

Georgia Department of Public Safety

Policy Manual

SUBJECT WEAPONS POLICY	POLICY NUMBER 10.03
DISTRIBUTION ALL EMPLOYEES	REVISED DATE 9/24/2019
	POLICY REVIEWED 9/24/2019

10.03.1 Purpose

The purpose is to establish policy and procedures governing the authorization and use of weapons by members of the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

10.03.2 Policy

Any DPS sworn member that is required to carry a weapon and/or make an arrest shall: (1) be Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (P.O.S.T.C.) certified; or (2) be in Trooper School Field Training. The instruction and qualification with all weapons shall be provided by a DPS P.O.S.T. certified weapons instructor.

10.03.3 Procedures

A. Authorized Weapons

1. Are listed in Exhibit #10.03-1.
2. These weapons (#10.03-1) will be carried and utilized according to DPS Training.
3. Some members may be issued other weapons in the performance of their assignment. These weapons shall be carried and utilized according to the training received for those weapons.
4. Headquarters Security non-sworn personnel may be issued batons and/or O.C. Spray (#10.02).
5. The Department requires that all members must successfully complete DPS weapons training and demonstrate proficiency in the use of each department authorized weapon before being approved to carry such weapon.
6. Only authorized weapons and ammunition shall be carried in a departmental vehicle.

B. Wear of Backup Weapon

1. It shall be mandatory to wear the Glock 43 (backup weapon) while on duty.
2. While on duty, the Glock 43 shall only be worn as a backup weapon to supplement the primary duty weapon. The Glock 43 shall not be considered a primary duty weapon in any circumstance while on duty.

3. The Glock 43 may be carried off duty in accordance with number 4 of this section.
4. Sworn Members will carry their identification cards and badge when carrying a weapon, except when impractical or dangerous to their safety while in the performance of their assigned duties. Members will make every effort to ensure the security and safekeeping of the identification card and badge at all times. They will furnish their name and badge number to any person requesting that information, when they are on-duty or while holding themselves out as having an official capacity, except when the withholding of such information is necessary for the performance of police duties or is authorized by proper authority.

C. Weapon Mounted Lights

1. Weapon mounted lights shall only be used when the weapon itself is in use in compliance with this policy or the Use of Force Policy #10.01.

D. Immediate Response Bag

1. All patrol vehicles shall contain a departmental issued immediate response bag readily accessible to the member.
2. Each immediate response bag shall contain extra ammunition, medical supplies, and flashlight in accordance with DPS training.

E. Qualification

All members authorized to carry weapons are required to:

1. Annually:
 - a. Receive the departmental in-service training on the use-of-deadly force, including departmental policy, and
 - b. Demonstrate proficiency with all approved lethal weapons that the employee is authorized to use. A DPS P.O.S.T. certified weapons instructor shall monitor this training.
 - 1) Any member who does not qualify with the authorized handgun during in-service training shall surrender their weapon to the Director of Training or their designee and marked departmental vehicle to one of their Troop/Region Officers/Supervisors before leaving the in-service location.
 - 2) The Troop/Region Commander/Division Director shall assign the member to a legitimate non-sworn duty within the troop until the member completes remedial training as assigned by the Training Division. If the Troop/Region Commander/Division Director does not have a legitimate non-sworn duty assignment, the Troop Commander/Division Director will notify the Human Resources Director, through the chain of command.

- 3) If a member does not qualify after remedial training, the appropriate adjutant shall confer with the Directors of Legal Services and Human Resources, and decide on reassignment or termination.
- 4) Members assigned to a specialized unit (e.g. Office of Professional Standards, Executive Security, task forces, etc) may qualify with weapons and holsters as worn on duty.

F. Use of Firearms

1. Discharging of firearm: upon discharging a firearm the member shall notify a Troop/Region Officer, through the chain of command and complete a DPS-1113 Incident Report.
2. Members shall not discharge their firearms when not in accordance with the provisions of this policy or the Use of Force Policy #10.01.
3. A negligent discharge of a firearm, where there is no risk to the public, may be investigated at the Troop level, at the discretion of the Commanding Officer.

G. Security of Issued Weapons

1. Issued weapons shall be kept in a secure location when not in the member's immediate possession.
2. Members shall not loan or provide access to issued weapons except with permission of a supervisor or in circumstances where such actions are necessary to prevent serious injury or death to a member or another person.
3. Members shall ensure that all issued weapons are accounted for each work day.

Any member may reasonably use any weapon/ammunition for any purpose in an extreme emergency situation.