

GENERAL ORDER VIII

SUBJECT: FIREARMS QUALIFICATIONS STANDARDS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03-09-92

REVIEW DATE: 01-13-12

NOTE: This rule or regulation is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a high standard of safety of care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a nonjudicial administrative setting.

I. Purpose

To establish standards of firearms proficiency for Department personnel and to define the various courses of fire utilized in the qualifications process.

II. Policy

A. It is the policy of the West Plains Police Department that only officers demonstrating proficiency in the use of department issued or authorized firearms be permitted to carry such weapons.

B. Firearms proficiency will be determined by the satisfactory completions of in-service firearms qualification courses designed to address the shooting skills required in police work.

III. Qualification Standards

The minimum firearms qualifications standards for the West Plains Police Department will be a score of 70% on the course herein outlined.

IV. Handguns

A. The weapons used for qualification shall be the service and/or off-duty firearms(s) issued or approved for carry by the member.

1. Approved Manufacturers

- a. Glock
- b. Colt
- c. Heckler and Koch
- d. Bushmaster
- e. Armalite
- f. Ruger
- g. Smith and Wesson
- h. KelTec
- i. Taurus
- j. Springfield Kahr
- k. or firearms of other manufacture approved by the Chief of Police

B. Only factory loaded department issued ammunition or remanufactured ammunition, loaded to duty ammunition specifications, will be used for qualification.

C. Qualifications shall be on a pass/fail basis.

D. All weapons will be inspected by a qualified armorer on an annual basis.

V. Shotguns

A. The weapon used for qualification shall be a standard issue 12-gauge pump shotgun or shotguns of other manufacture and action approved by the Chief of Police.

B. Only factory loaded department issued ammunition or remanufactured ammunition, loaded to duty ammunition specifications, will be used for qualification.

VI. Other Shoulder Weapons

The weapon used for qualification shall be the particular weapon(s) and ammunition issued to, or authorized by the Chief of Police for member use.

VII. Qualifications

A. Each member authorized to carry a firearm shall be required to qualify with that weapon.

1. Qualification will be re-scheduled with the approval of the Chief of Police.

B. Members failing to attain a qualifying score with the department issued weapon, or weapon authorized by the Chief of Police, shall attend, on duty, a block of remedial instruction and shall attempt to qualify after said instruction.

C. In the event the member fails to achieve a qualifying score after receiving remedial instruction, he shall:

1. Have the authority to carry the weapon on-duty revoked.
2. Have the authority to carry the weapon off-duty revoked also, if it is a handgun.
3. Maybe placed in a position within the Department which does not necessitate the carrying of the particular weapon.
4. Be afforded an opportunity to receive additional instruction and qualify with the particular weapon on his/her off-duty time within thirty calendar days.
5. After being given the opportunity to receive additional instruction and an opportunity to qualify with the particular weapon the member still fails to qualify, he/she will be subject to other appropriate action such as, but not limited to: transfer, removal from special teams or squads, demotion, or possible discharge.

D. Qualification Schedule – Recommended two per calendar year.

1. 1st Qualification
 - a. Qualifications with the following:
 - (1) Authorized on-duty handgun
 - (2) Off-duty handgun
 - (3) Shotgun – 1 per calendar year
 - b. Stress Course
 - (1) Authorized on-duty handgun
 - (2) Shotgun
2. 2nd Qualification
 - a. Qualifications with the following:
 - (1) Authorized on-duty handgun
 - (2) Off-duty handgun

b. Night Firing Qualification

(1) Authorized on-duty weapon

VIII. Qualification Course

A. The West Plains Police Department will utilize qualification courses developed for each of the four types of handguns authorized for on-duty use. The four hand gun types are identified as:

1. Service Revolvers - All approved revolvers authorized for on-duty use. Detective's 2.5 inch revolvers are included in this category. Detective's snub-nose revolvers are included in this category.

2. Service pistol - All approved semi-automatic pistols authorized for on-duty use.

3. Off-Duty Revolver - Snub-nosed five shot, six shot and other revolvers carried by off-duty personnel or as a secondary weapon while on-duty. Detectives carrying their service weapon off-duty need not qualify.

4. Off-Duty Pistol - All approved pistols manufactured for use with center-fire ammunition not carried on-duty, as a primary weapon or other weapons approved by the Chief of Police.

B. Officers will be limited to qualifying with two off-duty weapons, and may be required to furnish ammunition for handguns of calibers not compatible with ammunition calibers issued by the department.

C. Additional courses may be developed for each Department issued or approved weapon.

D. The courses of fire will be developed and maintained by the Department Weapons Officer. The Weapons Officer shall be responsible for the annual review of all courses and recommending modifications or changes required to meet new skills requirements.

E. All changes or modifications in the Department's firearms and qualifications courses will be submitted in writing and approved by the Chief of Police.

AUTHORITY

A. This policy is issued by the authority of the Chief of Police. Any policy

additions, deviations or revisions shall be made only at the direction of the Chief of Police.

By Authority of:

Charles Brotherton, Jr., Chief of Police