

# Metropolitan Police Department □ Washington, D.C.



## GENERAL ORDER



Subject:

**Wearing of Personal, Non-Issued  
Pistols and Holsters**

Series	Number	Distribution	Change Number
901	2	A	
Effective Date			
July 17, 1996			
Revision Date			
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The purpose of this order is to establish authorization and set forth the requirements for members of this department to purchase and wear personal, non-issued pistols and holsters while in an off-duty status. Probationary officers are prohibited from purchasing and wearing personal, non-issued pistols during their probationary period. This order consists of the following parts:

### **PART I      Responsibilities and Procedures for Members of the Department**

- A.    Wearing of Pistol and Holster  
While Off-Duty.
- B.    Authorized Off-Duty Service Weapons.
- C.    Obtaining Approval for Non-Issued  
Pistol and Holster.
- D.    Prohibitions.

### **PART II     Responsibilities and Procedures for Supervisory and Command Personnel**

- A.    Range Officer.
- B.    Special Operations Division
- C.    Commanding Officers.

### **PART I**

#### **A.    Wearing of Pistol and Holster While Off-Duty.**

1.    It is the policy of this department that all members, while wearing civilian clothing in an off-duty status within the District of Columbia, shall wear, in a manner which conceals from view, their department-issued pistol and holster or a personal, non-issued pistol and holster which have been approved by the department for this purpose. In this instance, the non-issued pistol (handgun) shall be considered the member's authorized service weapon when in an off-duty status and subject to all the rules and regulations for the use thereof.

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2. Members, while in an off-duty status and carrying their department-issued or authorized off-duty pistol in another jurisdiction shall carry said pistol in an issued or authorized off-duty holster at all times, except, when removing it for official use, to clean the weapon, or for the purpose of inspection. In addition, members shall ensure that they are in compliance with all applicable rules, regulations and laws of that jurisdiction.

3. Members who participate in the Motor Vehicle Take-Home Program (General Order 301.4) are also subject to the provisions of this section.

4. Maryland law prohibits as a misdemeanor the wearing, carrying or transporting of ~~any handgun, whether concealed or open~~. The only exception applying to MPD members involves law enforcement personnel of some other jurisdiction temporarily in the state on official business (Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 27, Section 36B).

- a. "Official business" has been interpreted to include a police officer residing in Maryland commuting to and from work in the District of Columbia. Carrying of a handgun at any other time is a violation of Maryland law and would subject an off-duty member of this department to arrest unless the member possesses a valid Maryland handgun permit (Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 27, Section 36B).
- b. Members residing in Maryland who wish to carry a handgun in Maryland while off-duty shall obtain a Maryland handgun permit for both on-duty and off-duty weapons.
- c. Members who visit in Maryland on a regular basis, not responding to or from work, shall obtain a Maryland handgun permit for any on-duty and off-duty weapons they carry into Maryland.
- d. The Maryland State Police Licensing Division may be contacted at (410) 298-3222 to acquire information concerning permit requirements and application procedures.
- e. Members are personally responsible for permit fees.

5. The laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia exempt all police officers from the concealed weapon prohibitions (Code of Virginia, Article 7, Section 18.2-308(B)(2)). However, MPD officers who are residents of Virginia, as well as officers who visit in Virginia on a regular basis, are encouraged to apply for permits under Virginia law.

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**B. Authorized Off-Duty Service Weapons**

The Glock, Model 19, 9mm semi-automatic pistol and the Glock, Model 26, shall be the only weapons which sworn members are authorized to carry as an off-duty service weapon subject to the following exceptions or conditions:

1. Sworn personnel who have previously purchased a .38 caliber revolver that has been approved by the Range Officer as an authorized off-duty service weapon may continue to carry same as long as the member continues to qualify with the weapon.

2. Members of the Emergency Response Team and the Executive Protection Unit who have been issued the Sig Sauer P226 semi-automatic pistol may be authorized to use either a previously purchased .38 caliber revolver or a compact version of the Sig Sauer as an off-duty weapon under the following guidelines:

- a. Members who have been issued the Sig Sauer may be permitted to use a compact version of their issued Sig Sauer for off-duty use as long as the member remains in his/her current assignment or until he/she is issued a Glock.
  - (1) The member shall be required to sign the PD Form 177-B (Request to Obtain Off-Duty Pistol) acknowledging that he/she is only authorized to carry an off-duty Sig Sauer as long as the member remains in his/her current assignment or until issued a Glock.
  - (2) Once certified, the member shall be required to be recertified quarterly in the use of the off-duty Sig Sauer.
- b. Members who only previously purchased a .38 caliber revolver that has been approved by the MPD Range Officer as an authorized off-duty service weapon may continue to carry same.

3. If an authorized off-duty .38 caliber revolver is lost, stolen, or is about to be replaced for any reason, the replacement off-duty service weapon shall be the compact version of the member's department-issued service weapon. No additional authorization will be given for the use of .38 caliber revolvers.

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4. Members who wish to change their authorized off-duty service weapon to the Glock, Model 19 or Model 26, shall obtain approval as required by Part I-C of this order and advise the Firearms Registration Section, Identification and Records Division, of the proposed change so that the prior weapon certification can be revoked.

5. Members are reminded that the standard recognition device, the MPD headband bearing the approved insignia and color, shall be carried by all members not in uniform whenever they are required to carry their service weapon, badge, and identification folder, whether on- or off-duty, as required by General Order 308.13 (~~Casual Clothes Units~~).

**C. Obtaining Approval for Non-Issued Pistol and Holster.**

1. A member requesting authorization to purchase and carry an off-duty, non-issued pistol and holster in lieu of his/her department-issued pistol and holster, shall comply with the following requirements:

- a. Must have completed his/her probationary period before the member can purchase or carry an off-duty pistol; except that off-duty holsters may be purchased and worn upon receiving approval from the Range Officer;
- b. Only that ammunition authorized by the department shall be used in approved off-duty pistols; and
- c. The pistol must be purchased by the individual member at no expense to the department.

2. To begin the process of obtaining an off-duty pistol, members must first obtain a PD Form 177-B (Request to Obtain an Off-Duty Pistol) from the Firearms Registration Section, Identification and Records Division, Room 3077, Municipal Center. It shall be approved by their commanding officer and be completed in an original and two copies: the original to the gun dealer, the second copy to the Firearms Registration Section, and the third copy retained by the requesting officer. Upon receiving approval, members shall:

- a. Present the PD Form 177-B to the gun dealer where the desired purchase is to be made.
- b. Have the gun dealer complete a PD Form 219 (Application for Firearms Registration Certificate) and sign it in his/her presence.

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- c. Submit the completed PD Form 219 to the Firearms Registration Section by the close of the next business day.
- d. After receiving approval from the Firearms Registration Section, present a copy of the PD Form 219 to the gun dealer before taking possession of the weapon.
- e. Members shall take the weapon to the Firearms Registration Section where the ownership and identification information shall be recorded for entry into WALES.
- f. The Firearms Registration Section shall provide the member with certification, indicating that the weapon has been properly recorded, to be presented to the Range Officer.

3. Members seeking approval to carry an off-duty pistol and/or non-issued holster shall contact the Range Officer or his/her assistant and arrange an appointment for inspection.

- a. Before authorization is granted, members shall be required to demonstrate their proficiency in handling their non-issued pistol by successfully firing a qualifying score over the department's prescribed course.
- b. To maintain authorization to carry an off-duty pistol and/or off-duty holster members shall, during regular pistol qualifications, be required to:
  - (1) Qualify not only with their issued service pistol, but also with their authorized off-duty pistol; the department shall provide the necessary ammunition for this purpose.
  - (2) Have their authorized off-duty holster(s) with them for re-examination, to ensure that they still remain in compliance.

4. In the event a member's police powers are revoked, authorization to wear an off-duty weapon shall be automatically rescinded until his/her police powers are restored.

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5. Authorization to wear an off-duty pistol shall in no way relieve a member of the responsibility for taking extraordinary measures to prevent the loss or theft of his/her issued service pistol.

6. Members authorized to wear an off-duty pistol shall report to the Firearms Registration Section and advise that unit of any change in the ownership of their off-duty pistol.

7. Members who discover that their off-duty pistol has been lost or stolen shall immediately report this fact, in writing, to their commanding officer.

8. Members authorized to carry an off-duty pistol and about to be separated from the department shall immediately notify the Firearms Registration Section, IRD, of their pending separation.

#### D. Prohibitions.

Members shall not:

1. Carry or use any other personally-owned handgun that has not been authorized by this department.

2. Carry their issued or authorized off-duty pistol in a paper bag, pocketbook or purse, attache case or any similar container.

3. Carelessly store weapons at home where they are visible and/or accessible to children and other persons.

## PART II

#### A. Range Officer.

The Range Officer shall:

1. Ensure that, before authorization is granted to a member to carry an off-duty pistol and/or non-issued holster, the following requirements are met:

- a. The member responds with his/her off-duty pistol and/or non-issued holster for inspection.
- b. The member demonstrates his/her proficiency in handling the weapon by successfully firing a qualifying score over the department's prescribed course.



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- c. The qualifying member has been authorized to wear a non-issued pistol by entering on the member's Master Qualification Record (PD Form 882) a description and the serial number of the pistol.
  - d. That approval to wear a non-issued holster is indicated on the reverse side of PD Form 882 (Master Qualification Record) and that the holster is die-stamped with the initials "MPDC."
  - e. The certification notice indicating that the weapon has been recorded with the Firearms Registration Section is filed along with the PD Form 882.
  - f. That each approved, non-issued holster is re-examined during the member's requalification.
- 2. Ensure that an up to date copy of PD Form 882 is kept on file for each sworn member of the department.
- 3. Not approve more than one non-issued pistol per member to be worn while in an off-duty status.
- 4. Ensure that any member who fails to qualify with his/her authorized off-duty pistol is served a PD Form 228 (Cancellation of Authority to Wear Off Duty, Non-Issued Pistol) and upon recertification, is served a PD Form 227 (Certification to Wear Off-Duty, Non-Issued Pistol).
- 5. Upon learning that a member is carrying or using an off-duty pistol with equipment in violation of this order:
  - a. Direct the removal of the unauthorized equipment.
  - b. If the removal of the unauthorized equipment cannot be immediately accomplished, inform the member that his/her authorization to wear the off-duty pistol is cancelled until the pistol is restored to a safe condition.
  - c. Record the cancellation of the unsafe off-duty pistol by executing and serving a PD Form 228.
  - d. Complete and serve the member a PD Form 227 when the pistol is restored to a safe condition.

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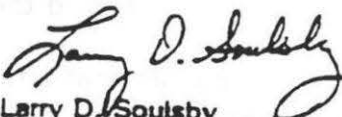
**B. Special Operations Division**

The Special Operations Division Administrative Lieutenant shall ensure that training records for members who have been authorized to carry a compact version of their issued Sig Sauer pistols also contain the member's written acknowledgement of the conditional authorization to carry an off-duty Sig Sauer.

**C. Commanding Officers.**

Upon receiving written notification from a member of his/her command that the member's ~~non-issued pistol was lost or stolen~~, the commanding officer shall advise the Firearms Registration Section, Identification and Records Division.

LDS:AFA:RSK:rsk

  
Larry D. Soulsby  
Chief of Police