



ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURE		500. 01	
			
USE OF FIREARMS			
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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to set guidelines for the authorized use of firearms.

SCOPE:

This procedure shall apply to all sworn Punta Gorda Police Department personnel and Reserve Officers.

DEFINITIONS:

- Deadly Force** - force which is likely to cause death or great bodily harm (Note: For the purpose of this standard operating procedure, deadly force will be referred to in conjunction with the discharging of an officer's firearm; however, a firearm is not the only form of deadly force).
- Department** - Punta Gorda Police Department.
- Fire for Effect** - to shoot for available center of mass of the target at which you are aiming.
- Firearm** - for purposes of this standard operating procedure, firearm will refer to any department-authorized firearm.

5. **Great Bodily Harm** - serious injury which is likely to cause death, permanent impairment, or disfigurement.
6. **Officer** - full-time and reserve law enforcement officers recognized by the Chief of Police as being authorized to carry firearms.
7. **Officer Reasonably Believes** – what a reasonable officer in the same or similar circumstance would believe based upon his/her knowledge of the facts surrounding the event as they existed at the time of the event.
8. **Patrol Rifle** - a lightweight, compact rifle or carbine, chambered in an intermediate caliber (.223, .30 Carbine, 7, 62x39, .30 WCF, ETC). Patrol rifles are generally fed from a detachable box magazine, but other systems are acceptable. Patrol rifles utilized by the Punta Gorda Police Department shall be chambered in .223 caliber (5.56mm).

PROCEDURE:

I. POLICY

- A. It is the policy of the Punta Gorda Police Department that officers shall use only that force necessary to effect an arrest, apprehension, or physically control an opposing person. Officers need not desist from making a lawful arrest because of active, threatened, or passive resistance that may be encountered.
- B. The use of deadly force is, at times, essential to the police mission for providing protection of life and to prevent death or substantial harm to members of the community and to other officers. However, deadly force shall be used with great restraint. The Punta Gorda Police Department places a greater value on the preservation of life than on protection of property.
- C. The Punta Gorda Police Department's deadly force policy is not a "shoot-to-wound" policy nor is it a "shoot-to-kill" policy. Officers are trained to discharge their firearms at center body mass to maximize effectiveness and to reduce the danger to innocent bystanders (Note: Self-defense and imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury shall be the only policy guideline for employing deadly force).
- D. Personnel employed in a full-time law enforcement capacity, and who are authorized to carry firearms, shall be allowed to carry only police department-authorized firearms with which they have qualified. This shall also apply to Reserve Officers.
- E. Such employees who carry an exposed or concealed firearm while off duty and when not authorized by the Chief of Police as set forth in this procedure, are not acting as Punta Gorda Police Department employees and are deemed to be carrying such weapon as a private citizen.

II. FIREARM USE

- A. **Authorization to Carry Firearms** - Members will be issued copies of, and instructed in, the deadly force policy and fleeing felon policy before they are authorized to carry a firearm or placed into a position where they may use deadly force. These instructions are issued during Phase I of the Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP).

- B. Registering Firearms** - Employees authorized to carry firearms are required to register with the Training Coordinator, the description and serial numbers of all firearms that they may carry on or off duty.
- C. On-Duty Firearms** - Employees required to carry a firearm on duty shall carry only a police department- issued firearm as the primary weapon.
1. The primary service weapon issued by the police department is the Glock model 23, model 27, model 35, .40 caliber, semi-automatic pistol.
 2. From time to time, due to special circumstances (e. g., undercover work, special assignments, etc.) employees may be authorized by the Chief of Police to be issued a handgun not listed above. Employees being so authorized may not carry said weapon until they have qualified at the range with the firearm.
- D. Back-up/Secondary Firearms**
1. Officers may carry authorized back-up firearms while on duty and off duty. Furthermore, officers may carry an authorized firearm in lieu of their primary firearm while off duty and out of uniform or working undercover with approval from the Operations Commander.
 2. An officer desiring to carry a secondary firearm shall submit an *Authorization to Carry Secondary/Off-Duty Weapon* form through his/her supervisor and the Training Coordinator to the Chief of Police. The request shall include the make, model, caliber, serial number, number of shots, and length of barrel of the firearm along with the make, model, and retention level of the holster(s) that will be used with the firearm.
 3. Secondary firearms not issued by the Punta Gorda Police Department shall be reviewed, inspected, and approved by the Chief of Police, department armorer, or qualified firearms instructor before being carried by a member. No other firearms shall be carried without the express written permission of the Chief of Police, or his/her designee.
 4. The Training Coordinator shall maintain all approved *Authorization to Carry Secondary/Off-Duty Weapon* forms in the officer's training record along with the corresponding qualification record for each firearm.
 5. Authorized secondary firearms shall meet the following criteria:
 - a. Produced by a major manufacturer;
 - b. A caliber between .380 and .45. The ammunition shall be no more powerful than the protection rating on the department-issued ballistic vests and shall be supplied by the officer and approved by the department;
 - c. A minimum barrel length of not less than 1 ½ inches but no greater than six (6) inches;
 - d. A minimum cartridge capacity of no less than five (5) rounds; and
 - e. A trigger guard.

6. Authorized secondary firearms shall be carried in a concealed manner that is not cumbersome or obvious and shall be carried in an approved holster at all times. Holsters shall retain the firearm during vigorous activity.
7. Authorized secondary firearms shall not be carried in a pocket or waistband without an approved holster.
8. Officers authorized to carry secondary firearms shall be required to qualify at least once a year with the firearms on a qualification course determined by the Training Coordinator. The officer shall qualify with the firearm using the department-approved holster in the same manner and location in which he/she plans to carry it on duty. The officer must demonstrate proficiency with both the firearm and holster.
9. Authorized secondary firearms are subject to the requirements listed in Section III: *Firearms Modifications*.
10. Authorized secondary firearms shall be maintained in a clean and safe operating condition and shall be inspected every quarter by the shift supervisor. Secondary weapons shall be inspected during routine line inspections and documented on the *Line Inspection* form.

E. Off-Duty Firearms

1. Officers may, but are not required to, carry an authorized firearm while off duty. However, officers must be armed with their primary service weapon when in uniform and/or operating a marked or unmarked patrol vehicle, whether on or off duty.
2. An officer desiring to carry an off-duty firearm shall submit an *Authorization to Carry Secondary/Off-Duty Weapon* form through his/her supervisor and the Training Coordinator to the Chief of Police. The request shall include the make, model, caliber, serial number, number of shots, and length of barrel of the firearm along with the make, model, and retention level of the holster(s) that will be used with the firearm.
3. Off-duty firearms not issued by the Punta Gorda Police Department shall be reviewed, inspected, and approved by the Chief of Police, department armorer, or qualified firearms instructor before being carried by a member. No other firearms shall be carried without the express written permission of the Chief of Police, or his/her designee.
4. The Training Coordinator shall maintain all approved *Authorization to Carry Secondary/Off-Duty Weapon* forms in the officer's training record along with the corresponding qualification record for each firearm.
5. Authorized off-duty firearms shall meet the following criteria:
 - a. Produced by a major manufacturer;
 - b. A caliber of between .380 and .45. The ammunition shall be no more powerful than the protection rating on the department-issued ballistic vests and shall be supplied by the officer and approved by the department;

- c. A minimum barrel length of not less than 1 ½ inches but no greater than six (6) inches:
 - d. A minimum cartridge capacity of no less than five (5) rounds; and
 - e. A trigger guard.
6. When the officer is in plain clothes, authorized off-duty firearms shall be carried in a concealed manner that is not cumbersome or obvious and shall be carried in an approved holster at all time. Holsters shall retain the firearm during vigorous activity. The following are exceptions to the requirement to carry the off-duty weapon in a concealed manner:
- a. The officer is in the workplace and the officer's badge is prominently displayed next to the firearm;
 - b. The officer is engaged in authorized law enforcement actions that may reasonably require quick access to the firearm, and the officer's badge is prominently displayed near the weapon; or
 - c. The officer is engaged in activities where it would be permissible for a citizen to carry an exposed firearm, such as in hunting or target practice.
7. Authorized secondary firearms shall not be carried in a pocket or waistband without an approved holster.
8. When armed, whether on or off duty, officers shall carry their badge and Punta Gorda Police Department identification.
9. Officers authorized to carry off-duty firearms shall be required to qualify at least once a year with the firearms on a qualification course determined by the Training Coordinator. The officer shall qualify with the firearm using the department-approved holster in the same manner and location in which he/she plans to carry it off duty. The officer must demonstrate proficiency with both the firearm and holster.

III. FIREARMS MODIFICATIONS

- A.** Modifications to any department-authorized firearm require the written approval of the Training Coordinator. This includes, but is not limited to modifications involving grips, sights, etc.
- B.** Defective, unsafe, or unauthorized firearms shall be reported immediately to the Training Coordinator.
- C.** Repairs or alterations to department-authorized firearms may only be made by an armorer employed or authorized by the department.
- D.** Authorized firearms shall be maintained in a clean and safe operating condition and shall be inspected quarterly by the shift supervisor.
- E.** All authorized firearms and ammunition shall be inspected and reviewed by a qualified weapons instructor or armorer prior to being carried by an officer.

- F. A detailed and accurate record of all department-owned firearms will be maintained by the Property Control Officer.

IV. PATROL RIFLES

- A. Employees who carry a patrol rifle on duty shall only carry a department-issued or department-approved patrol rifle. Officer-owned patrol rifles must be approved by the Employee Development Coordinator in accordance with the requirements of Standard Operating Procedure 500.02.

- B. Patrol rifles must meet the following specifications at a minimum:

1. Be from an authorized firearms dealer / manufacturer;
2. Be of the AR-15/M-16 type;
3. Be of 5.56mm/.223 caliber;
4. Be capable of semi-automatic fire only;
5. Have a minimum barrel length of 16 inches;
6. Have a tactically practical finish on all surfaces; and
7. Be equipped with an iron sight system.

- C. Required Rifle Accessories - The following accessories are required:

1. A minimum of two (2) magazines with a capacity of thirty (30) rounds;
2. An approved sling; and

- D. Optional Rifle Accessories - The following accessories are optional:

1. Removable carrying handles;
2. A carrying device for a minimum of two (2) spare magazines which can be effectively deployed in a tactical situation;
3. A hard / soft rifle case capable of completely encasing the rifle;
4. Weapon-mounted flashlights;
5. Weapon-mounted laser sighting device;
6. Vertical fore end grips;

7. Collapsible stocks; and
 8. Electronic optical sights (EOS) – (Note: EOS may not provide any magnification. Further, rifles equipped with EOS must also be equipped with iron sights which may be immediately utilized in the event of a malfunction / failure of the EOS)
- E.** All certified law enforcement personnel who carry a patrol rifle are required to qualify with the rifle annually. All certified law enforcement personnel will be required to complete an annual familiarization with the patrol rifle.
- F.** Patrol rifles shall be carried in a secure rack as provided in patrol vehicles and in the following manner:
1. Magazine loaded to full capacity with department-issued ammunition;
 2. No round in the chamber; and
 3. With the safety in the "safe" position.
- G.** A fully loaded spare magazine shall be carried in the driver side door pouch of the officer's assigned vehicle.
- H.** Authorized firearms and ammunition shall be maintained in a clean and safe operating condition and shall be inspected every quarter by the shift supervisor.

V. AMMUNITION

- ~~**A.**~~ ~~A.~~ Ammunition for use with on-duty primary service weapons (i. e. handguns, shotguns, and patrol rifles) will be furnished by the department. For all non-department-issued authorized secondary and off-duty firearms, ammunition will be supplied by the employee and must be ~~approved by the Employee Development Coordinator of the following types:~~
- ~~a.~~ Full Metal Jacket (FMJ); and
 - ~~a-b.~~ Standard Hollow Point (HP);
- ~~**B.**~~ ~~Ammunition for use in duty shotguns shall be issued annually or as needed by the department and will be "00" buckshot. An additional five rounds of 12 gauge slugs may be issued.~~
- ~~**C.**~~ ~~When the shotgun is stored in the vehicle, officers should not commingle buckshot and slugs in the magazine. The buttstock shell holder issued by the department shall be used to ensure separation of ammunition types.~~
- ~~**D.B.**~~ ~~Officers desiring to carry more ammunition than issued by the department may do so. The ammunition must be of the same type (manufacturer, model, and grain) as that issued by the department.~~

VI. QUALIFICATION

A. All officers shall be required to qualify annually, at a minimum, with on-duty firearms, secondary firearms (if carried), off-duty firearms (if carried); ~~shotguns~~, and patrol rifles

~~—~~
~~—~~(if carried). The qualification course shall be as determined by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

B. Officers shall carry (on or off-duty) only those firearms for which current proficiency and successful qualification has been demonstrated and recorded. Off-duty carrying of sport firearms for hunting or other lawful sports, pursuant to Florida law, is exempt from this procedure. Firearms instructors shall have the duty and responsibility to disqualify any member for substandard firearms proficiency on the basis of unsafe handling or insufficient weapon orientation; regardless of proficiency score (Also refer to Section D (1) of this procedure).

C. Qualifications will be under the supervision of the Training Coordinator who shall maintain a record of each officer's performance.

D. Those personnel who fail to qualify with their police department-issued handgun shall be provided remedial training and will have seven (7) days in which to re-qualify. If they fail to qualify within that time, their authorization to carry any firearm will be revoked immediately. Officers failing to qualify with their ~~shotgun or~~ patrol rifle shall be provided remedial training and will have seven (7) days in which to re-qualify. If they fail to qualify within that time, their authorization to carry the ~~shotgun or~~ patrol rifle will be revoked immediately (extensions may be granted to officers who are under light-duty status or are on approved, extended absence. Personnel given such extensions shall qualify within seven (7) days of returning to normal duty.)

1. Upon the failure of a member to qualify after remediation, the Employee Development Coordinator will notify the Chief of Police and shall secure the weapon with which the affected person failed to qualify.

2. Personnel whose authority to carry an on-duty handgun has been revoked will be reassigned temporarily to administrative duties that do not require firearms or use of an assigned vehicle. Members shall be responsible for contacting the Employee Development Coordinator to schedule required remedial training and qualification.

3. If, after reassignment, additional remedial training, and re-testing, the employee fails to re-qualify, he/she will be subject to further administrative action.

E. Any officer who fails to qualify with any off-duty firearm shall be given remediation and an opportunity to re-qualify with the firearm. Failure of the officer to re-qualify thereafter shall disqualify the officer from carrying the firearm in question until such time as the officer may re-qualify. However, the officer may remain on regular duty assignment if qualified to carry the primary service weapon.

VII. FIREARMS SAFETY

- A. An officer shall not carry a firearm on or off duty when he/she is legally impaired or has a blood-alcohol content of .08 percent or greater.

- B. Officers shall report to their immediate supervisor any use of prescription drugs or other medication that they reasonably believe would impair their ability or judgment to use a firearm.

- C. All authorized firearms shall be carried in a safe and secure manner as authorized by the department.

- D. Removal of firearms from their holster or other carrying device for other than authorized purposes--such as tactical use, training and qualification, inspection, or cleaning and maintenance--is prohibited. Any careless, flippant, or casual use or display of a firearm will constitute grounds for discipline.

- ~~E.~~C. An APC-100 Armor Piercing Containment System should be utilized for the safe cleaning and loading of firearms. Armor Piercing Containment Systems are located in the Lieutenant's Office, Armory, and Evidence Section. Laminated instructions shall be posted in close proximity to the containment systems.

- F. Home Security - Recognizing the potential for a tragic accident in the home, it is the department's policy to take proactive precautions with department-issued or department-authorized service firearms at home.
 1. Officers shall not store or leave a firearm in any place within the reach or easy access of a minor.
 2. Officers are to secure their weapon(s) when not in their possession.
 3. "A person who stores or leaves, on a premise under his or her control, a loaded firearm, as defined in Florida State Statute (FS) 790. 001, and who knows or reasonably should know that a minor is likely to gain access to the firearm without the lawful permission of the minor's parent or the person having charge of the minor, or without the supervision required by law, shall keep the firearm in a securely locked box or container or in a location which a reasonable person would believe to be secure or shall secure it with a trigger lock, except when the person is carrying the firearm on his or her body or within such close proximity thereto that he or she can retrieve and use it as easily and quickly as if he or she carried it on his or her body." (FS 790. 174(1) - *Safe storage of firearms required*).

VIII. CARRYING FIREARMS INTO THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER

- A. Sworn personnel wearing a readily identifiable, department-issued uniform may carry their firearm(s) while conducting law enforcement business within the Charlotte County

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Justice Center. Firearms shall be contained and secured in a visible law enforcement-approved, multiple-step retention holster. Once entry is made past the security checkpoint, sworn personnel shall sign the log in the security office.

1. Sworn personnel shall be prepared to show appropriate paperwork such as a subpoena, hearing notice, etc. , as to their official business in the Justice Center.
2. Sworn personnel shall not be permitted to carry a firearm into the Justice Center while conducting personal business.

B. Sworn personnel who are not wearing a readily identifiable, department-issued uniform may not carry their firearms into the Justice Center, except when responding to an emergency.

1. Sworn personnel who are not wearing a department-issued uniform may secure their firearms at the security checkpoint prior to entering the Justice Center.

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IX. CARRYING FIREARMS ON COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT

- A.** When conducting official business that requires commercial airline travel, officers shall store their firearm in carry-on baggage if it is not needed while in flight to guard a prisoner or for other purposes. In these cases, officers are required by federal regulations to certify to the airline that a firearm is in the baggage and that it is unloaded.
- B.** When officers need to carry a firearm aboard a commercial airline for purposes of prisoner transportation or other reasons, officers shall submit a letter on agency stationery addressed to the commercial airline carrier that details the need for the officer to be armed. The letter shall be submitted to the Chief of Police for approval and signature.
- C.** The officer who plans to fly armed will notify the Communications Section. The Communications Section will then submit an International Justice and Public Safety Network (commonly known as NLETS) administrative message for both the departing and returning flights. The Communications Section will receive an immediate response for each administrative message. The telecommunicator will print out the messages and furnish them to the officer.
- D.** Officers should plan to arrive at the airline at least one (1) hour prior to departure, present the letter from the Chief of Police and the appropriate NLETS message to the airline ticket agent together with agency badge and identification card (with full-face photograph), declare possession of a firearm, and request that the necessary security and airline personnel be notified.
- E.** Officers shall request that they be notified of any other persons who are traveling armed aboard the aircraft.
- F.** Officers are governed by regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for carrying firearms on commercial airlines, including successfully completing the "Flying

While Armed” course of instruction. However, airline personnel have the final authority and may require that an officer surrender a weapon before boarding or while on a commercial aircraft. As such, it is the officer’s responsibility to be prepared with a lockable, hard-sided firearms case should he/she be required to surrender his/her firearm.

- H.** Officers should refer to this agency's policy on transporting prisoners for additional FAA and agency requirements concerning the transportation of prisoners aboard commercial aircraft.

- X. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SAFETY ACT - HR 218, the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA), was enacted July 22, 2004 as Pub. L. 108-277, and is codified as 18 U. S. Code §926B and §926C. The Act permits the nationwide carrying of concealed firearms by qualified current and retired law enforcement officers and amends the Gun Control Act of 1968 (Pub. L. 90-618, 82 Stat. 1213) to exempt qualified current and retired law enforcement officers from state and local laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed firearms. Nevertheless, prior to going out of state, officers are strongly encouraged to check the laws within that state or local jurisdiction regarding the carrying a firearm as well as laws regarding the use of deadly force. For the purposes of this policy as well as HR 218,**

the term “firearm” does not include any machine gun, firearm silencer, or destructive device. It is the policy of the Punta Gorda Police Department to comply with the Act under the following conditions and provisions.

- A.** Active full-time and part-time law enforcement officers with the Punta Gorda Police Department may carry a concealed firearm nationwide when the member:
1. Is not prohibited by Federal or state law from possessing a firearm;
 2. Is authorized by the department to carry a firearm;
 3. Is not the subject of disciplinary or administrative action preventing the officer from carrying a firearm per existing policy;
 4. Has successfully completed the State of Florida designated firearms qualification course;
 5. Has in their possession their official department-issued photo identification card;
 6. Is not under the influence of alcohol or drugs to include over-the-counter or prescribed medicine that impairs the officer’s mental or physical condition;
 7. Has reviewed the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 in its entirety prior to carrying a concealed firearm in another state; and
 8. Officers electing to carry a concealed firearm under this policy shall carry only department-issued handguns or handguns approved by the department for backup or secondary carry.
- B.** HR 218 does not grant officers law enforcement powers outside of their jurisdiction; it simply authorizes the carrying of a concealed firearm. Any use of the firearm must conform to the laws of that state. Employees of the department will not be covered by

nor will they be indemnified by the City of Punta Gorda for actions taken while in another state.

XI. AUTHORIZED USE OF FIREARMS - The Punta Gorda Police Department acknowledges the practical need for personnel to unholster or draw their firearms in certain situations that require caution for the officer's safety. (e. g. building searches for burglary suspects, checking suspicious vehicles, etc.). The following rules of the Punta Gorda Police Department, in addition to Florida State Statutes, govern the use of firearms by department personnel:

~~A.~~ An employee shall not draw or display a firearm except for a legal use or official inspection. An employee shall never draw a firearm unless he/she is prepared to use it. When it is necessary to fire a firearm, it shall be fired for effect.

~~B.A.~~

B. When a firearm is drawn, the trigger finger shall be kept outside the trigger guard and parallel to the frame until the weapon clears the holster.

C. Unless imminent danger or expected deadly force resistance exists, officers shall maintain their trigger finger outside the trigger guard.

D. An officer may discharge his/her firearm in connection with the performance of official police duty for the following reasons:

1. For target practice at an approved range or when authorized for training purposes;
2. To kill a seriously injured or dangerous animal (pursuant to FS 828.05 - *Killing an injured or diseased domestic animal*) when other disposition is impractical (**Note:** Discharge of a firearm for this purpose shall only be done with authorization from a superior officer, if time permits);
3. When all other means of defense have failed or the officer reasonably believes that this action is necessary to defend himself/herself from death or great bodily harm;
4. When all other means of defense have failed or the officer reasonably believes that this action is necessary to defend another person from death or great bodily harm;
5. To prevent the escape of a fleeing felon who would pose a real threat of death or substantial harm to the community or to other officers if allowed to escape. Numerous factors contribute to the determination that a fleeing felon would be a real threat of death or substantial harm to the community or other officers. Such factors include, but may not be limited to, the officer having a reasonable belief that any of the following exist:
 - a. The suspect is armed and/or dangerous;
 - b. The suspect was armed and/or dangerous during the commission of the felony that caused the apprehension effort; and
 - c. The suspect committed a felony resulting in death or substantial harm to another person.

6. The officer must have probable cause at the time of the application of deadly force, that:
 - a. A felony has occurred;
 - b. The person whom the officer is attempting to apprehend is the person who committed the felony; and
 - c. The nature of the felony committed and information available to the officer when making a decision to use deadly force can provide the officer with grounds for reasonably believing that the suspect, if permitted to escape, would pose a threat of death or substantial harm to the community or other law enforcement officers.
7. When all other means have failed or are inappropriate, and the officer reasonably believes that this action is necessary to apprehend a person who the officer reasonably believes has committed a violent crime involving use or threatened use of deadly force, and who during apprehension continues to demonstrate a wanton and reckless disregard for human life. Under this situation, such action shall be in defense of human life, including the officer's own life, or the immediate danger of great bodily harm and if, where feasible, some warning has been given.

XII. UNAUTHORIZED USE OF FIREARMS

- A. Warning shots fired intentionally into the air or ground pose a danger to the officer and innocent persons. Warning shots shall not be fired under any circumstance.
- B. Deadly force shall not be used against misdemeanants and traffic violators. (NOTE: This does not exclude the use of deadly force in these instances if the situation escalates to the level that deadly force is justified.)
- C. Deadly force is prohibited when there is substantial risk to the safety of innocent bystanders who would be jeopardized by the officer's actions.
- D. Deadly force is prohibited when circumstances do not provide a high probability of striking the intended target.
- E. Shooting at, or from, a moving vehicle may have serious consequences. Officers utilizing firearms in these situations will abide by the police department deadly force policy and must be aware of the limitations and consequences of firing weapons in moving vehicle situations. Supervisory approval shall be requested prior to employing this type of force, if possible.
- F. Officers shall not dry fire, practice quick draw, show, or display their firearms in an unauthorized police department area or in public except for inspection or official use.
- G. No police department-issued firearm shall be used for any purpose not described in this Standard Operating Procedure.
- H. Provided that imminent danger does not exist, officers are specifically prohibited from having their trigger finger on the trigger during the following situations:
 1. Pursuit or running;
 2. When a potential for a crossfire or other unsafe position exists; or

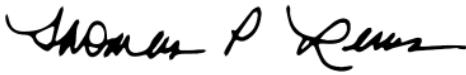
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3. During duties in which reasonable caution exists, but deadly force confrontation is not imminent (e. g. alarm calls, suspicion calls, etc.).

I. An officer shall not have his/her weapon un-holstered while actively handcuffing or searching a subject. When the firearm is holstered, retention devices shall be secured on the holster.

J. A handgun, rifle, ~~or shotgun muzzle~~ will not be held in direct contact with an individual except as a last resort when the use of deadly force is justified and it is the only manner in which the firearm can be discharged without increasing the danger of death or serious physical injury to the officer or a third person.

APPROVED



THOMAS P. LEWIS, CHIEF OF POLICE

STAFF REVIEW: ~~08-23-16~~ 11-25-14

Comment [GS1]: Staff review conducted by Chief Lewis, Captain Nichols, Lt. Salsman, Lt. Heck, Lt. Lipker and Gloria Sepanik.