

Hamden Police Department General Orders

Policy Number: 001-005

Effective Date: August 01, 2005

Section: Role and Authority

Rescinds:

Title: Officer Involved Shooting

Approved By:

Approval Date:

PURPOSE

To establish a policy for officers of the Hamden Police Department involved in an officer involved shooting.

Policy

The policy of the Hamden Police Department is to provide for the reasonable use of Deadly Force by its officers within the parameters of State and Federal laws. Deadly force will be employed only as a LAST RESORT and only where ALL other means are not feasible. Officers must always use only the force necessary to affect lawful objectives. The value of human life in our society is immeasurable. As a result, officers should keep in mind that any use of deadly force may present a threat to people other than themselves and the suspect. The officer must constantly weigh the advantages and disadvantages of deadly force use and must ensure that any use of deadly force meets the test of reasonableness.

Definitions

Deadly Physical Force - physical force which can be reasonably expected to cause death or serious physical injury.

Serious Physical Injury - physical injury which creates a substantial risk of death or which causes serious disfigurement, serious impairment of health or serious loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ.

Imminent - on the point of happening

Hamden Police Department

General Orders

Procedures

Officer Involved Shooting

A. Post Shooting Investigation.

1. An investigation shall be completed on all shootings involving Hamden Police Department officers. This will include, but not be limited to, the shooting of an officer or suspect, shots fired by an officer in pursuit of a suspect, and any accidental discharge of firearms.
2. As soon as possible after the shooting, a Supervisor of the subject employee's respective Division or, in his absence, a Patrol Supervisor will be contacted. This supervisor will make a preliminary inquiry to determine the scope and seriousness of the incident. Based on the results of this inquiry, the supervisor will make contacts as outlined below.
3. In the event that a shooting involves death or injury, the following procedures will be followed:

B. Notifications by supervisor:

1. Communications will note in cad the time of each notification.
2. Command Duty Officer
3. Deputy Chief of Police
4. Chief of Police
5. Detective Division Commander
6. Division Commander to which the employee is assigned
7. Ethics and Integrity

C. Duties of the first non-involved officer at the scene:

1. First aid
2. Secure and preserve the scene

Hamden Police Department General Orders

D. Duties of the first non-involved supervisor on the scene:

1. Ensure that the officer's gun and ammunition sources, and whatever other equipment or articles of clothing are needed for the investigation, are held as evidence
2. Ensure that the officer is issued a replacement weapon as soon as practical
3. Ensure that the officer is removed from the scene as soon as authorized
4. Ensure that someone is with the officer at all times
5. Ensure that the officer's family is notified about the incident in an appropriate manner
6. Complete a comprehensive report of his activities

E. Duties of the Detective Division

1. Assume command of the investigation
2. Notify the Chief States Attorney's Office.
3. Perform any other tasks necessary to complete the investigation

F. Any officer involved in a shooting resulting in death or serious injury should be made aware of the following:

1. The officer will be advised of his rights with regards to both a criminal and internal investigation (Garrity Warnings)
2. There will be a criminal investigation
3. There will be a separate investigation conducted by the Internal Affairs Division
4. The State's Attorney's Office and Attorney General's Office will be notified and will also initiate a separate investigation
5. The officer will be reassigned temporarily to the Administrative Division. The length of the reassignment will be determined by completion of the investigation and the officer's desire to return to normal duty
6. A psychological support program will be made available to the officer

Hamden Police Department General Orders

G. In the event that a shooting involves NO injury or death, the following procedures will be followed:

- a) Notification by supervisor
 - 1. Command Duty Officer
 - 2. Deputy Chief of Police
 - 3. Chief of Police
 - 4. Division Commander that the employee is assigned to
- b) The responsibility for the investigation will rest with an officer of higher rank than the employee, who will be designated by the Chief of Police.
- c) Any officer involved in a shooting that involves NO injury or death should be aware that the same steps in a fatal or injury shooting may take place if deemed applicable.

H. Reporting:

- 1. A written report will be submitted whenever an officer discharges a firearm other than in training or for recreational purposes
- 2. The use of lethal force will be completely documented as to necessity, instrumentalities, and related circumstances in a case report written by the officer utilizing such force.
- 3. All investigative reports will be forwarded to the office of the Chief of Police for review.