


PINE BLUFF POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY/PROCEDURES MANUAL

	SUBJECT:	POLICY NUMBER 500
	Firearms: Authorization	ISSUE DATE 02/19/2008
	CHAPTER: TRAINING	EFFECTIVE DATE 02/19/2008
	ISSUED By: Chief of Police John Howell	TOTAL PAGES 3

I. POLICY

- A. All officers of the department, when on duty, will use one of the following as a primary handgun; a Colt, Ruger, or Smith & Wesson Revolver, .38 caliber, .357 Magnum, .44 caliber, or .45 caliber with a barrel length not exceeding four (4) inches but not less than 3½ inches, or a semi-automatic in a 9mm, .357 Sig, .40 or .45 caliber. Any weapon used by an officer, not issued by the department, will be approved by the Training Section supervisor. No officer will carry a primary sidearm that will defeat the ballistic rating of his/her protective body armor.

- B. An officer may carry a back-up weapon provided it is capable of being secured in a manner that the weapon cannot be readily accessed by a suspect during an arrest attempt or fight and the weapon will not become dislodged if the officer has to crawl, climb, lay down, etc. The officer will be required to qualify with the weapon on an approved department course annually. Back-up weapons may have barrels shorter than 3½ inches. Calibers permitted for carry are; .22 magnum, .32 caliber, .38 caliber, .357 magnum, .380 caliber, 9mm, .40 caliber and .45 caliber. At no time will a back-up weapon be considered a primary duty weapon. No officer will carry a back-up weapon that will defeat the ballistic rating of his/her protective body armor.

- C. Officers are permitted and encouraged to carry shotguns. Shotguns will be 12 gauge and will not have a barrel length shorter than 18 inches unless it is approved by the department. Officers will be required to qualify with a shotgun before being allowed to carry a shotgun. 2 ¾ or 3 inch magnum rounds will be allowed and will be either 00 Buckshot or slugs. Alterations to department shotguns will be performed only by authorized department personnel. Any personal alterations to a department shotgun will become property of the department if the original parts can't be returned to the weapon when it is returned to the department.

- D. Tactical patrol rifles are permitted to be carried only by officers who have successfully completed an approved tactical patrol rifle course and have been approved by the Chief of Police. Members of the SWAT Team may carry their tactical patrol rifles or shotguns with them while on duty. All tactical patrol rifles will be in an enclosed case and not deployed unless authorized by an on-scene supervisor or exigent circumstances exist where a timely deployment of a tactical patrol rifle would prevent serious bodily injury or death of any person or officer. Armor piercing ammunition is not permitted for duty carry, unless it is being utilized by the SWAT Team for specific target neutralization. Only soft pointed or frangible ammunition will be allowed for duty carry. The caliber and type of weapons allowed will be determined by the Training Division supervisor when an officer applies for a tactical patrol rifle class. SKS, AK-47 style or any low quality rifle will not be permitted. At no time will the bullet diameter exceed .45 caliber.
- E. Routine maintenance and care of department weapons is the responsibility of each officer. All weapons must, at all times, be functional and free from any mechanical defect.
- F. When repair work is required on any weapon owned by the department, the work shall be done by a gunsmith designated or approved by the Chief of Police.
- G. All uniform officers will wear a full gun belt while on duty. A full gun belt is considered to be an outer belt, at least 1 ¾ inches in width, worn over the trouser belt designed to hold additional equipment and will consist of a holster, either jacket slot or high-rise, that has a strap over the top of the weapon with a thumb break retention system, or greater (ex: level 2 or 3), at least one magazine pouch designed to hold a minimum of two additional magazines that have straps or covers to retain the magazines, and a handcuff pouch that will hold a minimum of one pair of handcuffs. Additional equipment may be worn on the full gun belt as long as the equipment is fully enclosed and secured and will not come off the belt during police activity. The full gun belt will be secured to the trouser belt by no less than four "keepers", two in front and two in back. At no time will an on-duty officer wear a tactical thigh holster as a regular duty holster. Tactical thigh holsters are only permitted for use by the SWAT Team, Vice and Narcotics while serving warrants and detectives while serving warrants. Uniform officers with a primary office or desk assignment are not required to wear a full duty belt. Officers assigned to an office or desk assignment can wear a holster, with a minimum of a thumb break retention system, attached to the trouser belt and must have at least one spare magazine and be equipped with handcuffs. This does not apply to Patrol Division supervisors who may be required to answer calls for service. All patrol division supervisors will wear a full gun belt.
- H. Officers, while on duty and dressed in civilian clothes, shall wear a primary handgun in a holster secured with a minimum of a thumb break retention system. A holster of greater retention is permitted. A departmental badge shall be displayed on the officer's weapon side anytime a weapon is visible. Also, any plain clothes officer will have an extra magazine and be equipped with handcuffs.

- I. Officers while off duty are encouraged to carry their handgun with them. While off duty the weapon **“must” be concealed from public view**. Uniform patrol officers attending court are considered to be on duty and may wear a visible primary sidearm while in plain clothes. The weapon must be secured in a holster with a minimum of a thumb break retention system and the officer must be equipped with an extra magazine and handcuffs. A departmental badge will be displayed on the weapon side. Any officer working a part-time job and has been approved by the Chief of Police to work in plain clothes may also wear a visible primary sidearm under the same requirements.
- J. No officer will be armed while under suspension, unless possession of a firearm is in compliance with existing state statutes regarding the use and possession of firearms by the general public. A primary handgun shall not be worn on the gun belt in a holster or other device which places the handle of the weapon more than three (3) inches from the body. When the handle of the weapon is tilted forward and away from the officer’s body, the weapon can hang on doors, windows, belts, etc., and makes it possible for another person to take the firearm away from the officer. Cross-draw or swivel holsters will not be worn on the duty belt. Cross-draw concealed holsters worn from a suspension device may be used as long as the holster has a minimum of a thumb break retention system. Cross-draw holsters are permitted on tactical vests worn by the SWAT Team, Vice and Narcotics while serving warrants or Detectives while serving warrants.
- K. Upon regular service retirement (minimum of 20 years active) under honorable circumstances, the Chief may, in recognition of and appreciation for the service of the retiring officer, award to the officer the pistol carried by the officer at the time of his/her retirement from service.
- L. Ammunition carried in any on-duty or off-duty handgun will be hollow point ammunition of original manufacture. No reloaded ammunition may be carried. No pointed jacketed ammunition, “hardball”, is permitted except for practice or range qualifications.