



<h1>Standard Operating Procedures</h1>	SOP Number:
	Effective Date: Prv. Rev. Date: Revised Date: 06/24/24
	Accreditation Standards: KACP: 1.3, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 5.3, 27.3
Chapter: Uniforms and Equipment	
Subject: Firearms	

A. FIREARMS

B. AUTHORIZATION TO CARRY

Officers are authorized to carry concealed deadly weapons under Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 527.020(2)

and 527.070(3)(c). This authorization allows both on-duty and off-duty officers to carry an authorized weapon within their jurisdiction.

Authorized firearms are those that comply with the department's specifications (KACP 1.9). Authorized firearms shall be properly inspected and registered with the department's designated firearms instructor before being approved for service.

It is the policy of the Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) Police Department to train and qualify all sworn personnel in the use of departmentally approved weapons, holsters, and ammunition. All sworn personnel shall have access to the departmental Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and be instructed in the use of force prior to being authorized to carry a weapon (KACP 1.3e, 5.3b).

Officers and recruits shall receive departmental training on the proper and safe use of authorized firearms. Training is conducted and documented by certified firearms training instructors (KACP 1.10b). As required by the firearms instructor, officers must qualify with their approved uniform service pistol, at least once annually. This will be done before the officer is authorized to carry the weapon (KACP 1.10a).

Records of weapon qualifications and results, including the make, model, caliber, and serial number of each firearm, are maintained by the firearms instructor. This applies to all departmentally approved weapons, whether on-duty, off-duty and/or backup weapons.

C. OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT FIREARMS (KACP 1.9)

All firearms shall meet the required specifications determined by the Chief of Police. JCPS Police Officers may choose any of the approved uniform service pistols listed below for duty use. Service



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pistols may be equipped with night sights, weapon mounted optics, and/or weapon mounted flashlights, at the officer’s expense and with the approval of the Chief of Police.

C. OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT FIREARMS (CONTINUED)

The following are the official firearms of the department:

1. Approved Uniform Service Pistols

- Glock Model 19 (black in color) (9mm)
- Glock Model 47 (black in color) (9mm)

2. If issued weapons are not readily available, JCPS Police Officers may use a personally, owned firearm, provided they qualify with said weapon and with approval from the Chief of Police. When issued weapons become available the JCPS Police Officer will carry an issued weapon.

Exceptions must be approved by the Chief of Police/Designee. All rifles must meet departmental specifications and be inspected by the Firearms Instructor. The Firearms Instructor will be consulted on any potential purchases of departmental rifles and any optional accessories by officers for qualification or on-duty use prior to purchase.

Rifle: The following is the official rifle of the department:

1. FN 15 Small Rifle Platform (SRP) Generation Two (2) Precision (G2P) Carbine in the 16-inch barrel configuration.

Departmental rifles will have the following equipment installed prior to being issued:

- Aimpoint Red Dot Sight (RDS) Optic
- Streamlight Rail Mounted Series Two (2) (RM2) WML
- Fabrique Nationale (FN) backup iron sights
- Two (2)-point sling
- Dust cover
- Forward assist
- Two (2) magazines



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C. OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT FIREARMS (CONTINUED)

During the process of procuring and issuing departmental patrol rifles, JCPS Police Officers will be authorized to utilize previously approved, personally owned patrol rifles in an on-duty or official capacity until they receive their departmentally issued rifle. Once officers receive a departmentally issued rifle, they will no longer be authorized to utilize a personally owned rifle.

Personally owned rifles still in service will be AR-15 style rifles (black) chambered in 5.56mm caliber. The barrel will be no shorter than ten (10) inches in length. Stocks, foregrips, handguards, pistol grips, accessory rails, accessory rail covers, and other accessories must be black. Exceptions must be approved by the Chief of Police/Designee. All rifles must meet departmental specifications and be inspected by the Firearms Instructor. Short-barreled rifles must be compliant with National Firearms Act (NFA) regulations. A copy of the NFA compliance paperwork must be kept with the weapon. Personally, owned rifles must have the following attached equipment prior to being approved for on-duty or official use:

- WML
- Backup iron sights
- Two (2)-point sling
- Dust cover
- Forward assist

D. OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT HOLSTERS

1. For uniform and plainclothes use, Level 3 retention holsters, authorized by the Chief of Police will be utilized for duty use.
2. Level 3 retention holsters will be issued to uniformed officers. Officers shall use issued holster while in uniform.

Any holsters with the SERPA (or similar) style retention and release are prohibited for departmental use, including training. This includes any holster with an external release button primarily designed to be disengaged by use of the trigger finger.



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F. H.R. 218 – THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS’ SAFETY ACT

JCPS Police Officers traveling outside of Kentucky shall abide by the Law Enforcement Officers’ Safety Act of 2004, as amended, which is codified in 18 U.S.C. § 926B regard to the carrying of concealed firearms. That federal law, commonly referred to as “H.R. 218,” exempts qualified active law enforcement officers from local and state prohibitions on the carrying of concealed firearms. However, the following laws are still applicable to qualified active law enforcement officers traveling outside of Kentucky:

1. Federal laws or regulations governing the carrying of firearms onto aircraft, in federal buildings, on federal property and in national parks.
2. State laws which prohibit the carrying of firearms onto state or local government property.
3. State laws which allow private entities to prohibit firearms on their private property.

The Law Enforcement Officers’ Safety Act excludes machine guns, firearm silencers, and other destructive devices from the definition of firearms.

In order to qualify for H.R. 218, an officer must have his/her departmentally issued ID card on his/her person. Therefore, if an officer’s police powers have been suspended, for any reason, he/she will not be in compliance with H.R. 218. Additionally, an officer will not be covered under this federal law if he/she is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Officers carrying concealed firearms in accordance with H.R. 218 are further restricted by the department to carry only their approved uniform service pistol and/or the off-duty/backup pistol on which they are currently qualified.

If an officer does not meet the standards as outlined above and is traveling outside of Kentucky, he/she shall abide by all firearms regulations of the jurisdiction through which he/she travels.



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G. ALTERING

Authorized firearms, including magazines, magazine floor plates and rifle dust covers, shall not be altered in any way unless approved by the Chief of Police. Such alterations would include, but are not limited to, the addition of laser sights, ghost ring sights or any other optics on any of the authorized pistols. These sights are prohibited. Officers who carry approved service pistols shall only utilize night sights authorized by the Chief of Police.

Engravings, decals, or other markings on authorized firearms, including magazines, magazine floor plates and rifle dust covers, are limited to those applied by the manufacturer, for identification purposes only (as approved by the Chief of Police) or those required by state or federal law or regulation.

H. AMMUNITION

Officers shall carry only ammunition issued or approved by the Chief of Police in all authorized firearms and extra ammunition pouches (KACP 1.9). Ammunition shall not be altered.

Uniformed officers shall carry two (2) complete reloads for their on-duty weapon. Plainclothes officers shall carry at least one (1) complete reload. Weapons shall be loaded to the maximum recommended capacity.

I. APPROPRIATE DEPLOYMENT OF LONG-BARRELED WEAPONS

Officers will be held strictly accountable for the deployment of all long-barreled weapons. Officers will handle long-barreled weapons as inconspicuously as possible given the totality of the circumstances.

Situations calling for the deployment of long barreled weapons may include, but are not limited to:

1. Potentials for mass violence (e.g., active aggressor).
2. Perimeter containment in barricaded suspect situations with a known weapon potential.



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J. FIREARMS IN COURTROOM

Officers may be armed in a courtroom at the discretion of the presiding judge. When a presiding judge prohibits a firearm in his/her court, the officer will secure the weapon in a locked receptacle as close to the courtroom as possible. A sworn member, wearing business attire to court, must have his/her firearm concealed at all times.

K. FIREARMS IN RESTRICTED AREAS

When an officer enters an area of another government agency that restricts or has regulations governing firearms (e.g., correctional facilities, hospitals), he/she shall abide by that agency's regulations. However, under all circumstances, the weapon will be properly secured. Pursuant to Kentucky state law, officers may carry their firearms on private property (e.g., malls, schools, restaurants, theaters) even if a weapons prohibition is posted.

L. CARE OF FIREARMS

Officers shall not use or handle firearms in a careless or imprudent manner. When circumstances arise where an officer has to store his service weapon in a vehicle (e.g., Corrections, Federal Courthouse) the weapon must be stored in a locked compartment (e.g., trunk, glove compartment or console) and the vehicle must be locked. Long-barreled weapons shall be carried in a vehicle's trunk or in a locking device inspected and approved by the Chief of Police. If the weapon cannot be safely secured in the vehicle, the weapon will be removed from the vehicle after duty hours. Firearms will be maintained and stored in such a manner that they will be clean and in serviceable condition.

The firearms instructor has the responsibility to remove from service any weapon determined to be unsafe or nonfunctional. Any officer issued a loaner weapon, under these circumstances, shall qualify with that weapon, prior to carrying it while on-duty or off-duty.



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M. DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS (KACP 1.11a-b)

Officers are required to immediately report any instance of a discharge of an authorized firearm to their sector commander. The sector commander is responsible for the investigation of discharges of firearms. If someone is injured as the result of a discharge of an authorized firearm, Louisville Metro Police Department's, Public Integrity Unit is responsible for the investigation. This investigation includes the completion of a Use of Force Report. All findings and recommendations will be forwarded, through the appropriate chain of command. Officers are not required to report the discharge of a firearm for target practice, or training purposes.

N. FIREARMS QUALIFICATION

1. Approved Uniform Service Pistols/Plainclothes Service Pistols

All officers shall qualify with their approved uniform service pistols on a schedule determined by the firearms instructor. At a minimum, these qualifications will be held once annually. Qualifications will be based on proficiency standards and scored on a pass/fail basis (KACP 1.10a).

Officers in plainclothes or administrative assignments may qualify with an approved plainclothes service pistol. The qualification course will be the same as the approved uniform service pistol qualification. A plainclothes or administrative assignment does not alleviate the officer from his/her requirement to qualify with an approved uniform service pistol.

Officers experiencing difficulty passing the approved uniform service pistol qualification course will be given remedial training after each failed attempt. Failure to qualify after three (3) attempts will result in a non-disciplinary suspension of police powers. Should an officer fail to qualify with his/her approved uniform service pistol, he/she shall be prohibited from carrying the pistol, while on-duty or off-duty, until a passing score is achieved on the qualification course. The officer shall surrender his/her departmentally issued ammunition to the firearms instructor.



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After being placed on non-disciplinary suspension of police powers, officers will be given additional

N. FIREARMS QUALIFICATION (CONT)

opportunities to meet the qualification standard. This entails three (3) qualification attempts per day on two (2) different dates, or six (6) opportunities in total. Prior to the final scheduled opportunity to qualify, the officer will receive individualized firearms instruction from a departmental firearms instructor.

Officers shall be prohibited from qualifying with off-duty/backup weapons and long-barreled weapons until a passing score is achieved with the approved uniform service pistol.

2. Long Barrel Weapons

All officers shall qualify with their patrol rifle on a schedule determined by the firearms instructor. At a minimum, these qualifications will be held annually. Qualifications will be based on proficiency standards scored on a pass/fail basis (KACP 1.10a).

Any officer who fails to qualify with his/her patrol rifle after three (3) attempts will be de-certified and prohibited from carrying the patrol rifle while on-duty until a passing score is achieved on the qualification course.

3. Off-duty Weapons

Officers are authorized to carry a weapon off-duty. The weapon will either be their assigned service pistol or a weapon approved by the chief of police. Officers must qualify with the weapon they choose before carrying in an off-duty capacity.

4. Administrative Leave

If an officer is returning to duty after being on administrative leave and is issued a temporary or loaned firearm, he/she shall successfully qualify with this firearm prior to returning to duty.



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O. WEAPONS INSPECTIONS

Weapons inspections are the responsibility of the firearms instructor. All weapons will be inspected during regular qualifications, at a minimum of once a year (KACP 27.3), by certified firearms instructors. Only certified firearms instructors may inspect weapons during formal or informal inspections.