PURPOSE: To identify the types of firearms, ammunition, and related equipment that are approved for officers to carry.

POLICY: Officers shall carry and use only the firearms, ammunition, and holsters stated in this order. Officers are authorized to carry and use such firearms only after complying with this order and the annual qualification requirements of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC).

These regulations are not meant to infringe on an officer’s right to own and use legal firearms or ammunition, while outside the scope of an officer’s official on-duty and secondary employment.

DEFINITION:

**Primary Firearm** - is the firearm issued to the officer by the Division and requalified by the officer during the annual in-service training.

**Personal Firearm** - is an authorized firearm that an officer may carry as a concealed firearm in addition to the primary firearm while on-duty or while off-duty working uniformed secondary employment. A personal firearm may be carried in lieu of the primary firearm while on-duty in plainclothes with prior written approval from the Chief.

PROCEDURES:

I. Approved Firearms

A. The primary firearm shall be the issued Glock 9mm semi-automatic pistol.

1. Glock Model 17 or 19 with a New York 1 trigger.

2. The Glock Model 26 with a New York 1 trigger may be issued as a loaner firearm, shall not replace the primary firearm, requires written approval of the Chief, and shall not be eligible for purchase.
B. Approved personal firearms:

1. Glock Pistol Models 17, 19, and 26 with a New York 1 trigger, or the Glock Model 43.

2. All Smith & Wesson, Colt, or Ruger .38 caliber double-action revolvers (up to a 3 inch barrel).

3. All Smith & Wesson Compact Center-Fire 9mm Pistols without an external safety (up to a 3½ inch barrel).

4. Kahr PM-9, MK-9, or CW9 9mm semi-automatic pistol (up to a 3½ inch barrel).

5. Springfield XD series 9mm semi-automatic pistol (up to a 3½ inch barrel).

6. Ruger LC9 and LC9S 9mm semi-automatic pistol without an external safety (up to a 3½ inch barrel).

C. When it is necessary for officers to carry on-duty firearms other than those specified in this order, their commanding officer shall request written authorization from the Chief through the chain of command.

D. The Ordnance Unit may issue firearms for special assignments. Officers shall display proficiency in the use and maintenance of such firearms prior to issuance. Officers shall return special assignment firearms to the Ordnance Unit upon completion of the assignment.

E. Personal rifles and shotguns are not approved for on-duty use or off-duty secondary employment use.

II. Personal firearm qualifications and authorization requirements.

A. Officers are limited to a maximum of two authorized personal firearms.

B. Personal firearms shall not be carried on the duty belt.

C. Officers who wish to have a personal firearm shall:

1. Complete the pre-structured “Request for Permission to Carry Personal Firearm” Form-1 report (Attachment A).

2. Attach a printout of the firearm’s NCIC check.
3. Obtain approvals from their supervisor, commander, and deputy chief.

4. Take the firearm and the approved Form-1 to the Ordnance Unit for a safety and reliability inspection.

5. Pass the OPOTC qualification test. No overtime shall accrue while attending a qualification test session.

D. After successful completion of the firearm inspection and the OPOTC qualification test, the Ordnance Unit shall forward the original Form-1 to the Chief’s Office. Once authorized by the Chief, the Chief’s Office shall forward the original Form-1 to the Personnel Unit and forward copies to the Ordnance Unit and the officer. When the officer receives the copy of the approved Form-1, the firearm listed on the Form-1 shall be an authorized personal firearm for that officer.

E. Officers must pass the OPOTC requalification test annually to remain authorized to carry that personal firearm. Failure to qualify with the firearm within a requalification period shall require the member to resubmit for approval of that firearm. No overtime shall accrue as a result of attending requalification test sessions.

F. Authorization of personal firearms shall be based upon the recommendation of the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the Ordnance Unit. Final authorization shall be at the discretion of the Chief.

G. Officers working plainclothes duties may request to carry an authorized personal firearm while on-duty in lieu of their primary firearm by completing a Form-1 request and forwarding it through their chain of command to the Chief’s Office for consideration. The Form-1 shall detail the reason for the request. A copy of the most recent personal firearm qualification form (available from the Ordnance Unit) shall be attached to the Form-1. Permission can be revoked by the Chief at any time.

H. Officers may carry an authorized personal firearm, concealed for emergency use, while on-duty and in addition to their primary firearm. Officers shall not have more than two firearms on their body while on-duty or off-duty engaged in secondary employment.
III. Shotgun regulations: On-duty (all assignments).

A. The OIC of each unit/district shall assign a Remington, Model 870, Pump Action, 12 gauge, Police Shotgun to each police vehicle equipped with a shotgun mount, marked and unmarked. Vehicles without shotgun mounts shall not house shotguns. Officers shall not carry or house shotguns in the trunk of police vehicles. Exception: the shotgun may be stored in the trunk of a police vehicle that has been equipped with a lockable trunk mount.

B. When an officer bad orders a vehicle they shall remove the shotgun from the vehicle, properly unload the shotgun, secure it in the district/unit, and ensure all log entries are made.

C. Before mounting a shotgun in a vehicle, the officer shall ensure the action is closed and the safety is engaged prior to loading the magazine tube with four rounds (keeping the chamber empty).

D. Officers assigned to a vehicle equipped with a shotgun shall inspect that shotgun and shotgun ammunition at the beginning of each tour of duty. Officers shall ensure the shotgun is serviceable and loaded with four rounds.

IV. Firearm ammunition and ammunition boxes.

A. The Ordnance Unit shall maintain the Division’s ammunition supply and shall issue, exchange, and receive ammunition for issued firearms.

B. Approved Ammunition:

1. Speer® Gold Dot®, 9mm Luger +P, 124 grain, GDHP ammunition.

2. Winchester Ranger, .38 Special +P, 130 grain, JHP ammunition.

3. Federal, 12 gauge, 2 3/4”, OO Buckshot (nine pellets) with Flitecontrol®.

C. Officers assigned to a vehicle equipped with an ammunition box shall inspect that ammunition box at the beginning of each tour of duty. Officers shall report damaged seals to their district/unit OIC.

V. Approved holsters for on-duty or off-duty secondary employment:

A. Safariland, Model 6360-83-131 (right handed) & 6360-83-132 (left handed).
B. Safariland, Model 295 or 2955, Level II.

C. Safariland, Model 070, Level III.

D. A holster authorized and approved in writing by the Chief of Police, and/or as specified in the annual Clothing/Uniform Allowance.

E. Any Level I, II, or III holster is approved for officers working administrative duties, plainclothes duties, or off-duty secondary employment, provided that the holster is appropriate for the authorized firearm.

VI. Issuance/exchange/inspection of firearms.

A. The Ordnance Unit shall issue Division firearms and related equipment. It shall maintain an accurate record, with a redundant back-up on a different medium, of firearms and related equipment purchases, trades, disbursements, issuance, exchanges, and disposals.

B. The Ordnance Unit shall issue temporary replacement firearms when issued firearms are lost, stolen, inoperable, or held for laboratory examination.

C. Officers shall ensure that their primary and personal firearms are properly maintained and serviceable.

D. Uniformed personnel shall carry their primary firearm and a full complement of ammunition while on-duty. For 9mm semiautomatic pistols a full complement of ammunition is a loaded magazine inserted in the magazine well, a round in the chamber, and two fully-loaded spare magazines.

E. Officers engaged in administrative/plainclothes duty and off-duty secondary employment shall (when carrying a firearm) carry a fully loaded approved firearm. Any additional magazines carried by these officers shall also be maintained in a fully loaded condition.

F. District or unit OICs shall inspect officer’s firearm(s) quarterly (last day of March, June, September, and December) and complete the Quarterly Equipment Inspection Form (Attachment B) and forward it through the chain of command to the respective Deputy Chief. Each Deputy Chief shall review the forms for completeness, produce a cover memorandum to that effect, and forward all documentation to the Inspection Unit within 20 business days of the end of the quarter.
G. District or Unit OICs shall inspect shotguns quarterly and complete the Quarterly Shotgun and Ammo Box Inspection Form (Attachment C) concurrently with the Quarterly Equipment Inspection. The form shall be forwarded through the chain of command to the respective Deputy Chief. Each Deputy Chief shall review the forms for completeness and forward all documentation to the Ordnance Unit within 20 business days of the end of the quarter.

VII. Maintenance and repair of issued firearms.

A. Officers shall care for issued firearms and related equipment. Officers shall be accountable for damage to firearms from roughness, carelessness and neglect, and for permitting unauthorized persons to use, tamper with, or repair issued firearms and related equipment.

B. Officers shall return issued firearms and related equipment to the Ordnance Unit when repair or maintenance is necessary. Alterations or repairs to an authorized personal firearm by unauthorized personnel shall void its authorization. To regain approval, officers are required to have their personal firearm inspected and authorized by the Ordnance Unit.

C. Only officers assigned to the Ordnance Unit shall repair and adjust (including installation of commercial replacement grips) issued firearms and related equipment. Officers shall not alter or permit anyone other than Ordnance Unit personnel to alter issued firearms.

VIII. Authorization for personal firearm discontinued.

A. Officers who successfully completed the OPOTC requalification test for 1998 with a firearm which is NOT included on the approved personal firearms list contained within this order may continue to requalify with that particular firearm in subsequent years. Requalification, however, must be continuous. Failure to qualify with the firearm within a requalification period will bar any subsequent approval of that firearm.

B. Officers shall immediately notify the Ordnance Unit through the chain of command by a Form-1 when a personal firearm is sold, transferred, lost, or stolen.

CDW/jeh
Policy & Procedures Unit
Attachment A, B, & C