

Weapons Policy for College Security

A security officer's firearms are the most commonly perceived symbols of their authority and role. Therefore, in the interest of public safety and professionalism, the Institution expects high standards of performance for its personnel who use weapons, and provides the following departmental weapons policy:

This policy is intended to set forth the policy of the College and security department, but not to set the legal standard with respect to third party claims. Violations of this policy may form the basis for administrative sanctions, but not to form the basis for determining whether any statutes or legal standards have been violated.

1. General Provisions:

- a. All officers must obtain a CPL permit and carry a firearm, and carry the appropriate documentation with him or her at all times when on duty.
- b. Use of force, including use of firearms, must be reasonable in the situation, and should be the lowest level of force necessary given all the circumstances, to effectuate a lawful arrest or accomplish the legitimate safety goal at issue.
- c. Firearm training is an important phase in the development of security officers. All officers will be required to attend sidearm training not less than once a year, or whenever the College, in its discretion, requests and according to a schedule it sets or approves.

2. Use of Firearms:

All officers are expected to be familiar with and follow all applicable federal, state and local laws and ordinances regarding the carrying and use of firearms.

- a. Use of firearms is confined to situations in which the officer honestly and reasonably believes there is an immediate threat of great bodily harm (to him/herself or to others), imminent sexual assault (to him/herself or others) or the loss of human life (to him/herself or to others).
- b. Officers shall not discharge a firearm in an attempt to apprehend a person on mere suspicion that a crime (no matter how serious) was committed or on mere suspicion that the person being pursued committed the crime. The Officer must have witnessed the crime for which deadly force is permissible in accordance with this policy.
- c. Officers may use firearms to effect the arrest of, or to prevent the escape of, persons whom the officer has witnessed committing murder, rape, robbery, arson or assault which has resulted in loss of human life and provided all other reasonable means of affecting the arrest have been exhausted.

- d. Officers shall not fire at the above mentioned persons, or otherwise discharge their weapon, when it is reasonable for the officer to believe that lesser force could be used to detain, when it is reasonable for the officer to believe the suspect could be apprehended reasonably soon thereafter without the use of deadly force, or when it reasonably appears to the officer that there is danger to innocent bystanders which outweighs the need to immediately arrest or detain.
- e. The firing of warning shots is prohibited. Weapons can only be discharged in accordance with this policy and applicable laws.
- f. Officers should not discharge a weapon from or at a moving vehicle, except in cases of extreme necessity such as when being fired upon or protecting others being fired upon.

3. Firearms Discharges:

- a. Whenever a security staff member discharges a firearm - whether intentionally or accidentally - on duty (except while at a target range) the following procedures are to be followed, unless the college in its discretion directs otherwise:
  - i. The Vice President of Student Services and Security Supervisor shall be notified.
  - ii. The following details will be provided:
    - a. Name of the officer;
    - b. Injuries, if any occurred;
    - c. Available details surrounding the incident.
- b. The primary duty of all department members at the scene of a shooting is to ensure that all injured persons receive necessary first-aid and prompt medical attention if tactically safe to do so.
- c. Their next duty is to apprehend the perpetrator of any crime that may have been committed and to preserve the scene for evidence and investigation.
- d. Except to convey injured persons, to pursue fleeing suspects, or for other exigent circumstances, all individuals involved in a weapons discharge event are to remain at the scene until released to leave by the investigating police agency. All witnesses, unless injured, shall be detained at the scene (or as near as possible) until the arrival of the local law enforcement.

4. Approved Firearms:

- a. Security Staff are to obtain and carry their own appropriately registered sidearm while on duty.
- b. A sidearm is defined as any appropriately registered revolver or semi-automatic pistol, but the department retains the discretion to designate a particular type of weapon or to disapprove any particular weapon identified by the Officer.

- c. Firearms will not be issued, owned or purchased by Monroe County Community College. The College will not issue, provide or purchase ammunition. A reimbursement may be provided to off-set the cost for ammunition and weapon maintenance.
  - d. The officer's sidearm shall be carried in an appropriate and safe manner while on duty or in uniform.
  - e. Sidearms, when carried on duty, shall be fully loaded.
  - f. Sidearms shall not be left in unsecured locations.
5. Permit
- a. All officers are required to secure a CPL permit and keep it current, as a precondition to employment.
  - b. Officers are required to carry the CPL permit and his or her drivers' license at all time while on duty.