

**UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
POLICE DEPARTMENT**



ORDER	EFFECTIVE DATE	CHAPTER	ISSUING DATE
GENERAL	4/21/2015	2.18	4/21/2015
SUBJECT TITLE		SUBJECT AREA	
FIREARMS SAFETY/STORAGE		PATROL OPERATIONS	
RIPAC REFERENCES		PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES	
2.17h, 2.18c		4/3/2015	
DISTRIBUTION	REVIEW DATE		PAGES
ALL ARMED POLICE	Reviewed 5/27/2021 AS NEEDED		4

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to govern the safe handling, storage, and maintenance of department-issued firearms by all authorized members of the University of Rhode Island Police Department.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the University of Rhode Island Police Department that all members will practice responsible and safe handling of firearms at all times.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Authorized Department Firearm and Ammunition

1. The only firearm authorized to be carried on duty is the Sig Sauer® P226R, 357, DAK issued by the Department Armorer.
2. The Department Armorer will maintain a list of all issued firearms to include the serial number and the personal identification number etched on the bottom of the trigger guard.

3. Every firearm is test-fired with the assistance of the Firearms Inspectors from the Rhode Island State Crime Lab. A spent shell casing and lead round from each firearm is saved to identify the round and shell to the specific firearm in the event of an officer-involved shooting. These are stored in the Evidence Room.
4. Only department issued ammunition will be carried on-duty. The department-issued ammunition is .357-caliber, 125 grain jacketed hollow point.
5. Every officer will be issued three 12-round magazines. All magazines will be fully loaded with department-issued duty ammunition plus one round in the firearm's chamber for a total of thirty-seven rounds of duty ammunition.

B. Safe Handling Procedures

1. Assume all guns are loaded.
 - a. No officer will rely on asking another officer if a gun is loaded. It must be personally examined to verify that it is unloaded.
 - b. This examination will be accomplished by the removing the magazine and locking back the slide, enabling the verifier to see there are no bullets in the chamber.
2. Never hand a loaded gun to another police officer except in an emergency situation.
 - a. Unload the firearm by removing the magazine and opening the slide.
 - b. The pistol chamber will be examined visually to ensure no bullets remain in the chamber.
 - c. When handing an unloaded firearm to another officer, hold the gun by the barrel with the barrel facing downward and the slide locked back.
 - d. Always point the firearm, loaded or not, in a safe direction.
 - e. Never leave a firearm unsecured and/or unattended.

C. Firearms Storage

1. Department-issued firearms will be secured in the armory when off duty unless otherwise authorized (See F.1. for training/practice exception). Officers whose duties require them to work at multiple campuses will be allowed the flexibility to take their department-issued weapons home with them if they are ending their shift at one campus and will be starting their next shift at another campus. That officer will make a request to his/her supervisor and will be responsible for properly securing their firearm and safeguarding it from unauthorized individuals as required by RI General Law 11-47-60.1.
2. Any officer authorized to possess a department-issued firearm while off duty will be issued an appropriate security device to secure the weapon.
3. Each officer will be assigned an individual weapons locker within the armory.
4. Each locker will be accessed via a built-in combination lock.
5. Entry into the armory itself will be via the individual's URI ID card plus a keypad combination. Officers are required to carry their URI ID at all times when on duty.
6. Lost IDs are to be reported to a supervisor immediately.
7. Entrance to the armory will be monitored by CCTV and an alarm system.
8. Only authorized personnel are allowed in the armory.
9. Only one officer will be allowed in the armory at a time with the exception of the department armorers or training officers. The certified training officer(s) may

- allow more than one officer into the armory for training purposes or for gun cleaning.
10. Firearms will be stored loaded while in the locker.
 11. Officers will visually inspect the chamber port window to ensure that a round is chambered.
 12. Officers will utilize the clearing station in the armory for clearing their weapon or chambering a round. This will be done only in the armory except for training or emergency situations.

D. Police Firing Range Safety

1. Before an officer begins to fire on the firing line, they will examine the weapon thoroughly to make sure it is clean and free from obstructions.
2. The weapon will be loaded only with department-issued ammunition.
3. Officers will follow the directions of the Certified Instructor/Range Officer.
4. There will be no talking on the firing line. If an officer experiences a malfunction, the officer will attempt to clear the weapon in accordance with their training. If the officer is still unable to clear the weapon, they will signal the Range Officer by raising their free arm while keeping the weapon pointed down range.
5. Officers will not advance to the front of the firing line until instructed to do so by the Range Officer.
6. Before leaving the firing line, officers will holster and secure their firearms.
7. There will be no smoking on the firing range.
8. Range Protective Wear:
 - a. All shooters will wear their department-issued body armor;
 - b. All shooters will wear department-issued ear protection;
 - c. All shooters will wear department-issued full wrap-around eye protection;
 - d. Full footwear must be worn, no sneakers. Boots are recommended.
9. The Certified Instructor/Range Officer is empowered to enforce rules and regulations at the range facilities and during firearms training.

E. Firearms Maintenance

1. Officers may clean their firearm on duty, in the armory, with the permission of the supervisor.
2. Officers may clean their firearm, in the armory, while off duty as long as it does not interfere with operations. Officers should avoid cleaning firearms at shift changes since only one officer is allowed in the armory at a time.
3. Any firearm malfunction or repair issues are to be reported to the immediate supervisor who will notify a department armorer.
4. If a firearm is determined to be unsafe, the armorer will immediately remove the unsafe weapon, secure it, render the weapon safe, and make the necessary arrangements to have it repaired as soon as possible. The armorer will issue a replacement firearm and document the serial number and identification number of the replacement firearm.

F. Range Time

1. Officers may take their firearm from the armory on their own time solely for the purpose of going to an approved range for practice. Officers must have prior permission from a Lieutenant or higher-ranking officer and will sign the firearm

out with the officer-in-charge. A clipboard will be located in the armory for this purpose. Firearms will be cleaned after firing and will be returned to the armory on the same day.

By order of: _____

Michael A. Jagoda

Director of Public Safety & Chief of Police

All Policies have an associated signed copy on file upon request.