Firearms

312.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE
This policy provides guidelines for issuing firearms, the safe and legal carrying of firearms, firearms maintenance, firearms training, and firearms range rules.

This policy does not apply to issues related to the use of firearms that are addressed in the Use of Force or Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths policies. This policy only applies to those members who are authorized to carry firearms.

312.2 POLICY
The Red Bluff Police Department will equip its members with firearms to address the risks posed to the public and department members by violent and sometimes well-armed persons. The Department will ensure firearms are appropriate and in good working order and that relevant training is provided as resources allow.

312.2.1 ALCOHOL & DRUGS
Weapons shall not be carried by any officer who has consumed an amount of an alcoholic beverage or taken any drugs which would tend to adversely affect the officer's senses or judgment.

312.2.2 INITIAL WEAPONS TRAINING
Eligible sworn personnel requesting permission to carry any department approved handgun, rifle, or shotgun shall successfully complete an instructional course approved by the Chief of Police to demonstrate their proficiency in the use and safe handling of the weapon.

312.2.3 AMMUNITION
Officers shall carry only department-authorized ammunition.

312.3 AUTHORIZED FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND OTHER WEAPONS
Members shall only use firearms that are issued or approved by the [Department/Office] and have been thoroughly inspected by the Rangemaster. Except in an emergency or as directed by a supervisor, no firearm shall be carried by a member who has not qualified with that firearm at an authorized [department/office] range.

All other weapons not provided by the [Department/Office], including but not limited to edged weapons, chemical or electronic weapons, impact weapons or any weapon prohibited or restricted by law or that is not covered elsewhere by [department/office] policy, may not be carried by members in the performance of their official duties without the express written authorization of the member’s Division Commander. This exclusion does not apply to the carrying of a single folding pocketknife that is not otherwise prohibited by law.

312.3.1 HANDGUNS
The authorized [department/office]-issued handgun is the Glock 21, 22, & 27. The following additional handguns are approved for on-duty use:
312.3.2 SHOTGUNS
The authorized department-issued shotgun is the patrol Remington Model 870 and the tactical team Benelli M90.

When not deployed, the shotgun shall be properly secured in a locking weapons rack in the patrol vehicle with the magazine loaded, the action closed on an empty chamber, the trigger pulled to release the hammer and the safety in the off position.

312.3.3 SHOTGUNS
(a) A shotgun being carried in a police vehicle shall be secured in an electronically operated security lock or in a the locked trunk.

(b) The chamber shall be empty and the magazine tube loaded with six rounds of 00 buck shot and the side saddle shall be loaded with six rounds of slug ammunition. The action shall not be cocked and the safety shall be off.

(c) At the beginning of each shift, the shotgun will be checked while keeping the barrel pointed in a safe direction.

(d) The shotgun will never have any foreign material(s) placed inside of the barrel nor shall anything be hung or placed on the barrel, trigger or action (including the shotgun rack).

(e) All shotguns shall be operated with two hands unless otherwise authorized by the Rangemaster and/or when one arm has been disabled and an emergency requires immediate use of a shotgun.

312.3.4 PATROL RIFLES
The authorized department-issued patrol rifle is the Colt M4, AR-15/M16 Style Rifle.

Members may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstance where the member can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the patrol rifle may include, but are not limited to:

(a) Situations where the member reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.

(b) When a member is faced with a situation that may require accurate and effective fire at long range.

(c) Situations where a member reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.

(d) When a member reasonably believes that there may be a need to fire on a barricaded person or a person with a hostage.

(e) When a member reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.
(f) When authorized or requested by a supervisor.

(g) When needed to euthanize an animal.

When not deployed, the patrol rifle shall be properly secured in a locking weapons rack in the patrol vehicle with the chamber empty, magazine loaded and inserted into the magazine well, the bolt forward with the dust cover closed, the trigger pulled to release the hammer and the selector lever in the fire position (selector lever cannot be in the safe position with the hammer released).

312.3.5 PERSONALLY OWNED DUTY FIREARMS
Members desiring to carry an authorized but personally owned duty firearm (handgun, rifle, or shotgun) must receive written approval from the Chief of Police or the authorized designee. Once approved, personally owned duty firearms are subject to the following restrictions:

(a) The firearm shall be in good working order.

(b) The firearm shall be inspected by the Rangemaster prior to being carried and thereafter shall be subject to inspection whenever it is deemed necessary.

(c) Prior to carrying the firearm, members shall qualify under range supervision and thereafter shall qualify in accordance with the department qualification schedule. Members must demonstrate proficiency and safe handling, and that the firearm functions properly.

(d) Members shall provide written notice of the make, model, color, serial number and caliber of the firearm to the Rangemaster, who will maintain a list of the information.

312.3.6 AUTHORIZED SECONDARY HANDGUN
Members desiring to carry department or personally owned secondary handguns are subject to the following restrictions:

(a) The handgun shall be in good working order and department approved.

(b) Only one secondary handgun may be carried at a time.

(c) The purchase of the handgun and ammunition shall be the responsibility of the member unless the handgun and ammunition are provided by the Department.

(d) The handgun shall be carried concealed at all times and in such a manner as to prevent unintentional cocking, discharge or loss of physical control.

(e) The handgun shall be inspected by the Rangemaster prior to being carried and thereafter shall be subject to inspection whenever it is deemed necessary.

(f) Ammunition shall be the same as department issue. If the caliber of the handgun is other than department issue, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall approve the ammunition.

(g) Prior to carrying the secondary handgun, members shall qualify under range supervision and thereafter shall qualify in accordance with the department qualification schedule. Members must demonstrate proficiency and safe handling, and that the handgun functions properly.
Firearms

(h) Members shall provide written notice of the make, model, color, serial number and caliber of a secondary handgun to the Rangemaster, who will maintain a list of the information.

312.3.7 AUTHORIZED OFF-DUTY FIREARMS
The carrying of firearms by members while off-duty is permitted by the Chief of Police but may be rescinded should circumstances dictate (e.g., administrative leave). Members who choose to carry a firearm while off-duty, based on their authority as peace officers, will be required to meet the following guidelines:

(a) The member may use his/her duty firearm or may use a personally owned firearm that is carried and inspected in accordance with the Personally Owned Duty Firearms requirements in this policy. A member carrying his/her duty firearm will be deemed to have complied with (c), (d) and (e) of this section.

1. The purchase of the personally owned firearm and ammunition shall be the responsibility of the member.

(b) The firearm shall be carried concealed at all times and in such a manner as to prevent accidental unintentional cocking, discharge or loss of physical control.

(c) It will be the responsibility of the member to submit the firearm to the Rangemaster for inspection prior to being personally carried. Thereafter the firearm shall be subject to periodic inspection by the Rangemaster.

(d) Prior to carrying any off-duty firearm, the member shall demonstrate to the Rangemaster that he/she is proficient in handling and firing the firearm and that it will be carried in a safe manner.

(e) The member will successfully qualify with the firearm prior to it being carried.

(f) Members shall provide written notice of the make, model, color, serial number and caliber of the firearm to the Rangemaster, who will maintain a list of the information.

(g) If a member desires to use more than one firearm while off-duty, he/she may do so, as long as all requirements set forth in this policy for each firearm are met.

(h) Members shall only carry department-authorized ammunition.

(i) When armed, officers shall carry their badges or Red Bluff Police Department identification cards under circumstances requiring possession of such identification.

312.3.8 AMMUNITION
Members shall carry only department-authorized ammunition. Members shall be issued fresh duty ammunition in the specified quantity for all department-issued firearms during the member’s firearms qualification. Replacements for unserviceable or depleted ammunition issued by the Department shall be dispensed by the Rangemaster when needed, in accordance with established policy.

Members carrying personally owned authorized firearms of a caliber differing from department-issued firearms shall be responsible for obtaining fresh duty ammunition in accordance with the above, at their own expense.
312.4 EQUIPMENT
Firearms carried on- or off-duty shall be maintained in a clean, serviceable condition. Maintenance
and repair of authorized personally owned firearms are the responsibility of the individual member.

312.4.1 REPAIRS OR MODIFICATIONS
Each member shall be responsible for promptly reporting any damage or malfunction of an
assigned firearm to a supervisor or the Rangemaster.

Firearms that are the property of the Department or personally owned firearms that are approved
for department use may be repaired or modified only by a person who is department-approved
and certified as an armorer or gunsmith in the repair of the specific firearm. Such modification or
repair must be authorized in advance by the Rangemaster.

Any repairs or modifications to the member’s personally owned firearm shall be done at his/her
expense and must be approved by the Rangemaster.

312.4.2 HOLSTERS
Only department-approved holsters shall be used and worn by members. Members shall
periodically inspect their holsters to make sure they are serviceable and provide the proper security
and retention of the handgun.

312.4.3 TACTICAL LIGHTS
Tactical lights may only be installed on a firearm carried on- or off-duty after they have been
examined and approved by the Rangemaster. Once the approved tactical lights have been
properly installed on any firearm, the member shall qualify with the firearm to ensure proper
functionality and sighting of the firearm prior to carrying it.

312.4.4 OPTICS OR LASER SIGHTS
Optics or laser sights may only be installed on a firearm carried on- or off-duty after they have
been examined and approved by the Rangemaster. Any approved sight shall only be installed
in strict accordance with manufacturer specifications. Once approved sights have been properly
installed on any firearm, the member shall qualify with the firearm to ensure proper functionality
and sighting of the firearm prior to carrying it.

Except in an approved training situation, a member may only sight in on a target when the member
would otherwise be justified in pointing a firearm at the target.

312.5 SAFE HANDLING, INSPECTION AND STORAGE
Members shall maintain the highest level of safety when handling firearms and shall consider the
following:

(a) Members shall not unnecessarily display or handle any firearm.
(b) Members shall be governed by all rules and regulations pertaining to the use of the
range and shall obey all orders issued by the Rangemaster.
Firearms

(c) Members shall not clean, repair, load or unload a firearm anywhere in the Department, except where clearing barrels are present.

(d) Shotguns or rifles removed from vehicles or the equipment storage room shall be loaded and unloaded with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and/or using clearing barrels.

(e) Members shall not place or store any firearm or other weapon on department premises except where the place of storage is locked. No one shall carry firearms into the jail section or any part thereof when securing or processing an arrestee, but shall place all firearms in a secured location. Members providing access to the jail section to persons from outside agencies are responsible for ensuring firearms are not brought into the jail section.

(f) Members shall not use any automatic firearm, heavy caliber rifle, gas or other type of chemical weapon or firearm from the armory, except with approval of a supervisor.

(g) Any firearm authorized by the Department to be carried on- or off-duty that is determined by a member to be malfunctioning or in need of service or repair shall not be carried. It shall be promptly presented to the Department or a Rangemaster approved by the Department for inspection and repair. Any firearm deemed in need of repair or service by the Rangemaster will be immediately removed from service. If the firearm is the member’s primary duty firearm, a replacement firearm will be issued to the member until the duty firearm is serviceable.

312.5.1 INSPECTION AND STORAGE
Handguns shall be inspected regularly and upon access or possession by another person. Shotguns and rifles shall be inspected at the beginning of the shift by the member to whom the weapon is issued. The member shall ensure that the firearm is carried in the proper condition and loaded with approved ammunition. Inspection of the shotgun and rifle shall be done while standing outside of the patrol vehicle. All firearms shall be pointed in a safe direction or into clearing barrels.

Firearms may be safely stored in lockers or another approved location at the end of the shift. Handguns may remain loaded if they are secured in an appropriate holster. Shotguns and rifles shall be unloaded in a safe manner outside the building and then stored in the appropriate equipment storage room.

312.5.2 STORAGE AT HOME
Members shall ensure that all firearms and ammunition are locked and secured while in their homes, vehicles or any other area under their control, and in a manner that will keep them inaccessible to children and others who should not have access. Members shall not permit department-issued firearms to be handled by anyone not authorized by the Department to do so. Members should be aware that negligent storage of a firearm could result in civil and criminal liability (Penal Code § 25100).
312.5.3 ALCOHOL AND DRUGS
Firearms shall not be carried by any member, either on- or off-duty, who has consumed an amount of an alcoholic beverage, taken any drugs or medication, or has taken any combination thereof that would tend to adversely affect the member’s senses or judgment.

312.5.4 STORAGE IN VEHICLES
When leaving a handgun in an unattended vehicle, members shall ensure that it is locked in the trunk, or in a locked container that is placed out of view, or in a locked container that is permanently affixed to the vehicle’s interior and not in plain view, or in a locked toolbox or utility box permanently affixed to the vehicle (Penal Code § 16850; Penal Code § 25140; Penal Code § 25452).

If the vehicle does not have a trunk or a locked container, then the firearm should be locked within the center utility console that can be locked with a padlock, keylock, combination lock, or other similar locking device (Penal Code § 25140).

Officers are exempt from these requirements during circumstances requiring immediate aid or action in the course of official duties (Penal Code § 25140).

312.6 FIREARMS TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS
All members who carry a firearm while on-duty are required to attend scheduled training with their duty firearms. In addition, all members will qualify at least annually with their duty, secondary duty, and off-duty firearms. Training and qualifications must be on an approved range course.

At least annually, all members carrying a firearm should receive practical training designed to simulate field situations including low-light shooting.

312.6.1 NON-CERTIFICATION OR NON-QUALIFICATION
If any member fails to meet minimum standards for firearms training or qualification for any reason, including injury, illness, duty status or scheduling conflict, that member shall submit a memorandum to his/her immediate supervisor prior to the end of the required training or qualification period.

Those who fail to meet minimum standards or qualify on their first shooting attempt shall be provided remedial training and will be subject to the following requirements:

(a) Additional range assignments may be scheduled to assist the member in demonstrating consistent firearm proficiency.
(b) Members shall be given credit for a range training or qualification when obtaining a qualifying score or meeting standards after remedial training.
(c) No range credit will be given for the following:
   1. Unauthorized range make-up
   2. Failure to meet minimum standards or qualify after remedial training

Members who repeatedly fail to meet minimum standards will be removed from field assignment and may be subject to disciplinary action.
312.7 FIREARM DISCHARGE
Except during training or recreational use, any member who discharges a firearm intentionally or unintentionally, on- or off-duty, shall make a verbal report to his/her supervisor as soon as circumstances permit. If the discharge results in injury or death to another person, additional statements and reports shall be made in accordance with the Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths Policy. If a firearm was discharged as a use of force, the involved member shall adhere to the additional reporting requirements set forth in the Use of Force Policy.

In all other cases, written reports shall be made as follows:

(a) If on-duty at the time of the incident, the member shall file a written report with his/her Division Commander or provide a recorded statement to investigators prior to the end of shift, unless otherwise directed.

(b) If off-duty at the time of the incident, a written report shall be submitted or recorded statement provided no later than the end of the next regularly scheduled shift, unless otherwise directed by a supervisor.

312.7.1 DESTRUCTION OF ANIMALS
Members are authorized to use firearms to stop an animal in circumstances where the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety and alternative methods are not reasonably available or would likely be ineffective.

In circumstances where there is sufficient advance notice that a potentially dangerous animal may be encountered, department members should develop reasonable contingency plans for dealing with the animal (e.g., fire extinguisher, TASER® device, oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, animal control officer). Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any member from shooting a dangerous animal if circumstances reasonably dictate that a contingency plan has failed or becomes impractical.

312.7.2 INJURED ANIMALS
With the approval of a supervisor, a member may euthanize an animal that is so badly injured that human compassion requires its removal from further suffering and where other dispositions are impractical.

Stray or abandoned injured animals that may be moved or taken to an available veterinarian should not be euthanized. With supervisor approval, abandoned injured animals (with the exception of dogs and cats) may only be euthanized after a reasonable search to locate the owner has been made. Injured dogs and cats found without their owners shall be taken to an appropriate veterinarian for determination of whether they should be treated or humanely destroyed (Penal Code § 597.1).

312.7.3 WARNING AND OTHER SHOTS
Generally, warning shots or shots fired for the purpose of summoning aid are discouraged and may not be discharged unless the member reasonably believes that they appear necessary, effective and reasonably safe.
312.8 RANGEMASTER DUTIES
The range will be under the exclusive control of the Rangemaster. All members attending will follow the directions of the Rangemaster. The Rangemaster will maintain a roster of all members attending the range and will submit the roster to the Training Manager after each range date. Failure of any member to sign in and out with the Rangemaster may result in non-qualification.

The range shall remain operational and accessible to [department/office] members during hours established by the [Department/Office].

The Rangemaster has the responsibility of making periodic inspection, at least once a year, of all duty firearms carried by members of this [department/office] to verify proper operation. The Rangemaster has the authority to deem any [department/office]-issued or personally owned firearm unfit for service. The member will be responsible for all repairs to his/her personally owned firearm and it will not be returned to service until inspected by the Rangemaster.

The Rangemaster has the responsibility for ensuring each member meets the minimum requirements during training shoots and, on at least a yearly basis, can demonstrate proficiency in the care, cleaning and safety of all firearms the member is authorized to carry.

The Rangemaster shall complete and submit to the Training Manager documentation of the training courses provided. Documentation shall include the qualifications of each instructor who provides the training, a description of the training provided and, on a form that has been approved by the [Department/Office], a list of each member who completes the training. The Rangemaster should keep accurate records of all training shoots, qualifications, repairs, maintenance or other records as directed by the Training Manager.

312.8.1 FIREARMS RANGE RULES

I. Procedure

A. Range Rules:

1. The Department Rangemaster or his/her designee shall be in command and control of the range during the time of firearms qualification and/or firearms training.

2. Hearing protection and safety glasses shall be worn while on or near the firing line

   1. Glasses may be shooting glasses, safety glasses, sunglasses (except at night), prescription glasses, or any other suitable glasses approved for use as eye protection by the rangemaster.

3. Police personnel shall not bring guests, friends, or relatives to the firearms range.

4. No weapon will be loaded on the firearms range except at the direction of the rangemaster.
Firearms

5. All handguns, while worn, shall be carried in an approved holster while at the range.
   1. When on the firing line all weapons will be holstered or pointed down range.
   2. When personnel are not on the firing line all weapons shall remain in a holster or stored, except when being cleaned.
   3. No weapon shall be fired except while on the firing line and then only at the command of the rangemaster. Weapons will only be fired at approved targets.

6. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the firearms range
   1. No department personnel will report to the range for training or qualification with any measurable alcohol in their system.

7. In case of a misfire, keep the weapon pointed down range and notify the rangemaster, as appropriate.
   1. In the event of a weapon malfunction, the rangemaster shall be notified immediately.

8. If you are being spoken to while on the firing line, do not turn around to respond or reply.

9. No one shall leave the firing line and proceed to the target, or go down range for any reason until the rangemaster gives the command to do so.
   1. All weapons shall be holstered or made safe once the shooter advances past the firing line.

10. Personnel who are not shooting shall stay at least ten yards behind the firing line.

11. All users of the range are to conduct themselves in a safe and professional manner (no horse-play).

12. The range is not to be used unless a rangemaster is present with exception:
   1. Only Red Bluff Police Department sworn personnel are authorized to use the range off-duty as long as there is a minimum of two sworn personnel present, and the on-duty watch commander (Sergeant / OIC) has been notified and approved the use of the range.
   2. Personnel shall notify dispatch the time they arrive at the range and the time they leave the range for safety and accountability.
   3. Personnel shall ensure that they have some form of communication with them while at the range (i.e., cell phone, radio, etc.).

13. In general, only handguns and shotguns are authorized for use at the range. The following exceptions apply:
Firearms

1. Department owned and operated rifles that operate with a .223 caliber round

2. Rifles may only be used at a distance greater than 25 yards under the immediate supervision of a rangemaster.

3. Large caliber rifles may not be fired at the range except

   1. SWAT Snipers are the only authorized exception

II. Simmunitions Shoot House:

   A. Procedure:
      (a) Only "simmunitions" may be utilized in the simmunitions shoot house except
      (a) Other similar type ammunition as recommended by the rangemaster and approved by the Chief of Police.

      (b) Chemical agents may also be utilized in the simmunitions shoot house under the direction of a rangemaster or a chemical agents instructor

      (c) Firearms may be used at the back (south end) of the simmunition shoot house under the direct supervision of a rangemaster.

III. Use by Allied Agencies

   A. Procedure
      (a) Allied agencies may only use the Red Bluff Police Department Firing Range if they have previously entered into an agreement with the police department via a contract.

      (b) Allied agencies are required to schedule the use of the range in advance by contacting the Administrative Assistant for scheduling.

         1. Refer to current contracts for authorized agencies

      (c) Off-duty allied agency personnel are prohibited from using the Red Bluff Police Department Range.

IV. Responsibilities:

   A. Rangemaster
      1. To ensure range training is conducted in a safe manner and that all participants conduct range training or qualification in a safe manner.

      2. To ensure that all personnel know and understand the range safety rules and are held accountable.

      3. To ensure the 'range flag' is displayed when the range is in use.

   B. Supervisor
      1. The rangemaster is in charge and responsible for all firearms training and qualification that occurs. However, all supervisors present shall ensure that all personnel attending training are being safe and adhering to the
range safety rules. Any violations of safety rules should be reported to the rangemaster. This does not preclude a supervisor from taking immediate action regarding a violation of range rules.

C. Officer

(a) Shall at all times adhere to the rules of the firearms range and shall follow the direction of the rangemaster and/or other supervisor.

312.9 FLYING WHILE ARMED

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has imposed rules governing law enforcement officers flying armed on commercial aircraft. The following requirements apply to officers who intend to be armed while flying on a commercial air carrier or flights where screening is conducted (49 CFR 1544.219):

(a) Officers wishing to fly while armed must be flying in an official capacity, not for vacation or pleasure, and must have a need to have the firearm accessible, as determined by the Department based on the law and published TSA rules.

(b) Officers must carry their Red Bluff Police Department identification card, bearing the officer’s name, a full-face photograph, identification number, the officer’s signature and the signature of the Chief of Police or the official seal of the Department and must present this identification to airline officials when requested. The officer should also carry the standard photo identification needed for passenger screening by airline and TSA officials (e.g., driver license, passport).

(c) The Red Bluff Police Department must submit a National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) message prior to the officer’s travel. If approved, TSA will send the Red Bluff Police Department an NLETS message containing a unique alphanumeric identifier. The officer must present the message on the day of travel to airport personnel as authorization to travel while armed.

(d) An official letter signed by the Chief of Police authorizing armed travel may also accompany the officer. The letter should outline the officer’s need to fly armed, detail his/her itinerary, and include that the officer has completed the mandatory TSA training for a law enforcement officer flying while armed.

(e) Officers must have completed the mandated TSA security training covering officers flying while armed. The training shall be given by the department-appointed instructor.

(f) It is the officer’s responsibility to notify the air carrier in advance of the intended armed travel. This notification should be accomplished by early check-in at the carrier’s check-in counter.

(g) Any officer flying while armed should discreetly contact the flight crew prior to take-off and notify them of his/her assigned seat.

(h) Discretion must be used to avoid alarming passengers or crew by displaying a firearm. The officer must keep the firearm concealed on his/her person at all times. Firearms are not permitted in carry-on luggage and may not be stored in an overhead compartment.
Firearms

(i) Officers should try to resolve any problems associated with flying armed through the flight captain, ground security manager, TSA representative or other management representative of the air carrier.

(j) Officers shall not consume alcoholic beverages while aboard an aircraft, or within eight hours prior to boarding an aircraft.

312.10 CARRYING FIREARMS OUT OF STATE
Qualified, active, full-time officers of this department are authorized to carry a concealed firearm in all other states subject to the following conditions (18 USC § 926B):

(a) The officer shall carry his/her Red Bluff Police Department identification card whenever carrying such firearm.

(b) The officer is not the subject of any current disciplinary action.

(c) The officer may not be under the influence of alcohol or any other intoxicating or hallucinatory drug.

(d) The officer will remain subject to this and all other department policies (including qualifying and training).

Officers are cautioned that individual states may enact local regulations that permit private persons or entities to prohibit or restrict the possession of concealed firearms on their property, or that prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on any state or local government property, installation, building, base or park. Federal authority may not shield an officer from arrest and prosecution in such locally restricted areas.

Active law enforcement officers from other states are subject to all requirements set forth in 18 USC § 926B.