformity with the Department's Use of Force policy as prescribed by GO-RAR-901.07 (Use of Force). In cases of fresh pursuit, members shall use firearms in conformity with GO-OPS-301.03 (Operation of Emergency Vehicles, Fresh Pursuit, and Vehicular Pursuit).
2. While in an off-duty status, members traveling to and from the District of Columbia and carrying their Department-issued or authorized off-duty pistol, shall ensure that they are in compliance with all applicable rules, regulations and laws of the jurisdiction in which they are traveling.
3. Whenever a member's authorized firearm is discharged, the member shall:
 - a. Preserve the firearm in the exact condition it was in immediately following the discharge;
 - b. Not open the action and/or chamber a round, remove or load another magazine in the well of the service weapon;
 - c. Not operate the actions on rifles or shotguns (although the safety may be set if it is necessary to handle the weapon); and
 - d. Surrender the firearm in its holster as directed by a member of the Force Investigation Team (FIT) or an official (of a higher rank) on the scene.

B. Handling of Firearms

1. Members shall not:
 - a. Handle firearms in an unsafe manner by playing or toying with their weapon;
 - b. Display their firearms unnecessarily (e.g., removing the pistol from the holster to show a friend, etc.);

c. Use or carry ammunition in any assigned Department- issued service firearm, or authorized off-duty firearm that is not issued by the Department, except that members may purchase and use ammunition for training purposes at an approved range;

d. Disassemble the Glock 9mm semi-automatic pistol or perform any maintenance on the weapon, except fieldstripping for cleaning;

NOTE: Only certified Armorer assigned to the MPD Range are authorized to perform any other maintenance on the weapons.

e. Alter a service firearm in any manner (e.g., mark, engrave, color, change grips, etc.); or

f. Use or carry any unauthorized equipment on their service weapon, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) Grip adapters not issued or authorized by the Department;
- (2) Extended magazine floor plates; and
- (3) Lasers or flashlights.

2. Questions regarding authorized equipment shall be directed to the MPD Armorer.

3. If it is determined that a member is carrying or using unauthorized equipment on his or her service weapon in violation of this order, an official shall direct the member to report to the MPD Armorer's Office for the immediate removal of the unauthorized equipment and may subject the member to disciplinary action.

C. Authorized Off-Duty Service Firearms

1. The Glock Models 26, 19, and 17, 9mm semi-automatic pistol (compact version) is the only firearm sworn members are authorized to carry as their off-duty service weapon except:

a. Members who have previously purchased a .38 caliber revolver, which has been approved by the MPD Range Officer as an authorized off-duty service weapon, may carry the same as long as they continue to qualify with the weapon. If an authorized off-duty .38 caliber revolver needs replacement for any reason, the replacement off-duty service firearm shall be the compact version of the member's Department-issued Glock service pistol.

b. Members of the Emergency Response Team and the Executive Protection Unit who have been issued the Sig Sauer P226 semi-