

CHAPTER 13
WEAPON-MOUNTED LIGHT SYSTEMS
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CHAPTER 13

WEAPON-MOUNTED LIGHT SYSTEMS

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to establish guidelines and requirements for the purchase and use of weapon-mounted light systems on departmental weapons by uniformed employees of the Department.

2. POLICY.

a. Carrying a weapon-mounted light is optional and shall be done in compliance with this chapter.

b. A weapon-mounted light for duty use is defined as having the following characteristics: a semipermanent white light attached to the integral accessory rail of the primary duty pistol and supplemental pistol, or the departmentally approved mounting system for the tactical rifle and shotgun.

c. Tactical rifles or shotguns shall be equipped with light-mounting hardware supplied by the Department. Light-mounting equipment shall only be installed by an Academy Gunsmith or a departmental range officer. Uniformed personnel who elect to purchase lights consistent with the requirements in this chapter may attach and remove them from departmentally installed mounting hardware at the beginning and end of their shifts. No adhesive mounts, remote switches, or cable connected pressure pads are authorized.

d. The light system shall be mounted on the weapon and shall not be removed while engaged in normal enforcement duties.

e. The light system mounted on the weapon system shall be considered part of that weapon system, which shall be utilized in accordance with Highway Patrol Manual 70.6, Officer Safety Manual, Chapter 1, Use of Force, and Chapter 2, Discharge of Firearms at Animals. A departmental weapon with a mounted light system shall not be removed from the holster or deployed for use as a flashlight (e.g., directing traffic, vehicle search).

f. Removal of the light system from the weapon is necessary for a variety of reasons (maintenance, battery replacement, repair, etc.) and shall be done only after the weapon has been safely unloaded per Chapter 2, Firearms Safety, of this manual.

3. LIGHT REQUIREMENTS.

a. The following are basic requirements for any weapon-mounted light system:

- (1) The light shall be a light only; no light/laser combinations are permitted.
- (2) The light shall emit a minimum of 60 lumens, per the manufacturer.
- (3) The light shall be water-resistant or waterproof.
- (4) The light shall have a minimum run time of 60 minutes.
- (5) The body of the light shall be no larger than 4 inches long, 2 inches wide, and 2 1/2 inches high, if attached to a pistol.
- (6) The light system attached to a rifle or shotgun must be of a size that will not interfere with the proper deployment of the weapon or proper securement within the Lektro-Lok system.
- (7) The light shall have a momentary on/off with a constant on function.
- (8) The light body shall interface with a Picatinny rail (also known as a MIL-STD-1913 rail) without having to place hands in front of the muzzle to attach or detach the light.

b. The following are basic requirements for any weapon-mounted light system holster:

- (1) The holster shall be designed and manufactured specifically for the pistol and the light chosen by the uniformed employee (refer to Chapter 4, Firearms Equipment, Annex A, of this manual).
- (2) The holster must be of a fit and finish that meet uniform standards for duty belt equipment (refer to Chapter 4 of this manual).

4. COMMANDERS' RESPONSIBILITIES. Commanders shall ensure uniformed employees desiring to carry a pistol equipped with a light system demonstrate knowledge of the function and operation of the light system and holster to a departmental range officer and shoot a low-light, alternate course of fire prior to carrying a pistol equipped with a light system for enforcement duties. Uniformed employees who elect to mount a light to the tactical rifle or shotgun shall demonstrate knowledge of the function and operation of the light system to a departmental range officer and shoot a low-light alternate course of fire prior to carrying the rifle or shotgun with a light system in the course of their duties.

5. EMPLOYEES' RESPONSIBILITIES.

- a. Uniformed employees shall be responsible for the purchase and maintenance of the light. There is no requirement to carry a weapon-mounted light system.
- b. Uniformed employees shall be responsible for demonstrating knowledge of the function and operation of the light system and holster to a departmental range officer and shall shoot a low-light, alternate course of fire prior to carrying a weapon equipped with a light system.

6. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

- a. The low-light, alternate course of fire for a pistol equipped with a light system shall consist of a minimum of a 30-round course of fire and may be incorporated into the normal quarterly shoot. The specific course of fire shall be determined by the range officer and shall include a review of basic combat shooting light discipline tactics. The course will incorporate weapon manipulations consisting of drawing, shooting, and reloading while utilizing the weapon-mounted light system for low-light conditions.
- b. The low-light alternate course of fire for a tactical rifle or shotgun equipped with a light system shall consist of a minimum of 40-round course of fire for the rifle and 18 rounds for the shotgun and may be incorporated into the normal quarterly shoot. The specific course of fire shall be determined by the range officer and shall include a review of basic combat shooting light discipline tactics. The course will incorporate weapon manipulations consisting of shooting while standing, kneeling, moving, and reloading while utilizing the weapon-mounted light system for low-light conditions.
- c. Uniformed employees desiring to carry a pistol, shotgun, or tactical rifle equipped with a light system shall demonstrate knowledge of the function and operation of the light system to a departmental range officer during all required shoots that are conducted during the hours of darkness.
- d. Range officers are encouraged to have uniformed employees demonstrate proficiency with the weapon-mounted light as well as the departmental flashlight during required shoots that are conducted during hours of darkness. This training is to ensure uniformed employees are proficient with the departmental flashlight in case of a failure of the weapon-mounted light.

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