


FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL POLICY MANUAL

	SUBJECT	POLICY NUMBER
	AUTHORIZED WEAPONS - CARE AND USE	10.02
		ISSUE DATE
		02/01/96
		REVISION DATE
		03/11/13
		TOTAL PAGES
		16

10.02.01 PURPOSE

To prescribe regulations concerning the authorization and use of specialized firearms by Division members.

10.02.02 POLICY

It is the policy of the Florida Highway Patrol to promulgate procedures relating to the issuance, care and use of specialized weaponry.

10.02.03 DEFINITIONS

- A. **CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON (CEW)** – A weapon designed to disrupt a subject’s motor and sensory nervous system by deploying battery-powered electrical energy sufficient to cause Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation (NMI) and override voluntary motor responses. The *TASER X-26* System is the Conducted Electrical Weapon authorized for use by the Florida Highway Patrol.
- B. **LESS-LETHAL AMMUNITION** – A projectile that is designed to stun, temporarily incapacitate, or cause temporary discomfort to a person without penetrating the person’s body.
- C. **LESS-LETHAL WEAPON** – Any weapon that expels less-lethal ammunition toward a target. Typically, these weapons include the 37mm and 40mm gas guns and the 12Ga shotgun when specifically modified to accommodate less-lethal ammunition. A weapon that delivers a pepperball filled with a chemical agent is also considered a less-lethal weapon.
- D. **PRIMARY DUTY HANDGUN** – The Glock 37, semi-automatic handgun shall be the primary duty service handgun authorized for use by members of the Florida Highway Patrol.
- E. **SECONDARY HANDGUNS** – Small, concealable handguns designed for off-duty, back-up or covert investigative use. Secondary handguns include those guns, which are provided by the agency as well as those which are personally owned and have been approved to be carried as outlined in this policy.

- F. **SUPPLEMENTARY WEAPONS** – Firearms/munitions designed for special law enforcement applications. The definition encompasses rifles, shotguns, tear gas dispensers, etc.

10.02.04 OBJECTIVES

- A. To identify firearms authorized for use by members of the Division.
- B. To delineate requirements for the issuance, care or use of such weapons.
- C. To prohibit the possession or use of certain weapons.
- D. To ensure that members comply with commercial airline regulations regarding the transportation of firearms.

10.02.05 RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Florida Highway Patrol Training Academy shall:
 - 1. Maintain and distribute stocks of firearms.
 - 2. Maintain records reflecting the current firearms training status of all members.
 - 3. Maintain records pertaining to the state of repair of Division owned weapons.
 - 4. Authorize any repair or refinishing of firearms owned by the Division.
 - 5. Review, test and approve all weapons for use by members of the Florida Highway Patrol.
- B. The Bureau of Criminal Investigations and Intelligence shall exercise responsibility for investigating any theft of a Division owned firearm as well as any occurrence of a lost or stolen Division owned firearm which is a result of member negligence.

10.02.06 PROCEDURES

- A. **PROHIBITED WEAPONS**
 - 1. Members are prohibited from carrying or transporting on their person or in a Division vehicle, any unauthorized guns, knives or any other instruments which are designed to be used as defensive or offensive weapons, except those confiscated weapons in the possession of a member and being transported as evidence or for storage.
 - 2. Examples of prohibited weapons include:
 - a. Black-jacks.
 - b. Sling-shots.
 - c. Slap-sticks.

d. Flat or weighted tip saps.

B. PRIMARY DUTY SERVICE HANDGUN - The authorized duty service handgun of the Florida Highway Patrol is the Glock 37.

1. The Glock 37 will be carried with one round in the chamber and the magazine loaded with 10 rounds.
2. The additional magazine(s) for service handguns will be loaded and carried in a magazine pouch supplied by the Division. Members who are on duty in civilian clothing will carry the additional magazine(s) either in the magazine pouch on their person, or in a location that is readily accessible. Uniformed members and members participating in an arrest, raid detail or other high-risk enforcement activity will carry the additional magazine(s) on their person.
3. Members are required to be armed with the service handgun and to carry such handgun on their person while on duty, unless they are engaged in processing prisoners, are participating in an investigation or operation where the presence of the weapon might jeopardize the outcome, or other circumstances prevail which, in the opinion of command personnel, render compliance with this requirement impractical or undesirable.
4. Members are encouraged to carry the service handgun (or other authorized handgun); Aerosol Subject Restraint (ASR) and handcuffs while off duty (except as noted below) but are not required to do so. However, such equipment shall be carried during off-duty police employment requiring wearing of the uniform.
5. Section 790.052(2), Florida Statutes, and Rule Chapter 60K-9, Florida Administrative Code, provide authority for the following rules and regulations. All off-duty troopers will comply with regulations when electing to carry a firearm off-duty. Members must be discreet and selective at the time the firearm is worn and no firearm shall be visible or openly flaunted in view of the public. Proper clothing must be worn to protect the weapon from view. The member must have proper law enforcement identification (ID card and badge) on his/her person while carrying a concealed firearm.

C. AMMUNITION

1. Only ammunition approved or issued by the Division will be carried and used in Division issued firearms. Modifications or alterations of any approved ammunition are prohibited. The use of hand-loaded or reloaded ammunition is prohibited. Frangible training ammunition for duty use is prohibited.
2. Members will be supplied with additional rounds of service ammunition for use in the service handgun. Rounds not loaded in the handgun or magazine(s) will be carried in the glove box of the member's official vehicle, along with ammunition for authorized supplementary weapons.

3. Troop Commanders shall exercise responsibility for maintaining stocks of service ammunition sufficient to maintain operational requirements. Ammunition may be ordered off state contract in accordance with the provisions of the DHSMV Purchasing Policy and Procedures Manual.
4. Only ammunition approved by the Division will be carried and used in secondary or off-duty weapons. (Such approval may be given by a Division firearms instructor.)

D. SECONDARY, OFF-DUTY, OR COVERT HANDGUNS

Command Staff, the Bureau of Criminal Investigations and Intelligence, and other members as determined by the Director, shall be issued the Glock 39 as a secondary weapon. Certain CVE members as determined by their respective Deputy Director are authorized to carry the division issued Glock 27 as a secondary weapon. All rules and regulations regarding ammunition, training and qualification with this weapon shall be consistent with those found in this chapter dealing with other Division owned firearms.

1. Secondary, off-duty or covert handguns must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Semi-automatic pistol or revolver.
 - b. A minimum of .38/.380 caliber and a maximum of .45 caliber. No .41 magnum or .44 magnum handguns will be authorized.
 - c. Double-action capability.
 - d. Minimum of five-round capacity.
2. Members authorized to carry a handgun while on duty may be authorized to carry a personally owned handgun off-duty or in addition to the service handgun while on duty.
3. Members may carry either a Division issued or a personally owned secondary handgun in lieu of the service handgun while participating in investigative or other plainclothes assignments.
4. A member desiring to use a personally owned handgun as a secondary, covert or an off-duty handgun must:
 - a. Take the handgun to a Division firearms instructor for inspection and approval.
 - b. Demonstrate proficiency with the handgun and qualify with a minimum score of 80% over the course of fire specified by the Florida Highway Patrol Training Academy.
 - c. Request authorization to carry the handgun utilizing the Request to Use Personally Owned Handgun form (HSMV 61142). For field personnel, the appropriate Troop Commander has the authority to grant such requests. Authority to grant requests for members

assigned to GHQ and the Training Academy shall be vested with the appropriate Deputy Director or designee.

The member will repeat this procedure during annual qualification if he/she desires to continue to use the same handgun.

No more than two such weapons may be approved for use by a single member in any 12-month period.

Denial of requests, at any level, to carry such handgun will be documented stating the reasons for such action.

5. Ammunition carried in secondary, covert or off-duty handguns must be factory loaded and be compatible with the weapon in which it is intended to be used. Ammunition prohibited in Section 790.31, Florida Statutes, will not be used.
6. The Division will not assume any obligation relating to the repair or maintenance of personally owned firearms. In the event a Division firearms instructor rules a firearm unsafe, the firearm will not be carried under any circumstances until repaired. After repair, the firearm must be approved by a Division firearms instructor.
7. When in civilian attire, neither the service handgun nor secondary firearms will be carried in plain view or in such a manner as to detract from the professional appearance of the member. No service handgun or secondary handgun will be carried in such a manner or in any carrying device or holster which will jeopardize the safety of the member, other employees, or the public.

E. SUPPLEMENTARY WEAPONS

1. SHOTGUN - A shotgun may be issued to members as deemed necessary by command personnel. Only shotguns issued by the Division may be carried.
 - a. The Division will provide necessary training for all members in shotgun safety, nomenclature and shooting.
 - b. The shotgun is not intended to replace the member's service handgun but should be considered a supplementary weapon for use as a particular situation dictates.
 - c. The only ammunition approved for duty use will be that issued by the Division.
 - d. The shotgun magazine will be loaded with four rounds. The safety will be kept on at all times until ready for deployment.
 - e. No rounds will be carried in the chamber of the shotgun until ready for deployment.

- f. Ten rounds of "00" buckshot, including the rounds in the magazine and five rounds of rifled slug will be carried in the member's official vehicle if the member has been issued a shotgun.
- g. At the termination of any situation that required loading a round in the shotgun chamber, the member will:
 - (1) With the safety on, move the slide to the rear, removing the round from the chamber. Next, rotate the weapon removing the second round from the chamber area. Leave the slide to the rear and remove the remaining rounds from the magazine.
 - (2) With the action closed and the safety on, reload the magazine with the necessary rounds.
- h. Members assigned shotguns may transport the shotgun in its rack within the interior of the patrol car or within the trunk during their tour of duty.
 - (1) The shotgun may be encased while being transported.
 - (2) The shotgun will be removed from the passenger compartment at the end of the member's tour of duty and will be secured in the trunk of the squad car or in the member's home.
 - (3) Members must ensure security of the shotgun prior to placing a person in a patrol car.

2. PATROL RIFLES

- a. Only rifles issued by the Division or personally owned rifles approved by the Division are permitted to be carried by members. Personally owned rifles must meet the following criteria:
 - (1) No more than one personally owned rifle may be approved for use by a single member in any 12-month period. Members opting to carry a personally owned rifle shall not be issued a Division rifle.
 - (2) Only rifles manufactured by Division approved manufacturers are authorized. The Division will publish a list of approved manufacturers.
 - (3) Rifles must be AR series, .223 caliber, semi-automatic, rifles. The Division reserves the right to deny the authority to carry any rifle that, in the opinion of the Division, is not reliable or otherwise suitable for use as a patrol rifle.
 - (4) Rifles shall not be capable of being fired fully automatic or multi-round burst fire.

- (5) Rifles shall have a minimum barrel length of 11.5 inches and maximum barrel length of 21 inches. The length of the barrel shall not include a flash suppressor, if so equipped.
- (6) Rifles must have been assembled by the manufacturer. Kit rifles are prohibited. Kit rifles are defined as rifles that are delivered in parts and must be assembled by the purchaser.
- (7) All weapons shall remain in factory-authorized condition without modifications. No departure from factory specification, except changes in sights or stocks is allowed. Any changes in sights and stocks must be inspected by a troop patrol rifle instructor and approved by the Troop Commander. All repairs will be made by the factory or licensed gunsmith.
- (8) High quality, low power scopes or sights may be used as long as they maintain their zero for combat use. If so equipped, the additional scope or sight shall not interfere with the member's ability to use the iron sights and the member shall qualify with both the iron sights and supplemental sights or scope. If equipped with a supplemental scope or sight, the rifle must be maintained in a hard side case.
- (9) Magazines must hold a minimum of 20 rounds and a maximum of 30 rounds. A minimum of three magazines is recommended.
- (10) Rifles must be equipped with a one-point or three-point sling. Two-point slings are not acceptable.
- (11) Lights mounted on the rifle are allowed only if it is a light manufactured specifically for mounting on a rifle and the rifle is equipped with a compatible mounting bracket.
- (12) Members desiring to carry a personally owned rifle shall:
 - (a) Request authorization to carry the rifle utilizing the Request to Use Personally Owned Patrol Rifle (HSMV 61149). For field personnel, the appropriate Troop Commander has the authority to grant such requests. Authority to grant requests for members assigned to GHQ and the Training Academy shall be vested with the appropriate Deputy Director or designee.
 - (b) The Troop Commander shall ensure that the rifle meets the criteria established in this policy. The member shall be required to have the rifle

inspected by a troop firearms instructor or the Division Armorer to verify consistency with this policy. If the member is submitting his/her request in anticipation of purchasing a rifle, a complete list of specifications for the rifle shall be attached to the request form.

- (c) If the request to carry a personally owned rifle is granted the member will be placed on a list to attend an upcoming Patrol Rifle course. The member is not permitted to carry or transport the rifle until they have successfully completed the Patrol Rifle course and qualified with the rifle.

b. When authorized to carry a rifle, members shall adhere to the following procedures:

- (1) Before a member may carry a rifle, the member will be required to complete training and qualify with the rifle over a course of fire specified by the Florida Highway Patrol Training Academy. Each member issued a rifle must then qualify annually.
- (2) Only ammunitions approved by the Division may be used. Ammunition shall not be modified in any manner.
- (3) The rifle shall be secured in the trunk or in the member's home while off-duty. Members issued rifle racks are authorized to carry the rifle secured in the rack during patrol duties. During emergency operations, members may carry the weapon in the passenger compartment of their vehicle; however, if the vehicle is left unattended the rifle must be secured in the trunk.
- (4) The member must secure the rifle any time the vehicle is being serviced and not being continuously monitored by the member.
- (5) No rounds shall be carried in the chamber of the rifle. The rifle shall be carried with the bolt forward, the dust cover closed, and the safety on. The member may carry the rifle with a magazine in the magazine well.
- (6) A round may be chambered in the rifle only when it is deployed for tactical use or for training/qualifications.
- (7) Except as permitted in this policy, NO modifications to the rifle or the magazines may be made by the member.
- (8) Because each weapon must be zeroed by its shooter, members may only use the weapon they have qualified with unless extreme circumstances exist.

- (9) If any authorized modifications or repairs are made to the weapon, the member must qualify with that weapon prior to carrying the weapon.
 - (10) Rifles are to be cleaned regularly.
 - (11) Rifles shall be inspected by a troop firearms instructor during firearms training/qualification.
 - (12) Upon transfer or reassignment to another troop, Division issued rifles shall remain with the member and documented on the Firearms/Taser Action Form (HSMV 61102).
3. TEAR GAS - The Division will provide training to selected members in the care and use of tear gas weapons, and issue tear gas munitions and equipment when appropriate.
- a. The following tear gas munitions and equipment will be provided to each troop:
 - (1) CS grenades.
 - (2) Smoke grenades.
 - (3) Shotgun grenade launchers.
 - (4) Shotgun grenade launching shells.
 - (5) 12 gauge CS tear gas ferret shells.
 - (6) 37mm gas gun and 37mm direct blast CS tear gas shells.
 - b. Troop Commanders will keep their respective Regional Commander apprised of the use and inventory of tear gas. The appropriate Regional Commander will coordinate inventory maintenance with the Florida Highway Patrol Training Academy.
 - c. Tear gas should be used only in situations where the on-scene supervisor has sufficient reason to believe that the situation cannot be controlled by a lesser degree of control and where the use of tear gas is not likely to escalate the incident.
 - (1) Prior to the deployment of tear gas, due regard will be exercised for the safety of any subjects, police officers and citizens.
 - (2) Scene containment and/or evacuation will be implemented when the use of chemical agents or smoke is anticipated.
 - d. Carrying and use of personally purchased tear gas dispensers is prohibited.

F. DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS: All discharge of Division firearms, chemical agents or less-lethal weapons (except during training) shall immediately be reported to the on-duty supervisor, even if no injury or property damage is known to have resulted from such discharge. Additionally, the member shall, if physically able, prepare and submit a report to the supervisor before going off duty, or if off-duty, within 24 hours.

1. Such report shall include:
 - a. A thorough description of the details of the incident.
 - b. A comprehensive discussion as to the reason the firearm, chemical agent, or less-lethal weapon was discharged.
2. In the case of a firearms discharge, the Bureau Commander of the Bureau of Criminal Investigations and Intelligence shall be notified immediately and shall assign an investigator to conduct an investigation. BCII will investigate in consultation with the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

G. LESS-LETHAL WEAPONS

1. Only members of SRT are authorized to be issued a less-lethal weapon. Only ammunition purchased by the Division and designed specifically for a less-lethal weapon is authorized.
2. Less-Lethal Weapons training will be taught by a CJSTC-Certified Firearms Instructor who has received specialized training in the less-lethal weapons used by the Division and will be conducted in accordance with a lesson plan approved by the Chief Training Officer. The course will consist of classroom instruction and practical training. To successfully complete the training, the member must demonstrate proficiency on a qualification course that is approved by the Director in accordance with FHP Policy 10.03. All scores shall be documented on a firearms training report.
3. Every effort will be made by the member deploying the less-lethal weapon to inform other involved officers that less-lethal ammunition is being used.
4. Specific weapons shall be designated for deployment of less-lethal ammunition and shall be distinctly marked by paint or other conspicuous features as determined by the Chief Training Officer. These weapons shall not be used for any other purpose and shall be loaded only with less-lethal ammunition.
5. Less-lethal weapons are to be inspected prior to the mission and just before deployment, and will then determine the following:
 - a. The proper rounds are in place.
 - b. The weapon is functional

H. IMPACT WEAPONS

1. The PR-24 baton is the standard impact weapon issued to members of the Florida Highway Patrol. Members must complete a 12-hour PR-24 certification training course prior to receiving authorization to carry/use the impact weapon. Annual recertification is required. PR-24 models that are authorized to be carried are limited to the PR-24S, PR-24STS, and PR24XTS. Other than those listed above, no other impact weapon is authorized for routine individual use by members of the Florida Highway Patrol.
2. The PR-24 baton shall be carried in the member's official vehicle while on routine patrol, except when the PR-24 is the primary intermediate weapon as a result of regulations described in Section 10.01.08.

I. AEROSOL SUBJECT RESTRAINT

1. The Aerosol Subject Restraint (ASR) approved and issued by the Division will be the only chemical agent carried and used by uniformed members. Members are only authorized to carry or use ASR issued by the Division.
2. Prior to issuance of the ASR, all uniformed members shall receive training in its use that will include instruction and actual application to afford the member an understanding of the effects of the substance.
3. All members who have completed ASR training shall wear the ASR holster and spray canister issued by the Division as part of the member's required uniform equipment. Those not trained in proper use of ASR are required to be trained in and carry the PR-24 baton.
4. Placement of the ASR holster will be on the member's strong side in front of the handgun holster.
5. The ASR may be used to control a subject(s) who poses a threat to a member's safety and resists the member's attempts to effectively perform law enforcement duties by offering active physical resistance or who physically attacks a member. Active physical resistance is defined as a subject making evasive movements to defeat a member's attempt to attain control. This may be in the form of bracing or tensing, attempting to push/pull away or not allowing the member to establish and/or maintain control.
6. Use of Other Chemical Agents - authorization to employ tear gas or other chemical agents in riot situations or for other applications involving large numbers of people must be obtained from the appropriate Troop Commander or designee. However, if the Special Response Team (SRT) is deployed, the ranking team member shall exercise responsibility for authorizing the use of tear gas or other chemical agents. Any use of tear gas, chemical agents or ASR, except in a training situation, must be reported in accordance with established procedures.

J. CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPONS

1. The Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) authorized for use by the Florida Highway Patrol is the TASER X-26 System.
2. CEWs may be used by authorized and trained personnel in accordance with FHP Policy 10.01 – Use of Control and FHP Policy 10.05 – Conducted Electrical Weapons.

K. CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF WEAPONS

1. Members will inspect all weapons assigned to or carried by them for residue, corrosion or deterioration on a weekly basis, and will keep them clean and in good operating condition at all times. Special attention will be given to shotguns.
2. Members will clean any firearm as soon as possible after it has been fired, with particular attention given to shotguns after using 12-gauge gas shells or grenade launcher shells.
3. All Division issued weapons in need of repair will be submitted to the appropriate District Commander, who will arrange through the Troop Office Operations Consultant (OOC) or other authorized member, to have the weapon forwarded to the Division Armorer at the Florida Highway Patrol Training Academy. The weapon should be shipped via commercial express carrier and insured for its replacement value. There will be no indication on the outside of the package that a firearm is enclosed. Each weapon shall be checked prior to shipment to make sure the weapon is clean and unloaded.
 - a. Weapons forwarded to the Training Academy for repair must be accompanied by a Firearms/TASER Action Form (HSMV 61102). This form will serve as a temporary log while a firearm is at the Training Academy being repaired.
 - b. Required forms:
 - (1) The Firearms/Taser Action Form has been developed to facilitate inventory and tracking of division firearms, TASERs, and TASER cartridges. Included also, are firearms on loan to this agency by other agencies as well as court awarded firearms.
 - (2) Movement of firearms/TASERs for any reason must be accompanied by a completed Firearms/TASER Action Form and must be emailed to the Fleet/Property Management section at GHQ within 48 hours of the movement of the firearm/TASER.
 - (3) Troop OOCs or other authorized member, shall enter the member's name and location, check the description of the weapon (including serial number), and enter the action

taken, the reason for such action, the date and comments, if necessary.

(4) All TASERs and TASER cartridges must be tracked as well. TASER and TASER cartridge serial numbers must be placed on the form in the space provided.

(5) Questions regarding the completion of this form shall be directed towards the Fleet/Property Management section at GHQ.

c. Members are prohibited from altering, grinding, sanding, repairing or refinishing any Division firearm.

4. Members are personally responsible for the security of weapons which are in their custody and control. Any obvious misuse or carelessness attributed to the care, maintenance or use of the weapon may subject the member to disciplinary action.

5. Firearms instructors will inspect all Division issued handguns, shotguns and approved rifles for mechanical defects during firearms training/qualification. General Headquarters personnel will have their Division issued weapons inspected by Academy staff. Gas equipment will be inspected monthly.

6. If a weapon requires refinishing or unauthorized modifications have been made to the weapon, the firearms instructor will make a recommendation through the chain of command, to the Troop Commander, stating whether the damage was done through the negligence of the member. If it is determined the member was negligent, the member may be held responsible for payment to the State of Florida for the cost of repairing the weapon and may be subject to disciplinary action.

7. Chemical agents, including ASR, are considered irritants and must be disposed of as hazardous materials. This includes spent or empty canisters. The use of chemical agents, including expired canisters, for training purposes is permitted; however, the empty canisters must be disposed of properly. The transfer of chemical agents to another law enforcement agency for use in training and/or disposal is permitted provided the agency utilizes proper disposal procedures.

L. REPORTING THE LOSS OR THEFT OF DIVISION ISSUED FIREARMS

1. If a member discovers that a Division owned firearm(s) has been lost or stolen, the member will immediately report the incident to the appropriate Troop Commander via the chain of command. The member will complete an Offense Report regarding the loss/theft.

2. Upon receipt of a report of the loss or theft of a Division issued firearm, the Troop Commander will:

a. Arrange for the protection of the crime scene and the identification/detaining of witnesses, if applicable.

- b. Arrange to have a crime scene technician dispatched to process the crime scene, if appropriate.
 - c. Arrange for notification of the Bureau Commander, Bureau of Criminal Investigations and Intelligence, and the assignment of personnel to conduct a comprehensive investigation.
 - d. Provide timely notification to the Director via the chain of command.
3. The Bureau of Criminal Investigations and Intelligence will:
- a. Assume responsibility for investigating the loss/theft of Division owned firearms.
 - b. Ensure that an NCIC entry is made to report the loss, theft or recovery of a Division owned firearm.
 - c. Issue recommendations stating whether the firearm was lost or stolen through negligence of the member. If the member was negligent, the member will be held responsible for payment to the State of Florida for the price of a replacement and be subject to disciplinary action.
4. Another firearm will be issued to replace a lost or stolen Division owned firearm.

M. WEAPONS ON AIRCRAFT

When members are required to carry a handgun on a commercial aircraft, they will identify themselves to airline personnel while checking in for the flight by presenting their badge, ID and Letter of Authorization typed on official letterhead.

Members will also comply with applicable airline regulations regarding weapons on aircraft to include the completion of the mandated training, FAA Law Enforcement Officer's Flying Armed Training Program. For further information, members should contact the FHP Chief Pilot at General Headquarters in Tallahassee, FL.

N. SAFETY

1. Members shall use the utmost care in the handling of firearms at all times. Each Florida Highway Patrol Station will have a "safe" unload barrel to facilitate the loading and unloading of firearms. The unload barrels are to be located in areas that are accessible to sworn members but away from any area frequented by the general public. Any member who unholsters a firearm in a Florida Highway Patrol facility shall utilize the unloading barrel while examining the firearm for the presence of live rounds, or while reloading a firearm after inspection, repair or acquisition. The unloading barrel shall not be used for test firing or any intentional firing of a firearm. Troop Commanders shall require a prominent sign to be posted in supply rooms, trooper meeting rooms and other areas where

firearms are likely to be found, with the following inscription:
"REMEMBER, FIREARMS ARE ALWAYS LOADED."

2. The Florida Highway Patrol Training Academy is responsible for ensuring that each recruit receives training on weapons safety, to include the off-duty storage of weapons.
3. Annually, during weapons qualifications, firearms instructors will provide up-to-date weapons safety information to all members.
4. It is the obligation of each member to ensure adequate safe daily storage and handling procedures are used in order to avoid accidents. At the conclusion of a member's tour of duty, and unless being carried while off-duty, any authorized firearms will be secured in the trunk of the assigned Division vehicle or in the member's residence.
 - a. The member is responsible for the safe storage of his or her weapon, i.e., by the use of a locked trigger guard, or locked metal box.
 - b. Members with questions regarding weapons safety should contact the troop firearms instructor.

EXCEPTIONS: The provisions of this directive will not be construed to regulate participation in organized shooting competition, legal and licensed hunting activity, or other authorized and recognized activity. However, possession or carrying of a weapon for these purposes does not relieve the member from any other provisions of this directive.

O. TRAINING WEAPONS

1. All weapons that are used for officer survival training shall be modified by the Division Armorer. The weapons shall have the cylinder/action partially obstructed so as to prevent the loading of a live round. The grips or stock of the weapon shall also be painted red.
2. No other weapon than those so modified shall be used in officer survival training.

P. UNIFORM MEMBERS ATTENDING THE FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL TRAINING ACADEMY

All members who attend the Training Academy for in-service schools shall bring their Division issued handguns, shotgun, and all patrol rifles. The weapons will be collected during in-service training.

NOTE: The weapons will be inspected by the Division armorer during the members' stay and will be returned to them prior to their leaving for the return trip home. In addition, with regard to weapons, members will comply with all dormitory rules, as established by the Florida Highway Patrol Training Academy.

1. If a weapon is found to be defective and in need of repair that cannot be made during a member's stay, a replacement weapon will be issued at

the Academy. After the weapon has been repaired and returned to the troop, the spare weapon shall be cleaned and returned to the Academy.

2. All weapons turned in at the Academy for inspection shall be clean. If a weapon is found to be in poor condition due to neglect, or is in need of cleaning, or has been modified, the respective Regional Commander shall be notified so that appropriate disciplinary action can be considered.

Q. SURPLUS WEAPONS

All surplus weapons sent to the Academy shall be cleaned prior to shipment. A Property Inventory Transfer form (HSMV 94310) shall accompany the weapon.

R. PROCEDURES FOR MAINTAINING RECORDS ON ALL AGENCY APPROVED WEAPONS

1. The Florida Highway Patrol Training Academy shall maintain an updated record on each weapon approved by the agency for official use.
2. Records shall list the type, description, identifying model, serial number and the name of the member to which the weapon is assigned.
3. Records shall be maintained in a locked, secure location when not in use and shall remain under the control of the Florida Highway Patrol Training Academy, Chief Training Officer or his/her designee.

10.02.07 REGULATIONS

- A. No member will be issued nor authorized to carry or use any weapon until he or she has been trained on and demonstrated proficiency on that weapon. However, a member engaged in initial weapons training may be issued the weapon for use while actually participating in the training.
- B. All full-time members, reserve members, and sworn auxiliary members authorized to carry less-lethal weapons, impact weapons or ASR shall complete in-service refresher training for those weapons and weaponless control techniques at least annually.