



Firearms & Ammunition

S.O.P. #	ORIGINAL DATE	REVISION DATE	APPROVED BY
4.2	1/1/1994	2/1/2018	E. Fox, Chief of Police

4.2.1 POLICY

The following regulations apply to the wearing, carrying, or use in an official capacity of all issued and personal firearms. Only firearms and ammunition meeting Department specifications listed in Index Code 402.2 may be used by employees in law enforcement responsibilities, both on and off duty.

4.2.2 FIREARMS - ON DUTY

A. Uniformed officers in law enforcement assignments will wear the issued sidearm, loaded with department issued ammunition, while on duty. Plainclothes officers may wear either the issued sidearm or an approved personal sidearm loaded with department approved ammunition. All officers will be armed with a sidearm while on duty, or operating a department vehicle, or in uniform. Plainclothes officers wearing a sidearm in public view must prominently display their badge at all times, either on their belt (directly next to the firearm) or on a chain around their neck.

B. Officers may carry approved personal firearms while on duty to supplement issued firearms, provided they meet the specifications listed in S.O.P. 402, and all requirements of Section III of this directive are satisfied. Supplemental firearms must be concealed from public view when not in use.

C. Officers will carry sufficient ammunition to fully reload the issued sidearm two times. Non-uniformed officers and officers in administrative assignments may carry the reloads in their vehicles instead of on their persons. It is highly recommended that all personnel carry at least one reload/magazine on their person at all times while armed.

4.2.3 FIREARMS - OFF DUTY

A. Officers are encouraged to carry a firearm while off duty but are not required to do so unless they are in uniform or operating a Police Department vehicle.

B. No officer may wear, carry or use a firearm while his or her ability to use the firearm is impaired for any reason.

C. Unless the officer is in uniform, all firearms carried while off duty must be concealed from public view when not in use.

D. Firearms will be carried in a properly fitting holster designed to carry that particular firearm. Only fanny packs designed to hold firearms securely are authorized.

E. If a firearm is carried in a purse, the purse must be specifically designed to hold a handgun utilizing a dedicated pouch; OR if a standard purse is being used, the firearm must be secured in a properly fitting holster to prevent loss or accidental discharges.

F. Firearms will not be stored in any patrol vehicles. Firearms will not be stored in personal vehicles unless store in a proper lock box specifically designed for firearms. This type of storage must be secured to the vehicle in some way as to prevent the theft of the box and weapon.

G. Firearms will be stored at the officer's residence in a locked security safe or box, no one else except the officer will have access to this safe or box.



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4.2.4 TRAINING

A. All Police Officers

1. Must demonstrate proficiency in the use of all authorized firearms before being granted approval to carry such firearms. Officers who are unable to qualify with an issued firearm must complete mandatory remedial training before resuming official duties. Officers who are unable to qualify with an authorized personal firearm may not carry the firearm.
2. Must receive in-service training on the department's use of force policies at least annually.
3. At least annually, must demonstrate proficiency with any approved firearm that the officer is authorized to use, except officers authorized to use the .223 caliber carbine or rifle must qualify with that firearm semi-annually (January-June and July-December).
4. Officers are prohibited from carrying or using in an official capacity any firearm or ammunition that has been altered, tampered with, or whose construction or mechanical condition has been changed from the original manufacturer's specifications.

B. Training Coordinator

1. Will establish written procedures for review, inspection, and approval of all firearms intended for use by each police officer in the performance of duty, prior to carrying, by a qualified firearms instructor or armorer; and a process to remove unsafe firearms as approved by the Chief of Police.
2. Will maintain a qualification record on each firearm approved by the department for official use.
3. Will provide mandatory remedial training for those employees who are unable to qualify with an authorized firearm, before resuming official duties.
4. Will ensure that all firearms proficiency training is monitored.
5. Will document all firearms training and proficiency results.
6. Will ensure that all police officers who are authorized to carry firearms are instructed in and issued a copy of the Department's policies on firearms and the use of force before being authorized to carry them; and that such instruction and issuance is documented.
7. The Chief of Police will specify the length of remedial training programs for all officers failing to qualify with firearms. Based on the demonstrated skills and proficiency, remedial training may be set quarterly, tri-annually, or at any interval which will ensure proficiency as determined by the Chief of Police.



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4.2.5 APPROVED FIREARMS AND EQUIPMENT

A. Disqualification of a Handgun for Use

To ensure that only reliable firearms are being used by officers, any firearm that malfunctions more than once during qualification firing will immediately be disapproved for further use. The officer must have the firearm repaired, and must re-qualify with it before the weapon is authorized for further use in the performance of duty.

All repairs or adjustments to agency-owned weapons will only be performed by Departmental armorers. Personally owned weapons will be repaired by factory certified armorers or gunsmiths. Crofton Police utilizes the services of Anne Arundel County Police armorers at the Training Academy.

B. Issued Handguns

The SIG Sauer Model P229 .40 caliber pistol is the standard issue pistol for all personnel.

C. Substitute Grips

Officers may replace, at their own expense, the manufacturer’s grips that come with the SIG P229. The only substitute grip allowed is the Hogue Rubber Grip (Product Code #28010 or 28000). The substitute grip must be installed by a SIG armorer. The Anne Arundel County Police Firearms Training Unit are certified Sig armorers.

D. Handguns Approved for Personal Use Off Duty

1. Approved Manufacturers

Firearms manufactured by the following companies are approved for personal use by officers in the performance of duty. The department feels these manufacturers’ products provide a sufficient amount of options to meet all officers’ needs. Manufacturers are necessarily restricted to ensure that approved weapons are only those produced by companies with an established record of quality and dependability. In addition, the number of approved manufacturers must be limited to ensure instructors can stay abreast of the design characteristics of approved weapons.

- Beretta
- Browning
- Colt
- Glock
- H & K
- Ruger
- Sig Sauer
- Smith & Wesson
- Walther
- Kahr
- Taurus



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2. Authorized Calibers

- 9mm
- .40 S&W
- .45 ACP
- .45 GAP
- .357 SIG

Exceptions may be made by approval of the Chief of Police.

3. Models and Operating Characteristics

In lieu of listing the various models of approved firearms produced by the above listed manufacturers, the following operating characteristics will be used to determine the suitability of the firearm for approved use:

- a. The firearm must be a double action/single action semi-automatic handgun capable of being decocked without manually lowering the hammer, OR
- b. Have a safe action (Glock style) which does not have to be decocked, OR
- c. Be a double action only, which does not require decocking; AND, in addition, the firearm must not be capable of being carried in a cocked and locked condition (hammer cocked and safety on).
- d. Revolvers with both double and single action, or double action only, with a barrel length of not less than 2 inches and not more than 4 inches, in an approved caliber listed in "B" above, are approved for off-duty and back-up use.

4.2.6 SHOTGUNS AND CARBINES

Crofton Police personnel may carry personally owned carbine rifles and shotguns when qualified to do so. The qualification course will be conducted through any police department in the state of Maryland with an approved MPCTC course of fire. Calibers of authorized carbine rifles and shotguns are listed below.

A. Remington model 870, 12-gauge shotgun (and variants such as the Express and Special Purpose), with the following characteristics:

- 1. Must be maximum barrel length of 22 inches.
- 2. Officers who have a Remington folding stock or other folding or collapsible stock as approved by the Chief of Police or his/her designee, on a personally owned shotgun must meet the training requirements established by the Training Coordinator prior to carrying it on duty.

B. AR15 carbines and rifles in .223 Remington (5.56x45mm) caliber. All rifles/carbines must meet mil-spec standards. Approved rifle/carbine manufacturers must be approved by the Chief of Police or his/her designee and meet the following additional standards:



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1. Minimum barrel length of 16 inches including flash suppressor or compensator with a twist rate of 1:7, 1:8, or 1:9.
 2. Direct Impingement or Gas Piston operating system.
 3. Capable of semi-automatic fire only.
 4. Rifles made with carbon lower receivers are not allowed for department use.
 5. Standard military style fixed or collapsible butt stock, or a stock resembling the collapsible stock but permanently fixed in the open position, or other stock as approved by the Training Academy Commander or his/her designee.
 6. Fixed or detachable carry handle with iron sights or flat top upper receiver with an approved electronic or optical sighting device of 4 power or less are both acceptable.
 7. Rifles equipped with electronic or optical sighting devices must also have operational backup iron sights.
 8. Any light, rail system, vertical grip, or other add-on accessory attached to a carbine or rifle must be approved in writing by the Training Academy Commander or his/her designee.
 9. Any officer carrying a personally owned rifle/carbine with approved modifications/equipment must qualify with the weapon and demonstrate proficiency with all accessories (light, sling, optical sighting device, vertical grips, bipods, etc.) prior to carrying the modified carbine.
 10. Personally owned carbines may only be equipped with accessories that are permitted and approved for use on department carbines.
 11. Any modifications to a personally owned rifle or shotgun must be approved. Any modifications to a personally owned rifle or shotgun carried while on duty in the performance of duty MUST be completed by a qualified armorer whether private or Academy staff no exceptions.
 12. Prior to purchasing any accessories, officers are encouraged to contact the Firearms Training Unit to ensure that the accessory is approved for use and is manufactured of high quality.
 13. The Firearms Training Unit has the right to disqualify any rifle or accessory based on mechanical issues/safety concerns after consultation with the Training Academy Commander.
- C.** Electronic and optical sighting devices of 4 power or less may be used. Optics and sighting devices manufactured by the following companies are approved for use by officers in the performance of their duty. The department feels these manufacturers' products provide a sufficient amount of options to meet all officers' needs. Manufacturers are restricted to ensure that the optics used are only those produced by companies with an established record of quality and dependability.

1. Leupold
2. Trijicon



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3. Aimpoint

4. Eotech

D. Sworn personnel are authorized to use a weapon mounted flashlight on all shotguns, carbines, and rifles which have been approved for low-light use. The use of the weapon mounted flashlight is approved for both on and off duty use provided the following conditions are met.

1. The flashlight and mount system may be purchased by the individual officer or the department.

2. Only lights from the following manufacturers are authorized for use:

a. Streamlight

b. SureFire

c. Insight

d. Inforce

3. Successful completion of the Academy's entry-level rifle, carbine, or shotgun training class and qualifying on a low light qualification course during the training class.

4. Laser accessories are not authorized.

E. The supervisor of the Firearms Training Unit at the Academy will maintain a list of any other lighting or mounting systems when they are approved. All personnel are required to qualify using the flashlight prior to carrying them. Contact the Firearms Training Unit for any further information. There are no exemptions to this policy unless approved by the Commander of the Training Academy.

F. The use of the weapon mounted light is only authorized during situations in which the use or display of the firearm would be authorized within the department's standard use of force policy. At no time should the weapon mounted light be used solely to illuminate an area where there would be no other reason to display the firearm.

G. All department officers who carry a weapon mounted flashlight must have immediate access to a secondary flashlight for normal low light duties/illumination purposes.

H. A carrying sling is REQUIRED on all carbines, rifles, and shotguns used on duty, whether departmentally or personally owned.

I. Officers are authorized to utilize a vertical grip on departmental/personal rifles and carbines. All vertical grips must be approved by the Training Academy Commander or the Firearms Training Unit Supervisor. The Firearms Training Unit Supervisor will maintain a list of authorized vertical grips. Prior to carrying a rifle or carbine with a vertical grip officers must demonstrate proficiency and qualify with the vertical grip attached to the weapon.



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J. The use of a bipod may be approved, but must be requested in writing from the Training Academy Commander or his/her designee. Approval of the bipod is contingent upon the user receiving appropriate training from the Firearms Training Unit and qualifying with the bipod attached to the weapon.

K. The following accessories/items are not authorized for department or personally owned rifles, shotguns, or carbines:

1. Grip Pod Light Rail
2. Personal NFA Firearms
3. BAD Levers (Battery Assisted Devices)

L. Disqualification of any weapon or accessory will require prompt notice to the officer’s chain of command with details of the disqualification (exactly what accessory was disqualified). The officers immediate supervisor will follow-up with the officer and confirm that the weapon or accessory is not being carried or used.

4.2.7 AMMUNITION

The following ammunition is approved for use in the performance of duty:

A. Only ammunition issued by the Anne Arundel County Police Department will be used with personal rifles, shotguns and issued handguns.

B. Departmental issued handguns must be loaded with 180 grain .40 S&W or 147 grain 9x19 millimeter (also known as 9mm Luger or Parabellum) Speer GoldDot Jacketed Hollow Point ammunition.

C. The 9x19mm caliber is approved for duty use as an alternate caliber as approved by the Training Academy Commander or his/her designee.

D. Off-duty and secondary weapons must be loaded with ammunition approved by the Firearms Training Unit.

E. Shotguns: Federal 12 gauge, 2 ¾ inch, 9 pellet, 00 buckshot and Federal 12 gauge Tactical Low Recoil Slug with Truball will be utilized in all approved shotguns.

F. Carbines: Federal Tactical Bonded .223 caliber 62 grain Soft Point ammunition, as approved by the Firearms Training Unit, will be utilized in all carbines and rifles, regardless of whether Department issued or privately owned.

4.2.8 HOLSTERS & MAGAZINE POUCHES

A. SIG P229 – Uniform Duty Holster (Class B)

The Safariland “SLS” model 6280 holster will be the issued uniform duty holster. This holster must be worn on the Sam Browne belt – NO SUBSTITUTIONS. The Safariland ALS 6360 holster is the only authorized holster for use with a pistol rail/frame mounted flashlight.



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B. SIG P229 – Uniform Magazine Pouch (Class B)

The Safariland Model 77, hidden snap double magazine pouch will be the issued uniform magazine pouch. This magazine pouch must be worn on the Sam Browne belt – NO SUBSTITUTIONS.

C. SIG P229 – Paddle Holster

The Safariland model 518 paddle holster will be the issued paddle holster for all administrative and detective personnel as deemed appropriate by the Commander of the Evidence Management Section and the Firearms Training Unit supervisor.

D. Administrative/Detective Magazine Pouch

A suitable magazine pouch will be issued for administrative and detective use as deemed appropriate by the Commander of the Evidence Management Section and the Firearms Training Unit supervisor.

E. Open Top Holsters

Open top holsters are allowed while in uniform for personnel working in administrative functions, or while attending court during off-duty hours. The open top holster must have a positive retention device that must be deactivated by the officer before drawing the weapon. Examples of positive retention open top holsters include, but are not limited to, the Blackhawk SERPA system and the Bianchi Finger Lok system. Open top holsters with friction retention only are not allowed.

4.2.9 CARRYING, MOUNTING & LOCKING DEVICES FOR CARBINES AND SHOTGUNS

A. Authorized Mounting/Locking Devices

The following mounting/locking devices are authorized for installation in police vehicles. However, if the installation will interfere with the proper operation or approved installation of other police equipment, or the installation will result in unsafe carrying of the weapon, no installation will be permitted.

1. The only mounting/locking devices for an AR15 carbine or rifle allowed for installation in police vehicles is the Santa Cruz Model SC-1/A gunlock or the Santa Cruz Universal Gun Lock Model SC-916-5 for a AR15 carbine or rifle, with butt plate model SC-1901 and time delay mechanism model SC-7009.

2. The only mounting/locking device for Remington model 870 shotguns allowed for installation in police vehicles is the Santa Cruz Model SC-1 gunlock for a shotgun, with a butt plate model SC-1901 and time delay mechanism SC-7009.

B. Location

The mounting/locking device will be installed in a location that is approved and authorized in writing by the Fleet Coordinator.



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C. Installation – Issued Devices

Mounting/locking devices may be installed in police vehicles. only by authorized companies. The Chief of Police will coordinate the installation of mounting/locking devices issued to officers by the department.

D. Installation – Personally Owned Devices

Personally owned mounting/locking devices must be installed by the County shop. Installation will coincide with the next scheduled preventive maintenance for the affected officer’s vehicle. County shop personnel should be notified of the desire to have the device installed prior to bringing the vehicle to the shop for the PM. The cost of installing the device will be established by Management & Planning, and is the responsibility of the officer. When the officer picks up the vehicle, he or she must present a check to the shop foreman, payable to “Anne Arundel County,” for the cost of installation.

E. Transport of the Shotguns

When not in use, a personally owned or department issued shotgun will be carried in an approved rack, or in the trunk in a gun case. In the case, the shotgun will be carried in CRUISER CONDITION (Cruiser Carry). Cruiser condition is: chamber empty, trigger pressed, safety off and action closed (magazine fully loaded).

F. Transport of the Carbines (AR15 Rifles)

1. When not in use, a personally owned or department issued carbine will be carried inside the police vehicle in an approved rack, or in the trunk in a gun case, or in a hard mounted gun storage vault. All departmental carbines will be issued with a gun case. Carbines will be stored in the rack or case with the bolt forward on an empty chamber, the safety selector in the “Safe” position, and a loaded magazine inserted into the magazine well. Additional loaded magazines may be stored in the gun case or in some other area of the vehicle that is not accessible to unauthorized persons. A rifle that is stored in the case may have a magazine pouch containing a loaded magazine attached to the butt stock.

2. During times when there is a perceived need to have the carbine ready for immediate use, such as during an authorized stakeout, the rifle may be placed in the passenger compartment as long as the officer is with the weapon and there is no access by unauthorized persons. Absent exigent circumstances, the officer’s supervisor must be notified and give approval prior to doing this.

4.2.10 LESS-LETHAL WEAPONS

A. Approved “Less-Lethal” weapons may be deployed by certified personnel during any incident in which their use may provide an alternative to resolve incidents in a less lethal manner. The following less-lethal weapons are approved for use by trained personnel:

1. Less-lethal “bean bag” shotguns
2. Conducted Electrical Weapon
3. OC Spray



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B. Only personnel who have demonstrated proficiency with less-lethal weapons, as instructed by a certified weapons instructor, are authorized to carry and use these less-lethal weapons. Proficiency must be demonstrated annually for the less-lethal “bean bag” shotgun and conducted electrical weapon and biennially (every two years) for OC spray. All training must be monitored by a certified weapons instructor. Those officers failing to demonstrate proficiency will be given remedial training, before resuming official duties.

4.2.11 DEFENSIVE IMPACT WEAPONS

The following defensive impact weapons are approved for use by trained personnel:

A. Straight Batons

1. Wooden nightsticks
2. Polymer nightsticks
3. ASP expandable baton

B. Only personnel who have demonstrated proficiency with the ASP expandable baton, as instructed by a certified weapons instructor, are authorized to carry and use these defensive impact weapons. Proficiency must be demonstrated at least biennially (every two years), and must be monitored by a certified baton instructor. Those officers failing to demonstrate proficiency will be given remedial training, before resuming official duties. All straight batons are covered by ASP baton training.

4.2.12 PROHIBITED DEFENSIVE IMPACT WEAPONS

- A.** Side-Handled Batons/PR-24 Side-Handled Batons
- B.** Slapjacks

4.2.13 WEAPONS OF OPPORTUNITY

This is an object that an officer uses to apply force to another individual and which has not been previously listed in this index code. If a weapon of opportunity is used to gain control and compliance, its use will be governed by the same standards as established in the Department’s Use of Force Policy. An example of a weapon of opportunity would be a flashlight.

4.2.14 OWNERSHIP OF FIREARMS CONDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Federal law imposes a waiting period for ownership of certain firearms, firearms accessories, and ammunition feeding devices and/or magazines. Bonafide law enforcement officers may be granted a waiver to the firearms waiting period, if the weapon to be purchased is for use in an official law enforcement capacity. In such cases, the law usually requires written approval from an officer’s employer in order for the officer to be exempt from the purchasing waiting period. It is the Department’s policy in such cases to approve employee requests to purchase only those firearms, ammunition feeding devices, and accessories that are necessary to accomplish the law enforcement mission and approved for law enforcement use.



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Employees seeking Department authorization or employment verification in order to apply for an exemption to the waiting period for the purchase of a firearm, firearm accessory, or ammunition, should submit a written request to the Commander of the Training Academy, who has the authority to review, approve, or deny such requests on behalf of the Department.