



# **Metropolitan Police Department**

## ***Security Officers Management Branch***

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2000 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Northwest Washington, D.C. 20009 (202) 671-0500

November 1, 2012

I, the undersigned hereby acknowledge receipt and delivery of the following documents, and further will incorporate into my lesson plan and classroom instruction;

- A- 901.01 (Handling of service weapons) Revised 08/05/10
- B- 901.04 (Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_
- C- 901.07 (Use of Force) Revised 08/16/10
- D- Course Outline for Firearms Instructors (Use of Force Continuum)
- E- .38 Caliber Revolver Course of fire (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_
- F- 9mm Semi-Automatic Course of fire (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Firearm Instructor name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Metropolitan Police Department

## *Security Officers Management Branch*

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### Instructions for obtaining Certification for Firearm Instructor in the District of Columbia

**Definition:** A firearm instructor is any person who is certified by the Security Officers Management Branch to provide special police officers with training and certification in the use of firearms and other service weapons. The firearms instructor must be certified and have a current Law Enforcement Instructor Identification card issued by the National Rifle Association (NRA) or Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Private Security Services Instructor certification.

#### **A. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

Individuals applying for firearms instructor must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age
2. Be able to read and write the English language
3. Be of good moral character
4. Be a United States citizen or have permanent legal alien status
5. Be in good health
6. Be able to perform firearms and other service weapon instruction duties
7. Be approved by the Chief of Police

#### **B. APPLICATION PROCEDURES:**

Each applicant must complete a package consisting of the following:

1. Fully completed forms supplied by the Chief of Police.

**\*\*Please note\*\*** The application must be notarized by a notary public.

2. Copy of United States birth certificate or current United States passport
3. DD 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) if you have ever served in any branch of the armed forces
4. Two (2) full-face color photographs, one inch by one half inches (1"x1-1/2") in size, taken not more than three (3) months prior to the date of application

5. Copy of lesson plans to include the following blocks of instruction:

- Metropolitan Police Department's .38 Caliber Revolver Qualification Course of Fire and, if applicable, the 9mm Semi-Automatic Course of Fire
- Metropolitan Police Department's General Order 901.1 (Handling of Service Weapons)
- Metropolitan Police Department's General Order 901.7 (Use of Force)
- Metropolitan Police Department's Course outline for Firearms Instructors

6. Name and location of the fire range used

7. If teaching expandable baton training, a current instructor's certificate is required.

8. If teaching aerosol chemical spray, a copy of the manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheet for the type of spray used and training certificate are required.

**\*\*Please note\*\*** The Security Officers Management Branch must authorize all aerosol chemical spray prior to issuance.

**C. Additional Information:**

1. All certifications for firearm instructor will be for a period not to exceed one year. The Security Officers Management Branch will notify each applicant of the renewal procedures at the time of application.

2. Firearm instructor certification is contingent upon a current Law Enforcement Instructor identification card issued by the National Rifle Association (NRA) or Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Private Security Services Instructor certification. Thus, it is the responsibility of the firearms instructor to provide a copy of up-to-date NRA (or DCJS) paperwork with new expiration dates to the Security Officers Management Branch in order to continue serving as a certified firearm instructor in the District of Columbia.

3. Fingerprinting required for certification must be completed at the Security Officers Management Branch.

- The fee for the fingerprinting is thirty-five dollars (\$35.00). Payments made at the Security Officers Management Branch must be in the form of a cashier's check, certified check, or money order, payable to **The D.C. Treasurer**. **No personal check will be accepted.**

4. There is an annual licensing fee of two hundred six dollars (\$206.00). This must be paid in the form of a cashier's check, certified check, or money order, payable to **The D.C. Treasurer**.

-Payments will not be accepted until you are notified by the S.O.M.B. that your application for Firearms Instructor is approved.



**Metropolitan Police Department  
Security Officers Management Branch**

**Firearms Instructors Application**  
(Please Type or Print) 3/12

Name of Applicant (Last)	(First)	(M.I.)
Residence Address	City	State Zip Code
Home Phone number ( Including Area Code)	Work Phone number	Mobile number
Email address		
Social Security Number		
Date of Birth		
Place of Birth		

If not born in the United States, provide country of birth, naturalization number and proof of Immigration status Resident Alien card, Employment Authorization certificate. \_\_\_\_\_

Security Company Affiliation (Include name and complete address) if applicable  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you served in the Armed Services? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, submit a copy of your separation papers (DD-214), that indicates the type of separation. If medically discharged, submit a certificate as to the reason.

Have you ever held a firearms license in any state, territory or jurisdiction? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, provide when, where and the license number. \_\_\_\_\_

Has any firearms license issued to you under the laws of any state, territory or jurisdiction ever been suspended, revoked or denied? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever been arrested or charged with any offense other than parking violations in the District of Columbia or elsewhere? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, give date(s), charge(s), and court disposition(s). \_\_\_\_\_

Are you now or have you ever been the subject of a restraining order involving a domestic violence charge? ☐ Yes No ☐

Are you currently the subject of any outstanding arrest warrant in any state or federal jurisdiction? ☐ Yes No ☐

If you answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, you must provide details which must include dates, circumstances and locations. (If necessary use a separate sheet of paper to complete)

Have you ever had convulsions, fainting spells, blackouts or any mental health issues? ☐ Yes No ☐

Do you use insulin? ☐ Yes No ☐

Do you have any physical infirmities or disabilities which would prevent you from safely handling a firearm? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you now use or have you ever used any habit forming drugs or narcotics? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you been voluntarily or involuntarily committed to any hospital or institution for mental illness? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you or have you ever been under treatment or confinement for drug addiction or habitual drunkenness? ☐ Yes No ☐

#### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

The below listed items must be incorporated in your lesson plan to include classroom instruction.

- Metropolitan Police Department's .38 Caliber Revolver Qualification Course of Fire and/or 9mm Semi-Automatic Course of Fire
- Metropolitan Police Department's General Order 901.1 (Handling of Service Weapons)
- Metropolitan Police Department's General Order 901.7 (Use of Force)
- Metropolitan Police Department's Course outline for Firearms Instructors

Provide the name and location of the firing range used.

<b>Firing Range:</b>
<b>Address</b>
<b>City, State &amp; Zip Code</b>

Attach a copy of your current National Rifle Association (NRA) Law Enforcement Instructor identification card or Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Private Security Services Instructor certification bearing an expiration date.

Firearm instructor's certification is contingent upon current membership in the NRA (or equivalent organization). Thus, it is the responsibility of the firearms instructor to provide a copy of up-to-date NRA (or DCJS) membership paperwork with new expiration dates to the Security Officers Management Branch in order to continue serving as a certified firearm instructor in the District of Columbia.

I affirm under oath that I have provided accurate information on this application and I understand that making a false statement is punishable by criminal penalties under D.C. Code Title 22 Section 2405.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

Notary Public: \_\_\_\_\_

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

# GENERAL ORDER



## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Title  
**Handling of Service Weapons**

Series / Number  
**GO-RAR-901.01**

Effective Date  
**June 12, 2008**

Replaces / Rescinds  
GO-RAR-901.01 (Handling of Service Weapons)  
Effective Date, October 7, 2002  
GOC-05-03 (Handling of Service Weapons)  
Effective Date, September 15, 2005

Related To:  
SO-04-07 (Carrying Firearms While Off-Duty in the District of Columbia)

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### I. BACKGROUND

The use of authorized service weapons by members in the performance of duty is regulated by GO-RAR-901.07 (Use of Force). This directive is designed to cover the requirements for the safe handling and use of firearms and other service weapons in those circumstances where the weapon is not being engaged in the use of force for a police purpose. These circumstances include prescribed training; authorized on-duty and off-duty weapons; handling and securing of weapons; authorized practice; and unintentional discharge of weapons. This directive does not apply to the lawful use or possession of privately-owned firearms not authorized by the Metropolitan Police Department, such as antique guns in a gun collection.

### II. POLICY

The policy of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is to ensure that members carry and use only authorized weapons and ammunition and are trained in the proper use, security, and handling of firearms when acting, on duty or off duty, in their capacity as police officers. The policy of MPD also requires that:

1. The discharge of any firearm by a member of the MPD, whether on duty or off duty, shall be reported immediately. (CALEA 1.3.6-a)
2. Subject to the exceptions enumerated in Section II.3, below, every firearm discharge by a member, whether occurring on- or off-duty, using an authorized or unauthorized firearm, shall be investigated thoroughly and objectively.
3. Absent extraordinary circumstances, the MPD will not investigate a member's firearm discharge if that discharge:

- a. Occurred during authorized firearm training and did not result in injury, property damage, or any allegation of misconduct against the member; or
  - b. Occurred during the member's lawful recreational activities (e.g., hunting), using a legally registered, privately owned firearm, as long as each of the following elements has been met:
    - (1) The discharge occurred outside the District of Columbia;
    - (2) The member was not acting in his or her capacity as an MPD officer;
    - (3) The discharge did not result in injury, property damage, or any allegation of misconduct;
    - (4) The weapon involved was not a service weapon and
      - (a) The weapon is not the subject of an allegation that the weapon was (i) illegal; (ii) unlawfully altered or modified; or (iii) used to fire illegal ammunition; and
      - (b) The member's use of weapon did not result in injury, property damage, or any allegation of misconduct against a member.
4. Members are expected to comply with all relevant local and Federal laws and regulations when handling and using privately-owned firearms for purposes not related to their duties as a police officer.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

When used in this directive, the following terms shall have the meanings designated:

- 1. Authorized – Department-sanctioned for on-duty or off-duty use.
- 2. Exchange – Whenever a Department-issued service weapon is temporarily or permanently replaced.
- 3. Firearm – Any Department-issued service pistol or authorized off-duty service pistol, as well as weapons such as other pistols, rifles, shotguns, revolvers, handguns, or machine guns.
- 4. Firearms Instructor – A member of the Department who has: (1) attended all required courses in weaponry, (2) been certified as a weapons instructor, and (3) been given the authority to monitor proficiency at the firing range.



5. **Functional Firing** – The un-scored firing of fifty (50) rounds of ammunition to test the proper functioning of a new, re-issued or exchanged weapon.
6. **Non-Deadly Force** – Any use of force that is neither likely nor intended to cause death or serious physical injury.
7. **Patrol Rifle** – The Department-issued rifle. The Department currently issues the Colt AR-15A3.
8. **Pistol** – Any handgun. The Department issues the Glock Models 17, 19, and 26 in addition to the Sig Sauer P226 (for specialized units). The compact versions of these pistols are authorized for use as an off-duty weapon. Some members are authorized to use their previously approved .38 caliber revolver as an off-duty weapon.
9. **Privately Owned Firearms** – Firearms other than those issued by the Department or authorized by the Department for off-duty police use. Privately owned firearms include those firearms lawfully possessed under the laws of an officer's place of residence.
10. **Serious Use of Force** – Lethal and less-lethal actions by MPD officers including:
  - a. All firearm discharges by an MPD officer with the exception of range and training incidents and discharges at animals;
  - b. All uses of force by an MPD officer resulting in a broken bone or an injury requiring hospitalization;
  - c. All head strikes with an impact weapon;
  - d. All uses of force by an MPD officer resulting in a loss of consciousness, or that create a substantial risk of death, serious disfigurement, disability or impairment of the functioning of any body part or organ;
  - e. All other uses of force by an MPD officer resulting in a death; and
  - f. All incidents where a person receives a bite from an MPD canine.
11. **Service Ammunition** – Any ammunition issued or authorized by the Department.

12. Service Weapon -- Any instrument issued or authorized by the Department, used offensively or defensively to control or overcome a police subject, carried or kept readily available by MPD members, including:
  - a. Firearm (e.g., pistol or handgun);
  - b. Aerosol chemical dispenser (e.g., OC Spray);
  - c. Baton or ASP;
  - d. Tear gas; or
  - e. Any other specialty weapon issued to the Emergency Response Team.
13. Shotgun -- Any Department-issued shotgun; may be described as a "regular" shotgun or a "folding-stock" shotgun, each requiring distinctive training and certification.
14. Use of Force -- Any physical contact used to effect, influence or persuade an individual to comply with an order from an officer. The term shall not include un-resisted handcuffing or hand control procedures that do not result in injury or complaint of pain.

#### **IV. RULES**

- A. No member shall draw and point a firearm at or in the direction of a person unless there is a reasonable perception of a substantial risk that the situation may escalate to the point where lethal force would be permitted. When it is determined that the use of lethal force is not necessary, as soon as practicable, the firearm shall be secured or holstered.
- B. Members shall not:
  1. Possess any unauthorized firearm for on-duty or off-duty use in the District of Columbia. All firearms must have proper authorization and permits;
  2. Individually obtain service ammunition from any source except through the Firearms Training and Tactics Unit, Metropolitan Police Academy (MPA);
  3. Carry any more, nor any less, than the requisite amount of service ammunition applicable to their authorized service pistol:
    - a. While on duty, three (3) fully loaded magazines and one round in the chamber; and
    - b. While off duty, at least one (1) fully loaded magazine and one round in the chamber.

NOTE: Members approved to carry a revolver must have the cylinder fully charged;

4. Leave any issued or authorized firearm unattended in any automobile or other location that is readily accessible to other individuals;
5. Store firearms at home where they may be visible and/or accessible to children and other persons; or
6. Play or toy with firearms.

**V. REGULATIONS****A. Use and Discharge of Firearms**

1. Except for qualification, target practice or competition on an approved range, members shall not use any Department-issued firearm, authorized off-duty pistol or service weapon, on duty or off duty, unless in conformity with the Department's Use of Force policy as prescribed by GO-RAR-901.07 (Use of Force). In cases of fresh pursuit, members shall use firearms in conformity with GO-OPS-301.03 (Operation of Emergency Vehicles, Fresh Pursuit, and Vehicular Pursuit).
2. While in an off-duty status, members traveling to and from the District of Columbia and carrying their Department-issued or authorized off-duty pistol, shall ensure that they are in compliance with all applicable rules, regulations and laws of the jurisdiction in which they are traveling.
3. Whenever a member's authorized firearm is discharged, the member shall:
  - a. Preserve the firearm in the exact condition it was in immediately following the discharge;
  - b. Not open the action and/or chamber a round, remove or load another magazine in the well of the service weapon;
  - c. Not operate the actions on rifles or shotguns (although the safety may be set if it is necessary to handle the weapon); and
  - d. Surrender the firearm in its holster as directed by a member of the Force Investigation Team (FIT) or an official (of a higher rank) on the scene.

**B. Handling of Firearms**

1. Members shall not:
  - a. Handle firearms in an unsafe manner by playing or toying with their weapon;
  - b. Display their firearms unnecessarily (e.g., removing the pistol from the holster to show a friend, etc.);

- c. Use or carry ammunition in any assigned Department- issued service firearm, or authorized off-duty firearm that is not issued by the Department, except that members may purchase and use ammunition for training purposes at an approved range;
- d. Disassemble the Glock 9mm semi-automatic pistol or perform any maintenance on the weapon, except fieldstripping for cleaning;

NOTE: Only certified Armorsers assigned to the MPD Range are authorized to perform any other maintenance on the weapons.

- e. Alter a service firearm in any manner (e.g., mark, engrave, color, change grips, etc.); or
  - f. Use or carry any unauthorized equipment on their service weapon, including but not limited to the following:
    - (1) Grip adapters not issued or authorized by the Department;
    - (2) Extended magazine floor plates; and
    - (3) Lasers or flashlights.
- 2. Questions regarding authorized equipment shall be directed to the MPD Armorer.
  - 3. If it is determined that a member is carrying or using unauthorized equipment on his or her service weapon in violation of this order, an official shall direct the member to report to the MPD Armorer's Office for the immediate removal of the unauthorized equipment and may subject the member to disciplinary action.

**C. Authorized Off-Duty Service Firearms**

- 1. The Glock Models 26, 19, and 17, 9mm semi-automatic pistol (compact version) is the only firearm sworn members are authorized to carry as their off-duty service weapon except:
  - a. Members who have previously purchased a .38 caliber revolver, which has been approved by the MPD Range Officer as an authorized off-duty service weapon, may carry the same as long as they continue to qualify with the weapon. If an authorized off-duty .38 caliber revolver needs replacement for any reason, the replacement off-duty service firearm shall be the compact version of the member's Department-issued Glock service pistol.
  - b. 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 pistol under the following guidelines:

- (1) A member who has been issued the Sig Sauer may be permitted to use a compact version of his/her issued Sig Sauer for off-duty assignment or until he/she is issued a Glock;
  - (2) The member shall sign a PD Form 177-B (Request to Obtain Off-Duty Pistol) acknowledging that he/she is authorized to carry an off-duty Sig Sauer for the length of time that the member remains in his/her current assignment or until he/she is issued a Glock.
  - (3) After initial certification, the member is required to be re-certified bi-annually in the use of the off-duty Sig Sauer.
2. Members who wish to obtain an off-duty pistol are required to complete a PD Form 219 (Application for Firearms Registration Certificate), and adhere to the application procedures found in GO RAR-901.02 (Wearing of Personal, Non-Issued Revolvers and Holsters) that pertain to obtaining approval for an off-duty pistol and holster and compliance with the requirements of the jurisdiction of residence.
  3. The MPD Range Officer shall ensure that training records for members who have been authorized to carry a compact version of their issued Sig Sauer pistol also contain the members' written acknowledgment of the conditional authorization to carry an off-duty Sig Sauer as prescribed in this order.

**D. Qualification**

1. All members, including members on limited duty or sick leave who retain their service pistols, shall qualify with their service pistol and authorized off-duty firearm every six (6) months.
  - a. Members shall be required to qualify *at least once* during the period between January 1st through June 30th and *at least once* during the period July 1st through December 31st. The proficiency test itself does not count as a semi-annual qualification.
  - b. Members who have their firearm returned to them after being cleared to return to full duty status, shall report to the MPD Range for qualification within twenty-four (24) hours, or the next business day.

## **HANDLING OF SERVICE WEAPONS (GO-RAR-901.01)**

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2. Commanding officers shall ensure that all members of their command who are authorized to carry a Department service pistol are in compliance with the bi-annual qualification requirements.
3. Any member failing to report for qualification as designated above shall, upon due notice from the MPD Range Officer, have his/her police powers revoked until properly qualified, and shall be subject to adverse action.
4. Penalties for failure to report for training shall be administered as follows:
  - a. A member's first instance of an unjustified lateness or no-show for weapons training within a twelve (12) month period shall result in a recommendation to his/her commanding officer for corrective action by the issuance of a PD Form 750 (Dereliction Report).
  - b. An officer's second instance of an unjustified lateness or no-show for weapons training within a twelve (12) month period shall result in a recommendation to the commanding officer for corrective action by the issuance of a Letter of Prejudice or an Official Reprimand.
  - c. Each subsequent instance of unjustified lateness or no-show for weapons training within a twelve (12) month period shall result in a recommendation to the Department Disciplinary Review Officer that the member be cited for adverse action.
  - d. In determining the appropriate penalty for a member's violation, the investigating official shall consider the totality of the circumstances surrounding the violation, including but not limited to, the following:
    - (1) The reason for the tardiness or failure to appear, and
    - (2) The number of previous instances of tardiness and failure to appear.
  - e. Any unjustified lateness or no-show which results in a member failing to be re-certified with his / her issued service pistol during the current re-certification phase will result in a recommendation to the Professional Development Bureau (PDB), Human Resource Management Division (HRMD), Disciplinary Review Branch (DRB) that the member be cited for adverse action.
5. Should an MPD member fail to qualify with his/her issued service pistol, a PD Form 77 (Notice of Revocation of Police Powers) shall be served on the member immediately by the MPD Range Officer.
6. The member's service weapon shall be surrendered immediately to the MPD Range Officer.
7. In the event that the member has driven a marked vehicle to the MPD Range, the MPD Range Officer shall contact the member's unit and arrangements shall be made to have the member and the vehicle transported back to his/her unit.

Revised 8/05/10

8. The member shall respond to the MPD Range on his/her next tour of duty, to qualify or receive remedial training, as may be directed by the MPD Range Officer.
9. Once the member has successfully completed retraining and has qualified, the MPD Range Officer shall restore his/her police powers and the member's service weapon shall be returned.
10. Members authorized to carry an off-duty pistol who fail to qualify with their issued service pistol or their off-duty pistol shall have their authority to wear an off-duty weapon canceled immediately by the MPD Range Officer who shall serve the member with a PD Form 228 (Cancellation of Authority to Wear Off-Duty Non-Issued Pistol). (CALEA 28.1.1)
11. As directed by the MPD Range Officer, the member shall be scheduled for remedial training or re-testing.
12. Once a member has qualified with his or her off-duty weapon, the member shall be re-issued a PD Form 227 (Certification to Wear Off-Duty Non-Issued Pistol).
13. After a maximum of forty (40) hours of training, should a member fail to successfully complete retraining, the Manager, Specialized Training, MPA, shall direct the member to the Medical Services Division (MSD) for an evaluation to determine if a medical problem is prohibiting the member's successful completion of re-training.
  - (a) Should the MSD evaluation show no such problem, the member will be afforded an additional forty (40) hours of re-training.
  - (b) A member's failure to successfully complete the forty (40) hour post-MSD re-training process shall result in the member being recommended for termination. (CALEA 52.1.8)
14. A member returning to full duty status from an extended absence shall re-qualify under the following guidelines (CALEA 1.3.11-c):
  - a. Members who are absent from full duty status for more than thirty (30) days shall submit their service pistols to the MPD Armorer at the Firearms Training and Tactics Unit, MPA, for safekeeping, except under the following circumstances:
    - (1) When the MSD places a person on limited duty and determines that there is no medical reason to take the pistol, the member has the option to decide whether or not to keep the service pistol.

- (2) If the member chooses to keep the pistol, he/she shall make an appointment with the MPD Range within seventy-two (72) hours to take a proficiency test consisting of a fifty-two (52) round course of fire. A minimum score of forty-three (43) is required to demonstrate proficiency.
  - (3) If the member passes the proficiency test, he/she may keep the pistol during the period of limited duty imposed by the MSD, provided the member is able to meet the provisions stated in Section V. D. 1.a-b of this order.
  - (4) If the member chooses not to keep the pistol during the limited duty period or if the member fails to pass the proficiency test, the member shall turn the weapon in to the MPD Armorer at the MPA.
  - (5) The MPA shall document the above actions and provide written notification to the member and the member's command.
- b. Members returning to full duty status following an absence greater than thirty (30) days but less than one-hundred eighty (180) days, shall be required to re-qualify on the range with their service weapon and any off-duty weapon.
- c. Members returning to full duty status following an absence of one-hundred eighty (180) consecutive days or more shall complete a cognitive pretest in the firearms area and shall re-qualify on the MPD Range. Immediately upon returning to duty, the member shall:
  - (1) Contact his or her administrative section to schedule a date to attend the MPD Indoor Range.
  - (2) Report to the MPD Range to receive his/her cognitive pre-testing prior to firing. Upon completion of the pre-testing, the member will receive training, if necessary, in any area(s) failed. Re-training time will vary according to the number of areas failed.
- d. Upon successfully completing the cognitive portion, the member returning to full duty status will be required to qualify with his/her issued service weapon and, if applicable, authorized off-duty weapon.
- e. Should a member returning to full duty status fail to qualify with his/her issued service weapon or authorized off-duty weapon,



he /she shall receive a minimum of eight (8) hours of marksmanship re-training.

- f. Should a member returning to full duty status fail to satisfactorily complete either the cognitive or performance pre-testing the first day he/she reports to the MPD Range, a PD Form 77 shall be served by the MPD Range Officer, revoking the member's police powers, until both re-training programs have been successfully completed.
- g. Should a member fail to satisfactorily complete either the cognitive or performance areas of remedial re-training within forty (40) hours of training, the Manager, Specialized Training, shall direct the member to the MSD for evaluation to determine if a medical problem is prohibiting successful completion of re-training.
- h. Should the MSD evaluation show no medical problem, the member shall be afforded forty (40) hours of re-training in the necessary areas. Failure to successfully complete the forty (40) hour post-MSD re-training process shall result in the member being recommended for termination. (CALEA 52.1.8)

**E. Lost or Damaged Property**

Supervisors shall be responsible for conducting investigations of stolen, lost, or damaged firearms (including shotguns) and ensuring that a PD Form 43 (Report of Damage to or Loss of DC Government Property) is prepared in the case of stolen, lost, or damaged firearms/ammunition.

**VI. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES**

**A. Response to Incidents Involving a Serious Use of Force or a Use of Force Indicating Potential Criminal Conduct**

- 1. The Force Investigation Team shall be responsible for investigating all incidents involving Serious Use of Force or the Use of Force Indicating Potential Criminal Conduct pursuant to GO RAR-901.08 (Use of Force Investigations).
- 2. The Criminal Investigations Division shall be responsible for investigating the offense leading up to the use of force, where applicable.

**B. Response to Firearm Discharges Not Involving a Serious Use of Force**

- 1. The member's chain of command (officials of higher rank than the involved member) shall be responsible for the investigation of all use of force incidents not involving a Serious Use of Force or a Use of Force

Indicating Potential Criminal Conduct pursuant to GO RAR- 901.08 (Use of Force Investigations).

2. The Criminal Investigations Division shall be responsible for investigating the underlying offense leading up to the use of force, where applicable.

**C. Weapon Malfunctions**

It is imperative that members of the Department utilize safe and properly functioning service weapons.

1. When a service weapon malfunctions during a member's intent to fire, the weapon shall be taken out of service and the MPD Armorer or an MPD Firearms Examiner shall evaluate the functioning of the weapon as soon as possible.
2. The MPD Armorer shall subject the firearms of members who are involved in an unintentional discharge to inspection.
3. If a member's weapon malfunctions during a use of force encounter or during regular firearms qualification, the weapon shall be presented to the MPD Armorer before being placed back in service. The weapon will be evaluated by the MPD Armorer to determine if it was a weapon malfunction or a shooter-induced error.
4. Following the evaluation, the MPD Armorer or Firearms Examiner shall document in writing whether the weapon had an inherent mechanical malfunction, or if the malfunction was member-induced or due to poor maintenance.

**D. Obtaining Replacement Service Weapons (CALEA 17.5.2)**

1. In all circumstances where a member's service weapon is taken, the member shall be given a receipt [e.g., PD Form 84 (Clothing and Equipment Property Receipt)].
2. Members may require a temporary replacement service weapon in particular circumstances (e.g., weapon malfunction, officer-involved shooting).
3. Upon authorization from their supervisor, members shall respond to the Command Information Center (CIC) to obtain a temporary replacement service weapon.
4. A supervisor from the CIC shall receive authorization prior to issuing a temporary replacement service weapon as follows:

- a. In those incidents under investigation by the FIT, authorization shall be obtained by a supervisor from the FIT.
  - b. In all other incidents, authorization shall be obtained from the involved member's commanding officer, or his/her designee.
5. The member's supervisor shall contact the MPD Armorer's office to arrange for a permanent replacement service weapon.
6. The MPD Armorer shall issue a permanent replacement service weapon only upon appropriate authorization from the appropriate Bureau Chief/Director.
7. Upon proper authorization, the MPD Armorer will:
  - a. Issue the member a new weapon;
  - b. Conduct a function fire;
  - c. Issue the member a property receipt for any temporary service weapon being turned into the MPD Armorer's Office; and
  - d. Return any temporary service weapons to the Forensic Science Services Division.

**E. Handling and Using Shotguns**

**1. When a Shotgun May Be Used**

Members shall use a shotgun only in extraordinary circumstances, such as tactical situations or high-risk arrest situations when it is anticipated that members may confront an armed suspect or group of suspects. The decision to remove a shotgun from a vehicle should be based primarily upon the danger posed by the confronted person(s). Such situations may include, but are not limited to, the following situations:

- a. Major criminal incidents (including barricade/hostage situations);
- b. Service of warrants;
- c. Any situation where a member reasonably believes that deadly weapons are likely to be encountered; and
- d. Any situation where the official in charge of the operation deems the shotgun to be necessary, so long as the decision is based on the guidelines set forth in this order.

**2. Shotgun Certification**

There are two separate certification training programs: certification in the use of a regular shotgun and certification in the use of a folding-stock shotgun. Only members who are trained and certified shall use the shotgun for which they are certified, although it is recognized that under exigent circumstances it may become necessary for a non-certified member to take control of a shotgun for safekeeping and/or to protect lives.

- a. Members who use shotguns shall be certified annually.
- b. At the option of element commanders/directors, members of their command may be designated for certification with either the regular or the folding-stock shotgun as determined by the duties and responsibilities of the positions held.

3. Handling and Care of Shotguns

- a. All properly certified members, upon being assigned a shotgun, shall be responsible for the proper and safe inspection of the functionality of the weapon prior to assuming responsibility for the weapon.
- b. Members, upon being relieved from duty or termination of the assignment requiring the weapon, shall turn in the shotgun to an official for inspection.
- c. Any defect or deficiency found as a result of the inspection shall be brought to the immediate attention of the official responsible for the shotguns or, in his/her absence, an official on duty.
- d. When carrying regular or folding-stock shotguns in a vehicle not equipped with a mount, members shall take the following precautionary measures:
  - (1) The weapon shall be loaded with only four shells in the magazine tube;
  - (2) The chamber shall be empty;
  - (3) The safety shall be in the "safe" position;
  - (4) The action shall be closed; and
  - (5) The weapon shall be in its case and placed in the trunk of the vehicle until needed.

- e. Members shall observe all proper safety procedures when loading and unloading a shotgun.
- f. Shotguns shall be cleaned only by members who are currently certified to use the particular kind of shotgun, using official department cleaning kits maintained at each unit with shotguns.
- g. The MPD Armorer shall be responsible for repairing all issued shotguns and returning repaired shotguns to the assigned unit.

**4. Storage of Shotguns**

Shotguns shall always be stored in the designated storage area of the assigned organizational element.

- e. The storage area must be capable of being secured and shall be locked at all times unless entered by an official.
- b. The accessibility of keys or combinations to locks to storage areas shall be determined by the respective commanding officers/directors. They shall not be made available to members below the rank of Sergeant.
- c. Shotguns shall always be stored unloaded with the action open.

**5. Supervisory and Command Responsibilities**

- a. Commanding officers/directors shall control and ensure maximum accountability for the shotguns, ammunition and accessories assigned to their command, including the following:
  - (1) Designate an official of his/her command to be the official responsible for the shotguns;
  - (2) Designate members who may become shotgun certified under the guidelines for optional certification;
  - (3) Designate and maintain a safe and secure shotgun storage area at the unit facility;
  - (4) Forward all requests for shotguns and accessories to the Commander/Director, MPA; and
  - (5) Ensure that certification for members is updated and that current certification information is readily available to officials at all times.

- b. The unit official who has been designated to have responsibility over the shotguns shall:
  - (1) Ensure that a Shotgun Logbook is maintained;
  - (2) Ensure that the shotguns are cleaned as needed;
  - (3) Inspect all the shotguns periodically for defects and/or damage;
  - (4) Ensure that weapons in need of repair are transported in a safe manner to the MPD Armorer; and
  - (5) Ensure that shotgun cleaning kits are obtained from the Firearms Training and Tactics Unit, MPA.
- c. Supervisors shall be primarily responsible for:
  - (1) Inspecting each shotgun before it is issued and after it is turned in.
  - (2) Issuing, storing and logging of shotguns, shotgun ammunition, and accessories.
  - (3) Completing certification of the Shotgun Log.
  - (4) Upon discovering a defect/deficiency in a shotgun, the supervisor shall determine if the weapon is safe to be assigned or if another weapon should be assigned.
- d. The Commander/Director, MPA, shall be responsible for:
  - (1) Training and certification of all members in the proper handling and use of shotguns;
  - (2) Maintaining current training and certification records of all members certified in the use of shotguns;
  - (3) Forwarding shotgun training and certification information to the concerned member's commanding officer on a timely basis;
  - (4) Maintaining a complete inventory of all shotguns and accessories purchased by the department;
  - (5) Based on proper authorization, issuing shotguns and accessories to the requesting unit;

- (6) Ensuring that the MPD Armorer inspects all Department shotguns on an annual basis; and
- (7) Ensuring that old shotgun ammunition is replaced on a one-for-one basis during the annual replacement period for the patrol districts and other elements.

**F. Handling and Using Patrol Rifles Assigned to Police Districts**

**1. Patrol Rifle Qualifications**

- a. Each Commanding Officer may designate one or more members of his/her command for patrol rifle qualification consistent with the duties and responsibilities of the member.
- b. Each member selected for patrol rifle qualification shall be in a full-duty status.
- c. In order to carry and use a patrol rifle, a member shall:
  - (1) Successfully complete a minimum of forty (40) hours of patrol rifle qualification training;
  - (2) Successfully complete, at least annually, a minimum of eight (8) hours of patrol rifle re-qualification training; and

**NOTE:** Under exigent circumstances it may become necessary for a non-qualified member to take control of a patrol rifle for safekeeping and/or to protect lives.

**2. Patrol Rifle Issuance**

- a. Each patrol rifle shall be issued to a member only by the Commanding Officer or designee and only to a full-duty member who has met all qualification and re-qualification requirements.
- b. The Commanding Officer shall designate one or more element members, the rank of Sergeant or above, who are patrol rifle-qualified, to serve as a Patrol Rifle Liaison Official, who shall be responsible for all assigned patrol rifles, ammunition, and accessories on his/her assigned tour of duty.
- c. When issuing a qualified member a patrol rifle, the Patrol Rifle Liaison Official shall:
  - (1) Verify that the member has met all applicable patrol rifle qualification and re-qualification requirements;

- (2) Record the following information in the Patrol Rifle Logbook:
  - (a) Rifle Department identification number;
  - (b) Rifle serial number;
  - (c) Name and rank of member to whom the rifle is issued;
  - (d) Badge number of the member to whom the rifle is issued;
  - (e) Date of most recent qualification or re-qualification of the member;
  - (f) Number of magazines issued;
  - (g) Number of magazines returned;
  - (h) Number of rounds issued;
  - (i) Number of rounds returned;
  - (j) Name of official issuing the weapon;
  - (k) Name of official receiving the weapon; and
  - (l) Any damage; and
- (3) Ensure that the roll call sheet indicates that the member has been issued a patrol rifle and fax the roll call sheet promptly to the CIC.

### **3. Patrol Rifle Use**

Members shall use a patrol rifle only in extraordinary circumstances, such as tactical situations or high-risk arrest situations when it is anticipated that members may confront an armed suspect or group of suspects. The decision to remove a patrol rifle from a vehicle shall be based primarily upon the danger posed by the confronted person(s). Such situations may include, but are not limited to, the following situations:

- a. Major criminal incidents (including barricade/hostage situations);
- b. Active shooter scenarios;



- c. Any situation in which the official in charge of the operation deems the patrol rifle to be necessary, consistent with the guidelines set forth in this order.

**4. Patrol Rifle Transport**

- a. When transporting a patrol rifle in an MPD vehicle:
  - (1) The vehicle must contain an approved vehicle locking device that is designed for and capable of securing the rifle in and to the vehicle. The locking device must:
    - (a) Prevent the theft of the rifle;
    - (b) Prevent unauthorized use of the rifle; and
    - (c) Be authorized by the Director, Metropolitan Police Academy or designee.
  - (2) The member, prior to placing the weapon in the locking device, shall conduct a safety check to ensure the rifle is in the following condition:
    - (a) The chamber is empty;
    - (b) The bolt is forward;
    - (c) The selector lever is set on "safe"; and
    - (d) A fully loaded magazine is inserted into the well of the weapon.
- b. A member who must exit a vehicle that contains a patrol rifle shall:
  - (1) Ensure the weapon is secured in the locking device in the condition required in Section F.4.a above and the vehicle is secured (i.e., locked doors and closed windows); or
  - (2) Keep the rifle with him/her on his/her person.

**5. Patrol Rifle Handling**

- a. Each member, upon being issued a patrol rifle, shall:
  - (1) Be responsible for the proper and safe inspection of the firearm prior to assuming responsibility for the rifle;

- (2) Not alter, modify, or add any after-market equipment to the rifle;
  - (3) Observe all required safety procedures when cleaning, carrying, loading, unloading, and transporting the rifle; and
  - (4) Use the rifle, in all circumstances, in accordance with this order, GO RAR-901.07 (Use of Force), and GO RAR-901.08 (Use of Force Investigations).
- b. Only the MPD Armorer shall repair, alter, adjust (excluding sight adjustment), and add a non-issued accessory to a patrol rifle.
- c. When deploying the patrol rifle, the member shall:
  - (1) When no immediate threat is present, carry the rifle in "condition two" as follows:
    - (a) Chamber empty;
    - (b) Bolt forward;
    - (c) Selector lever on "safe"; and
    - (d) Fully charged magazine in the well of the rifle; and
  - (2) When an immediate threat is present, or conditions escalate to the point where an immediate threat may be present, charge the rifle.
- d. Each member issued a patrol rifle, upon being relieved from duty or completing the authorized carrying time period, shall return the rifle to the element for storage.

**6. Patrol Rifle Storage**

- a. Patrol rifles shall be secured at the assigned element only in the storage area designated and approved by the Commanding Officer.
- b. The Commanding Officer shall determine the member(s), the rank of Sergeant and above, who shall possess the key(s) or combination required to enter the designated storage area.
- c. The storage area shall be locked at all times, unless entered by a member the rank of Sergeant or above.

- d. When a member returns the patrol rifle to the element for storage, the member shall ensure that the rifle is:
  - (1) Unloaded;
  - (2) In a safe condition; and
  - (3) The chamber is empty.
- e. If a patrol rifle has been deployed during inclement conditions (for example, muddy, rainy, and/or snowy conditions), the member shall clean the rifle prior to turning it in.
- f. The Patrol Rifle Liaison Official who receives the patrol rifle from the member shall:
  - (1) Ensure the rifle is stored in "rack-safe" condition as follows:
    - (a) There is no magazine in the well of the weapon;
    - (b) The chamber is empty;
    - (c) The hammer is in the forward position;
    - (d) The selector lever is set to the "fire" position; and

NOTE: This position is necessary because when the hammer is forward, the trigger has been pulled to take the pressure off the springs. The selector lever will not move from the "fire" position to the "safe" position.

  - (e) The dust cover is in the closed position.
- (2) Ensure that the patrol rifle ammunition is processed and stored as follows:
  - (a) The ammunition shall remain in the original box until issued;
  - (b) Any issued ammunition that has been removed from the original box shall be stored in the patrol rifle magazine;
  - (c) Under no circumstances shall loose ammunition be stored other than in the appropriate magazine(s);

- (d) Any magazine that is stored while charged shall be unloaded every quarter and the ammunition loaded into an alternate magazine;
- (e) When rotating ammunition, each round shall be inspected to note any damage or defect; and
- (f) Defective round(s) shall not be reloaded into a magazine, but shall be properly and safely transported to the Firearms Training and Tactics Unit, MPA, for disposal.

**6. Supervisory and Command Responsibilities**

**a. The Patrol Rifle Liaison Official shall:**

- (1) Ensure that the Patrol Rifle Logbook is properly maintained;
- (2) Ensure that each member issued a patrol rifle has met all applicable qualification and re-qualification requirements;
- (3) Conduct a weekly inventory of all element patrol rifles, ammunition, and accessories;
- (4) Conduct a weekly inspection of all element patrol rifles for defects and/or damage;
- (5) Ensure that any patrol rifle that requires repair is transported in a safe manner to the MPD Armorer;
- (6) Ensure that all element patrol rifles are inspected at least annually by the MPD Armorer;
- (7) Upon suspecting damage to, or a deficiency in, a patrol rifle, remove the rifle from inventory and ensure the proper and safe transport to the MPD Armorer; and
- (8) When damage to, or a deficiency in, a patrol rifle can be attributed to a member, conduct a proper investigation to determine accountability, ensuring that all required forms are properly completed, including the:
  - (a) Incident Summary Sheet (UN 938); and
  - (b) Report of Damage to or Loss of District Government Property (PD Form 43).

**b. The Commanding Officer shall:**

- (1) Ensure the proper control and accountability procedures for all issued patrol rifles, ammunition, and accessories are implemented, followed, and documented;**
- (2) Select the member(s) who may become patrol rifle qualified;**
- (3) Designate one or more element members, the rank of Sergeant or above, who are patrol rifle-qualified, to be a Patrol Rifle Liaison Official;**
- (4) Designate and ensure the proper maintenance of a safe and secure element patrol rifle storage area;**
- (5) Forward all requests for patrol rifles, ammunition, and accessories to the Commander/Director, MPA; and**
- (6) Ensure that each patrol rifle-qualified member re-qualifies annually and that the qualification information is on file and accessible to members the rank of Sergeant and above at all times.**

**c. The Director, MPA, shall:**

- (1) Ensure the proper qualification and re-qualification of members selected to be authorized to carry and use patrol rifles;**
- (2) Ensure that up-to-date accurate patrol rifle qualification and re-qualification records are maintained;**
- (3) Ensure the proper maintenance of a complete inventory of all patrol rifle, ammunition, and accessories purchased by the MPD;**
- (4) Issue patrol rifles, ammunition, and accessories to the requesting element with the approval of the Chief of Police or his/her designee;**
- (5) Ensure that the MPD Armorer inspects each MPD patrol rifle at least annually;**
- (6) Determine the rotation schedule for the patrol rifle ammunition; and**

- (7) Ensure that patrol rifle ammunition to be rotated out is replaced on a one-for-one basis according to the annual rotation schedule.

- d. The Chief of Police or designee shall determine the number of patrol rifles to be assigned to an element.

**G. Undercover Weapons**

1. Members in undercover assignments shall comply with all applicable provisions of this order and the Use of Force policy of the MPD.
2. Members in undercover assignments shall be guided by Standard Operating Procedures promulgated by the Investigative Services Bureau for requests and approval for undercover equipment, control records, and issuance by the MPD Range Officer.

**H. Procedures for Bringing Service Weapons Aboard Aircraft**

1. Federal regulations limit the instances where members may carry a service weapon on their person aboard commercial aircraft. Only when there is an official need to have the firearms accessible during the flight, in order to perform official duties (i.e., transporting a prisoner), shall members carry a service weapon on their person aboard a commercial aircraft. Otherwise, the service weapon shall be secured and transported in the member's baggage.
2. Members shall comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), airport authority, and MPD procedures as to advance notification and verification pursuant to GO RAR-901.10 (Carrying Weapons and Transporting Prisoners Aboard Aircraft).
3. Members transporting a prisoner aboard a commercial aircraft shall also adhere to the provisions for FAA-required training and for coordination with the Fugitive Unit as outlined in GO RAR-901.10 as may be applicable.

**I. Procedures Where Dangerous Animals Are Involved**

1. When encountering dangerous animals, a member may discharge a weapon to destroy an animal only when that animal poses a threat to the member or others. Shooting of animals is not considered a Serious Use of Force and shall be investigated by the member's Element Commander or Director as prescribed in GO RAR-901.08.
2. The MPD Game Warden and/or the District of Columbia Animal Control Agency are the only agents who may authorize the destruction of an animal that is so badly injured that humaneness requires it to be relieved from further suffering.

**J. Target Practice**

Officers may use their service pistol for target practice or competition on an approved range provided that the range is licensed by the jurisdiction where it is located.

**K. Firearms Training**

The Commander/Director, MPA, shall ensure that:

1. Each member is issued copies of, and is instructed on, the Department's Use of Force policy prior to being authorized to carry Department-issued firearms;
2. Members shall receive in-service training on the Department's Use of Force policy at least bi-annually; (CALEA 1.3.11 and 1.3.12)
3. Members receive documented proficiency training only from weapons instructors that are certified by the MPD; (CALEA 1.2.11-a&b)
4. Members demonstrate proficiency with all weapons authorized for use; and
5. Members undergo remedial training when there is a failure to qualify. (CALEA 1.3.11-c)

**VII. CROSS REFERENCES****A. Directives**

1. GO OPS-301.03 (Operation of Emergency Vehicles, Fresh Pursuit and Vehicular Pursuit)
2. GO RAR -901.02 (Wearing of Personal, Non-Issued Revolvers and Holsters)
3. GO RAR-901.04 (Oleoresin Capsicum Spray Dispensers)
4. GO RAR-901.07 (Use of Force)
5. GO RAR-901.08 (Use of Force Investigations)
6. GO RAR-901.09 (Use of Force Review Board)
7. GO RAR-901.10 (Carrying Weapons and Transporting Prisoners Aboard Aircraft)

**B. Forms**

1. PD Form 43 (Report of Damage or Loss of DC Government Property)
2. PD Form 77 (Notice of Revocation of Police Powers)
3. PD Form 84 (Clothing and Equipment Property Receipt)
4. PD Form 177-B (Request to Obtain Off-Duty Pistol)
5. PD Form 219 (Application for Firearms Registration Certificate)
6. PD Form 228 (Cancellation of Authority to Wear Off-Duty Non-Issued Pistol).
7. PD Form 750 (Dereliction Report)
8. PD Form 901 (Use of Force Incident Report).



Cathy L. Lanier  
Chief of Police

CLL:JAE:JGW:pc



# GENERAL ORDER



Title	
Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray Dispensers	
Series / Number	
GO - RAR - 901.04	
Effective Date	Distribution
October 7, 2002	B
Replaces / Revises	
General Order 901.4 (Aerosol Oleoresin Capsicum Spray Dispensers)	

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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### I. BACKGROUND

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) is a naturally inflammatory agent derived from the pepper plant. As an inflammatory agent, aerosol OC Spray causes an almost immediate swelling of the eyes and breathing passages. Additionally, there is an intense burning sensation of the eyes, throat, and sprayed areas of the skin. When OC is inhaled, the respiratory tract becomes inflamed and breathing is restricted, limited to short and shallow breaths. Physical effects may include involuntary closing of the eyes, coughing, choking, lack of upper body strength and coordination and nausea. Psychological effects such as disorientation and fear may also occur.

When properly used, OC Spray is usually quite effective on both humans and animals and will incapacitate most subjects for a period of 30 minutes without permanent injury. Because Oleoresin Capsicum is a natural and biodegradable substance, decontamination procedures include proper ventilation, removing any contact lenses and providing access to cool water. (CALEA 1.3.4)

### II. POLICY

The policy of the Metropolitan Police Department is to consider the use of aerosol OC Spray dispensers by members as a Use of Force governed by appropriate directives of the Department and as constrained by District of Columbia law and the standards set forth by the United States Supreme Court. See General Order RAR - 901.07 (Use of Force)

Further, the policy of the Metropolitan Police Department is to value and preserve human life when exercising lawful authority to use force. Therefore, officers of the Metropolitan Police Department shall use the minimum amount of force that an objectively reasonable officer would use in light of the circumstances to effectively bring an incident or person under control, while protecting the lives of members or others.

### III. RULES AND REGULATIONS

#### A. Use of Force Continuum

1. The Department recognizes and employs the Use of Force Continuum. Members in response to resistant or dangerous individuals may apply escalating options of force (see Use of Force Continuum Chart). The options include:
  - a. Cooperative Controls, such as verbal persuasion;
  - b. Contact Controls, such as hand control procedures, firm grip, escort and control holds;
  - c. Compliance Techniques, such as Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray (non-deadly);
  - d. Defensive Tactics, such as less-than-lethal weapons, including impact weapons, such as a baton, or ASP, and including less-than lethal projectiles used by the Emergency Response Team and during times of civil disobedience (e.g., 12 gauge shotgun, 37mm gas guns, and rubber bullets), and canines.
  - e. Deadly Force, defined as any use of force likely to cause death or serious physical injury, including but not limited to the use of a firearm or a strike to the head with a hard object (including potentially lethal applications of less-than-lethal weapons).
2. In determining what level of force to use, it is important to consider the seriousness of the crime, the level of threat or resistance presented by the suspect, the imminence of danger, and the suspect's mental state. Members shall use only the minimum level of force needed to obtain control that an objectively reasonable officer would use in light of the circumstances.
3. Members who encounter a situation where the possibility of violence or resistance to a lawful arrest is present should, if possible, defuse the situation through warning and verbal persuasion.
4. Members shall not use tactics designed to intentionally escalate the level of force, e.g., taunting, verbal abuse, or ignoring a reasonable citizen request for information.
5. If there is a supervisor on the scene where there is a violent or resisting subject, he or she shall direct and control all activity by subordinates.

**B. Prohibited Uses of OC Spray**

1. Officers shall not use OC Spray unless the officer has legal cause to detain, take into legal custody or maintain custody of a subject who is, at a minimum, actively resisting the officer.
2. Officers shall not use OC Spray against children (under the age of 8) absent exceptional circumstances (e.g., where the officer's only alternative is to escalate the level of force used).
3. Officers shall not use OC Spray against elderly persons (65 or older) unless exceptional circumstances are presented.
4. Officers are prohibited from using OC Spray to prevent property damage unless the officer has probable cause to detain, take into legal custody or maintain in custody a subject who is, at a minimum, actively resisting the officer.
5. Officers are prohibited from using OC Spray to disperse crowds or others unless those crowds or others are committing acts of disobedience that endanger public safety and security.

**C. Penalties for Violation of OC Spray Prohibitions**

Officers shall be subject to disciplinary action and potential criminal prosecution for violating the above prohibitions or for otherwise misusing OC Spray.

**IV. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES**

**A. Carrying Aerosol OC Spray Dispensers**

1. The Department-issued aerosol OC Spray dispenser for uniform personnel shall be carried by all members while on patrol duty. (CALEA 1.3.9)
2. The aerosol OC Spray dispenser for uniform personnel shall be carried in the specially designed holster provided by the department, which shall be worn on the Sam Browne belt on the opposite side from the service pistol.
3. Members of the plainclothes force shall carry the Department-issued miniature aerosol OC Spray dispenser when such action would not interfere with practical police functions. (CALEA 1.3.9)
4. The miniature aerosol OC Spray dispenser for plainclothes personnel shall be carried with its protective cap in place and clipped to the shirt.

blouse or coat pocket. It shall not be carried in any other place since the unit may be accidentally discharged.

5. Each member who is issued an aerosol OC Spray dispenser shall be held accountable for the equipment.
6. MPD vehicles will be equipped with Department-issued bottles of flushing solution by the Fleet Management Division.

**B. Use of the Aerosol OC Spray Dispensers**

1. OC Spray may be used when cooperative controls are insufficient to control or stop an aggressive act or act of resistance. Members of the force are reminded that the effectiveness of OC Spray varies from individual to individual.
2. When using OC Spray, members shall:
  - a. Issue a warning that OC Spray is going to be used against the subject, unless resistance ends provided that a warning would not endanger the officer or others.
  - b. Ensure that, prior to discharging the OC Spray, the member permits a reasonable period of time to allow compliance with the warning, when feasible.
  - c. Use the aerosol OC Spray dispenser only as prescribed by Department training. The dosage when utilizing the spray is two (2) one-second bursts.
  - d. Not use the dispenser at any distance less than 3 feet from the subject unless absolutely necessary. (i.e. struggling with a suspect, etc). Effective range is approximately 12 feet.
  - e. Aim for the individual's face. OC Spray is most effective when it comes in contact with the skin of the face and eyes. Upon facial contact, the spray will cause an intense burning sensation to the subject's face and eyes, resulting in profuse tearing and temporary loss of vision.
  - f. Use extreme caution when approaching or handling a subject who has been sprayed with the OC Spray dispenser and is obviously not affected by its use.
3. When OC Spray has been used on a subject, the following procedures should be followed:
  - a. The subject shall be provided the opportunity to wash the affected areas within 20 minutes after the application of the spray, absent exceptional circumstances.

- b. Members shall not use any creams, ointments, or bandages on affected areas.
- c. Officers may not keep a sprayed subject in a face-down position any longer than necessary to end the threat of harm or escape and handcuff the subject, in order to avoid positional asphyxia.
- d. Members shall transport subjects on whom the OC Spray has been used to a hospital for medical treatment in accordance with Department orders regarding treatment of injured prisoners, under the below listed circumstances: (CALEA 1.3.5)
  - (1) Subjects who complain of or exhibit continued effects after having flushed the affected areas;
  - (2) Subjects who indicate that they have a pre-existing medical condition (asthma, emphysema, bronchitis, heart ailment, etc.) that may be aggravated by OC Spray;
  - (3) If at any point after exposure the subject displays a reaction not consistent with the expected reaction to aerosol OC Spray, medical attention is to be summoned immediately.

**C. Maintaining Aerosol OC Spray Dispensers**

- 1. Members of the force shall periodically check the fluid levels of their aerosol OC Spray dispensers. This can be accomplished by shaking the dispenser.
- 2. If as a result of this check or for any other reason, a member suspects that the dispenser is not working properly, he or she shall ask their supervisor to test the dispenser.
- 3. Supervisors are authorized to test the dispenser by firing a short one-second burst in an appropriate area outside of the station house.
- 4. Defective or expended OC Spray dispensers shall be submitted to the Range for replacement.

**D. Reporting the Use of Aerosol OC Spray Dispensers****1. Initial Response**

- a. When OC Spray is used, the first responsibilities of the officer shall be to ensure that the scene is safe, render first aid if applicable, secure the scene's integrity, and notify a supervisor.
- b. District Watch Commanders and/or appropriate element supervisors shall respond immediately to the scene of the use of OC Spray, and ensure that the Communications Division and the Synchronized Operations Command Center (SOCC) are notified. The SOCC shall notify the Force Investigation Team if appropriate.

**2. Member Responsibilities**

- a. When a discharge of OC Spray, whether intentional or unintentional, affects an individual so that first aid or treatment is needed, the occasion requires the filing of a PD Form 901-e (Use of Force Incident Report) by the involved member and a chain of command investigation.
- b. Members shall notify their supervisor and complete a PD Form 901-e (Use of Force Incident Report) immediately following any use of OC Spray requiring first aid or treatment.

**3. Supervisor Responsibilities**

When a member has declined to complete the Use of Force Incident Report immediately following an incident, the supervisor shall compel the member to complete the report following a declination by the U. S. Attorney's Office and/or issuance of an authorized Reverse-Garrity warning.

**E. Investigating the Use of Aerosol OC Spray Dispensers**

Members shall be guided by GO RAR-901.08 (Use of Force Investigations) as to investigative responsibilities when a use of OC Spray occurs.

- a. The Force Investigation Team (FIT) shall be responsible for investigating all incidents involving serious use of force or the use of force indicating potential criminal misconduct by an officer as defined by GO-RAR-901.08. When the discharge of OC Spray results in admittance of the subject to a hospital, FIT shall investigate.

- b. The Office of the Superintendent of Detectives shall be responsible for investigating the underlying offense that led to the use of force, where applicable.
- c. The member's chain of command officials (of higher rank than the involved member) shall be responsible for the investigation of all use of force incidents not involving a serious use of force or a use of force indicating potential criminal misconduct by an officer.
- d. The affected Watch Commander shall notify OPR and obtain a tracking number within one hour of the incident and shall fax a copy of the preliminary report and any supporting documentation to OPR prior to being relieved from duty.
- e. At the discretion of the Chief of Police or his designee, any incident that may be investigated by chain of command supervisors may be assigned to the Force Investigation Team.

**F. Training Requirements**

The Director, Institute of Police Science, shall ensure that:

- a. Copies of and instructions on the Department's Use of Force policy are provided to members prior to being authorized to carry Department-issued OC Spray.
- b. The Institute of Police Science documents that members have received proficiency training on the use of OC Spray before they are certified to carry and/or use the spray.

**G. Review and Analysis of OC Spray Incidents**

- 1. The Use of Force Review Board shall conduct timely reviews of all use of force investigations pursuant to GO RAR - 901.09 (Use of Force Review Board).
- 2. The Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), in conjunction with the Use of Force Review Board, shall be responsible for conducting an annual analysis of the Use of Force Incident Reports to determine any patterns or trends that indicate the need for retraining, policy revisions and/or equipment needs involving the use of OC Spray. (CALEA 1.3.13)

**V. CROSS REFERENCES**

**A. Related Directives**

1. GO RAR-901.07 (Use of Force)
2. GO RAR-901.08 (Use of Force Investigations)
3. GO RAR-901.09 (Use of Force Review Board)

**B. Related Forms**

1. PD Form 901-e (Use of Force Incident Report)
2. MPD Use of Force Continuum Chart

**// SIGNED //**  
**Charles H. Ramsey**  
**Chief of Police**

**Attachment: PD Form 901-hc (Use of Force Incident Report) [Interim hard-copy version]**

**CHR:NMJ:JE:MAR:NM:AFA:afa**



# GENERAL ORDER



## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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### Title

Use of Force

### Series / Number

GO – RAR – 901.07

### Effective Date

October 7, 2002

### Distribution

B

### Replaces / Rescinds

General Order 901.7 (Use of Force)

### Related to

General Order RAR-901.08

(Use of Force Investigations)

General Order RAR-901.09

(Use of Force Review Board)

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## I. BACKGROUND

The legal limitations on the use of force by District of Columbia law enforcement officers are expressed in D.C. Code § 4-176 (Use of Wanton or Unnecessary Force) and in District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR), Title 6A, Section 207 (Use of Firearms and Other Weapons).

6A DCMR Section 207.1 provides, among other things, that a member is allowed to "use only the minimum amount of force, which is consistent with the accomplishment of his or her mission, and shall exhaust every other reasonable means of apprehension or defense before resorting to the use of firearms."

6A DCMR Section 207.2, provides, among other things, that no member shall discharge a firearm in the performance of police duties except to "defend himself or herself or herself or another from an attack which the officer has reasonable cause to believe could result in death or serious bodily injury"; or to "effect the arrest or to prevent the escape, when every other means of effecting the arrest or preventing the escape has been exhausted, of a person who has committed a felony or has attempted to commit a felony . . . . Provided, that the felony for which the arrest is sought involved an actual or threatened attack which the officer has reasonable cause to believe could result in death or serious bodily injury; and provided further, that the lives of innocent persons will not be endangered if the officer uses his or her firearm; . . . ."

The Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees citizens the right "to be secure in their persons . . . against unreasonable . . . seizures" of the person. The Supreme Court has stated that the Fourth Amendment "reasonableness" inquiry is whether the officers' actions are "objectively reasonable" in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them, without regard to their underlying intent or

motivation. The "reasonableness" of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, and its calculus must embody an allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force necessary in a particular situation. (*Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 396-397 [1989]).

With respect to the use of deadly force, the Supreme Court in *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1, 11-12, held that "[w]here the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect poses a threat of serious physical harm, either to the officer or to others, it is not constitutionally unreasonable to prevent escape by using deadly force. Thus, if the suspect threatens an officer with a weapon or there is probable cause to believe that he has committed a crime involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical harm, deadly force may be used if necessary to prevent escape, and if, where feasible, some warning has been given."

## II. POLICY

The policy of the Metropolitan Police Department is to value and preserve human life when using lawful authority to use force. Therefore, officers of the Metropolitan Police Department shall use the minimum amount of force that the objectively reasonable officer would use in light of the circumstances to effectively bring an incident or person under control, while protecting the lives of the member or others.

## III. DEFINITIONS

When used in this directive, the following terms shall have the meanings designated:

- A. **Deadly Force** – any use of force likely to cause death or serious physical injury, including but not limited to the use of a firearm or a strike to the head with a hard object.
- B. **Less-Than-Lethal Weapons** – any object or device deployed with the intent or purpose of eliminating a threat without causing death. These include, but are not limited to, a 37 mm gas gun containing a cloth bag filled with small lead shot pellets, rubber bullets, batons, OC Spray, A.S.P. (Armament System Procedures) tactical batons.
- C. **Member** – Sworn MPD Employee or MPD Reserve Corps member.
- D. **Non-Deadly Force** – any use of force that is neither likely nor intended to cause death or serious physical injury.
- E. **Objective Reasonableness** – Reasonableness of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene in light of the facts and circumstances confronting the officer without regard to the officer's underlying intent or motivation.

- F. **Serious Physical Injury** – any injury that results in hospitalization and that creates a substantial risk of death, serious disfigurement, disability or protracted loss or impairment of the functioning of any body part or organ.
- G. **Serious Use of Force** – lethal and less-than-lethal actions by MPD officers including:
  - 1. all firearm discharges by an MPD officer with the exception of range and training incidents and discharges at animals;
  - 2. all uses of force by an MPD officer resulting in a broken bone or an injury requiring hospitalization;
  - 3. all head strikes with an impact weapon;
  - 4. all uses of force by an MPD officer resulting in a loss of consciousness, or that create a substantial risk of death, serious disfigurement, disability or impairment of the functioning of any body part or organ;
  - 5. all other uses of force by an MPD officer resulting in a death; and
  - 6. all incidents where a person receives a bite from an MPD canine.
- H. **Use of Force** – any physical contact used to effect, influence or persuade an individual to comply with an order from an officer. The term shall not include unresisted handcuffing or hand control procedures that do not result in injury.
- I. **Use of Force Continuum** – a training model/philosophy that supports the progressive and reasonable escalation and de-escalation of member-applied force in proportional response to the actions and level of resistance offered by a subject. The level of response is based upon the situation encountered at the scene and the actions of the subject in response to the member's commands. Such response may progress from the member's actual physical presence at the scene to the application of deadly force.
- J. **Use of Force Indicating Potential Criminal Conduct by a Member** – includes, but is not limited to, all strikes, blows, kicks or other similar uses of force against a handcuffed subject and all accusations or complaints of excessive force made against the member.

#### IV. RULES

- A. No member of the Metropolitan Police Department shall discharge his/her firearm under the following circumstances:
  - 1. As a warning.

2. Into a crowd.
  3. At or from a moving vehicle unless deadly force is being used against the officer or another person. For purposes of this order, a moving vehicle is not considered deadly force. Members shall, as a rule, avoid tactics that could place them in a position where a vehicle could be used against them.
  4. In a felony case which does not involve an actual attack, but involves a threatened attack, unless the member has reasonable cause to believe the threatened attack is imminent and could result in death or serious bodily injury.
  5. In any misdemeanor offense, unless under exceptional circumstances.
  6. Solely to protect property interests.
  7. To stop an individual on mere suspicion of a crime simply because the individual runs away.
- B. No member shall draw and point a firearm at or in the direction of a person unless there is a reasonable perception of a substantial risk that the situation may escalate to the point where lethal force would be permitted. When it is determined that the use of lethal force is not necessary, as soon as practicable, firearms shall be secured or holstered.
- C. When feasible, members shall identify themselves as a police officer and issue a warning before discharging a firearm.
- D. No member of the Metropolitan Police Department, in the normal exercise of his or her responsibilities, shall carry, use or discharge any firearm or other weapon, except those issued or approved for use by the Metropolitan Police Department under direction of the Chief of Police.
- E. No member of the Metropolitan Police Department shall carry, use, or discharge any unauthorized ammunition in their issued service weapons. Members are prohibited from obtaining service ammunition from any source except through official departmental channels. Members are further required to carry only the requisite amount of service ammunition as applicable to the authorized service weapon they are utilizing.
- F. Any excessive force by a member will subject him or her to disciplinary action and possible criminal prosecution or civil liability.
- G. Any violation of these rules will subject members to disciplinary action.
- H. **Civilian members shall not be issued and shall not carry weapons of any kind.**

**NOTE: Civilian members may handle weapons when required as part of their assigned duties (e.g., civilian firearm instructors, civilian firearm examination technicians, civilian evidence technicians.)**

- I. **Civilian members shall only use force in defense of themselves or others.**

## V. **REGULATIONS**

When force is necessary, District of Columbia regulations require members to use the minimum level of force that is necessary to accomplish a police mission. Members are not required to start at the lowest level of the options listed in the Use of Force Continuum. Members should select the appropriate level of force based on what a reasonable member and the circumstances require (See attached Use of Force Continuum Chart).

### A. **Prompt Medical Attention**

When any level of force is used, there shall be a visual and verbal check of the subject to ascertain whether the subject is in need of medical care. Medical assistance shall be summoned immediately if a person is physically injured in any way, complains of pain, or demonstrates life-threatening symptoms.

### B. **Use of Force Continuum**

In determining what level of force to use, it is important to consider the seriousness of the crime, the level of threat or resistance presented by the suspect, the imminence of danger, and the suspect's mental capacity. Only the minimum level of force needed to obtain control that the objectively reasonable officer would use in light of the circumstances shall be used.

All members who encounter a situation where the possibility of violence or resistance to lawful arrest is present should, if possible, defuse the situation through advice, warning and verbal persuasion.

In the event that a situation escalates beyond the effective use of verbal diffusion techniques, members are authorized to employ Department-approved compliance techniques and Department-issued defensive weapons.

1. The Department recognizes and employs the Use of Force Continuum. Members in response to resistant or dangerous individuals may apply escalating options of force (see Use of Force Continuum Chart attached). The options include:
  - a. Cooperative Controls, such as verbal persuasion;
  - b. Contact Controls, such as hand control procedures, firm grip, escort and control holds;

- c. Compliance Techniques, such as Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray (non-deadly);
  - d. Defensive Tactics, such as less-than-lethal weapons, including impact weapons, such as a baton, or ASP, and including less-than lethal projectiles used by the Emergency Response Team and during times of civil disobedience (e.g., 12 gauge shotgun, 37mm gas guns, and rubber bullets), and canines.
  - e. Deadly Force (including deadly applications of less-than-lethal weapons).
- 2. The patrol supervisor, if present where there is a violent or resisting subject, shall direct and control all activity.
  - 3. Members shall modify their level of force in relation to the amount of resistance offered by a subject. As the subject offers less resistance, the member shall lower the amount or type of force used. Conversely, if resistance escalates, members are authorized to respond in an objectively reasonable manner. (CALEA 1.3.1)
  - 4. Issued defensive weapons may be employed in response to the threat level recognized by an objectively reasonable police member in the circumstances as necessary to protect himself/herself or another from physical harm, to restrain or subdue a resistant individual, and to bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control.

**C. Authorized Use of Non-Deadly Force (CALEA 1.3.4)**

- 1. When using force, members must be able to articulate the facts and circumstances surrounding the force used in any given situation.
- 2. Only objectively reasonable force may be used to respond to threats or resistance in every situation.
- 3. A member's decision to use non-deadly force must involve one or more of the following:
  - a. To protect life or property.
  - b. To make a lawful arrest.
  - c. To prevent the escape of a person in custody.
  - d. To control a situation and/or subdue and restrain a resisting individual.

4. A member shall use only that option of force on the Department's Use of Force Continuum that is reasonably necessary to bring the situation under control. If de-escalation does not work, the member may use an increasing level of force to overcome the level of resistance. As soon as the incident is under control, the member's use of force should diminish proportionally. (CALEA 1.3.1)

**D. Authorized Use of Deadly Force (CALEA 1.3.2)**

**1. Defense of Life**

- a. Members of the Metropolitan Police Department may use deadly force in the performance of police duties:
  - (1) When it is necessary and objectively reasonable **AND**,
  - (2) To defend himself/herself or another from an actual or threatened attack that is imminent and could result in death or serious bodily injury.
- b. Members shall not draw and point a firearm at or in the direction of a person unless the officer has an objectively reasonable perception of a substantial risk that the situation may escalate to the point where lethal force would be permitted. When it is determined that the use of lethal force is not necessary, as soon as practicable, firearms shall be secured or re-holstered.

**2. Fleeing Felon**

Members may use deadly force to apprehend a fleeing felon **ONLY** when every other reasonable means of affecting the arrest or preventing the escape has been exhausted **AND**,

- a. The suspect fleeing poses an immediate threat of death or serious bodily harm to the member or others; **OR** (CALEA 1.3.2)
- b. There is probable cause to believe the crime committed or attempted was a felony, which involved an actual or threatened attack which could result in death or serious bodily harm; **AND**
  - (1) There is probable cause to believe the person fleeing committed or attempted to commit the crime, **AND**
  - (2) Failure to immediately apprehend the person places a member or the public in immediate danger of death or serious bodily injury; **AND**
  - (3) The lives of innocent persons will not be endangered if deadly force is used.

**3. Warning to Subject**

When feasible, members shall identify themselves as police officers and issue a warning before discharging a firearm.

**E. Less-Than-Lethal Projectiles (CALEA 1.3.4)**

1. The objective of less-than-lethal projectiles is to save human life.
2. Consistent with the Department's philosophy of using only the minimum amount of force necessary to control or subdue potentially violent subjects, less-than-lethal projectiles may be used only by authorized members with appropriate specialized training.
3. During instances of civil disobedience, less-than-lethal weapons may only be used to subdue or incapacitate a subject to prevent imminent physical harm to the officer or another person and shall be used only at the direction of the official in charge of the scene. All other use, by any other member, is strictly prohibited.

**F. Prohibitions**

1. No member shall carry any Department-issued weapon prior to successfully completing Department-approved training courses directed by the Chief of Police. (CALEA 1.3.10)
2. Under no circumstances shall a member carry or use blackjacks, saps, nunchakus, kempo sticks, brass knuckles, or weighted gloves or other unauthorized weapons.
3. Members shall not employ any form of neck restraint except when an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury exists, and no other option is available.
4. Whenever it becomes necessary to take a violent or resisting subject into custody, the responding member shall utilize appropriate tactics in a coordinated effort to overcome resistance.
5. Members shall avoid the use of flashlights, radios or any items not issued specifically as a defensive weapon as a means of force, except when an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury exists, and no other option is available.

**G. Positional Asphyxia Precautions**

When necessary to restrain subjects, members shall:

1. Make every effort (whenever possible) to avoid tactics, which may impede a subject's ability to breathe, which may result in chest or throat compressions, or airway blockage.



2. Position the individual in a manner to allow free breathing, once he or she has been controlled and placed under custodial restraint using handcuffs and other authorized methods. The subject shall not be maintained or transported in a face down position.
3. Seek medical assistance immediately if a person appears to be having difficulty breathing or is otherwise demonstrating life-threatening symptoms (such as positional asphyxia). The patrol supervisor shall direct that alternative means to maintain custody be utilized, if appropriate.
4. The unauthorized use of restraints and the transportation of subjects in a face down position within any vehicle are prohibited.

## VI. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

### Notification and Reporting of a Use of Force Incident

#### 1. Incidents To Be Reported

The Use of Force Incident Report (PD Form 901-e) shall be completed in all of the following situations: (CALEA 1.3.6)

- a. all Use of Force incidents (except Cooperative or Contact Controls, e.g., mere presence, verbal commands or submissive handcuffing, unless there has been a resulting injury or the subject complains of pain following the use of Cooperative or Contact Controls);
- b. any time when an officer is in receipt of an allegation of excessive use of force; or
- c. whenever a member draws and points a firearm at or in the direction of another person.

#### 2. Member Responsibilities

Members shall notify their supervisor and complete a PD Form 901-e (Use of Force Incident Report) immediately following any use of force, receipt of an allegation of excessive force, or immediately following the drawing of and pointing a firearm at or in the direction of another person.

#### 3. Supervisor Responsibilities

When a member has declined to complete the Use of Force Incident Report immediately following an incident, the supervisor shall compel the member to complete the report following a declination by the U. S. Attorney's Office and/or issuance of an authorized Reverse-Garrity warning.

**VII. CROSS REFERENCES**

**A. Related Directives**

1. GO OPS-301.03 (Operation of Emergency Vehicles, Fresh Pursuit and Vehicular Pursuit)
2. GO OPS-304.10 (Police-Citizen Contacts, Stops and Frisks)
3. GO RAR-306.01 (Canine Teams)
4. GO RAR-901.01 (Handling of Service Weapons)
5. GO RAR-901.04 (Oleoresin Capsicum Spray Dispensers)
6. GO-RAR-901.08 (Use of Force Investigations)
7. GO RAR-901.09 (Use of Force Review Board)

**B. Court Opinions**

1. Tennessee v. Garner, 471 U.S. 1, 11-12 (1985)
2. Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386 (1989), 104 L. Ed 2d 443, 447
3. Saucier v. Katz, 533 U.S. 194 (June 18, 2001)

**C. Laws and Regulations**

1. D.C. Code §4-176 (Use of Wanton or Unnecessary Force)
2. D.C. Municipal Regulations, Title 6A, Section 207 (Use of Firearms and Other Weapons)

**D. Other**

1. CALEA Standards Section 1.3 (Use of Force)
2. IACP Model Policy (Use of Force)

**E. Related Form**

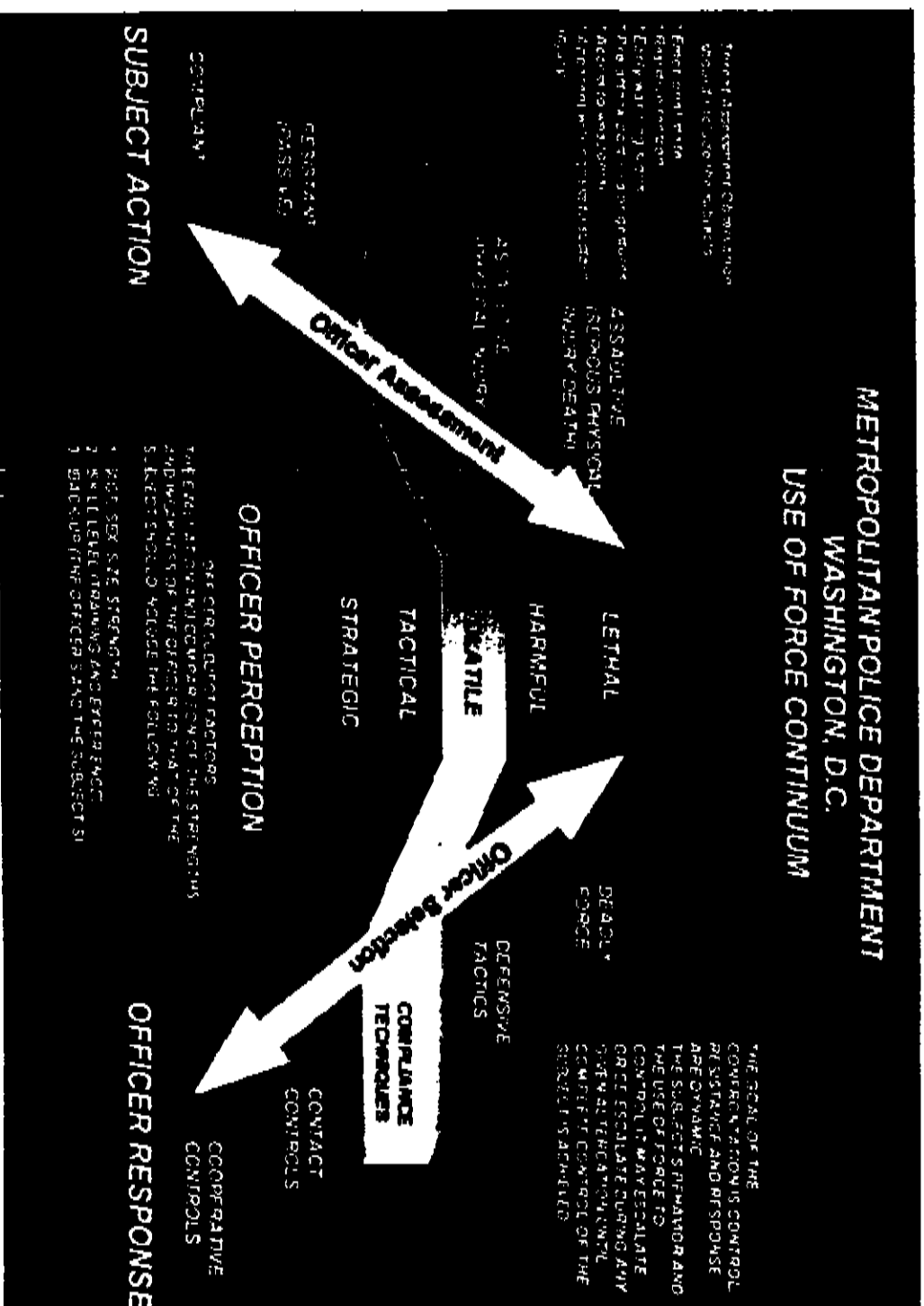
1. PD Form 901-e (Use of Force Incident Report) [electronic version]
2. PD Form 901-hc (Use of Force Incident Report) [interim hard-copy version]

**// SIGNED //**  
**Charles H. Ramsey**  
**Chief of Police**

Attachment: Use of Force Continuum Chart  
PD Form 901-hc (Use of Force Incident Report) [interim hard-copy version]

CHR:NMJ:JAE:MAR:AFA:afa

# Attachment A — General Order RAR - 901.07 (Use of Force)



# Metropolitan Police Department

## Security Officers Management Branch

### Course Outline for Firearms Instructors

#### Use of Force

The Department recognizes the value of each life. The safety and protection of the public requires a careful balance of the officer's authority to use force. The policy of the Department is to value and preserve human life when using lawful authority to use force. Therefore, officers of the department shall use the minimum amount of force that the objectively reasonable officer would use in light of the circumstances to effectively bring an incident or person under control, while protecting the lives of the member or others.

The decision to use force of any level is based on the danger posed by the subject confronted by the police rather than on the nature or category of the offense. That decision must be based on the circumstances that the officer reasonably believes to exist. The "reasonableness" of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer, and its calculus must embody an allowance for the fact that the officers are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force necessary in a particular situation.

Each officer is charged with the responsibility of weighing all reasonable means of apprehension or defense before resorting to the use of force. When force is necessary, officers will comply with the **Use of Force Continuum**, which changes from verbal persuasion to deadly force. Officers are not required to start at the lowest level of the Use of Force Continuum. Officers should select the appropriate level of force as dictated by the circumstances of each incident.

#### **USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM**

Use of Force Continuum: The progressive and reasonable escalation and de-escalation of officer-applied force in proportional response to the actions and level of resistance offered by the subject.

##### A. Level of Response

The level of response is based upon the situation encountered and the actions of the subject in response to the officer's commands. Such response may progress from the officer's actual physical presence to the application of deadly force.

The levels include:

- a. Cooperative Controls, such as verbal persuasion;

- b. Contact Controls, such as hand control procedures, firm grip, escort and control holds;
- c. Compliance Techniques, such as Oleoresin Capsicum ( OC ) Spray ( non-deadly) ;
- d. Defensive Tactics, such as less-than lethal weapons, including impact weapons, such as a baton, or ASP.
- e. Deadly Force, defined as any use of force likely to cause death or serious physical injury, including but not limited to the use of a firearm or a strike to the head with a hard object (including potentially lethal applications of less-than lethal weapons).

**Discuss the policy on the Use of Force**

See General Order RAR- 901.7, dated October 7, 2002

**Discuss the Use of Force Continuum**

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement ( CALEA 1.2.7 )

**Discuss when a member may discharge their firearm**

See General Order RAR- 901.7, dated October 7, 2002

**Discuss when discharging a firearm is prohibited**

See General Order RAR- 901.7, dated October 7, 2002



# **Metropolitan Police Department**

## *Security Officers Management Branch*

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2000 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Northwest Washington, D.C. 20009 (202) 671-0500

### **METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT .38 CALIBER REVOLVER QUALIFICATION COURSE OF FIRE (Passing score of 38 hits out of 50)**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Shooters you will begin with an unloaded weapon and fifty (50) rounds in your pocket. Do not take any action until told to do so by the range officer. You must holster prior to standing on the firing line.

At this time, step up to the red line, in your booth, and place your eye and ear protection on.

#### **REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO FIRE.**

##### **(1) 6 ROUNDS, 25 YARD LINE, TWO HANDED, STANDING FROM THE HOLSTER**

You will have fifteen (15) seconds to draw and fire six (6) rounds when the target faces.

##### **SHOOTERS RE-LOAD WITH SIX (6) ROUNDS**

##### **(2) 6 ROUNDS, 15 YARDS, TWO HANDED, STANDING FROM THE HOLSTER**

You will have five (5) seconds to draw and fire three (3) rounds each time the target faces. Holster each time the target edges. This will happen 2 times.

##### **SHOOTERS RE-LOAD WITH SIX (6) ROUNDS**

##### **(3) 12 ROUNDS, 7 YARDS, TWO HANDED, STANDING FROM THE HOLSTER**

You will have six (6) seconds to draw and fire three (3) rounds each time the target faces. Holster each time the target edges. This will happen two (2) times.

**SHOOTERS RE-LOAD WITH SIX (6) ROUNDS**

Shooters will then have six (6) seconds to draw and fire three (3) rounds each time the target faces. Holster each time the target edges. This will happen two (2) times.

**SHOOTERS RE-LOAD WITH SIX (6) ROUNDS**

**(4) 6 ROUNDS, 7 YARDS, TWO HANDED STANDING FROM THE BARRICADE**

Shooters, open your barricades and step back to the white line. Shooters, come to the ready gun position. You will have three (3) seconds to roll out from your barricade and fire two (2) rounds each time the target faces. This will happen three (3) times. Shooter, close your barricades.

**SHOOTERS RE-LOAD WITH SIX (6) ROUNDS**

**SHOOTERS, TURN AND FACE THE CONTROL BOOTH AS INSTRUCTORS ARE GOING DOWN RANGE.**

**INSTRUCTORS ARE TO MARK ANY HEAD SHOTS ON THE TARGET.**

**(5) 6 ROUNDS, 10 FOOT LINE, TWO HANDED "BODY ARMOR/FAIL TO STOP" DRILL**

Shooters, from the holster you will have four (4) seconds to draw and fire two (2) rounds to the body and one (1) round to the head. Holster each time the target edges. This will happen two (2) times.

**SHOOTERS RE-LOAD WITH SIX (6) ROUNDS**

**(6) 6 ROUNDS, 10 FOOT LINE, TWO HANDED, "BODY ARMOR/FAIL TO STOP" DRILL**

Shooters, from the ready gun position, you will have three (3) seconds to fire two (2) rounds to the body and one (1) round to the head. Stay on target as this will happen two (2) times.

**SHOOTERS RE-LOAD WITH FOUR (4) ROUNDS**

**(7) 2 ROUNDS, 10 FOOT LINE, ONE HANDED, FROM THE READY GUN POSITION**

Shooters draw your weapon with the strong hand and come to the ready gun position. You will have two (2) seconds to fire two (2) rounds when the target faces. (strong hand only).

**(8) 2 ROUNDS, 10 FOOT LINE, ONE HANDED, FROM THE READY GUN POSITION**

Shooters, safely switch the weapon to your weak hand, You will have three (3) seconds to fire two (2) rounds when the target faces. (Weak hand only).

**SHOOTERS RE-LOAD WITH FOUR (4) ROUNDS**

**(9) 4 ROUNDS, 3 FOOT LINE, ONE HANDED HIP SHOOTING FROM THE HOLSTER**

Shooters, step back to the white line. You will have three (3) seconds to draw and fire two (2) rounds from the hip. Holster each time the target edges. This will happen two (2) times.

**FINAL SAFETY CHECK**

Shooters, draw your weapon, muzzles pointed down range, open the cylinder, press the cartridge extractor, spin the cylinder and then visually and physically count six (6) empty chambers. Close the cylinder and holster.

Hang up your ears on the left side of the booth. Remove and place your eye protection on the right side of the booth.

Shooters, sweep up the brass to the front of the control booth while the instructors check your targets.

**QUALIFYING: 38 HITS IN THE CENTER ZONE TO INCLUDE AT LEAST 2 HEAD SHOTS.**





## **MPD Course of fire**

Shooters will prepare three 15 round magazine and 7 rounds for their pocket (if one round is in the chamber, the shooters should have six rounds for their pocket). Shooters will load with a 15 round magazine and top off with one round from their pocket. Leaving six loose rounds for their pocket. Shooters should now be set up with a 15 rounds magazine and 1 in the chamber. 2 magazines in their pouch pocket with 15 rounds each and 6 loose for their pocket.

### **Stage 1 (4) Rounds**

25 yard line course of fire/ barricade shooting two standing and two kneeling in 12 sec scan and holster

(Shooter's will line on **Black Square** on the floor and rollout from behind their barricade and shoot)

### **Stage 2 (6) Rounds**

15 yards line course of fire/ 4 rounds standing and 2 rounds kneeling in 12 seconds/ scan and holster

### **Stage 3 (3) Rounds**

10 yard line course of fire / 3 rounds in 6 seconds/ scan and holster

### **Stage 4 (6) Rounds**

7 yard line course of fire / shooters will shoot 3 rounds, do a magazine drop and reload with a magazine from their front pouch pocket and shoot 3 rounds in 13 seconds/ scan and holster

### **Stage 5 (4) Rounds**

7 yard line course of fire/ shoot 2 and conduct a magazine save and shoot 2 rounds in 10 seconds/ scan and holster. (Have the shooters take the magazine they just saved in place it in their front magazine pouch pocket)



### **Stage 6 (4) Rounds**

7 yard line course of fire/ shoot 2 rounds with your strong hand and then fire 2 rounds with your support hand all one handed shooting in 8 seconds

### **Stage 7 (4) Rounds**

7 yard line quick draw course of fire/ shoot 2 rounds in 3 seconds (The shooters will draw out from the holster and fire two Rounds holstering after the first facing). This will happen a total of two times scan and holster after each facing

Shooters will pickup an empty magazine up from the floor and fill that empty magazine with 6 rounds from their pocket and place that magazine in their rear magazine pouch pocket

### **Stage 8 (6) Rounds**

3 yard line course of fire/ tuck position, 2 rounds in 1.5 sec for each facing of the target. This will happen a total of three times. Two rounds each facing from the tuck position

(Remind shooters they will not holster their weapons. They will punch the weapon out into the center mass of the target and fire two rounds. They will stay out at the tuck for all three facing.)

### **Stage 9 (9) Rounds**

3 yard line course of fire/ Body armor two to the body and one to the head. The shooters will have 3 seconds for each facing. (After the first facing have the shooters stay at the ready gun position) (aimed in at the target) for the second and third facing.



### **Stage 10 (6) Rounds**

1.5 yard line course of fire/ Hip shoot two rounds in 2 seconds. This will happen a total of three times. Holster after each facing. (The shooters will have ten between each facing to clear their weapon if it malfunctions)

Once the shooters are done, have them remove the magazine from the gun and work the slide then lock it to the rear and do a VISUAL and PHYSICAL inspection to make sure it safe and empty .