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June 20, 2008

Memorandum:

To: J. Thomas Manger,
Chief of Police

Marc B. Zifcak
President, FOP 35

From: Captain Alan M. Goldberg
Joint Health and Safety Committee

Subject: Accessory List for Firearms

The purpose of this memo is to update the list of authorized accessories to standardize and clarify what is allowed and disallowed for the various firearms utilized by our personnel. The Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) feels that it is more efficient to maintain a list of acceptable accessories that may be amended in a timely manner as newer equipment becomes available.

This memorandum preserves and amends the agreement of October 26, 2005. The attached list of authorized accessories is approved for use with our department issued weapons and approved weapons. No other accessories are permitted for use on issued or authorized firearms unless approved through the agreed processes (JHSC recommendations and subsequent approvals).

Handgun / Long Gun Accessories

Definitions:

Tactical sling: Tactical slings (equivalent* to the Uncle Mike's tactical sling issued by the department for the Benelli M1) are designed to allow the user ready access to the weapon without the need to remove the long gun from the slung position. They can be single-point, dual-point or three-point mount styles. Tactical slings are designed to allow the operator to transition to the handgun or to allow use of both hands without loss of control of the weapon. These slings are either nylon or cloth and must be either subdued black or olive drab (OD) green. The sling design must not interfere with the normal operation of the firearm.

Utility slings: Utility slings are designed to allow the user to carry the weapon over the shoulder. These slings are either nylon or cloth and must be either subdued black or OD green. Some county issued Remington 870 shotguns were issued this style sling.

"Side Saddle" shell carrier for shotguns: Side Saddle shell carriers mount to the receiver of the shotgun without modification of the weapon. They are secured and provide ready access to additional ammunition without affecting the functioning of the shotgun.

Butt stock magazine carrier for rifles: A nylon or plastic magazine pouch designed to carry an M16/M4/AR15 magazine by securely attaching the pouch to the firearm's butt stock without alteration of the weapon.

Tactical weapons lights for handguns and long guns: High intensity lighting systems designed to be utilized on firearms to identify targets, de-escalate levels of force and allow two handed operation of the firearm. Integral lights include the Surefire Remington 870 forend lighting system. The M3 and Surefire X200 lights utilize the Glock integral frame rails as well as standard M1911 Picatinny/Weaver mount rails for long guns.

Tactical thigh holsters: Holsters designed to carry the handgun either with or without an attached M3/Surefire lighting system. The Safariland SLS is the current issue for SWAT and Canine.

Approved Handgun Accessories:

- Tactical lights that fit the standard integral mounting rail on the Glock without modification of the gun, i.e., Surefire X200/ Streamlight-Insight M3, or equivalent* are authorized for use.
- Tactical light holders for duty belt are authorized.
- Rubber slip-on grips (designed for the specific gun model so that it will not interfere with the magazine release or operation of the firearm) are authorized. Examples are the Hogue or Uncle Mike's brand or equivalent.*
- Sand or rubber self-adhesive grips are authorized. These grips are precut for the make and model weapon with cutouts for the magazine release, i.e. "Decal Grips" brand or equivalent*.
- Tactical leg holsters that can accommodate a light for plain clothes units such as DIU, ROS, SAT, Gang Task Force, Firearms Task Force, CATT, etc., are authorized in limited

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circumstances such as raids and pre-planned operations such as takedowns of wanted suspects, sweeps, etc.

- Tactical leg holsters are considered special-duty and would not normally be worn on a daily basis for the routine plainclothes, investigative or undercover mission. Examples are the Safariland SLS type or equivalent*. Soft, ballistic nylon holsters which do not retain their shape or holsters that do not allow one handed re-holstering are not approved.
- Effective July 1, 2008, the agreed uniform patrol holster shall be the Safariland ALS Retention level II plus holster. This new holster shall be issued to all Police Officer Candidates in entry level or lateral training and employees assigned to firearms range duties. The uniform patrol holster will remain the Safariland Raptor belt style holster for officers graduating from the Recruit and lateral Academy Training classes prior to July 1, 2008. Officers needing a replacement of their issued Safariland Raptor holster, due to damage or loss, can elect to receive the Safariland ALS Retention level II holster as a replacement or be reissued the Raptor if Raptor holster inventories still exist, at the employees discretion. Officers issued a tactical [SLS] light equipped holster that needs to be replaced, due to damage or loss, shall be issued a Safariland ALS tactical holster [light compatible] as a replacement.
- Employees assigned EFO duties may, at the employee's discretion, carry two additional departmental issued magazines with ammunition, for their handgun. If they elect to carry the additional magazines and ammunition they will be issued one additional double magazine pouch or 2 single magazine pouches [Blackhawk CQC or equivalent] which ever they prefer. These additionally issued items shall be relinquished by the employee when they are no longer performing duties of an EFO.

Ankle Holsters - Officers will be authorized to utilize ankle holsters under the following circumstances:

- Ankle holsters must have an active locking retention mechanism (i.e. strap, snap, button or lever, etc) that must be manually disengaged in order to draw the firearm. Friction only retention holsters are not permitted. Holsters must completely cover then trigger guard, be securely fastened to the employee and securely hold the firearm during physical exertion.
- Backup Weapon: Officers operating a police vehicle, on or off duty or anytime while in uniform may carry an authorized firearm in an ankle holster as a backup to the required primary, authorized handgun as specified in the Collective Bargaining Agreement and directive.
- Off duty, not in uniform and not in a police vehicle: As a primary weapon or back up weapon officers are authorized to carry an authorized firearm in an ankle holster while off duty, not in uniform and while not driving a police vehicle.
- Exceptions to these restrictions may be made on a case by case basis, as determined by the unit supervisor, due to the nature of the assignment and while actually engaged in an undercover assignment.
- Officers choosing to wear an ankle holster in accordance with this agreement must qualify with the holster before deployment.

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- A list of approved ankle holsters shall be developed and provided to employees upon request. If employees desire a specific holster not on the list, the holster must be approved for use before deployment. *

Additional off duty/backup handgun carry authorization

- Officers are allowed to qualify with up to two off duty/backup handguns from the specified list of authorized handguns. While on duty an officer may carry, in addition to their issued weapon, only one backup weapon for which they are qualified. While off duty an officer may carry up to two handguns for which they are qualified.

Approved Shotgun Accessories (870 and Benelli):

- Tactical style slings or standard utility slings. "Bandolier" style slings designed to carry extra ammunition are not authorized.
- Tactical lighting systems, either integrated, such as the Surefire brand shotgun forend (Remington 870 only) or Weaver/Picatinny mount Surefire X200 or Streamlight-Insight M3 type lights (870 or Benelli) or equivalent*. Mounting solutions for the standard Picatinny mount rail type lights must not otherwise alter the firearm or its operation.
- Pistol grip stocks are authorized. Stocks must have a full buttstock (not just the pistol grip). Examples include the Remington or Benelli brand replacement stocks or the Speed Feed brand Remington 870 replacement stock or equivalent*. These stocks made of synthetic materials and must be a dark or subdued color (black, dark grey; no camouflage or bright colors).
- "Side Saddle" ammunition carriers for Remington 870. (Side Saddles are issued for the Benelli with limit of 4 rounds on the Benelli to ensure functionality with reduced power loads).
- Remington smooth bore barrel with rifle sights for use with buckshot or slugs (Min. 18" Max. 20" barrel length).
- Remington brand extended magazine tubes for Remington 870 (2- shot extension for 18" barrel or 3-shot for 20 barrel). The extension tube should not protrude beyond the end of the barrel.

Approved Rifle Accessories:

- Tactical sling or utility sling (tactical recommended).
- Streamlight/Insight M3 or Surefire X200 type tactical flashlight or equivalent lights are authorized. Lights may be mounted on the issued M16 Fobus handguard rails, or with mounts on the M4 that do not require alteration of the gun or handguards. Examples of M4 mounts include the Streamlight rail adaptors for the M4 handguards, and snap-on AR15 mounts or equivalent*.
- Buttstock type magazine pouch for spare magazine.

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- Vertical Fore grips.

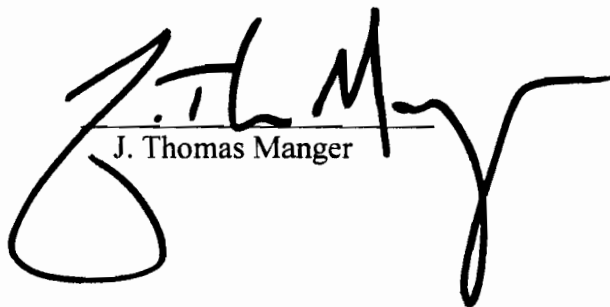
Long Gun Optics:

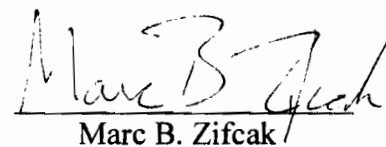
Approved Rifle optical sights:

- The EoTech Holographic Weapons Sight and Aimpoint Comp M series optics are approved sights on the Firearms Accessory List for the M-16 and M-4 rifles.
- Users are to qualify with the optic prior to deploying and re-qualify under current requirements.
- Any cantilever mounts to be used on the M-16 will be mil-spec.
- Mounting of optics to plastic hand guards (i.e. Fobus) will not be allowed.

For approved mounting methods and platforms officers should consult with the Firearms Training Supervisor prior to making a purchase to ensure proper mounting compliance. *

* Officers should seek guidance from the Firearms Training Section supervisor regarding the equivalency of any items prior to purchase. If the Firearms Training Section supervisor determines the item is equivalent to the listed equipment, the Firearms Training Supervisor should provide written notification to the Health and Safety Committee and the officer to avoid any future dispute. Any disagreement as to the equivalency of authorized equipment should be forwarded to the Health and Safety Committee for evaluation and recommendation at the next meeting. This agreement does not preclude any party from requesting evaluation or recommendation of equipment by the Health and Safety Committee under the Collective Bargaining Agreement.


J. Thomas Manger


Marc B. Zifcak