

## **GENERAL ORDER 1.4.1**

### **Firearms Qualification**

**GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: 1.5.1, 26.4.1**

#### **SUMMARY**

Describes Department firearms qualification procedures.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Police officers shall be required to demonstrate proficiency in the use of firearms and knowledge of state law and G.O. 1.5.1 (use of force).

#### **POLICY**

##### **I**

#### **FIREARMS QUALIFICATION GENERALLY**

Qualification with a handgun shall consist of firing at least 50 rounds on a prescribed course of fire and varying distances within a prescribed time limit. A score of 80% with all rounds qualifying is required for qualification.

##### **II**

#### **QUALIFICATION**

Police officers authorized to carry a firearm on duty shall be required to qualify with that weapon prior to initial authorization being granted. After initial qualification, police officers shall thereafter be required to qualify with that firearm on a quarterly basis.

##### **III**

#### **FIREARMS TRAINING**

In addition to or in conjunction with firearms qualification, firearms instructors shall ensure officers receive annual firearms training in safe handling and use, marksmanship, and tactics to include “shoot, don’t shoot” scenarios. Instruction will also be provided related to the legal, practical, and ethical aspects of the use of force, as well as the fundamentals of care, cleaning, and safe handling of firearms.

Firearms instructors shall provide instruction on safety rules prior to conducting firearms training that includes hearing and eye protection as well as personal safety. Firearms instructors shall require all persons attending firearms training to use eye and hearing protective equipment.

#### **IV**

#### **FAILURE TO QUALIFY**

The on-duty firearms instructor shall immediately notify the involved officer's Division Commander if a police officer fails to qualify during the scheduled qualification period. The Division Commander shall assess the deficiency and, if necessary, reassign the involved officer to modified duty that does not require the carrying of a firearm.

The officer shall be scheduled as soon as possible for training/qualification. When the officer successfully fires a qualifying score, the officer may be reassigned to regular duty.

Any officer who consistently fails to fire a qualifying score may be subject to termination for the inability to perform this essential job function.

#### **V**

#### **EXCEPTIONS TO FIREARMS QUALIFICATIONS**

An officer may submit a request to his Division Commander to be excused from a quarterly firearms qualification. The request must include the reason for the excuse, i.e. temporary disability, scheduled vacation, unavoidable schedule conflict.

The Division Commander may grant the excuse if he determines the request is for good cause. If approved, the request and approval shall be forwarded and filed in the Officer's training file.

Except for medical reasons, officers shall not be excused for more than one quarterly qualification annually.

#### **VI**

#### **EXPERT RATING**

To obtain an Expert rating, officers must qualify on three consecutive quarterly qualifications with a combined average equal to or greater than 92.5% or greater.

To maintain an Expert rating, officers must continue to maintain the score of 92.5% or greater over the three most recent quarterly qualifications.

An Expert firearms ribbon shall be awarded to officers attaining Expert rating and may be worn in accordance with G.O. 26.4.1 (Awards).

## VII

### **OFF DUTY/BACK-UP FIREARMS QUALIFICATIONS**

Officers authorized to carry a firearm off duty, or a second firearm on duty, shall be required to qualify with that weapon annually to maintain authorization to carry it.

## VIII

### **SHOTGUN & EXTENDED RANGE IMPACT WEAPON QUALIFICATION**

Officers authorized to carry a shotgun shall be required to qualify annually. Qualification shall be on a prescribed course of fire at varying distances and the officer must attain a passing score, determined by the Firearms Instructor.

### **PATROL RIFLES**

Officers authorized to carry a patrol rifle shall be required to qualify annually. Qualification shall be on a prescribed 50 yard course of fire and must attain a passing score, determined by the Firearms Instructor.

## IX

### **SWAT WEAPONS**

Officers authorized to carry SWAT weapons including: long rifles, tear gas launching devices and automatic weapons, shall be required to qualify with those weapons annually. Qualification standards shall be established by the Commander in charge of the personnel authorized to carry the SWAT weapons.

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Chief of Police