

# Hamden Police Department General Orders

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**Policy Number:** 001-007

**Effective Date:** March 11, 2016

**Section:** Role and Authority

**Rescinds:** August 01, 2005

**Title:** Weapons

**Approved By:** Police Commision

**Approval Date:** March 9, 2016

## PURPOSE

To establish guidelines in the use and handling of lethal weapons; care and use of less lethal projectile weapons; inspection and maintenance of weapons and the use of off-duty firearms for the members of the Hamden Police Department.

## POLICY

Officers of the Hamden Police Department will follow all guidelines governing the carrying, training in, and the use of weapons. Weapons will not be carried, stored, or used in a negligent or reckless manner. The use of firearms is authorized in three situations:

1. During supervised instructional or training sessions
2. In accordance with Department policy on the use of deadly force
3. The humane dispatching of mortally wounded wild life

## DEFINITIONS

ESU: Emergency Response Unit

FMJ: Full Metal Jacket

Humane: marked by compassion, sympathy, or consideration for humans or animals

Less Lethal Weapon: Weapons that are not fundamentally designed to kill or cause serious bodily injury

Lethal Weapon: Any firearm, device, instrument, material, or any other substance that is capable of producing great bodily harm or death from the manner it is used or intended to be used.

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Long Weapon: Stag AR15 in .223 caliber (5.56 NATO)

S.I.M.: Specialty Impact Munitions

## PROCEDURES

### LETHAL WEAPONS

#### A. Sidearm Specifications

1. While on duty, Hamden Police Department personnel will only use or carry side arms authorized or issued by the Department to include backup weapons. Officers of the Hamden Police Department while off-duty are authorized to possess Department weapons as if they were their own as long as they are employees acting under full duty status.
  - a) The Glock 22, or 23 .40 cal. Pistol. Is the basic issued weapon of the Department.
  - b) The Glock 23 and 27, .40 cal. Are authorized for optional non-uniform personnel use.
  - c) Any other weapon that is authorized by the Chief or his designate is authorized for undercover work or as the administration sees fit.

#### B. Long Weapon Specifications

1. While on duty, Department personnel will only use or carry long weapons authorized or issued by the Department. Authorized weapons may include personally owned long weapons cleared for use by the Office of the Chief of Police or his designee. The issued long weapons are:
  - a) Mossberg M590 pump action shotgun, 12 gauge
  - b) Mossberg 9200 Police semi –auto 12 gauge shotgun
  - c) Stag LONG WEAPON Rifles, caliber .223 (5.56 NATO)

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### **C. Patrol Cars**

1. The LONG WEAPON will stay installed in all vehicles equipped with a locking mechanism or lock box. The officer, upon assuming control of the vehicle, will inspect the weapon for safety, loading and readiness. Correct functioning of the weapon locking mount or lock box will be tested.

- D.** Any long weapon found damaged or malfunctioning, shall be reported to the shift supervisor and removed from service. The shift supervisor will notify an armorer, of any damage or malfunction. The shift supervisor will notify the Division commander, if the LONG WEAPON is missing.

### **E. Long weapons may be deployed:**

1. Order of a supervisor.
2. By any Officer on-scene involved in a dangerous, armed confrontations as covered in the Department Use of Force policy and the need for the elevated response of a long weapon exists.

### **F. Safe Deployment issues**

1. Any officer armed with a long weapon must take into consideration the situation and his/her surroundings before using the weapon to insure the safety of innocent persons.
2. Any officer who is issued a long weapon will be responsible for the security and its proper use governed by the Department Use of Force policy.

### **G. Ammunition**

1. While on duty, police personnel will only utilize authorized ammunition.
  - a) SHOTGUN/40mm:
    1. 12 gauge,
    2. 00 buckshot,
    3. slug,
    4. sabot,
    5. birdshot
    6. SIM (Specialty Impact Munitions) are all authorized munitions and will be used according to situational need.
    - 7.

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b) RIFLE:

1. .223 (5.56 NATO)
2. FMJ 1 or Soft expansion tip.308 tactical ammunition

### **H. Less Lethal Weapons**

1. Less lethal force shall be applied according to the manufacturer's instructions and in conformity with training provided by the Department's less lethal weapons instructors.
2. Only sworn personnel, who have been trained in the use of less lethal force options are authorized to deploy them.
3. Designated personnel will be trained and certified to deploy all less lethal munitions.
4. Designated personnel must receive training in less lethal devices annually.
5. Whenever possible, Officers deploying less lethal devices shall have a cover Officer in close proximity prepared to counter a suspect with lethal force should the threat level to the Officer unexpectedly escalate.
6. After **ANY** use of force deployment refer to Hamden Police Policy 001-006.
7. HPD Less-Lethal Delivery Systems:
  - a. 40MM Launcher
  - b. .12 GA Shotgun (Designated for use with less lethal munitions. These shotguns are specifically marked to designate they are for less lethal use only)
  - c. 40MM Impact Munitions :
    1. eXact Impact 40 MM Sponge Round
    2. Direct Impact CS
    3. Direct Impact OC

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- d. .12 GA Weapon Less Lethal Description:
  - 1. Super Sock .12 GA Bean Bag
  
- e. Other Tactical Equipment/ Less Lethal Devices / Munitions:
  
- f. Specialty Impact – Barricaded Agents:
  - 1. 40MM Powder OC Barricade Projectile
  - 2. 40MM Powder CS Barricade Projectile
  - 3. Ferret 40MM CS
  - 4. Ferret 40MM OC
  
- g. Crowd Control Dispersal Agents:
  - 1. OC Aerosols
  - 2. Muzzle Blast OC
  - 3. Muzzle Blast CS
  - 4. Riot Control CS
  - 5. Safety White Smoke
  
- h. Chemical Munitions/Distracted Device Munitions
  - 1. NFDD – Noise Flash Distracted Devices (Commonly Referred to as Flash Bangs)- Low Roll Distracted Device
  
  - 2. At this time: Instructors are certified by Safariland, Inc. and/or NTOA (National Tactical Officers Association).
  
- i. They are designed for use against body areas as defined by Monadnock. (see attached chart) Refer to the following:
  - 1. Monadnock green level body areas.
  
  - 2. Monadnock yellow area impact zones are authorized as a precursor to use of deadly force.
  
  - 3. Monadnock red area impact zones are only authorized in a deadly force circumstance where the life of an Officer or innocent person is in jeopardy of death at the hands of the targeted subject.

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### **I. Patrol Rifle Ammunition Specifics**

1. Authorized ammunition is the .223 cal. (5.56 NATO). Magazines will be loaded with no more than 30 rounds during routine storage. Each on duty long weapon will have one 30 round magazine inserted/loaded with two 30 round magazines pouched in reserve. **The long weapon chamber will be left unloaded until the weapon is put into use.**
2. Bullet types are as follows:
  - a) Full metal jacket (FMJ)
  - b) Frangible
  - c) Hollow point (HP)
  - d) Tracer

### **J. Issuance of Weapons**

1. No weapon will be authorized for issue or use except with the inspection of a Department Armament Officer(s), providing that the weapon fits the criteria covered within the authorized weapon section. Weapons issued will be recorded in a computer log maintained by the Armament Officer(s). The log will list the following:
  - a) To whom the weapon is issued
  - b) The type and model of weapon issued.
  - c) Serial number of weapon.
  - d) Location of weapon (if weapons assigned to Division and not individual).
  - e) Date of issue
  - f) Date of return, if applicable

### **K. Armament Officer authorizing the action**

1. If weapons are stored at another division armament locker, then that division must have a log for the purpose of issue and return. Presently, Patrol, Detective Divisions and Emergency Services Unit.
2. A log of weapons will be stored on the central computer system and once per year, during a firearm training session, weapons will be cross checked for serial numbers.

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### **L. Inspection of Department Owned Weapons**

1. All weapons shall be periodically inspected by a department armorer at his discretion based on his/her training and experience in the maintenance, repair and care of such weapons.
2. Repair of Department weapons and accessories.

### **M. Weapon magazines**

1. Under no circumstance will a magazine be repaired except for spring, follower or base replacement.
2. Questionable, but working magazines will be spray-painted orange and relegated to range training purposes.
3. Malfunctioning magazines will be smashed and disposed of.
4. Only used working and new tested magazines will be issued to street officers for the purpose of street duty.

### **N. Weapons**

1. Any modifications and/or repairs to any Department authorized firearm requires the written approval of a department designated armorer.
2. Defective and/or unsafe firearms shall be reported in writing to an armorer and shall not be allowed to be employed on or off duty by any officer until examined by an armorer. If a weapon comes under question, as to its reliability or after the weapon is subjected to an unusual circumstance, such as, but not limited to:
  - a) Immersion
  - b) Excessive drop/fall
  - c) Improper ammunition failure or damage
  - d) Magazine damage
  - e) Improper assembly by user
  - f) Improper maintenance
3. The Armament Officer will issue the affected personnel with a substitute weapon until such time that the damaged weapon can be examined, fixed or replaced on a permanent basis. This surrogate weapon will be listed as the officers issued weapon for this period. Prior to reissue the repaired weapon will be test fired.
4. Any repairs, modifications and/or alterations to Department authorized firearms may only be made by an armorer or his designee employed or authorized by this Department.

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5. Authorized firearms shall be maintained in a clean operating condition by the officer assigned said firearm and shall be inspected at least once every 60 days by the shift supervisor.
6. ESU and other Department officers assigned a firearm, in addition to their issued handgun, shall return it to storage in a clean operating condition after use.
7. Prior to inspecting, modifying or repairing any Department authorized firearm, an armorer will have received armorer's training on such firearm.

### **O. Repair of off-duty weapons**

1. Only Glock weapons will be accommodated by the Armament Officers.
2. Only minor repairs and inspections will be accomplished.
3. Any major repair will be the responsibility of the owner of said weapon.
4. Prior to the off-duty weapon being covered, a Department Armament Officer must inspect any off-duty Glock that has been repaired by an off-site repair facility.

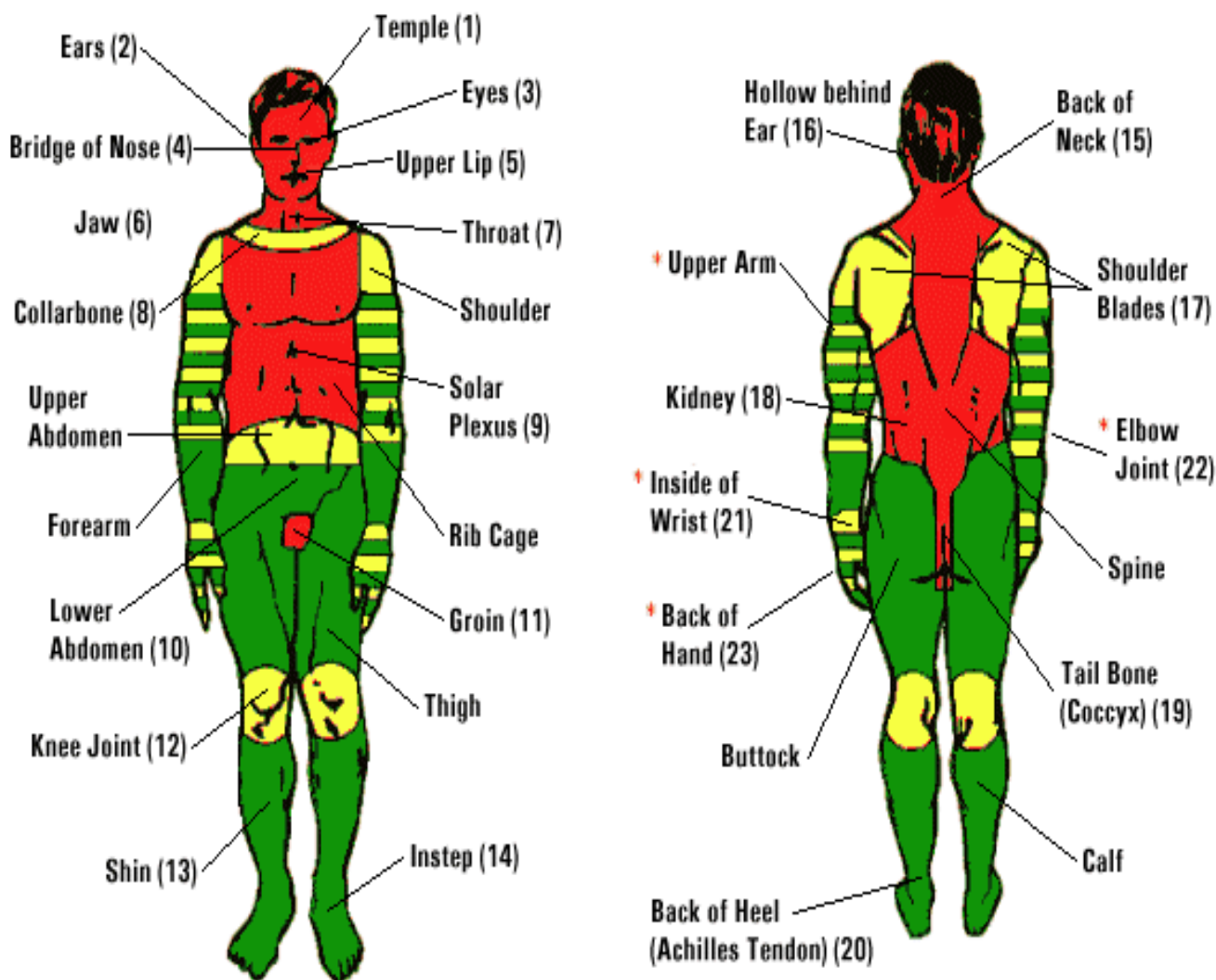
### **P. Training**

1. All Armament Officer(s) will be sent to armory schools at least once every two years, if feasible, to maintain their skills as professional armorer. This is to include rifle and shotgun schools.
2. All sworn officers will be required to successfully complete a training and qualification course as prescribed by the Department Firearms Instructors at least semi-annually. This course will comply with POST standards and practices.



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## ESCALATION OF TRAUMA BY VITAL AND VULNERABLE AREAS



### PRIMARY TARGET AREAS

**REASONING:** Minimum level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be temporary rather than permanent, however exceptions can occur.

\* In application of a restraint technique.

Note: When performing a block with a baton the WHOLE BODY is a green area, except for Head, Neck and Spine.

### SECONDARY TARGET AREAS

**REASONING:** Moderate level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be more permanent, but may also be temporary.

\* In application of a striking technique.

### FINAL TARGET AREAS

**REASONING:** Highest level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be permanent rather than temporary and may include unconsciousness, serious bodily injury, shock or death.