

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY A-13

TITLE:	Operations	Revised 12-1-02
SUBJECT:	Duty Weapons	
PURPOSE:	To establish departmental policy regarding carry and use of duty weapons.	
REFERENCE:	Policy B-7, B-23, System Policy III-74-1 & III-74-1A	
STANDARDS:	1.3.4, 1.3.7, 1.3.8, 1.3.9, 1.3.10, & 27.2.2	

A. General Specifications:

1. Officers will only carry weapons issued by this department while on duty, unless authorized by the Chief of Police to carry other weapons. The Chief of Police may authorize officers to carry personally owned weapons once the officer has demonstrated proficiency with that weapon during departmental qualification. Officers shall not carry or operate any duty weapon unless trained and qualified on that weapon in accordance with Policy B-7 and B-23. In compliance with the policy of the Office of Director of Police for the UT System, all personnel authorized to carry firearms are required to fire a qualifying score with all firearms authorized to be carried on duty at least two times per year. However, nothing in this policy shall be construed to prevent officers from using any weapon at their disposal to protect themselves or third parties from death or serious bodily injury in a bona fide emergency. Officers shall not, in any way, alter or modify the trigger or any other part of a duty weapon without written permission from the department armorer. Each employee will, by every practical means, secure all weapons from unauthorized access.

B. Ammunition:

1. Officers will only carry ammunition issued by this department while on duty.

C. Off-Duty Firearms:

1. System Policy III-74-1A, Penal Code Chapter 46 & Government Code Subchapter H, address carrying of firearms when off duty.

D. Inspection and Care of Firearms:

1. System Police Policy III-74-1A addresses care of firearms.
2. Weapons will be inspected by a firearms instructor during qualification.

E. Texas Concealed Handgun Law:

1. This policy prohibits non-commissioned or civilian employees who obtain a concealed handgun permit from carrying a weapon on The University of Texas at Austin property.

F. Handgun:

1. The departmental issued handgun is the Glock model 23.

G. Patrol Rifle

1. The departmental issued patrol rifle is the Bushmaster AR-15 type carbine.
2. Patrol rifles are to be stored in the trunk of patrol vehicles in hard cases. The weapons are to be kept in the following condition:
 - a. Chamber empty.
 - b. Hammer forward on an empty chamber.
 - c. Magazine loaded with 28 rounds and inserted in the weapon.
 - d. EOtech sight turned off. Spare batteries will be stored in the case.
3. Qualified officers are responsible for checking the weapon's condition prior to beginning each shift to include verifying that the batteries are charged.
4. Deployment:
 - a. The patrol rifle may be deployed at the discretion of the officer in any situation where drawing the handgun or deploying a shotgun in the anticipation of using deadly force would be appropriate. The operator will then perform the following pre-operation functions:
 - b. Power up, verify the sight is operating, and adjust reticle brightness, if needed.
 - c. Chamber a round.
 - d. Place selector lever in SAFE position.

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5. Manual Safety Protocols: The following procedure will be followed by officers operating the weapon in a tactical environment:
 - a. Carry the weapon on SAFE until ready to fire the weapon.
 - b. Engage the safety when carrying the weapon in a non-tactical situation.
 - c. Engage the safety anytime both hands are removed from the weapon (i.e. slinging the weapon or handing the weapon to another officer).
 6. Returning the weapon to ready condition using the following procedure:
 - a. Ensure the selector lever is in SAFE position.
 - b. Power down the sight.
 - c. Remove the magazine.
 - d. Eject the chambered cartridge.
 - e. Visually and manually ensure the chamber is empty.
 - f. Point the muzzle in a safe direction and pull the trigger allowing the hammer to go forward on an empty chamber.
 - g. Re-insert the magazine after topping off with ammunition.
 - h. Place the weapon in the vehicle after reloading.
 7. Maintenance:
 - a. The patrol rifle will be cleaned by the assigned shift at least once a month and after any live fire. The department armorer will inspect and log the cleaning. Supervisors may direct additional cleaning as needed.
 8. When a police unit is removed from the line for repair, it will be the responsibility of the officer driving the unit to ensure that the rifle is removed from the unit and placed in the spare unit. If no spare unit is available the officer will ensure the rifle is removed from the unit, and that the weapon and ammunition are turned in to their supervisor.
 9. Safety Function Check:
 - a. Officers performing maintenance on the patrol rifle will perform the following safety function check upon reassembly:

WARNING: If the rifle fails any of the following tests, immediately remove the rifle from service. Forward the rifle and a memo describing the failure to the department armorer.

 - i. Remove magazine if installed. Pull Charging Handle assembly to rear. Visually and manually check that chamber is clear. Let bolt and bolt carrier close. Do not pull trigger. Leave hammer in cocked position.
 - ii. Place selector lever in SAFE position. Point the muzzle in a safe direction. Pull trigger. **THE HAMMER SHOULD NOT FALL.**
 - iii. Place selector lever in FIRE position. Pull Trigger. **THE HAMMER SHOULD FALL.**
 - iv. Hold trigger to the rear, pull charging handle to the rear, and release pressure on the trigger with a slow, smooth motion, without hesitations or stops, until the trigger is fully forward. **AN AUDIBLE CLICK SHOULD BE HEARD – THE HAMMER SHOULD NOT FALL.**
 - v. Repeat the FIRE position test five times. The rifle must not malfunction during any of these five tests.
 - vi. Check the sight for battery function and turn off when done.
 - vii. Make ready prior to placing the carbine in the vehicle.
- H. Shotgun:
1. The departmental issued shotgun is the Remington model 870.
 2. Shotguns are assigned to most marked police units and to individual officers as needed.
 3. Shotguns assigned to a marked police unit may be checked out by any officer driving that marked unit. Other shotguns will be checked out only when authorized by a supervisor.
 4. Prior to leaving for assignment, the officer having control of a shotgun is responsible for ensuring that there is no shell in the chamber, the hammer is not cocked, and the weapon is secure, unless being readied for immediate use. Always ensure the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction while performing these checks.
 5. When a police unit is removed from the line for repair, it will be the responsibility of the officer driving the unit to ensure that the shotgun is removed from the unit and placed in the spare unit if the spare unit is equipped with a shotgun rack. If no spare unit is available or if no shotgun rack is installed, the officer will ensure the shotgun is removed from the unit, unloaded and that the weapon and ammunition are turned in to their supervisor.
- I. Chemical Agents and Munitions:

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1. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray [a.k.a. “Pepper Spray”]
 - a. OC spray is an optional piece of equipment that officers may carry.
 - b. Officers designated to be issued OC spray must be properly trained in its use before being authorized to carry or use it.
 - c. Only department approved OC spray is authorized for use when on-duty or in a Department uniform.
 2. Chemical munitions weapons and tear gas are considered specialized equipment for use by specifically trained personnel only.
 - a. Specialized chemical munitions weapons and munitions are assigned to, and under the control of, the Crowd Management Team whose supervisor is responsible for coordinating the training, maintenance and cleaning of the weapons.
- J. Batons:
1. The baton is an optional piece of equipment that officers may carry.
 2. Only department issued or authorized batons may be carried.
 3. Officers will not be allowed to carry a baton until they have successfully completed a department approved training program and have been specifically authorized to carry it.
 4. Officers shall not alter or modify an approved baton.(A replacement endcap does not constitute a modification.)
- K. M-26 Advanced TASER (a.k.a. Air Taser, TASER, M-26):
1. The TASER is deployed as an additional police tool and is not intended to replace firearms or self-defense techniques. The TASER may be used to control a dangerous or violent subject when deadly force does not appear to be justified and/or necessary; or attempts to subdue the subject by other conventional tactics have been, or will likely be, ineffective in the situation at hand; or there is reasonable expectation that it will be unsafe for officers to approach within contact range of the subject.
 2. Qualification and Certification.
 - a. Officers must successfully complete a department approved training program before they carry or use the TASER.
 - b. Authorized officers will only carry a department issued M-26 Advanced TASER, M-26 TASER cartridges and equipment.
 - c. Officers shall not, in any way, alter or modify these weapons.
 3. Duties After Deployment of TASER.
 - a. TASER probes that penetrate the skin should be removed by medical personnel.
 - b. Photographs will be taken of probe impact sites and any other related injuries and placed into evidence.
 - c. Probes, which have penetrated the skin, should be treated as biohazards. Probes should be carefully placed, sharp tip first, back into the expended cartridge bores and secured with tape.
 - d. Cartridge should be labeled, secured and placed into the evidence locker.
 4. Reporting Procedures.
 - a. Use of the M-26 Advanced TASER is considered a use of force and is subject to the same reporting requirements as other uses of force required by this agency.
 - b. With the exception of training, all instances of TASER usage, including accidental discharges, shall be reported in a use of force offense/incident report.
 5. Maintenance
 - a. Testing and maintenance of the TASER shall be consistent with manufacturer’s specification. Officers shall check the TASER at the start of their tour of duty to insure that the weapon has a full battery charge.

Jeffrey M. Van Slyke
Chief of Police