



**MIDDLETON POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**

DATE  
**October 31, 2013**

POLICY  
**12.1.01**

SUBJECT: **Weapons and Ammunition**

REVIEWED  
July 31, 2017

Refer to: [948.55](#)

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[WILEAG \(5th Ed.\) Standards](#): **12.1.1** (12.1.1.1, 12.1.1.2, 12.1.1.3, 12.1.1.4,); **12.1.2**; **12.1.3** (12.1.3.1, 12.1.3.2, 12.1.3.3, 12.3.4); **12.1.4**

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## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish the department's standards for authorized weapons and ammunition carried by sworn officer both on and off duty. It also establishes the minimum training and qualification standards for those weapons.

## **POLICY**

It is the policy of the Middleton Police Department that officers shall only use approved firearms, (with approved ammunition) and less lethal weapons that are mechanically sound and properly maintained. Only firearms and less lethal weapons with which an officer demonstrates proficiency may be used, on or off duty, pursuant to his/her authority as a police officer.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Primary Duty Handgun** is a handgun authorized for use and registered with the department carried by a sworn officer who has qualified with that handgun.

**Secondary Handgun** is an optional handgun authorized for use and registered with the department carried by a sworn officer who has qualified with that handgun, for on duty use as a back-up weapon.

**Off Duty Handgun** is a handgun authorized for use and registered with the department carried by a sworn officer who has qualified with that handgun, for use while off duty. These weapons are not permitted to be carried while on duty.

## **FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND OTHER WEAPONS**

### **Less Lethal Weapon Specifications**

- Oleoresin Capsicum (OC, Pepper Spray)
- Taser X-26 and Taser X2 Electronic Control Device (ECD)
- Expandable Baton
- Baton
- Less Lethal Impact Projectile - Remington 870 12 gauge

### **Primary Duty Handgun Specifications**

The Department designated primary duty handgun is the Glock semi-automatic 9mm Parabellum or .40 caliber pistol.

The Department authorizes for primary duty carry the full size Glock Model G17 and G22 or compact model G19 and G23 for patrol and plain clothes assignments. Other Glock models may be carried with approval of the Chief of Police and/or his/her designee. The Glock models G26

and G27 are authorized for plain clothes carry if the officer has qualified with it as a primary handgun.

All Glock handguns must have the standard coil trigger spring and the standard 5.5 lb. connector installed. Any Glock handguns carried prior to this policy, October 16, 2009, are grandfathered for use of the NY1 trigger spring and 5.5 lb. connector as an option.

All primary duty handguns must conform to manufacturer's specifications. The only authorized modifications are: night sights; laser sights; reflex sights, grips; tactical lights; and magazine extenders. Any other requested modifications must be approved by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

### **Secondary Handgun Specifications**

The Department designated secondary duty handgun is the Glock semi-automatic 9mm Parabellum and .40 caliber pistol. Secondary duty handguns must conform to manufacturer's specifications. Allowed modifications are the same as for primary duty handguns.

The Department authorizes the Glock Models G26, G27, and G43 for secondary duty carry. All secondary handguns must remain concealed at all times. Officers who carry a secondary handgun must qualify with it using the Middleton Police Department authorized secondary/off duty qualification course.

Secondary handguns carried prior to this policy, June 1, 1999, are grandfathered and approved for carry.

### **Off Duty Handgun Specifications**

Officers may carry any Department authorized primary duty or secondary handgun off duty. Officers may also carry other makes and models of handguns for off duty use only. These handguns are limited to 9mm, .380 caliber and .40 caliber. The handguns must function similarly to the Glock and must be approved by the Chief of Police or his/her designee. Off duty firearms shall be carried concealed.

Officers must carry a department badge and photo identification card when carrying a handgun. Off duty officers shall not consume alcohol or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or any other drugs while carrying a firearm.

Officers will only be allowed to be armed in the Dane County courthouse when on official police business on behalf of their employing agency. Plainclothes officers will wear visible identification.

### **Replacements**

Any officer replacing his/her handgun, whether for primary duty or secondary duty, must do so with a Glock semi-automatic 9mm Parabellum or .40 caliber pistol. This includes handguns which require replacement due to duty related damage.

## **Holsters**

Primary duty holsters are provided by the department and must have a thumb break and/or covered trigger. Secondary/off duty holsters are the responsibility of the individual officer and must have a thumb break or retention device and covered trigger. Officers may be required to qualify at the range with a holster prior to approval for carry.

Officers with a handgun containing a reflex sight are authorized to carry a Safariland holster that is specifically made for this type of optic and which meets the above holster requirements. No other holster is approved for carry. If an officer is adding a reflex sight after they have been provided with a holster from the department, the purchase and cost of a new holster is the responsibility of the individual officer. New hires that have a reflex sight mounted on their handgun will be provided with a holster that accommodates their handgun and optics at no expense.

## **Reflex Sights**

The purchase of reflex sights is the responsibility of each individual officer. Purchased reflex sights will be subject to the manufacturer's warranty and, if damaged, are the sole responsibility of each individual officer. Officers are responsible for any maintenance issues with their purchased reflex sights including but not limited to the replacement of batteries.

Reflex sights shall be mounted without any modifications to an officer's handgun. Officers are required to purchase and use a Glock MOS (Modular Optic System) mounting system. Additionally, reflex sights mounted on a duty weapon shall have fixed front and rear sights installed that can be co-witnessed.

Officers are required to qualify with their handgun with mounted reflex sights prior to being authorized to carry the handgun on duty.

## **Rifles**

The Department designated patrol rifle is the Colt AR-15 .223 Caliber Semi-Automatic Rifle. The Colt AR-15 rifle is authorized for carry in marked squad cars in a locked gun mount, and in unmarked squad cars in a hard case. Department owned AR-15 rifles shall not be used for hunting or recreational purposes. (This does not include firing at a training event.)

## **Ammunition**

### ***Handgun***

All officers will be provided and must carry the department designated ammunition for all weapons which fall under the classification of primary and secondary handguns. Ammunition for off duty handguns is the responsibility of the individual officer. An exception to the above is personal ammunition used for hunting or for practice.

The authorized duty ammunition for primary and secondary handguns is:

9mm – Federal Premium Law Enforcement 9mm Luger 147 Grain HST  
40 caliber – Federal Premium Law Enforcement 40 S &W 180 Grain HST

### ***Rifle***

Only department designated and supplied ammunition is authorized for use in department rifles. Officers will be provided training ammunition for all department in-service training and other training approved by the Chief of Police and/or his designee.

The authorized duty ammunition for department rifles is:

.223 caliber – Federal Premium Law Enforcement .223 Rem. 62 Grain Bonded SP

## **WEAPONS TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION**

### **Demonstrated Proficiency**

Officers shall demonstrate proficiency in the use of department authorized weapons prior to being approved to carry or use such weapons. Demonstrated proficiency can include but is not limited to:

- Completion of prescribed classroom work.
- Demonstrated knowledge of the laws covering the use of weapon(s) and knowledge of department policy on all aspects of the use of force.
- Demonstrated safe handling of all approved weapons(s).
- Satisfactory completion of a course of fire utilizing live fire or simulation technology.

Instruction and evaluation of proficiency shall be done by a certified instructor.

### **Training & Qualification**

Each officer shall at least annually receive training on the department's deadly force policy and qualify with any lethal weapon the officer is authorized to use. Training may be delivered through roll call training, self-study and exam (PASS), or as a segment of a broader in-service training program. The qualification course may involve not only the actual firing of the weapon(s), but also a passing score on a written test based on the training provided. Certified firearms instructors shall develop, document and monitor courses which are to be used for qualification. The course description will include the score required for passing and qualification, target type, timing, distance and other conditions. Minimum firearms proficiency levels should be based on relevant criteria with input from certified firearms instructors, others in the department, and other sources deemed necessary.

At least biennially, training for less lethal weapons shall occur for employees authorized to use such weapons. Included in this training will be what weapons and tactics are prohibited or

restricted (strangle holds, impact weapon strikes above the shoulders, “filled” batons, numchucks, brass knuckles, saps, sap gloves).

Officers carrying handguns falling under the primary duty classification are required to pass the State of Wisconsin mandated qualification course. Officers carrying handguns falling under the secondary and off duty classifications are required to pass the Middleton Police Department secondary/off duty qualification course. Qualification course descriptions shall be retained in department training records. Weapons training and qualification shall be documented in each officer’s training record.

### **Remedial Training**

Officers who fail to qualify and demonstrate minimum proficiency with their primary duty handgun should immediately receive remedial training and re-fire the qualification course the same day if at all possible. If the officer is unable to qualify, the officer shall be assigned administrative duties pending additional remedial training until the officer qualifies with the handgun or other administrative actions are taken. Officers who do not qualify due to scheduling conflicts or weapon malfunction may continue in their assignment pending completion of the qualification course.

Officers who fail to demonstrate minimum proficiency with their secondary or off duty handgun, will be afforded another opportunity to re-fire the qualification course as soon as practical, but are not authorized to carry or use the weapon(s) until they have demonstrated proficiency. Officers will be afforded two opportunities to qualify with their secondary handgun using department ammunition. Any further attempts, beyond these two opportunities to qualify, will result in the officer being responsible for their own ammunition. Officers qualifying with an off duty handgun are responsible for their own ammunition.

### **REGISTRATION & MAINTENANCE**

All department firearms and officer owned handguns intended for use in the performance of duty shall be registered with the Office Manager prior to being carried. The registration shall include the weapon type, description manufacturer, model, serial number, and name of the owner or assignee.

Department firearms instructors or armorers shall inspect all newly acquired department firearms and officer owned primary, secondary or off duty handguns intended for use in the performance of duty prior to them being carried. The purpose of this inspection is to insure the weapon meets department specifications, is in safe and good working condition, and registered with the department.

Firearms instructors should periodically check firearms during training or qualification to insure the firearms are not altered, damaged or otherwise unserviceable for any reason. (Check means to physically look at) Department armorers shall conduct a documented inspection of all department firearms at least annually and each officer’s primary and secondary firearm every

other year. Unsafe or altered weapons shall not be utilized for on or off duty use until repaired. In such an event, a department owned primary duty handgun may be supplied to an officer pending repair or replacement of the officer's primary duty handgun.

Officers are responsible for the procurement, cleaning and general maintenance of their department authorized primary, secondary and off duty handguns. Officers are to immediately notify the Training Coordinator of any problems with or damage to their primary or secondary handguns.

## **STORAGE**

### ***Workplace***

All firearms will remain holstered or secured in the workplace except for the performance of police duties, cleaning or inspection by firearms instructors. All firearms stored at the office will be secured in a locked locker, desk or storage bin. Firearms will never be left unattended.

### ***Home***

Officers storing or keeping any Department authorized firearms within a residence must do so in accordance with Wisconsin Statute [948.55](#). Officers are encouraged to store their firearms in a safe manner at all times. Recommended methods of secure storage of firearms are in a locked cabinet or with the ammunition removed and a trigger lock device installed.

## **DISCHARGE OF FIREARM**

Any officer who discharges their departmentally sanctioned firearm intentionally or unintentionally (except at a firearms range, when target shooting, or when a personally owned firearm is legally used for recreational purposes) is required to file verbal and written reports.