

## Firearms

### **306.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This policy provides guidelines for issuing firearms, the safe and legal carrying of firearms, firearms maintenance and firearms training.

This policy does not apply to issues related to the use of firearms that are addressed in the Use of Force or Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths policies.

This policy only applies to those members who are authorized to carry firearms, limited to Sworn Officers, Reserve Officers, and Special Service Officers.

### **306.2 POLICY**

The Missoula Police Department will equip its members with firearms to address the risks posed to the public and department members by violent and sometimes well-armed persons. The Department will ensure firearms are appropriate and in good working order and that relevant training is provided as resources allow.

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

Members shall only use firearms that are issued or approved by the Department and have been thoroughly inspected by a Firearms Instructor. Except in an emergency or as directed by a supervisor, no firearm shall be carried by a member who has not qualified with that firearm at an authorized department range.

#### **306.3.1 HANDGUNS**

The standard authorized department-issued handguns are Glock, Walther, and Sig Sauer in .40 S&W and 9mm Luger. Personally owned handguns, chambered in either .40 S&W or 9mm Luger may also be carried in accordance with the accompanying Personally Owned Handgun procedure.

**See attachment: Appendix Personally Owned Handguns 1.pdf**


#### **306.3.2 PATROL RIFLES AR-15 .223/5.56MM**

The authorized department-issued patrol rifle is the AR-15 .223. Personally owned rifles may also be carried in accordance with the accompanying procedure. **See attachment: Appendix AR-15 1.pdf**

Members may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstance where the member can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the patrol rifle may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Situations where the member reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.

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- (b) When a member is faced with a situation that may require accurate and effective fire at long range.
- (c) Situations where a member reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.
- (d) When a member reasonably believes that there may be a need to fire on a barricaded person or a person with a hostage.
- (e) When a member reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.
- (f) When authorized or requested by a supervisor.
- (g) When needed to euthanize an animal.

When not deployed, the department-owned patrol rifle shall be properly secured consistent with department training in a locking weapons rack in the patrol vehicle. Personally owned patrol rifles shall be properly secured in accordance with the accompanying procedure. [See attachment: Appendix AR-15 1.pdf](#)

#### 306.3.3 PERSONALLY OWNED/ALTERNATE DUTY FIREARMS

Members desiring to carry an authorized but personally owned/alternate duty firearm must receive approval through the Firearms Board and have written approval from the Chief of Police or the authorized designee. Once approved, personally owned/alternate duty firearms are subject to the following restrictions:

- (a) The firearm shall be in good working order and on the list of approved firearms maintained by Firearms Instructors.
- (b) The firearm shall be inspected by a Firearms Instructor prior to being carried and thereafter shall be subject to inspection whenever it is deemed necessary.
- (c) All operational officers, whether in uniform or plain clothes, are required to carry or wear a department authorized firearm whenever on duty. The weapon will be carried in a manner appropriate to the assignment.
- (d) Prior to carrying the firearm, members shall qualify under range supervision and thereafter shall qualify in accordance with the department qualification schedule. Members must demonstrate proficiency and safe handling, and that the firearm functions properly.
- (e) Members shall provide written notice of the make, model, color, serial number and caliber of the firearm to the Firearms Board, who will maintain a list of the information.
- (f) If a member elects to carry their personally owned/alternate duty weapon as their primary duty weapon, they will qualify with the alternate firearm before their issued firearm during regular qualifications. The member must have signed a waiver acknowledging the department is not responsible for theft of, loss of, or damage to the weapon, except as specified in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Missoula and the Missoula Police Officers' Association and the weapon meets the criteria set forth by the Firearms Board.

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- (g) If a member fails to qualify with their alternate weapon they will not be allowed to carry that firearm, while on duty, until they have shown proficiency and qualified.
- (h) If an officer fails to qualify with their duty weapon during any qualification, their permission to carry the alternate weapon will be rescinded. Once they have completed the full procedure required in this policy after a failure to qualify, they may resume carrying the alternate weapon. The Chief or the authorized designee may authorize an alternate procedure.
- (i) Officers are responsible to arrange to qualify with their alternate weapons twice a calendar year, generally during their regularly scheduled qualification. If an officer for any reason does not shoot the qualification course with their alternate weapon during a regular qualification, they may not carry the alternate weapon on duty until they have successfully completed the qualification.
- (j) If an officer fails to qualify with an alternate weapon they may attempt to qualify with it the following work day (or any subsequent day), if a firearms instructor on regular duty is available. Firearms instructors are not required to provide extra training to an officer, who has failed to qualify with their alternate firearm.
- (k) If an officer has re-qualified after a failed qualification attempt, they must demonstrate they have maintained their ability to use the weapon properly by successfully completing the qualification course approximately 30 days after their requalification. No practice firing will be allowed immediately prior to this qualification attempt.
- (l) If an officer fails to qualify during this course the Firearms Board will recommend to the Chief of Police that permission to carry an alternate weapon be rescinded for six months.
- (m) If an officer fails to qualify during two, regularly scheduled, consecutive qualifications, the Firearms Board will recommend to the Chief of Police that permission to carry that alternate weapon be rescinded for six months.
- (n) If an officer fails to qualify with an alternate weapon twice in any two year period, the Firearms Board will refer the information to the Chief of Police for consideration.

#### 306.3.4 AUTHORIZED SECONDARY HANDGUN

Members desiring to carry department or personally owned secondary handguns are subject to the following restrictions:

- (a) The handgun shall be in good working order and on the department list of approved firearms maintained by the Firearms Instructors.
- (b) Only one secondary handgun may be carried at a time.
- (c) The purchase of the handgun and ammunition shall be the responsibility of the member unless the handgun and ammunition are provided by the Department.
- (d) The handgun shall be carried concealed at all times and in such a manner as to prevent unintentional cocking, discharge or loss of physical control.

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- (e) The handgun shall be inspected by the Firearms Instructor prior to being carried and thereafter shall be subject to inspection whenever it is deemed necessary.
- (f) Ammunition shall be equivalent to department issue. If the caliber of the handgun is other than department issue, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall approve the ammunition.
- (g) Prior to carrying the secondary handgun, members shall qualify under range supervision and thereafter shall qualify in accordance with the department qualification schedule. Members must demonstrate proficiency and safe handling, and that the handgun functions properly.
- (h) Members shall provide written notice of the make, model, color, serial number and caliber of a secondary handgun to the Firearms Board, who will maintain a list of the information.
- (i) The member must have signed a waiver acknowledging the department is not responsible for theft of, loss of, or damage to the weapon, except as specified in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Missoula and the Missoula Police Officers' Association and the weapon meets the criteria set forth by the Department.

#### 306.3.5 AMMUNITION

Members shall carry only department-approved ammunition while on duty. Members shall be issued fresh duty ammunition in the specified quantity for all department-issued firearms during the member's firearms qualification as deemed appropriate by the Department. Replacements for unserviceable or depleted ammunition issued by the Department shall be dispensed by the Firearms Instructor when needed, in accordance with established policy.

Members carrying personally owned authorized firearms of a caliber differing from department-issued firearms shall be responsible for obtaining fresh duty ammunition in accordance with the above, at their own expense.

Members must supply their own ammunition to qualify with all personally owned/alternate handguns.

Members must supply their own ammunition for the initial qualification for personally owned AR-15s.

- (a) The Department will replenish the ammunition fired during qualifications for AR-15s.
- (b) If an officer wishes to carry extra duty ammunition for AR-15s, the officer must supply their own ammunition and the ammunition shall be factory-manufactured, approved by the Department.

#### 306.4 EQUIPMENT

Firearms carried on- or off-duty shall be maintained in a clean, serviceable condition. Maintenance and repair of authorized personally owned firearms are the responsibility of the individual member.

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#### 306.4.1 REPAIRS OR MODIFICATIONS

Each member shall be responsible for promptly reporting any damage or malfunction of an assigned firearm to a supervisor or a Firearms Instructor.

Firearms that are the property of the Department may be repaired or modified only by a person who is a department-approved armorer or gunsmith in the repair of the specific firearm. Such modification or repair must be authorized in advance by the Firearms Board. Personally owned approved firearms that have been modified must be re-approved by the Firearms Board.

#### 306.4.2 HOLSTERS

Only department-approved holsters shall be used and worn by members. Members shall periodically inspect their holsters to make sure they are serviceable and provide the proper security and retention of the handgun. ***Members shall only utilize holsters that are compatible with the holster-mounted body camera triggering device unless permission is otherwise granted by their Division Captain.***

#### 306.4.3 TACTICAL LIGHTS

Department issued or approved lights must be carried on all duty weapons, capable of accommodating one, while on duty. The officer's duty weapon must be able to be secured in the authorized holster without removing the light. An officer's division captain may give an officer permission to carry the handgun without the attached light.

The weapon mounted light is not to be used for general illumination. Lights are to be used to illuminate a potential threat.

Drawing or pointing a weapon requires more justification than a simple need to illuminate an area or person.

#### 306.4.4 OPTICS OR LASER SIGHTS

Optics or laser sights may only be installed on a department owned handgun or alternate/secondary handgun carried on-duty or off-duty under the color of their authority after they have been examined and approved by the Firearms Board and the Chief of Police or the authorized designee. Any approved sight shall only be installed in strict accordance with manufacturer specifications. Once approved sights have been properly installed on any firearm, the member shall qualify with the firearm to ensure proper functionality and sighting of the firearm prior to carrying it. Optics and sights must be in accordance with the accompanying **Personally Owned Handgun procedure**. [\*\*See attachment: Appendix Personally Owned Handguns 1.pdf\*\*](#)

Laser sights are considered an aiming device and are not allowed to be attached to any weapon approved to be carried on duty, unless they are approved for special teams usage.

Except in an approved training situation, a member may only sight in on a target when the member would otherwise be justified in pointing a firearm at the target.

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#### **306.5 SAFE HANDLING, INSPECTION AND STORAGE**

Members shall maintain the highest level of safety when handling firearms and shall consider the following:

- (a) Members shall not unnecessarily display or handle any firearm.
- (b) Members shall be governed by all rules and regulations pertaining to the use of the range and shall obey all orders issued by the Firearms Instructor. Members shall not dry fire or practice quick draws except as instructed by the Firearms Instructor or other firearms training staff.
- (c) Members shall not clean, repair, load or unload a firearm anywhere in the Department, except where weapons manipulation is appropriate.
- (d) Shotguns or rifles removed from vehicles or the equipment storage room shall be loaded and unloaded in the parking lot and outside of the vehicle.
- (e) Members shall not place or store any firearm or other weapon on department premises except where the place of storage is locked. No one shall carry firearms into the jail section or any part thereof when securing or processing an arrestee, but shall place all firearms in a secured location. Members providing access to the jail section to persons from outside agencies are responsible for ensuring firearms are not brought into the jail section.
- (f) Members shall not use any automatic firearm, heavy caliber rifle, gas or other type of chemical weapon or firearm from the armory, except with approval of a supervisor.
- (g) Any firearm authorized by the Department to be carried on- or off-duty that is determined by a member to be malfunctioning or in need of service or repair shall not be carried. It shall be promptly presented to the Department or a Firearms Instructor approved by the Department for inspection and repair. Any firearm deemed in need of repair or service by the Firearms Instructor will be immediately removed from service. If the firearm is the member's primary duty firearm, a replacement firearm will be issued to the member until the duty firearm is serviceable. The member is required to qualify with the newly-issued replacement firearm prior to carrying it on duty.

##### **306.5.1 INSPECTION AND STORAGE**

Handguns shall be inspected regularly and upon access or possession by another person. Shotguns and rifles shall be inspected at the beginning of the shift by the member to whom the weapon is issued. The member shall ensure that the firearm is carried in the proper condition and loaded with approved ammunition. Inspection of the shotgun and rifle shall be done while standing outside of the patrol vehicle. All firearms shall be pointed in a safe direction or into clearing barrels.

Personally owned and department issued firearms may be safely stored in lockers that are secured with a department issued padlock at the end of the shift.

##### **306.5.2 STORAGE AT HOME**

Members shall ensure that all issued firearms and ammunition are safely stored while in their homes, vehicles or any other area under their control, and in a manner that will keep them inaccessible to children and others who should not have access. Members shall not permit

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department-issued firearms to be handled by anyone not authorized by the Department to do so. Members should be aware that negligent storage of a firearm could result in civil and criminal liability (§ 45-8-345, MCA).

#### 306.5.3 ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Firearms shall not be carried in public by any member, either on- or off-duty, who has consumed alcoholic beverages, drugs or medication, or any combination thereof that would tend to cause impaired judgment.

### **306.6 FIREARMS TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS**

All members will qualify at least twice annually with their duty firearms including personally owned/alternate duty firearms. Members shall also qualify at least annually with their off-duty and secondary firearms. Training and qualifications must be on an approved range course (ARM 23.13.805).

In accordance with the Missoula Police Officers' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, all members carrying a firearm should receive practical training designed to simulate field situations including low-light shooting.

Members may only qualify indoors once per year and in any two-year period, members must attend at least one outdoor qualification in the first half of the year and once in the second half of the year.

#### 306.6.1 NON-CERTIFICATION OR NON-QUALIFICATION

The first time an officer fails to qualify, the failure will be noted in a Supervisory Log sheet. If an officer fails to qualify during two out of four consecutive qualifications, that officer will be subject to a written warning. If an officer has already been the subject of a written warning, the officer may be subject to progressive discipline for subsequent failures to qualify. The need for further discipline will be evaluated based on the amount of time that has passed since the officer last failed to qualify and any other factors considered to be relevant.

Members who continue to fail to qualify shall be addressed according to the accompanying procedure [See attachment: Fail to Qualify Procedure.pdf](#)

### **306.7 FIREARM DISCHARGE**

Except during training or recreational use, any member who discharges a firearm intentionally or unintentionally, on- or off-duty, shall make a verbal report to the member's supervisor as soon as circumstances permit. If the discharge results in injury or death to another person, additional statements and reports shall be made in accordance with the Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths Policy. If a firearm was discharged as a use of force, the involved member shall adhere to the additional reporting requirements set forth in the Use of Force Policy.

In all other cases, written reports shall be made as follows:

- (a) If on-duty at the time of an incident requiring a report, the member shall file a written report with the member's Captain or provide a recorded statement to investigators prior to the end of shift, unless otherwise directed.

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- (b) If off-duty at the time of an incident requiring a report, the member shall file a written report or provide a recorded statement no later than the end of the next regularly scheduled shift, unless otherwise directed by a supervisor.

#### 306.7.1 DESTRUCTION OF ANIMALS

Members are authorized to use firearms to stop an animal in circumstances where the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety and alternative methods are not reasonably available or would likely be ineffective.

In circumstances where there is sufficient advance notice that a potentially dangerous animal may be encountered, department members should develop reasonable contingency plans for dealing with the animal (e.g., fire extinguisher, conducted energy device, oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, animal control officer). Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any member from shooting a dangerous animal if circumstances reasonably dictate that a contingency plan has failed, becomes impractical, or if the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety.

#### 306.7.2 INJURED ANIMALS

A member may euthanize an animal that is so badly injured that human compassion requires its removal from further suffering and where other dispositions are impractical by use of a department-approved firearm. Members are encouraged to use .22 caliber rifles for this purpose. A member shall notify a supervisor in these instances, but a written report is not generally required when an animal is euthanized for humanitarian purposes.

### **306.8 FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR DUTIES**

While participating in department-administered training or qualification, the range will be under the exclusive control of the Firearms Instructor. All members attending will follow the directions of the Firearms Instructor. The Firearms Instructor will maintain a roster of all members attending the range and will submit the roster to the Training Coordinator after each range date.

The range shall remain operational and accessible to department members during hours established by the Department.

The Firearms Instructor has the responsibility of making periodic inspection during qualifications of all duty firearms carried by members of this department to verify proper operation. The Firearms Instructor has the authority to deem any department-issued or personally owned firearm unfit for service. The member will be responsible for all repairs to his/her personally owned firearm; it will not be returned to service until it has been inspected and approved by the Firearms Instructor.

The Firearms Instructor has the responsibility for ensuring each member meets the minimum requirements during training shoots and, on at least a yearly basis, can demonstrate proficiency in the care, cleaning and safety of all firearms the member is authorized to carry.

The Firearms Instructor shall complete and submit to the Training Sergeant documentation of the training courses provided. Documentation shall include the qualifications of each instructor who provides the training, a description of the training provided and, on a form that has been approved by the Department, a list of each member who completes the training. The Firearms Instructor

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should keep accurate records of all training shoots, qualifications, repairs, maintenance or other records as directed by the Training Sergeant.

#### **306.9 FLYING WHILE ARMED**

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has imposed rules governing law enforcement officers flying armed on commercial aircraft. The following requirements apply to officers who intend to be armed while flying on a commercial air carrier or flights where screening is conducted (49 CFR 1544.219):

- (a) Officers wishing to fly while armed must be flying in an official capacity, not for vacation or pleasure, and must have a need to have the firearm accessible, as determined by the Department based on the law and published TSA rules.
- (b) Officers must carry their Missoula Police Department identification card, bearing the officer's name, a full-face photograph, identification number, the officer's signature and the signature of the Chief of Police or the official seal of the Department and must present this identification to airline officials when requested. The officer should also carry the standard photo identification needed for passenger screening by airline and TSA officials (e.g., driver's license, passport).
- (c) The Missoula Police Department must submit a National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) message prior to the officer's travel. If approved, TSA will send the Missoula Police Department an NLETS message containing a unique alphanumeric identifier. The officer must present the message on the day of travel to airport personnel as authorization to travel while armed.
- (d) An official letter signed by the Chief of Police authorizing armed travel may also accompany the officer. The letter should outline the officer's need to fly armed, detail his/her itinerary, and include that the officer has completed the mandatory TSA training for a law enforcement officer flying while armed.
- (e) Officers must have completed the mandated TSA security training covering officers flying while armed. The training shall be given by the department-appointed instructor.
- (f) It is the officer's responsibility to notify the air carrier in advance of the intended armed travel. This notification should be accomplished by early check-in at the carrier's check-in counter.
- (g) Any officer flying while armed should discreetly contact the flight crew prior to take-off and notify them of his/her assigned seat.
- (h) Discretion must be used to avoid alarming passengers or crew by displaying a firearm. The officer must keep the firearm concealed on his/her person at all times. Firearms are not permitted in carry-on luggage and may not be stored in an overhead compartment.
- (i) Officers should try to resolve any problems associated with flying armed through the flight captain, ground security manager, TSA representative or other management representative of the air carrier.

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- (j) Officers shall not consume alcoholic beverages while aboard an aircraft, or within eight hours prior to boarding an aircraft.

#### **306.10 CARRYING FIREARMS OUT OF STATE**

Qualified, active, full-time officers of this department are authorized to carry a concealed firearm in all other states subject to the following conditions (18 USC § 926B):

- (a) The officer shall carry his/her Missoula Police Department identification card whenever carrying such firearm.
- (b) The officer may not be the subject of any current disciplinary action that would prohibit them from being in possession of a firearm.
- (c) The officer may not be under the influence of alcohol or any other intoxicating or hallucinatory drug.
- (d) The officer will remain subject to this and all other department policies (including qualifying and training).

Officers are cautioned that individual states may enact local regulations that permit private persons or entities to prohibit or restrict the possession of concealed firearms on their property, or that prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on any state or local government property, installation, building, base or park. Federal authority may not shield an officer from arrest and prosecution in such locally restricted areas.

Active law enforcement officers from other states are subject to all requirements set forth in 18 USC § 926B.

## Attachments

## **Appendix Personally Owned Handguns 1.pdf**

## **Appendix Personally Owned Handguns**

Officers carrying personally owned handguns must fire their weapon on the same course used for department issued handgun during firearms qualifications. Auxiliary sights (Miniaturized Red Dot Optics) are allowed. Laser sights will not be used as auxiliary sight systems.

The conditions listed below must also be met in order to carry a personally owned handgun while on duty and wearing a Missoula Police Department Uniform.

- A. The handgun must be carried in a department approved holster and will accept the holster-mounted body camera triggering device.
- B. Officers are responsible for the purchase of holsters for personally owned handguns.
- C. Officers are to carry a minimum of two spare magazines, which must be provided by the officers.
- D. If a personally owned handgun is damaged, lost or destroyed while on duty, the department will not repair or replace the handgun, except as specified in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Missoula and the Missoula Police Association. Officers are responsible for all maintenance of their handguns and keeping them clean.
- E. Officer's may only carry their personally owned handgun after written approval by the Chief of Police or the designee, they have qualified with the handgun, signed a waiver acknowledging the department is not responsible for theft of, loss of, or damage to the handgun, except as specified in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Missoula and the Missoula Police Association and the handgun meets the criteria set forth below.
- F. Prior to approval to carry an alternate while on duty, officers must attend mandated Department approved training for MRDO operations. Officers must also demonstrate they can disassemble/assemble their handguns and show they can properly maintain their weapons systems.

Criteria to be met by personally owned handguns for duty carry:

- A. Approval of the alternate handgun and MRDO system to carry while on duty will ultimately be approved by the Firearms Board.
- B. The handgun must be black.
- C. Minimum trigger pull of 3.5 pounds.
- D. Factory trigger and safety systems cannot be altered.
- E. The handgun must be equipped with high visibility or night sights.

F. The handgun may be equipped with a Miniaturized Red Dot Optic (MRDO). Handguns equipped with an MRDO must have high visibility or night sights of such a height that would allow the irons sights to be co-witnessed through the MRDO lens.

G. The handgun must be equipped with an approved weapons mounted light.

Approved MRDOs for duty handguns must be approved by the Firearms Board but must have at least a 2.0 MOA reticle in either red or green.

A list of authorized personally owned handguns and MRDOs shall be maintained by the Department and available from a firearms instructor.

Additional weapon systems with smaller magazine capacities may be authorized for special duty assignments. Reference 306.3.3 PERSONALLY OWNED/ALTERNATE DUTY FIREARMS

Officers may carry an alternate firearm as their primary weapon when in uniform only after inspection and approval by the Department.

Officers must qualify with an alternate weapon prior to carrying the weapon on duty.

## **Appendix AR-15 1.pdf**

## **Appendix AR-15**

Officers carrying personally owned AR-15 rifles must fire their rifles on the same course as is used for department issued AR-15's during firearms qualifications. Auxiliary sights (telescopic, ACOG, holographic) are allowed but the officer must qualify with the iron sights on the rifle unless it is equipped with non-battery powered telescopic sight, they will then qualify with the optic. The rifle will not be equipped with a laser.

The conditions listed below must also be met in order to carry a personally owned AR-15 while on duty.

- A. The rifle must be carried in a case.
- B. The case, containing the rifle, may not be in plain view inside a vehicle.
- C. The personally owned AR-15 will be carried in the same patrol ready condition that department AR-15's is carried in.
- D. Only 20 or 30 round magazines are authorized for use, which must be provided by the officer.
- E. If a personally owned AR-15 is damaged, lost or destroyed while on duty, the department will not repair or replace the rifle, except as specified in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Missoula and the Missoula Police Association. Officers are responsible for all maintenance of their AR-15's and keeping them clean.
- F. Officer's may only carry their AR-15 after written approval by the Chief of Police or ~~his~~ designee, they have qualified with the rifle, signed a waiver acknowledging the department is not responsible for theft of, loss of, or damage to the rifle, except as specified in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Missoula and the Missoula Police Association and the AR-15 meets the criteria set forth ~~by the firearms committee~~ below.
- G. The Missoula Police Department will issue up to 28 rounds of .223/5.56 ammunition for primary use in the privately owned AR-15. Additional ammunition must be purchased by the officer and it must meet the standards defined in the firearms policy.

Criteria to be met by personally owned AR-15's for duty carry

- A. Rifle must be based on the AR-15 design
- B. The rifle may be gray or black, rifles of any other color must be approved by the firearms board.
- C. Capable semi-automatic firing only (may not be capable of fully automatic firing)
- D. Minimum trigger pull weight of 3.5 pounds
- E. The rifle must have an approved sight system. Iron sights, an electronic optic, or a telescopic sight that is capable of a minimum of 3X or less magnification, that is approved by the firearms board.
- F. Rifles with auxiliary sight systems that do not have an etched or fixed reticle visible when not under battery power, must be capable of immediately changing to iron sights

- G. Must have an approved sling system.
- H. Bipods or tripods may be approved by the firearms board.
- I. The factory safety system may not be altered
- J. The rifle must be approved by the firearms board
- K. A tactical light mounted on the rifle is encouraged but not required
- L. The rifle must be inspected by an AR-15 armorer before being used for duty carry
- M. Must be designed to fire .223/5.56 mm ammunition

## **Fail to Qualify Procedure.pdf**

## FIREARMS – PROCEDURE FOR FAILURE TO QUALIFY

Step #1 - Should an officer fail to qualify, that officer will not be authorized for operational assignment. That officer's supervisor will be notified and that officer will be reassigned to administrative duties at the direction of the division commander.

The officer will be scheduled for a minimum of four hours of remedial training during that officer's next, normally scheduled, regular work day.

- 1) The remedial training may be scheduled during the officer's time off only if:
  - a) It is advantageous to the department to do so.
  - b) The officer agrees.
  - c) The schedule change complies with the requirements of MPD Policy and the Missoula Police Association contract.
- 2) The training will include, but is not limited to:
  - a) firearms safety
  - b) basic shooting mechanics
  - c) individual problems
  - d) practice on departmental courses
  - e) one re-qualification

Step #2 - Should there be a subsequent failure to qualify after one session of remedial training, that officer will remain on administrative duties. A second session, consisting of a minimum of 10 hours of remedial training, will be scheduled for the next working day of that officer. This training will include the same topics covered in the first remedial training.

Step #3 - Should there be a third failure to qualify after the second remedial training, disciplinary action may be taken.

Step #4) At the conclusion of disciplinary action a third remedial training session will be scheduled for that officer. If there is a fourth failure to qualify after a third remedial training session, that officer's ability to perform as a police officer will be evaluated. Recommendation from the Firearms Committee at this point will be referred to the division commander for further disciplinary action.

Should a qualifying score be achieved after any step in remedial training, that officer will be deemed fit for duty. Thirty (30) days later that officer will again shoot the departmental qualification course for a qualifying score to show that they have maintained a level of firearms proficiency. No warmup shots will be allowed during this shoot. Should there be a failure to qualify at this point, that officer will return to step one of remedial training. Officers will be allowed only one repeat of steps one through four of remedial training before disciplinary action is taken. If there is a failure to qualify after one repeat of

steps one through four of remedial training, termination of that officer will be referred by the Firearm's Committee to the Chief of Police.