

# UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

## POLICE DEPARTMENT



| ORDER                   | EFFECTIVE DATE                           | CHAPTER                             | ISSUING DATE |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| GENERAL                 | 4/15/2020                                | 2.17                                | 4/15/2020    |
| SUBJECT TITLE           |  | SUBJECT AREA                        |              |
| FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION |  | LAW ENFORCEMENT ROLE<br>& AUTHORITY |              |
| RIPAC REFERENCE         |  | PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES             |              |
| 2.17, 2.18              |  | 5/7/2015                            |              |
| DISTRIBUTION            | REVIEW DATE                              |                                     | PAGES        |
| ALL                     | AS NECCESARY<br>LAST REVIEWED 02/01/2021 |                                     | 3            |

### I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to regulate authorized firearms and ammunition for on duty use.

### II. POLICY:

It is the policy of the University of Rhode Island Police Department to specify the handgun, caliber, and type of ammunition for on duty use and that the carrying or use of a handgun while off duty is a personal choice of the officer.

### III. PROCEDURE

#### A. Duty Weapons and Ammunition

1. The department-issued handgun is the Sig Sauer P-226R .357 caliber DAK.

2. The department armorer will review, inspect, and approve all certified firearms prior to being issued to an officer.
3. Any officer issued a department Sig Sauer P-226R .357 caliber DAK handgun agrees to carry it at all times when on duty, including to and from court, special details, and assignments.
4. The only authorized handgun caliber for on-duty use is the .357 Sig caliber.
5. An officer's duty weapon and its ammunition will be presented to the department-certified firearms instructor or armorer during a department firearm training session. The firearms instructor or armorer will inspect and approve both the handgun and ammunition for serviceability and functionality prior to use.
6. All police officers will show proficiency with firing any firearm used for duty before they can carry on duty by passing the department's authorized course of fire.
7. The Training Unit will maintain a complete record of each weapon approved and issued to officers.

**B. Off-Duty Weapons and Ammunition (Not Authorized)**

1. Sworn police officers, including personnel of this department, are authorized to carry handguns without a license or permit under RI General Law 11-47-9 as well as under Federal Law in the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA). However, this authority is regulated and limited by department policy.
2. It is the policy of this department that while off duty, police officers are not obligated or authorized to use a handgun and that the carrying or use of a handgun while off duty is a personal choice of the officer.
3. Any claim for personal injury, including bodily injury or death, resulting from the off-duty use of a handgun or other weapon by an Officer in violation of this policy will be the sole responsibility and liability of the officer and not that of the University of Rhode Island, the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees or the Board of Education.
4. No officer will bring or keep on any campus or University building or property any personal handgun or other firearm of any kind. This prohibition extends to official vehicles as well as privately owned vehicles on University property.
5. Officers are responsible for the safe storage of their department-issued firearms when off duty in compliance with RI General Law 11-47-60.1, entitled "Safe Storage."

**C. Issuance and Inventory Control of all Firearms**

1. Upon Hire, a police officer will be issued a firearm by the armorer. The police officer will not be able to carry the firearm on duty until they qualify with issued firearm.
2. The armorer will keep an inventory of all issued and not issued firearms.

**D. Inspection and Removal of Handgun from Service**

1. All firearms approved for on-duty carry will be inspected initially by the armorer then monthly by supervisors.
2. Any on-duty firearm that fails to perform properly will be deemed unsafe and removed from service immediately. A new firearm will be issued to the officer who had the failed firearm.
3. The Armorer will inspect the failed firearm to determine the cause of the failure and repair as needed.
4. If the failure is due to officer neglect, a report will be generated to the University Police

Major (Major) describing the reason for the failure. The Major will determine if any disciplinary action is warranted.

**E. Authorized Handgun Ammunition**

1. Police officers authorized to carry a handgun on duty are only authorized to use .357 caliber 125 grain jacketed hollow-point ammunition.
2. Officers may not carry or use armor piercing, military ball, foreign surplus, tracer, exploding cartridges, Teflon® coated, or any other handgun ammunition not defined in this policy.

**F. Firearms/Training Registration**

1. Upon completion of the semiannual qualification period, the firearms instructor(s) will submit a report to the Professional Standards and Training Unit covering the following:
2. List of officers who passed or failed the duty qualification;
3. Problems officers are having and what remedial training occurred;
4. Problems with the firing range and or the equipment being used;
5. Firearm failures (removed from service or repaired on site);
6. The Professional Standards Unit will conduct a semiannual review of the department's annual qualification records to verify compliance with the procedures outlined in this policy;
7. Police officers will be trained on current and new laws as it relates to the use and safe keeping of duty and off duty firearms;
8. During firearms training, the range officer(s) will make sure all police officers are familiar with safe-handling procedures with their duty weapon.

By order of:

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Michael A. Jagoda  
Director of Public Safety & Chief of Police  
All Policies have an associated signed copy on file.