



**Division of State Patrol
Policy and Procedure**

Number
2-3

Subject FIREARMS TRAINING	
Author/Originator Wisconsin State Patrol Academy	Approved by Superintendent <i>Anthony L. Burrell</i>
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I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Division of State Patrol (DSP) to regulate firearms training and qualification standards for all sworn personnel who are issued firearms, or authorized to carry secondary and/or supplemental firearms, by the Division.

II. BACKGROUND

The DSP will provide firearms training to ensure all sworn personnel become proficient and maintain that proficiency with Division-issued weapons and other authorized weapons. Proficiency with Division-issued and/or Division-authorized weapons will be demonstrated through established qualification(s).

III. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to outline firearms training and qualification standards for DSP sworn personnel.

IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Department of Justice, Training and Standards Bureau Certified Instructor** – a firearms instructor who has met all training and standards requirements to instruct in the specific Unified Tactical subject area.
- B. **Division Firearms Coordinator** – the person designated that responsibility by the colonel or designee for all training, weapons, and ammunition.
- C. **Division Qualified Instructor** – a Wisconsin Department of Justice Training and Standards Bureau certified firearms instructor, with additional Division-approved training in the use and operation of the patrol rifle, shotgun, or Force Protection Team (FPT) rifle, when instructing personnel in the use of such weapons.

- D. **Firearms Training Advisory Committee** – consists of Division personnel utilized for the development and application of all Division firearms training programs. The committee will review the Division’s firearms training and equipment needs and assist in the development of related programs. This committee will also assist in the development and review of policies related to firearms for the Division (P&P 2-1, 2-2, and 2-3).
- E. **Force Protection Team (FPT)** – specially prepared, trained and equipped officers capable of providing tactical services, task force protection, information gathering, reporting and the neutralization of lethal threat(s).
- F. **Force Protection Team Rifle** – a rifle equipped with magnifying optics designed for precision shooting assigned to the FPT members.
- G. **Handgun** – a firearm designed to be held and fired using one or both hands.
- H. **Launcher** – a single shot, lightweight and versatile tool used to deploy a variety of less lethal munitions.
- I. **Less Lethal Impact Munitions Weapon** – a dedicated weapon that is readily recognized as being different than the standard issued weapon and used for deploying less lethal impact munitions.
- J. **Officer** – any person vested by law with a duty to maintain public order or to make arrests for crime, whether that duty extends to all crimes or is limited to specific crimes.
- K. **Patrol Rifle Optic** – a red dot optic attached to the authorized patrol rifle to be used as a quick aiming tool.
- L. **Region Firearms Coordinator** – the person designated that responsibility by the respective Region Commander or designee for all training, weapons, and ammunition.
- M. **Rifle** – a firearm designed to be normally fired from the shoulder, with a barrel that has a helical groove or pattern of grooves (“rifling”) cut into the barrel walls capable of firing a single projectile through bolt, semi-automatic or fully-automatic operation. Division rifles will not be used or fired in fully-automatic operation.
- N. **Secondary Firearm** – any authorized handgun, in addition to or in lieu of the service handgun, which is carried on duty in an authorized manner. Employee identification as a law enforcement must be carried and should be displayed if practical.
- O. **Shotgun** – a firearm that is designed to be normally fired from the shoulder, which uses the energy of a fixed shell to fire a number of small spherical pellets (shot), a solid projectile (slug), or other type of Division-authorized loads.

V. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. Annually, all sworn personnel will participate in firearms training sessions at the Academy or Region levels, which will address the following minimum requirements:
 - 1. Qualify with the Division-issued handgun utilizing the Wisconsin Department of Justice handgun qualification course.
 - 2. Qualify with the Division-issued patrol rifle utilizing the Wisconsin Department of Justice rifle qualification course.
 - 3. Complete Firearms training related to dim/low light shooting environments.
 - 4. Complete firearms training using force-on-force scenario-based training techniques.
- B. All sworn personnel will qualify annually with the Division-issued handgun utilizing the Wisconsin Department of Justice handgun qualification course. This qualification may be at the WSPA during the annual recertification/in-service training program or within their assigned region.
- C. All sworn personnel assigned a patrol rifle will qualify annually with their Division-issued patrol rifle utilizing the Wisconsin Department of Justice rifle qualification course. This qualification may be at the WSPA during annual recertification/in-service training or within their region training curriculum.
- D. All sworn personnel assigned a patrol rifle will utilize both the patrol rifle optics and patrol rifle iron sights (individually) during patrol rifle annual training courses of fire.
- E. Personnel authorized and issued the FPT rifle will qualify monthly utilizing the Division-approved course-of-fire designed to assess the officer's proficiency with the firearm under deployment conditions.
- F. Personnel authorized to carry a secondary firearm will qualify annually with that weapon utilizing the Division-approved course-of-fire. This qualification shall occur on an annual basis. Upon completion of the qualification, the firearms instructor shall complete and forward for authorization a "Request to Carry a Secondary or Off-duty Firearm" (SP4589).
- G. Personnel trained in the use of less lethal munitions shall review Division Policy & Procedure 2-1 and 2-2, and shall fire less-lethal munitions in a training/range environment for re-familiarity with the munitions' ballistic mannerisms on an annual basis.
- H. The length of training sessions conducted within the region may vary depending upon the goals and objectives of the particular training activity.

- I. The Region Firearms Coordinator will arrange for additional training dates for the purpose of accommodating personnel that may have missed training programs conducted at the region level.
- J. Region Firearms Coordinators will provide the Division Firearms Coordinator with a list of personnel trained and any additional course-of-fire conducted outside of the provided training requirements. This documentation shall be completed on the Division-approved software.
- K. Nothing in this policy will restrict personnel from conducting additional training. Firearms training is defined as training that pertains to the utilization and familiarization of Division firearms which may include, but is not limited to, training involving nomenclature, maintenance, safety, tactics, use of deadly force, less lethal munitions, weapon operation, policy, scenario, and board of review discussions which do not necessarily require the firing of a Division weapon. Training may be conducted in conjunction with other training (i.e., Defensive and Arrest Tactics (DAAT), Criminal Interdiction, Emergency Vehicle Operation Course (EVOC), etc.). For the purpose of training, qualification-only sessions do not meet the training requirements set forth in this policy.
- L. Only Division-qualified instructors will be utilized for training at in-service and for regional and recruit firearms training programs. A Firearms Instructor shall not serve as a lead instructor until he/she has demonstrated their ability to instruct by assisting an experienced instructor.
- M. The Division Firearms Coordinator shall meet annually, when practical, with the Region Firearms Coordinators prior to recertification training to determine training requirements and activities for the next year and to review this policy. This review is to ensure that the training and other conditions of this policy meet the needs of the Division and keep pace with accepted law enforcement trends.

VI. AMMUNITION

The use of ammunition in Division weapons will be regulated by the following provisions/restrictions:

- A. No co-mingling of supplemental weapons/ammunition with service weapon/ammunition is allowed. This means:
 - 1. Secondary handgun training/qualification shall be completed separately from Division weapon training/qualification or on a day designated for supplemental training only.
 - 2. Secondary handguns shall be secured in patrol vehicles until service weapon training/qualification has concluded.

- B. Partial boxes of ammunition will be inspected to ensure uniform caliber/type and condition.
 - 1. Prior to departing a firearms training facility, the range Officer-in-Charge (OIC) shall inspect every partial box that will be stored for future use.
 - 2. Once inspected, the partial box will be taped closed and initialed by the OIC. Any reissued a partial box shall be inspected by the OIC or a firearms instructor before being given to employees for use. Unfired ammunition recovered at the range shall be returned to the OIC for inspection.
- C. Any time ammunition is issued, employees shall inspect duty ammunition for quality control issues prior to loading in magazines and barrel dropped to ensure fitment.

VII. REFERENCES

Wisconsin State Statutes Ch. 939
DSP Policy & Procedure 2-1, Use of Force
DSP Policy & Procedure 2-2, Authorization, Use and Care of Weapons
Request to Carry a Secondary or Off-Duty Firearm (SP4589)