

	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>ADM-151</b>
	<b>CHAPTER:</b>	<b>FORCE-FIREARMS-WEAPONS</b>	
	<b>DIRECTIVE:</b>	<b>FIREARMS AUTHORIZATION (High Risk)</b>	

**1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This policy establishes procedures for the acquisition, use and documentation of training in the use of duty firearms. The Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall approve all duty firearms before they are acquired and utilized by any member of this department.

**2.0 AUTHORIZATION TO CARRY FIREARMS**

Only certified personnel who have met all state and Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requirements, completed the required Department firearms instruction, demonstrated proficiency in the use of the authorized firearm, and have been authorized by the Chief of Police shall have the peace officer privilege to carry a firearm both on- and off-duty (CRS § 16-2.5-101). When armed, whether on- or off-duty, employees shall carry their badge and Department identification.

**3.0 SAFE HANDLING OF FIREARMS**

The intent of this policy is to promote proper firearm safety on- and off-duty. Employees shall maintain the highest level of safety when handling firearms and shall consider the following.

- a. Employees shall not unnecessarily display or handle any firearm.
- b. While at the range, Employees shall be governed by all rules and regulations pertaining to the use of the range, shall obey all orders issued by the Rangemaster and shall not dry fire or practice quick draws except under Rangemaster supervision.
- c. Employees shall not clean, repair, load or unload a firearm anywhere in the Department, except where there are clearing barrels or chambers, or in other agency-designated locations.
- d. Shotguns or rifles removed from vehicles or equipment storage rooms shall be loaded and unloaded outside buildings and vehicles.
- e. Employees 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 or any part thereof, or the GJPD prisoner processing area, when securing or processing a prisoner, but shall place all firearms in a secured location.

**SAFE HANDLING OF FIREARMS (con't)**

- f. Employees shall not use any automatic firearm, heavy caliber rifle, gas or other type of chemical weapon, except with approval of a supervisor or when an emergency or exigency reasonably requires immediate use of the weapon.

Any firearm authorized by the Department to be carried on- or off-duty that is found by the Employee to be malfunctioning or needing service shall not be carried and shall be promptly presented to the Department Range officer/ Armorer for inspection. Any firearm determined to be in need of service or repair during an inspection by the Department Range Officer/ Armorer will be immediately removed from service. If the firearm is the Employee's primary duty firearm, a replacement firearm will be issued to the Employee until the duty firearm is rendered serviceable.

**4.0 STORAGE OF FIREARMS AT HOME**

Employees shall ensure that all firearms and ammunition are secured while in their homes, vehicles or any other area under their control in a manner that will keep the firearm inaccessible to children and irresponsible adults.

**5.0 AUTHORIZED FIREARMS**

An authorized firearm is a firearm meeting the requirements set forth in Department Directives which has been authorized by the Chief of Police or his designee for an employee to carry either on or off duty. This may be a department issued or personally owned firearm. Employees are limited to three authorized handguns.

No firearms will be carried that have not been thoroughly inspected by the Range Officer/Armorer, 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. The following firearms may be authorized for duty, secondary, and off duty use by employees of this department.

**6.0 DUTY FIREARMS**

The handgun the employee carries most often in their current duty assignment is their duty firearm. The Department will issue Glock pistols as the authorized duty handgun.

Only issued or approved shotguns and rifles are authorized for on-duty use. The following additional handguns are approved for on-duty use:

MAKE	MODEL	CALIBER
Glock	As approved	38 cal., 380 cal.
H&K		9mm, 40 cal.
SigArms		45 cal., or
Smith & Wesson		as approved
Springfield		

**DUTY FIREARMS (con't)**

1911 style single action pistol equipped with a firing pin block manufactured by a reputable company and approved by the Department Rangemaster.

Note – employees previously authorized to carry a Beretta or Walther pistol may continue to carry that handgun. No new requests for Beretta or Walther pistols will be authorized.

**7.0 AUTHORIZED  
SECONDARY FIREARMS**

Officers desiring to carry a secondary firearm as a backup to their duty weapon are subject to the following restrictions:

- a. The Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall approve all secondary firearms.
- b. Only one secondary firearm may be carried at a time.
- c. The purchase of the firearm shall be the responsibility of the officer.
- d. The firearm shall be carried concealed at all times and in such a manner as to prevent unintentional cocking, discharge or loss of physical control.
- e. It will be the responsibility of the officer to submit the firearm to the Range Officer /Department Armorer for inspection prior to being carried as a secondary firearm.
- f. A Range Officer shall verify that the officer is proficient in handling and firing the firearm and demonstrates that it will be carried in a safe manner. The firearm shall be subject to periodic inspection by a Range Officer /Department Armorer. The officer will successfully qualify with the firearm prior to it being carried and thereafter in accordance with Department Directives. The range qualification dates will be specified by the Rangemaster.
- g. Ammunition shall be Department issue.
- h. Personnel shall provide written notice on the department Authorization to Carry form of the make, model, color, serial number and caliber of a second firearm to the Rangemaster.
- i. Recruit Officers in the F.T.O. program are prohibited from carrying multiple handguns without authorization from the appropriate Deputy Chief.

**8.0 AUTHORIZED OFF-DUTY FIREARMS**

The carrying of firearms by certified officers while off-duty is permitted by the Chief of Police, but may be rescinded should circumstances dictate (e.g., administrative leave). Certified officers who choose to carry a firearm while off-duty based on their authority as a peace officer will be required to meet the following guidelines:

- a. The Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall approve all Off-Duty firearms.
- b. The purchase of the firearm, if other than a department-issued duty weapon, shall be the responsibility of the officer.
- c. The firearm shall be carried in a safe manner, concealed at all times and in such a manner as to prevent unintentional cocking, discharge or loss of physical control.
- d. It will be the responsibility of the officer to submit the firearm, if other than a department-issued duty firearm, to the Range Officer /Department Armorer for inspection prior to being carried off-duty.
- e. A Range Officer shall verify that the officer is proficient in handling and firing the firearm, and demonstrates that it will be carried in a safe manner. The firearm shall be subject to periodic inspection by a Range Officer /Department Armorer. The officer will successfully qualify with the firearm prior to it being carried and thereafter in accordance with 312.4 and 312.4.1. The range qualification dates will be specified by the Rangemaster.
- f. Personnel shall provide written notice on the (Authorization to Carry form) of the make, model, color, serial number and caliber of an off-duty firearm to the Rangemaster.
- g. Ammunition shall be Department issued.

Recruit Officers presently in the Department's training program are prohibited from carrying a firearm off-duty, excluding travel to and from work, unless authorized by the appropriate Deputy Chief. Recruit Officers requesting authorization shall submit a written request through the chain of command to the appropriate Deputy Chief with prior approval from the Rangemaster.

**9.0 LIMITED DEPARTMENT  
ISSUED HANDGUNS**

**ONLY ONE HANDGUN ISSUED** - An employee may have no more than one Department issued handgun at any time, unless he/she is assigned to a specialized, temporary, or collateral duty assignment that requires issuance of a second department owned handgun or unless the appropriate Deputy Chief has approved the exception.

- If an employee assigned to uniform patrol elects to carry a personally owned handgun as their duty weapon in lieu of the department issued handgun, the employee shall return the Department-issued handgun. Sworn officers in non-uniformed assignments may retain their department issued handgun whether or not it is their duty handgun while in that assignment.
- All Department issued/owned firearms are property of the Grand Junction Police Department. The Chief of Police may transfer ownership of a Department issued firearm to an employee who leaves the Department in good standing after ten or more years of service. If an employee who receives a firearm from the department in this manner is later rehired by the Department, the Department may provide the employee with another Department issued firearm.

**10.0 AMMUNITION**

Employees shall carry only department issued ammunition. Employees shall be issued fresh duty ammunition in the specified quantity for all department authorized firearms during a scheduled qualification each year. Replacements for unserviceable or depleted ammunition issued by the Department shall be dispensed by Range Officers when needed, in accordance with established procedure.

Department issued ammunition expended in the line of duty or discovered missing may be replaced following a report to the Employee's immediate supervisor. (See the Directive on Firearms - Discharge for the policy and procedures for reporting and documenting the discharge of a firearm) For missing ammunition, a memorandum describing the circumstances under which the ammunition was lost will be completed by the Employee prior to the end of their shift and immediately forwarded through the chain of command to the Chief of Police.

**11.0 ALCOHOL AND  
DRUGS**

Firearms shall not be carried by any employee who has consumed an amount of an alcoholic beverage or taken any drugs that would tend to adversely affect the employee's senses or judgment.

**12.0 DUTY FIREARMS  
PROFICIENCY**

An employee failing to demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency with any duty firearm he/she is authorized to use may not carry or use the duty firearm until he/she participates in the remedial duty firearms training provided by the Department. At least annually, all personnel carrying a duty firearm will receive training on the Department Use of Force Policy and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

**13.0 RANGEMASTER DUTIES**

The range will be under the exclusive control of the Rangemaster or his designee. All members attending training will follow the directions of the Rangemaster. The Rangemaster will maintain an electronic record of all members attending the range and will submit the electronic record to the Training Sergeant after each range date.

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

The Rangemaster has the responsibility of arranging for an annual inspection by Department Armorers, of all authorized firearms carried by employees of this department to verify proper operation. The Department Armorers/Range Officers have the authority to deem any firearm unfit for service. The employee will be responsible for all repairs to his/her personally owned firearm. Any firearm taken out of service will not be returned to service until inspected by the Department Armorer/Range Officer.

The Range Officers have the responsibility to ensure each employee on a yearly basis can demonstrate proficiency in the care and cleaning of the duty firearm.

The Range Officers shall complete and submit to the Training Sergeant documentation of the courses provided, including the qualifications of each instructor who provides training, a description of the training provided and a list on a form that has been approved by the Department of each employee who completes the training.

**14.0 FIREARMS  
INSTRUCTOR  
PROFICIENCY**

Each firearms instructor shall meet the proficiency requirements required by the State of Colorado and POST.

**15.0 MAINTENANCE AND  
REPAIR**

Firearms carried on-duty shall be maintained in a clean, serviceable condition. Since the use of personally owned firearms is at the option of the individual employee, that employee will be responsible for the furnishing, maintenance and repair of such firearm.

**16.0 REPAIR OR  
MODIFICATIONS OF  
DUTY FIREARMS**

Firearms that are the property of the Department may be repaired or modified only by a person certified as an armorer or gunsmith in the repair of the specific firearm or other authorized person.

All repairs and/or modifications of department-issued firearms not performed by the Department Armorer/Range Officer must be authorized in advance by the Rangemaster and accomplished by a department-approved gunsmith, who is certified to repair such firearm.

Any repairs or modifications to the officer's personally owned firearm shall be done at his/her expense and must be approved by the Rangemaster

**17.0 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 purposes.
- b. Officers must carry their department identification card, which must contain a full-face picture, 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. In accordance with TSA procedures, the Department will obtain a message containing a unique alphanumeric identifier from TSA through the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) prior to the officer's travel. The officer must present the message to airport personnel, on the day of travel, as authorization to travel while armed.
- d. An official letter signed by the Chief of Police authorizing armed travel must accompany the officer. The letter must outline the officer's need to fly armed, must detail his/her itinerary and should include that the officer has completed the mandatory TSA training for law enforcement officers flying while armed.



**FLYING WHILE ARMED  
(cont'd)**

- 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 can be accomplished by early check-in at the carrier's check-in counter.
- g. 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.
- h. Officers should not surrender their firearm but should try to resolve any problems through the flight captain, ground security manager or other management representative of the air carrier.
- i. Officers shall not consume alcoholic beverages while aboard an aircraft or within eight hours prior to boarding an aircraft.

**18.0 CARRYING FIREARMS  
OUT OF STATE**

Qualified active full-time officers and qualified retired officers (see the Retired Officer Concealed Firearm Permit Policy) of this department are authorized to carry a concealed firearm in all other states subject to the following conditions (18 USC § 926B and C):

- a. The officer shall carry his/her Department identification card whenever carrying such firearm.
- b. Qualified retired officers shall also carry certification of having met firearms qualification within the past 12 months.
- c. The officer is not the subject of any current disciplinary action.
- d. The officer may not be under the influence of alcohol or any other intoxicating or hallucinatory drug.
- e. The officer will remain subject to this and all other Department policies (including qualifying and training).



**CARRYING FIREARMS OUT  
OF STATE (con't)**

- f. 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 and retired peace officers who are visiting from other states are subject to all requirements set forth in 18 USC § 926B and C.

