

**NEW CANAAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**SUBJECT: PATROL SHOTGUNS & RIFLES**

**GENERAL ORDER NUMBER: 02-01-110**

**FILE:**

**I PURPOSE/POLICY**

The purpose of this general order is to establish departmental guidelines concerning shotguns and rifles and to standardize make and model as well as approved ammunition (both lethal and less lethal) for the New Canaan Police Department.

It is the policy of the New Canaan Police Department that department owned and maintained shotguns and rifles will be deployed in situations that are violent in nature and where tactical situations warrant their presence. Only members of the department who have successfully completed an advanced training program conducted by the department Firearms Training Unit will use shotguns and rifles.

**II RESPONSIBILITY**

It is the responsibility of all department personnel to adhere to this General Order. It is the additional responsibility of the supervisory and command staff to insure its compliance.

**III PROCEDURES (Patrol Shotguns & Rifles)**

- A.** The authorized shotgun issued to officers of the New Canaan Police Department shall be the Mossberg Model 590 with 14-inch barrel and ghost ring sights. The authorized rifle issued to Patrol Officers of the New Canaan Police Department is the Bushmaster E2S with 16" barrel and iron sights.
- B.** All sworn personnel will be required to complete a basic shotgun training and qualification course as prescribed by the department's Firearms Training Unit. Advanced training will include the use of lethal and less lethal ammunition, tactics and deployment for those officers qualifying for patrol shotgun carry. Selected officers will be required to complete a rifle training and qualification course as prescribed by the department's Firearms Training Unit for those officers qualifying for patrol rifle carry. At the end of each qualification session a list of certified officers will be maintained.
- C.** Only officers who have received advanced training in the use and deployment of shotguns and rifles, and are currently qualified may be authorized to carry a shotgun or rifle.
  - 1.** All qualified officers should be assigned a shotgun or rifle by the Shift Commander, and noticed on the Shift Information Sheet. When a shotgun or rifle is issued, the following procedure will be adhered to:
    - a.** The officer will draw an assigned shotgun/rifle from the storage rack and inspect the shotgun/rifle and ammunition for safety.

- b. While inside headquarters, shotguns and rifles will have the safety on, with an empty chamber.
  - c. Assigned shotguns will hold the following ammunition:
    - 1) Six (6) rounds of rifled slugs in the side saddle with brass downward.
    - 2) Three (3) rounds of rifled slugs in the butt stock carrier.
    - 3) Five (5) rounds of rifled slugs in the magazine.
  - d. Assigned rifles will hold the following ammunition:
    - 1) Twenty (20) rounds of .223 duty ammunition in the magazine.
    - 2) Twenty (20) rounds of .223 duty ammunition in a spare magazine.
  - e. At the beginning of the shift, the assigned officer(s), under a Shift Supervisor's oversight, will draw a shotgun or rifle from its storage rack in the bike room, load the shotgun magazine or load a magazine into the rifle utilizing the clearing barrel, and secure it in the vehicle in accordance with training guidelines. Patrol/cruiser carry for both shotguns and rifles is closed bolt on an empty chamber, safety on, and magazine loaded.
  - f. Any officer who is issued a shotgun or rifle will be responsible for the security of that weapon.
  - g. At the end of the shift, the officer, under a Shift Supervisor's oversight, will properly unload the rounds in the shotgun magazine or remove the magazine from the rifle utilizing the clearing barrel, safety check the weapon and ammunition, and return the weapon and ammunition to the designated storage rack.
  - h. For purposes of this General Order, a Shift Supervisor is defined as the working Lieutenant, and/or Sergeant/Acting Sergeant. If no supervisors are available, a Firearms Instructor may act in this capacity.
2. Members of the SRT should be assigned to carry their SRT rifle while on patrol, and noticed by the Shift Commander on the Shift Information Sheet. SRT members will draw and return rifles from their storage rack under similar supervision as shotguns and rifles in number 1 above and carry their rifles in accordance with SRT training and guidelines.
- D.** Any officer armed with a shotgun or rifle must take into consideration the situation and his/her surroundings before using the weapon to insure the safety of the citizenry. Although the use of deadly force may be permissible, there are many issues that officers should consider when deciding to deploy a shotgun or rifle:
- 1. The power and range of shotgun and rifle ammunition.
  - 2. Population or density of the area.
  - 3. Foot pursuit and/or physical combat.
  - 4. Has another officer already deployed a shotgun or rifle?

- E. A shotgun or rifle may be deployed under the following conditions:
  - 1. For a perimeter/containment situation involving a hostage and/or barricaded subject.
  - 2. An armed subject call.
  - 3. A felony or high-risk traffic stop.
  - 4. A “Hold-up” or armed robbery call.
  - 5. Where the officer has a reasonable expectation that there is potential for an armed subject encounter.
  - 6. When the facts and circumstances taken in combination with the training and experience of the officer indicate that a shotgun or rifle is the weapon of choice.
- F. When a shotgun or rifle is deployed, the officer is required to notice by radio transmission deployment of the weapon, except when officers are reacting to active fire incidents.
- G. The shift supervisor or officer will be responsible for advising a firearms instructor of any reported problem with a shotgun or rifle.
- H. The department’s range master will establish a regular routine inspection and maintenance program for shotguns and rifles.

#### **IV PROCEDURES (SPECIALTY IMPACT MUNITIONS)**

- A. The authorized duty shotgun of the New Canaan Police Department designated for the sole purpose of less lethal ammunition/Specialty Impact Munitions will be the Mossberg Model 500 with 18 inch barrel, and will be uniquely marked for identification.
- B. Officers who attend the advanced shotgun qualification course will be trained on the use of less lethal ammunition, tactics and deployment. Those officers who qualify in the advanced shotgun course will be qualified to deploy the SIM shotgun.
- C. Only officers who have received training in the use and deployment of the SIM shotgun and are currently qualified shall be authorized to carry/deploy the weapon.
  - 1. The SIM shotgun will be secured in the sergeant’s vehicle.
    - a. At the beginning of the shift, the shotgun will be inspected for safety to insure that the shotgun has an empty chamber and magazine. The shotgun will be secured in the designated rack with a closed bolt and empty chamber.
  - 2. The SIM shotgun will hold the following ammunition:
    - a. Six (6) rounds of 12 gauge bean bag rounds will be loaded in the side saddle with the brass down.
    - b. The magazine and chamber will be empty.
- D. The deployment and use of SIM devices are decisive actions that can assist in achieving the goal of protection of life and property and/or the restoration of order. They should be considered whenever the use of less lethal options would assist in enabling an arrest, restoring order and/or reducing the risk of more serious injury. Circumstances justifying the use of these munitions include, but are not limited to:

1. Protect an officer or other person from an assault.
  2. Subdue a person who resists arrest.
  3. Control persons engaged in riotous or violent conduct.
  4. Emotionally Disturbed Persons
- E.** The potential for causing death or serious physical injury with less lethal munitions is a reality. To greatly reduce this potential:
1. Intentional impacts to the head and neck shall be avoided.
  2. Medical personnel shall examine subjects who are struck by less than lethal impact munitions.
  3. The decision to deploy the SIM will be made by a shift supervisor based on the facts and circumstances at the incident.
- F.** When engaging the target, the officer will evaluate the effectiveness of each round fired. Compliance and/or incapacitation is the desired goal, and alternative target areas/response will be considered if the rounds are not effective.
- G.** Less lethal munitions shall not be mixed in a container or in the shotgun with traditional shotgun ammunition. Upon receiving less lethal impact munitions, the officer actually employing them is ultimately responsible for ensuring that these munitions are “less lethal” and used in accordance with departmental policy.

**V DISTRIBUTION**

This general order will be reproduced in electronic and traditional media. All sworn personnel shall have access to Department general orders through a read-only file on their individual domain of the Department’s computer network. Printed copies and/or CD’s will also be placed in locations throughout headquarters so that they are easily accessible to all personnel.

This General Order shall also be disseminated and reviewed with each recruit prior to initiating their Field Training Program.

**VI EFFECTIVE DATE**

This general order approved by the Police Commission on November 19, 2002.

Revised on:  
June 25, 2004  
February 28, 2006  
October 19, 2011

Per Order

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Edward J. Nadriczny  
Chief of Police