GREENVILLE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 204

GENERAL ORDERS

WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION ISSUE AND QUALIFICATION

PURPOSE:

S.C. Code of Laws 16-23-20 (B) 1 designates the authority of deputy sheriffs to carry firearms. This general order provides the guidelines by which Sheriff's Office personnel are issued weapons.

POLICY: Only sworn/certified personnel are issued lethal and less lethal weapons. Only approved or issued lethal and less lethal weapons and ammunition are carried on duty or transported in Sheriff's Office vehicles. Description and specifications of approved weapons and ammunition are listed in Appendix A. The issuance of lethal and less lethal weapons and ammunition is strictly through the Center for Advanced Training (CAT), Specialized Teams, and in certain circumstances through the Office of Professional Standards (OPS) as provided in General Order 205.

STANDARD ISSUE DUTY FIREARMS:

HANDGUNS -

1) Primary sidearm – 9mm semi-automatic pistol
2) Secondary (Back-up) weapon - Sub-compact 9mm semi-automatic pistol

LONG GUN -Twelve gauge pump shotgun
.223 semi-automatic rifle.

DUTY AMMUNITION - All ammunition carried either on-duty or off-duty must be issued or authorized and factory loaded. Hand or custom loads are prohibited.

MAGAZINES – Two additional Glock factory magazines, designed for the primary issued weapon, must be worn on the duty belt or outer vest while in uniform. Plainclothes deputies must have their additional magazines available while on duty. One additional Glock factory magazine issued for the secondary back-up weapon must be accessible while on duty. Magazine pouches will match issued duty belt.

Glock handguns are loaded with one round in the chamber and the magazine loaded to rated capacity minus one round.

Deputies are allowed to purchase two additional Glock factory magazines to be carried in a "go-bag". Duty rounds will be issued by CAT. The magazines and ammo must be listed on the deputy's equipment inventory to be inspected monthly.

FIREARM ISSUE - A newly appointed, Academy certified deputy sheriff is issued a firearm after all of the following requirements are successfully met:

1. The deputy demonstrates efficiency in its use.
2. The deputy demonstrates proficiency in safe handling of the weapon.
3. The firearm is inspected and approved for use by a certified firearms instructor or armorer.

The issuance of weapons to newly hired non-certified deputies is deferred until such time as the deputy has reached the point of Academy training where a firearm is required for that purpose, unless pre-approved by the Sheriff and in accordance with state law.

DEFECTIVE WEAPONS - Any weapon found to be unsafe or in need of repair is repaired or marked for replacement. Defective weapons are conspicuously marked with red tags stating, "NOT FIT FOR USE", and stored separately from weapons ready for issue.

SPECIAL WEAPONS - Weapons are approved through the following process:

1. A written request for a special weapons issue, stating the need for such a weapon, must be approved first by the deputy's immediate supervisor, then his/her platoon/unit commander before being approved by the range master after successful qualification. Final approval will lie with the Division Commander and the Sheriff.
2. The deputy must qualify with the weapon on the weapons range as approved by a certified instructor.
3. The request shall then be forwarded to the Sheriff, who shall have final approval.

CARRYING ISSUED FIREARMS:

Personal firearms are not carried on-duty unless specifically approved by the Sheriff; see **SECONDARY WEAPONS**.

Service weapons are removed from holsters for official reasons only. Any deputy involved in the careless use of a firearm or "horseplay" involving any weapon is subject to immediate disciplinary action.

While on duty, all agency owned handguns are carried in holsters provided by the Sheriff's Office, and it is worn on the person in the location for which it was intended.

Weapons will be secured utilizing all provided safety mechanisms on the issued holster.

Weapon mounted lights must be attached if carrying a holster equipped with the light attachment.

All firearms carried by on-duty plain clothes personnel shall be concealed from public view, unless the immediate use of the firearm is anticipated, with the following exceptions; when the deputy's badge is visible, or when the clothing clearly identifies the deputy as a member of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office.

Weapons are to be kept clean and operable at all times. Weapons are subject to inspection by supervisory personnel. Failure to maintain assigned weapons in a clean and serviceable condition is cause for disciplinary action.

Unless otherwise ordered, shotguns are carried:

1. Loaded with 12-gauge 00 buckshot in the magazine.
2. With chamber empty.
3. On Safe with Action Release Button in the raised position.
4. Secured in electric gun racks (when available).
5. Rifled slugs placed on the stock or side saddle of each shotgun.

When carrying the primary issued weapon off-duty, it will be carried in a high-quality holster that has been approved by range staff and shall be concealed from public view at all times, until immediate use is anticipated.

PISTOL MOUNTED OPTICS (RDS):

For the deputies who choose to carry a pistol mounted optic (RDS), the deputy is responsible for purchasing only approved equipment which is listed in Appendix A.

All approved equipment must be installed by Training Center personnel.

Deputies authorized to carry a pistol mounted optic must successfully complete training conducted by CAT personnel.

SECONDARY (BACK-UP) FIREARMS:

The following guidelines apply to issued secondary firearms:

1. When on duty, a secondary firearm is <u>not</u> a substitute for the primary firearm. It is only to be utilized when the primary firearm is unavailable or incapacitated. Exceptions are:
    a. Deputies who are assigned to plainclothes duties while working in an office setting. The deputy must purchase the approved Safariland 7371 ALS

holster and carry the issued extra magazine on their person at all times.

b. Deputies wearing issued concealment holster while working undercover/plainclothes assignment as approved by their Division Commander
c. Other exceptions will only be granted by the Sheriff or the Chief Deputy.

2. While on duty, a deputy may only carry firearms issued by this Office, Special Order, or firearms inspected by the Sheriff's Office Range Master, and approved by the Sheriff or his designee.
3. A deputy may also carry a secondary firearm issued by this Office for use off-duty.
4. Whenever a Sheriff's Office issued secondary firearm is worn off-duty, it is to be carried in the Sheriff's Office issued ankle holster or a high-quality holster that has been approved for use by range staff.
5. Firearms carried off-duty shall be concealed from public view at all times, until immediate use is anticipated.
6. Deputies may purchase additional Speer Gold Dot 124 grain +P ammunition for off duty carry.
7. A deputy must successfully complete a qualification course for the issued secondary firearm. Successful completion of the course will qualify the deputy to carry the firearm both on and off-duty.
8. The issued secondary firearm is to be worn in addition to the primary firearm anytime a deputy is dressed in uniform or in plain clothes. It is to be carried in a Sheriff's Office issued ankle holster, on the inside calf area of the weak leg or outside calf area of the strong side leg. If a plain clothes female deputy wears a dress or skirt, a firearm must be carried in her pocketbook or purse, where she will have immediate access.
9. Annual qualifications will be held for secondary firearms with the same penalties for failure as the issued duty firearm.

PERSONALLY OWNED PATROL RIFLES:

Deputies are authorized to carry a personally owned patrol rifle consisting of .223 caliber, or .308 Winchester after completing the following requirements:

1. Approval by the Sheriff.
2. AR Style rifle
3. Must be gas operated.
4. Equipped with front and rear iron sights.
5. A high-quality optic or scope can be installed by a qualified armorer. No laser sighting systems are allowed.
6. Successful completion of proficiency training.

7. Qualification with the .223 or .308 approved patrol rifle with a passing score.

Patrol rifles are registered with and inspected by the CAT staff. Deputies that are issued county owned patrol rifles or approved to carry personal patrol rifles are to qualify annually.

This qualification excludes deputies who are assigned to a unit or special team (SWAT, K-9, Vice, etc.) if they are issued a county owned rifle.

OFF-DUTY PERSONAL FIREARMS:

Deputies or Newly hired deputies who possess a South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit can carry a concealed, personal firearm while in an off-duty capacity provided the following exists:

1. The firearm shall be registered with and inspected by the CAT staff.
2. An off-duty firearm is to be carried in a high-quality holster approved for the particular weapon.
3. Deputies must demonstrate proficiency annually with his/her approved off-duty weapon.
4. Deputies carrying single action firearms are required to perform at a higher level of proficiency than those carrying double action.
5. Any personal firearm that has been approved for off-duty carry that is found to be defective is not to be carried until that firearm has been repaired by a qualified armorer, re-inspected and approved for use by range personnel at CAT.

The request to carry an off-duty weapon is made to the Sheriff on the Special Weapons Request Form through a deputy's division commander upon qualifying with that weapon.

MODIFICATIONS TO FIREARMS:

Modifications to firearms are prohibited without permission from the Sheriff and CAT personnel. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS A DEPUTY PERMITTED TO MODIFY OR REPAIR A DUTY WEAPON. Approved modifications are to be inspected by a qualified armorer before carry or use on duty. This regulation also applies to:

1. Personally owned, off-duty firearms.
2. Personally owned, secondary on-duty firearms.
3. Personally owned and county owned patrol rifles.
4. Special weapons approved for law enforcement use.

Disassembly of firearms, other than field stripping, is prohibited except by a qualified armorer. **The only exception to this provision is when a repair is made by a deputy who is (1) a qualified armorer approved by the CAT and, (2) has notified CAT range personnel of the change.**

The deputy must qualify with the modified or repaired weapon before it is carried on duty.

RECORDS:

Complete records of assigned weapons are maintained in Supply and CAT. Records consist of type, description, model and serial numbers, as well as deputy assignment. Additionally, all special weapon, secondary weapon, and off-duty weapon requests are on file.

Verbal warning reports or disciplinary actions resulting from failure to qualify or maintain firearms or vehicles will be maintained indefinitely by CAT personnel.

FIXED BLADE OR FOLDING POCKET KNIFE:

A strong, high quality knife is an acceptable piece of law enforcement equipment. Knives may be used during rescue operations or in other non-confrontational situations.

A knife used as a weapon is considered a use of deadly force. A deputy is not to intentionally use a knife as a weapon except when deadly force is reasonable based upon the totality of the circumstances (General Order 205).

A deputy can carry a fixed blade or folding pocket knife concealed on their person or in a trouser pocket provided the blade length does not exceed four inches with an overall length of nine inches. If carrying a folding knife, the clip of the knife can be visible; however, it cannot be carried clipped on the uniform blouse or shirt, outer vest cover, or MOLLE. SWAT members can carry combat knives as part of their special equipment.

Deputies carrying a knife shall be subject to inspection to insure that the knife is being properly maintained. These inspections can be in conjunction with regular weapon inspections, or at the direction of a supervisor.

LESS-LETHAL WEAPONS:

Less-lethal weapons approved for use are:

1. ASP-type collapsible baton.
2. Tear gas.
3. OC spray.
4. OC foam.

5. Conducted Energy Weapon (TASER)
6. Thirty-seven and 40 mm gas guns.
7. Kinetic energy impact projectiles (bean bag rounds and 37mm and 40mm Impact rounds).

Deputies using intermediate weapons must be properly trained and certified in their use in accordance to manufacturer's recommended guidelines by a qualified instructor. Only agency personnel demonstrating proficiency in the use of agency-approved less lethal weapons will be authorized to carry such weapons.

All others are prohibited for use while on duty. Prior to being carried by the deputy, each less lethal weapon will be reviewed, inspected, and approved by a qualified weapons instructor. Any less lethal weapon that is found to be unsafe or in need of repair is to be removed from duty use immediately and the deputy must notify a member of the training staff as soon as possible. The issuance of these weapons will be documented by the issuer.

WEAPON QUALIFICATIONS:

ANNUAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS - Annually, all personnel authorized to carry weapons are required to receive training on the Sheriff's Office Response to Resistance/Aggression policy and demonstrate proficiency in weaponless control techniques. This training will be documented by the Center for Advanced Training.

Personnel failing to qualify will not be permitted to carry a weapon until qualified. A description of each course, type of target used, qualification score, and proficiency is recorded.

Instructors certified to teach each particular weapon or specific tactics administer proficiency training, qualification, and remedial training. For deputies who fail to qualify or demonstrate proficiency, remedial training is immediately coordinated with the deputy's Division Commander and the Center for Advanced Training. The instructor is to advise the degree and type of training necessary for the employee. The Division Commander is to provide time necessary for training, consistent with the operational need of the division. The same penalties for firearms qualifications failures will be used when personnel fail to qualify with off duty weapons, shotguns, and less-lethal weapons.

At the beginning of each quarter, a directive is issued outlining firearms courses to be used during the quarter along with dates and times.

RANGE RULES:

A copy of the range rule is posted in the Range house at the Center for Advanced Training and on PowerDMS. An instructor provides safety and course of fire before each qualification or training.

Instructors and students must wear eye and ear protection at all times while participating in live fire training. Body armor is recommended; however, it may be mandatory based upon the course of fire, training objectives, or instructor's discretion.

TARGETS:

Paper and steel targets are issued and approved by training center personnel. Any other type of target requested for use will be approved by the CAT staff.

PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO QUALIFY WITH FIREARMS:

All disciplinary actions for failing to qualify or demonstrate proficiency for the use of all weapons will originate at CAT.

FAIL / PASS - If a deputy has a fail/pass score, his or her supervisor (lieutenant and above) will be notified in written form from the CAT. This notification will be in the form of a verbal warning report completed by CAT personnel. This form will allow supervisors (lieutenant and above) to address fail/pass situations with their personnel.

FAIL / FAIL - If a deputy has a fail/fail, his or her weapon and vehicle will be secured and the deputy's supervisor (lieutenant and above) will be notified in written form and verbally from the CAT. The written notification will be in the form of a written reprimand completed by CAT personnel. This will allow supervisors (lieutenant and above) to escort the deputy home as well as address fail/fail situations. The written notification from the CAT will serve as a written reprimand and the deputy will be placed on administrative duty. Arrangements will be made for remedial firearms training with CAT personnel.

Remedial training will consist of methods the CAT deems appropriate and up to a maximum of 200 practice rounds. If additional practice is necessary after firing 200 rounds, the deputy will be responsible for furnishing additional practice ammunition.

All remedial training will be conducted at the CAT under the supervision of a Sheriff's Office firearms instructor.

THIRD QUALIFICATION ATTEMPT - After remedial training, a deputy will be given a third chance to qualify. If he or she passes, no further action will be required. If the deputy fails, he or she will be suspended without pay for 8 hours, encouraged to practice his or her firearms skills, and placed on administrative duty.

FOURTH ATTEMPT AT QUALIFICATION - If a deputy passes on the fourth attempt, no further action will be required. If he or she fails, the deputy will be suspended from duty without pay for 40 hours, encouraged to practice his or her firearms skills, and return to work on administrative duty. The deputy will be required to make arrangements to re-qualify within 10 days after return from suspension; failure to comply will result in termination.

FIFTH ATTEMPT AT QUALIFICATION - If a deputy passes on the fifth attempt, no further action will be required. If he or she fails, the deputy will be subject to more severe disciplinary action or termination at the Sheriff's discretion.

In addition, if a deputy has:

1. **Two fail/pass** incidents on consecutive qualifications; he or she will be subject to a written reprimand.
2. **Three fail/pass** incidents on consecutive qualifications; he or she will be subject to 8 hours suspension.
3. **Four consecutive fail/pass** incidents, he or she will be subject to suspension or termination at the Sheriff's discretion.
4. **Two fail/fail** incidents on consecutive qualifications; he or she will be subject to 8 hours suspension.
5. **Three fail/fail** incidents on consecutive qualifications; he or she will be subject to suspension or termination at the Sheriff's discretion.

Note - This policy does not apply to firearms training. The previous penalties apply to a deputy's primary weapon, back-up weapon, and shotgun. Patrol rifles are covered under "PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO QUALIFY WITH PATROL RIFLE."

FAILURE TO ATTEND QUALIFICATION/TRAINING - If a deputy fails to attend mandatory qualification/training, the Center for Advanced Training will notify his/her supervisor in writing. The deputy's supervisor will schedule a time with CAT personnel for the deputy to complete the missed assignment. Any deputy failing to attend without proper authorization by their supervisor will result in disciplinary action as defined in General Order 120.

PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO QUALIFY WITH PATROL RIFLE:

FAIL / PASS - If a deputy has a fail/pass score, his or her supervisor (Lieutenant and above) will be notified in written form from the CAT. This notification will be in the form of a verbal warning report completed by CAT personnel. This form will allow supervisors (Lieutenant and above) to address fail/pass situations with their personnel.

Any deputy who fails the initial attempt on the annual qualification course must attend quarterly practice with a certified firearms instructor. The training will focus on the fundamentals of marksmanship and ensure the rifle and equipment are properly functioning. Rosters for the training days will be kept to ensure compliance

In addition, if a deputy has two initial failures on consecutive qualifications; he or she will be subject to a written reprimand. The deputy's patrol rifle will also be removed from service for a period of one year.

FAIL / FAIL - If a deputy has a fail/fail score, his or her patrol rifle will be removed from service for 30 days and he or she will be required to attend remedial training. Ammunition will be provided by the CAT up to 200 rounds. Upon completion of remedial training the deputy will be given one qualification attempt.

If a deputy fails to qualify, his or her rifle will be removed from service for a period of one year and his or her supervisor (Lieutenant and above) will be notified in written form from the CAT. The written notification will be in the form of a written reprimand completed by CAT personnel. This will allow supervisors (Lieutenants and above) to address fail/fail situations with their personnel. The written notification from the CAT will serve as a written reprimand.

If a deputy's rifle is personally owned, the deputy will be required to resubmit an application for special weapon form no sooner than one year from the date of failure if he or she wishes to carry a patrol rifle. If the rifle is county issued, the rifle will be reassigned and the failing deputy will not be issued a rifle for a period of at least one year.

FAILURE TO ATTEND QUALIFICATION/TRAINING - If a deputy fails to attend mandatory patrol rifle qualification/training, the Center for Advanced Training will notify his/her supervisor in writing. The deputy's supervisor will schedule a time with CAT personnel for the deputy to complete the missed assignment. Any deputy failing to attend without proper authorization by their supervisor will result in disciplinary action as defined in General Order 120.

SECURING OF AGENCY AUTHORIZED FIREARMS:

Weapons/Ammunition at the Center for Advanced Training is stored in a secured range house locked with a monitored alarm and camera system.

Deputies, whether on/off duty, shall keep firearms secured at all times.

Patrol cars will be locked when the vehicle is left unattended and gun racks/vaults utilized, if available.

Firearms inside a Deputy's residence may be secured by using trigger locks. Trigger locks for agency issued firearms are available through the Center for Advanced Training.

PRACTICE AMMUNITION:

When training or practicing with a county owned weapon, no hand loads, reloads, or steel casing ammunition is allowed.

SWAT AND FIELD FORCE WEAPONS / AMMUNITION:

In addition to the procedures established under this policy for agency authorized weapons, additional procedures for SWAT and Field Force are outlined in the SWAT Manual and the Civil Disorder Response Manual.

H.R. 218 RETIREE QUALIFICATIONS:

In accordance with the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 (amended in 2010 and 2013) title 18, Chapter 44, §926(B), (commonly referred to as H.R. 218), qualified retired deputies of the Sheriff's Office must qualify annually in order to carry a weapon under this statute. The Sheriff's Office will facilitate a date annually for this qualification.

Additionally, the Sheriff's Office will provide this qualification opportunity to properly vetted retired law enforcement officers from other out-of-county agencies who currently reside in Greenville County.

The qualification course will consist of the same course for off-duty weapons that active deputies undergo during annual qualifications.

Sheriff's Office retirees must register and qualify with each firearm they intend to carry. Documentation of qualification and required photographic identification will be issued to the retiree after these requirements are met. Out-of-county retirees will be provided documentation to be sent to their former employing agency.

Hobart Lewis, Sheriff

APPENDIX A – Approved Weapons, Ammunition, and Equipment

The following weapons and ammunition are approved for duty use by Greenville County Sheriff's Office authorized personnel:

Firearms:

9mm Glock 45, 17, and 19 (standard issue)

12 gauge Remington model 870-pump shotgun (standard issue)

.223 caliber Smith & Wesson M & P

With special request and approval: .223 and/or .308 caliber Ruger, Heckler and Koch, Colt, Bushmaster, Armalite, or other approved manufacturer

Secondary Firearms

9mm Glock Model 43 semi-automatic pistol

Ammunition:

Factory loaded 9mm caliber 124 grain +P hollow point

Factory loaded 9mm caliber 124 grain hollow point

Factory loaded 12 gauge 00 buckshot

Factory loaded 12 gauge rifle slug

Factory loaded .223 62 grain tactical bonded soft point

Factory loaded .308 caliber 168 grain Gold Dot hollow point

Factory loaded .308 caliber 168 grain boatail hollow point

Factory loaded 12 gauge bean bag

Acceptable ammunition manufacturers:

Federal, Remington, CCI/Speer, Winchester, Hornady

Special Weapons:

Benelli 12 gauge shotgun

Heckler and Koch MP5

Heckler and Koch PDW

Sig Sauer MPX

Colt, LMT, or LWRC .223 caliber or 5.56 caliber rifle

Remington Model 700 sniper rifle

Accuracy International AE sniper rifle

Barrett .50 caliber M82A1 sniper rifle

S&W 37mm gas gun

Sage 37mm gas gun

Penn Arms / CTS 40 mm multi-launcher

Pepper ball gun

Less lethal weapons:

ASP collapsible baton

Factory loaded 12-gauge bean bag (CTS Model 2581 “Super Sock” or Def-Tec Drag Stabilized)

Factory loaded rubber baton round, pepper balls, stinger balls, T16 OC expulsion grenade 40mm direct impact (OC), eXact impact, bean bags, wood baton, and foam baton (Def-Tec or Safariland)

Pepper spray (Sabre Red)

Pepper foam (Sabre Red)

TASER X-26P

TASER 10

Miniature Red Dot Scope (MRDS)

Approved Optics

1. Trijicon RMR Type 2
2. Holosun 407C, 507C, 508C, and 509T

3. Deltapoint Pro
4. Aimpoint ACRO P-1 or P-2

The approved optics can be either a red or green reticle with a 3.25 or less MOA dot.

Mounting Plates

Trijicon RMR Type 2 and Holosun 407C, 507C, 508C optics:

1. Glock MOS Adaptor Plates
2. C&H Glock MOS V4 Mil/Leo Adapter Trijicon RMR/SRO Holosun 407C / 507C / 508C / 508T
   SKU: GL-RSH

Holosun 509T:

1. C&H Glock MOS V4 Mil/Leo Adapter Holosun 509T
   GL-509T-ST

Aimpoint ACRO P1 or P2:

1. C&H V4 MIL/Leo Adapter Aimpoint ACRO
   SKU: GL-ACRO-ST

Leupold Delta Point Pro:

1. Glock Included Plate #4
2. C&H V4 MIL/LEO Adapter Leupold Delta Point Pro
   SKU: GL-DPP/ EFLX

Suppressor Height Sights

Approved Suppressor Height Sights are mandatory for any pistol equipped with an optic.

1. Trijicon Bright & Tough™ Suppressor Sights
   Glock Standard Frames
   GL201-C-600649

Front and Rear: White Outline / Green Tritium

2. AmeriGlo Optic Compatible Sights
GL-506 3XL Tall Black serrated
Front: 0.365, Flat Black / Rear: 0.451, Flat Black

The following weapons and ammunition are approved for off-duty use by special request:

.380 semi-automatic
.22 semi-automatic
.25 semi-automatic
.32 ACP semi-automatic
.38 revolver, 2”- 4” barrel
9mm semi-automatic
.40 semi-automatic
.45 semi-automatic
.357 caliber revolver, , 2”-4” barrel, loaded with .38 +P or 357 magnum
.357 Sig semi-automatic

Ammunition for off-duty use must be factory loaded high quality hollow point.