



ANDERSON COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 204

GENERAL ORDERS

WEAPONS ISSUE

PURPOSE:

S.C. Code of Laws 16-23-20 (1) designates the authority of deputy sheriffs to carry firearms. Only issued weapons and ammunition are carried as primary or secondary weapons. Other weapons may be carried as backup, if approved by the Sheriff.

STANDARD ISSUE FIREARMS:

HANDGUNS – GLOCK semi-automatic pistol and Smith and Wesson 38 caliber revolver.

LONG GUNS – Remington twelve (12) gauge pump shotgun and Springfield three-zero-eight (.308) caliber semi-automatic rifle.

AMMUNITION – All ammunition is factory-loaded. Hand or custom loads are prohibited. Pistol rounds consist of: .40caliber, 180 grain, jacketed hollow-point (JHP); .38caliber, 125/135 grain, jacketed hollow-point. Shotgun rounds are 12 Ga. Federal LE132 00 buckshot and Federal LE127RS 1oz rifled slug. The rifle ammo is .308 Federal 165 Gr. Boat Tail Hollow Point TRU round.

MAGAZINES – Two additional GLOCK factory magazines designed for the issued weapon can be worn on the duty belt.

FIREARM ISSUE – A newly appointed deputy sheriff is issued a firearm that has been inspected and approved by an armorer after all of the following requirements are successfully met:

1. The deputy demonstrates efficiency in its use;
2. The deputy demonstrates proficiency in safe handling of the weapon; and
3. The firearm is inspected and approved for use by a certified firearms instructor or armorer.

SWAT TEAM – Each member of the Sheriff's Special Weapons and Tactical Team will be issued a GLOCK semi-automatic pistol and .40caliber ammunition

Team equipment also includes the COLT M16 A-2 carbine, Federal TRU 55 grain soft point .223caliber ammunition; Springfield SOCOM; Remington 870 Shotgun; and the Benelli M-1 Super 90 12-gauge shotgun.

DEFECTIVE FIREARMS – Any firearm found to be unsafe or in need of repair is repaired or marked for replacement. Defective firearms are conspicuously marked with red tags stating, "NOT FIT FOR USE", and stored separately from weapons ready for issue.

SPECIAL WEAPONS/FIREARMS – Non-standard firearms are issued through the following process:

1. A written request for a special weapons issue, stating the need for such a weapon, must be approved first by the deputy's immediate supervisor, then his/her platoon/unit commander before being approved by the range master after successful qualification. Final approval will lie with the Division Commander and the Sheriff.
2. The deputy must qualify with the weapon on the firearms range as approved by a State-certified firearms instructor.
3. The request will be forwarded to the Sheriff, who shall have final approval.

**CARRYING ISSUED
FIREARMS:**

Personal firearms are not carried on-duty unless specifically approved by the Sheriff (see Personally Owned Weapons).

Service weapons are removed from holsters for official reasons only. Any deputy involved in the careless use of a firearm or "horseplay" involving any weapon is subject to immediate disciplinary action.

All agency-owned handguns are carried in holsters designed for the particular model of handgun and the holster is worn on the person in the location for which it was intended. While wearing civilian clothing, Sheriff's Office credentials must be clearly visible.

Weapons are to be kept clean and operable at all times. Weapons are subject to inspection by supervisory personnel. **Failure to maintain assigned weapons in a clean and serviceable condition is cause for disciplinary action.**

Unless otherwise ordered, shotguns are carried:

1. Loaded with 12-gauge 00 buckshot in the magazine;
2. With chamber empty;
3. Secured in electric gun racks (when available); and
4. Rifled slugs placed on the stock of each shotgun.

Handguns are loaded with one round in the chamber and the magazine loaded to rated capacity.

**PERSONALLY OWNED
FIREARMS:**

Deputies are authorized to carry a personally owned primary firearm or conceal on their person a personally owned secondary firearm with approval from the sheriff and after complying with the following requirements:

1. The firearm is registered with the Sheriff's Office and inspected by the Training Center and found to be in good operational condition and of a quality manufacturer, prior to carry;
2. Demonstrated knowledge of the operation of the weapon;

3. Successful completion of a qualification course with an SC-certified Firearms Instructor; and
4. Successful completion of annual re-qualifications.

PERSONALLY OWNED PRIMARY WEAPON CARRY - All personally owned handguns are carried in holsters designed for the particular model of handgun and the holster is worn on the person in the location for which it was intended. While wearing civilian clothing, Sheriff's Office credentials must be clearly visible. All holsters must be approved by the Sheriff.

PERSONALLY OWNED PRIMARY WEAPON CALIBERS - Personally owned primary firearms are to be chambered for one of the following cartridge calibers: .38spl, 357, 9mm, .40 S&W, or .45ACP.

SECONDARY FIREARM CARRY – Secondary firearms are to be carried in a secured manner. Holsters are inspected for safety, concealment, and quality. The firearms are to be high quality, well made, and safe double action revolvers or double action semi-automatic pistols. They are to be small enough to conceal and carry for extended periods of time.

Use of a secondary firearm is allowed only when a primary firearm malfunctions or in the event a deputy is unable to use his/her primary firearm due to circumstances of the incident or the primary weapon is unavailable.

SECONDARY FIREARM CALIBERS – Secondary firearms are to be chambered for one of the following cartridge calibers: .380, .38spl, 357, 9mm, .40 S&W or .45ACP.

PERSONALLY OWNED FIREARM AMMUNITION – Deputies utilizing personally owned firearms carry only listed ammunition:

- Winchester SXT
- Speer Gold Dot
- Federal Tactical/ Hydra Shock
- Hornady Tap
- Remington Golden Saber

Hand loaded ammunition is NOT authorized.

**PERSONNALLY OWNED
PATROL RIFLES:**

Deputies are authorized to carry personally owned patrol rifles, that are semi-auto or pump action, chambered for .223, .30cal, .308 or 7.62x39 after completing the following requirements:

- Weapon is inspected by the Training Unit and found to be in operational condition and of a quality manufacturer prior to carry;
- Demonstrated knowledge of the operation of the weapon;

- Successful completion of proficiency training conducted by an academy-certified firearms instructor;
- Passing a qualification range course established for patrol rifles; and
- Receiving final approval by the Sheriff.

Patrol rifles are to be loaded with factory manufactured soft point ammunition and carried in a “rack-ready” condition while in the patrol unit. Rack-ready is defined as the bolt forward on an empty chamber with the safety engaged. Deputies must re-qualify with patrol rifles annually.

OFF-DUTY PERSONAL FIREARMS:

While in an off-duty capacity, deputies are encouraged to carry a concealed, personal firearm that meets the criteria established for personally owned weapons:

1. The firearm is a .38 caliber revolver, 2”- 4” barrel and contains factory-loaded, high quality .38 caliber hollow-point +P ammunition; or
2. The firearm is a semi-automatic pistol chambered for .380, 9mm, 357, .40S&W, or 45ACP caliber cartridges. Ammunition is an approved, high quality hollow point; and
3. The firearm is registered with the Sheriff’s Office and inspected by an agency Firearms Instructor.

The request to carry an off-duty weapon is made to the Sheriff, in writing, through a deputy's division commander.

MODIFICATIONS TO FIREARMS:

Modifications to county-issued firearms are prohibited without permission from the Sheriff or his designee. Approved modifications are to be inspected by a qualified armorer before carry or use on duty.

Disassembly of firearms, other than field striping, is prohibited except by a qualified armorer. If modification is an approved optical/laser-sighting device, deputy is to re-qualify with the firearm.

RECORDS:

Complete records of assigned weapons are maintained by the Sheriff’s Office. Records consist of type, description, model and serial numbers, as well as deputy assignment. Additionally, all special weapon, personally owned weapon, and off-duty weapon requests are on file.

LAW ENFORCEMENT KNIFE:

A strong, high quality knife is an acceptable piece of law enforcement equipment. Knives can be used during rescue operations or in other non-confrontational situations.

A knife used as a weapon is considered a use of deadly force. Therefore, a deputy is not to intentionally use a knife as a weapon except when deadly force is reasonable based upon the totality of the circumstances.

A deputy can carry a pocketknife on the duty belt or trouser pocket provided blade length does not exceed four inches. SWAT members can carry combat knives as part of their special equipment.

LESS-LETHAL WEAPONS:

Less-lethal weapons approved for use are:

1. ASP collapsible baton
2. Tear gas (SWAT Team)
3. Sabre Red OC spray
4. Sabre Red OC foam
5. Taser X26/M26 Electronic stun devices
6. Kinetic energy impact projectiles (bean bag rounds)

Deputies using the ASP collapsible baton are trained and certified every year by a qualified instructor.

The SWAT team's less-lethal devices include a 40mm single-shot, multi-launcher which uses drag-stabilized beanbag rounds, DEF TEC OC and CS gas canisters, KET direct impact rounds, and foam or wooden batons.

The use of tear gas, pepper gas (OC), or other chemical agents is restricted to deputies trained in use, re-trained annually, and authorized by the Sheriff.

Use of stun weapons (electronic stun devices, kinetic energy projectiles) is restricted to deputies trained in use by a certified instructor, re-trained annually, and authorized by the Sheriff.

The less lethal weapons are inspected and approved for use by a certified firearms instructor or armorer annually at in-service training. If a weapon is found to be broken or inoperable it will be removed from service and the deputy will be issued a replacement. Any broken or inoperable weapon will be replaced or repaired per manufacture specifications.

If a less lethal weapon is found to be inoperable or faulty at any time it is to be immediately removed from service and a replacement will be issued. The faulty or broken less lethal weapon will be repaired or replaced per manufacture specifications.

WEAPON QUALIFICATIONS:

All deputies are required to be trained/certified in the use of each individual weapon assigned to them at least annually or more often, if scheduled. Any deputy failing to qualify will not be permitted to carry a weapon until qualified. A description of each course, type of target used, and qualification score is recorded.

Instructors certified to teach each particular weapon administer proficiency training, qualification, and remedial training. For deputies who fail to qualify, remedial training is immediately coordinated with the deputy's

Division Commander and the Training Center. The instructor is to advise the degree and type of training necessary for the deputy. The Division Commander is to provide time necessary for training, consistent with the operational need of the division.

At the beginning of each year, a directive is issued outlining firearms courses to be used during the year along with dates and times. Policies governing weapons, Use of Force, and Emergency Vehicle Operations are covered during in-service training. A test is administered at the end of each block of training. Deputies must achieve a passing score.

**STORAGE OF AGENCY
AUTHORIZED
FIREARMS:**

All deputies are encouraged to provide safe and proper storage of agency-authorized firearms. Recommendations for safe and proper storage include, but are not limited to the following:

- Locked in gun safe
- Locked in gun vault box
- Locked with trigger locks
- Locked in vehicle

Trigger locks for agency issued firearms are available through Training.

Approved by:
John S. Skipper, Jr., Sheriff