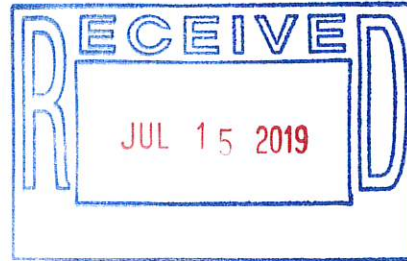




July 12, 2019

Mr. Brian J. Wagner
President
National Association of Postal Supervisors
1727 King Street, Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314-2753



Dear Brian:

By letter dated May 1, you were notified that the Postal Service is revising the Inspection Service Manual (ISM), Sections 3-5, *Assignment of Weapons*, 3-6.2, *Holsters*, 3-8, *Security of Firearms*, and 3-9, *Handguns Aboard Commercial Carriers*. Subsequent to May 1, the proposed revisions to Section 3-5 were amended.

The purpose of the amended revisions is to update regulations concerning surrendering a standard-issue firearm during an investigation, use of a semi-automatic rifle, requirements of a standard issue holster, securing firearms, and carriage of handguns aboard a commercial carrier.

We have enclosed:

- A copy of the proposed ISM revisions, one with and one without track changes
- A copy of a narrative explanation of the purpose and effect of the proposed language

Please contact Bruce Nicholson at extension 7773 if you have questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alan S. Moore".

Alan S. Moore
Manager
Labor Relations Policies and Programs

Enclosures



Executive Summary of Proposed Changes to ISM Policy 3-5 Assignment of Weapons

v06.28.2019

3-5 Assignment of Weapons

3-5.1 Handguns renamed Standard-Issue Handgun

Summary: Specifies the Sig Sauer P229 DAK .40 caliber semi-automatic pistols as the standard-issue handgun of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

3-5.1.1 Requirements to Carry a Handgun

Summary: Language clarified and updated.

Handgun loading and magazine requirements clarified for both Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel.

Adds restrictions for both Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel on carrying a firearm if normal neurotic or mental condition is affected by any substance, legal or otherwise, that would affect ability act safely and effectively under normal and emergency conditions. Also prohibits, with certain exception, the consumption of alcohol while carrying a weapon.

3-5.1.2 Standard Issue Handguns renamed Agency Authorized Handguns

Summary: New heading for following sections.

3-5.1.2.1 Use of Personally Owned Handgun as Agency-Authorized Handgun

Summary: Section renumbered (previously appears as 3-5.1.3.1). Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.1.2.2 Approval of Agency-Authorized Handguns

Summary: Section renumbered (previously appears as 3-5.1.3.2). Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.1.2.3 Agency-Authorized Handguns - Usage

Summary: Section renumbered (previously appears as 3-5.1.3.3). Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.1.2.4 Postal Inspector Responsibilities – Agency-Authorized Handguns

Summary: Section renumbered (previously appears as 3-5.1.3.4) and internal citations updated\corrected. Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.1.2.5 Reporting Removal from Service, Sale, Theft or Loss of Agency-Authorized Handgun

Summary: New section. Requires Postal Inspectors to immediately report the intended removal from service, sale, loss, or theft of an agency-authorized handgun to their immediate supervisor and Division Threat Management Coordinator. Removal from service requires an inspection of the handgun while sale, loss or theft requires documentation.

3-5.1.2.6 Surrender of Standard-Issue or Agency-Authorized Firearms

Summary: New section. Requires Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel to surrender any standard-issue or agency-authorized firearms during an investigation of a firearms discharge or use of force incident. Also requires the surrender of standard-issue or agency-authorized handguns for failing to qualify, with Inspection Service recognition of a valid court order or placement of an employee on Administrative Leave. Criteria outlined for the return of handgun or firearm to employee: the conclusion of the investigation, the restoration of the employee's authorization to carry the firearm, or the removal of any medical or legal restrictions on the employee's ability to carry a firearm. Allows for issuance of standard-issue handgun to employee if appropriate.

3-5.1.3 Agency Authorized Handguns

Summary: Section deleted and moved.

3-5.1.3 Carriage of Standard-Issue or Agency-Authorized Handgun While in Off-Duty or Leave Status – Postal Inspector

Summary: Section renumbered (previously appears as 3-5.1.4). Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.2 Shotgun

Summary: Language clarified and updated. Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.3 Semi-Automatic Rifle

Summary: New section. Establishes the authorization of the Semi-Automatic Rifle platform as weapon option for the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

3-5.3.1 Semi-Automatic Rifle Familiarization

Summary: New section. Mandates that all Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel receive familiarization training with the rifle platform.

3-5.3.2 Semi-Automatic Rifle User Selection

Summary: New section. Nomination and selection process for selection as an Authorized Rifle User. Encompasses Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel.

3-5.3.3 User Certification

Summary: New section. Required qualifications and nomination process for selection as an Authorized Rifle User. Encompasses Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel.

~~3-5.3.3 MP-5 Certification~~ *Section removed or consolidated with other section.*

3-5.3.4 Qualification

Summary: New heading for sub-headings.

3-5.3.4.1 Frequency

Summary: New section. Establishes qualification frequency standards for Authorized Rifle Users.

3-5.3.4.2 Scoring

Summary: New section. Establishes scoring standards for Authorized Rifle Users.

3-5.3.4.3 Failure to Qualify and Remedial Training

Summary: New section. Required decertification and remedial training requirements for Authorized Rifle Users who fail to qualify under 3-5.3.4.2.

3-5.3.5 Instructor Compliment

Summary: New section. Required qualifications and nomination process for selection as a Rifle Instructor. Encompasses Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel.

3-5.3.6 Instructor Certification

Summary: New section. Required certification process for nominated Rifle Instructors. Encompasses Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel.

3-5.3.7 Deployment Authorization - Semi-Automatic Rifle

Summary: New section. Deployment authorization at Team Leader level.

3-5.3.8 Career Development Unit Responsibilities - Semi-Automatic Rifle

Summary: New section. Responsibilities of Career Development Unit to track rifle users and instructors along with training coordination and general oversight of the program.

3-5.4 Select Fire Weapon

Summary: Section renumbered to conform to new heading and sub-headings (previously appears as: 3-5.3). Language clarified and updated. Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.4.1 MP-5 Familiarization renamed Select Fire Weapon Familiarization

Summary: Section renumbered to conform to new heading and sub-headings (previously appears as: 3-5.3.1). Language clarified and updated. Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.4.2 MP-5 Operator Selection Process renamed Select Fire Weapon Operator Selection

Summary: Section renumbered to conform to new heading and sub-headings (previously appears as: 3-5.3.2). Language clarified and updated. Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.4.3 Operator Certification

Summary: New section. Required certification process for nominated Select Fire Weapon Operators.

3-5.4.4 Qualifications

Summary: New heading for sub-headings.

3-5.4.4.1 Frequency

Summary: Section renumbered to conform to new heading and sub-headings (previously appears as: 3-5.3.3.1). Language clarified and updated. Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.4.4.2 Scoring renamed Scoring - Select Fire Weapon

Summary: Section renumbered to conform to new heading and sub-headings (previously appears as: 3-5.3.3.2). Language clarified and updated. Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.4.4.3 Failure to Qualify renamed Failure to Qualify and Remedial Training

Summary: Section renumbered to conform to new heading and sub-headings (previously appears as: 3-5.3.3.3). Language clarified and updated. Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

~~3-5.4.3.4 Remedial Training~~ *Section removed or consolidated with other section.*

3-5.4.5 MP-5 Instructors renamed Select Fire Weapon Instructor Compliment

Summary: Section renumbered to conform to new heading and sub-headings (previously appears as: 3-5.3.4). Language clarified and updated. Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.4.6 Instructor Certification

Summary: New section. Required certification process for nominated Select Fire Weapon Instructors.

3-5.4.7 Authorization renamed Deployment Authorization - Select Fire Weapon

Summary: Section renumbered to conform to new heading and sub-headings (previously appears as: 3-5.3.5). Language clarified and updated. Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.4.8 Reporting *Section removed*

3-5.4.8 Weapons Maintenance renamed Select Fire Weapon

Summary: Section renumbered to conform to new heading and sub-headings (previously appears as: 3-5.3.7). Language clarified and updated. Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.4.9 Career Development Unit Responsibilities - Select Fire Weapon

Summary: New section. Responsibilities of Career Development Unit to track rifle users and instructors along with training coordination and general oversight of the program.

3-5.5 Modifications of Weapons

Summary: Section renumbered to conform to new heading and sub-headings (previously appears as: 3-5.4). Language clarified and updated. Addition of semi-automatic rifle. Remainder of section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.6 Nonstandard Weapons renamed Nonstandard Handguns

Summary: Section renumbered to conform to new heading and sub-headings (previously appears as: 3-5.5). Language clarified and updated. Defines "nonstandard handgun." Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.7 Armorer Certifications

Summary: Section renumbered to conform to new heading and sub-headings (previously appears as: 3-5.6). Language clarified and updated. Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.8 Handgun Mounted Flashlight

Summary: Section renumbered to conform to new heading and sub-headings (previously appears as: 3-5.7). Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.8.1 Requests to Utilize Handgun Mounted Flashlight

Summary: Section renumbered to conform to new heading and sub-headings (previously appears as: 3-5.7.1). Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

3-5.8.2 Requirements for Handgun Mounted Flashlight Use

Summary: Section renumbered to conform to new heading and sub-headings (previously appears as: 3-5.7.2). Section remains unchanged in meaning or application.

Prepared by: IA James Rickher 02.04.2019

3-5 Assignment of Weapons

3-5.1 ~~Handguns~~ Standard-Issue Handgun

The authorized standard-issue handgun of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service is the Sig Sauer P229R DAK .40 caliber semiautomatic pistol.

3-5.1.1 Requirements to Carry a Handgun

~~Postal inspectors~~Inspectors are required to carry ~~firearms~~a standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun in the performance of their official duties ~~and are expected to respond to emergencies on a seven-day, 24-hour basis.~~ Postal inspectorsInspectors must carry ~~their weapons~~an assigned handgun to and from their residences. ~~PPOs unless written authorization is received in advance from the appropriate PCES manager.~~ Postal Inspectors must carry their standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun fully loaded with a round in the chamber and a full magazine. When on duty and carrying either a standard-issue and /or agency-authorized handgun(s), Postal Inspectors should carry two spare magazines, with each magazine fully loaded to capacity.

Postal Police Officers, Supervisors, Managers and Range Masters (collectively "Postal Police personnel") are required to carry ~~service-owned firearms~~a standard-issue handgun in performance of official duties ~~only while on official duty.~~ Postal Police personnel must carry their standard-issue handgun with a round in the chamber and a full magazine. Postal Police personnel are required to carry two spare magazines, with each magazine fully loaded to capacity.

~~All postal inspectors and PPOs must carry their authorized handgun fully loaded. Semi-automatic pistols must be carried with a round in the chamber and a full magazine. Extra magazines must also be fully loaded.~~

~~Postal inspectors~~Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel are not authorized to carry a handgun if their normal mental status is affected by a neurotic or psychotic conditions or any substance, legal or otherwise, which would affect adversely an ability to act safely and effectively under normal and emergency conditions. All Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel are prohibited from consuming alcohol while carrying a standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun. Alcohol may be consumed by Postal Inspectors working in an undercover capacity but only if necessary to maintain cover.

Postal Inspectors must ensure ~~the duty weapon~~their handgun is properly concealed ~~when worn,~~ and not unnecessarily displayed. Tactical considerations may ~~require~~alleviate the ~~duty weapon not~~requirement the handgun be concealed. In such circumstances, the ~~postal inspector~~Postal Inspector ~~raid jacket or~~ vest or other outer garment with approved POLICE /POSTAL INSPECTOR markings must be worn or the ~~postal inspector~~Postal Inspector badge must be visible.

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3-5.1.2 Standard Issue Handgun Agency-Authorized Handguns

The official authorized handgun for the Postal Inspection Service is a double-action-only .40-caliber semiautomatic pistol. The standard issued .40-cal. semiautomatic pistol is the Sig Sauer P229R DAK handgun. The assigned weapon remains with the employee as accountable property throughout their Postal Inspection Service career.

3-5.1.3 2.1 Use of Personally Owned Weapons Handgun as Agency-Authorized Handgun

3-5.1.3.1 Criteria

ISES/PCES manager may approve postal inspectors to carry personally owned semiautomatic pistols as their primary weapon instead of the standard issue weapon. Alternatively, an ISES/PCES manager may also approve postal inspectors to retain their standard-issue weapon together with a personally owned weapon. In such circumstances, the inspector may carry either their standard-issue weapon or their personally owned weapon at any time. However, approval for inspectors to carry both the standard-issue weapon and the personally owned weapon at the same time must be granted pursuant to ISM Section 3-5.1.3.4. The personally owned weapon must meet the following criteria:

a. Chambered for PCES Managers may approve Postal Inspectors to carry a personally-owned handgun as an agency-authorized handgun. All personally-owned handguns submitted for agency authorization must meet the following criteria:

- a) Semi-automatic pistol chambered for 9mm Luger or .40 caliber S-&W cartridge.
- b) ~~b.~~ Minimum ~~7~~6-round magazine capacity.
- c) ~~c.~~ Minimum 2.5" barrel length.
- d) Double-action-~~only~~ or safe action only.
 - ~~d. No slide or frame-mounted safety.~~
- e) ~~e.~~ Minimum 5.5 pound trigger pull.
- f) No external slide or frame-mounted manual safety physically deactivated by the user. Trigger, grip and internal-only mechanical safeties are authorized for use subject to the approval of the National Threat Management Coordinator.
- g) No magazine disconnect.
 - ~~f. Minimum 6.5 pound trigger pull.~~
- h) ~~g.~~ No hammer spurs. If the pistol has an external hammer, it must be bobbed or be flush with the slide.
- i) ~~h.~~ Carriage of personally owned weapons under this section shall be limited to one pistol and must be from one of the following Authorized manufacturers are as follows: Beretta, FN Herstal, Glock, Heckler & Koch, Kahr Arms, ~~Kimber~~, Ruger, Sig Sauer, Smith & Wesson, Springfield ~~armory~~ Armory, Walther.

~~Postal inspectors currently authorized to carry a personally owned 9mm weapon may continue to do so until either executive approval is withdrawn or the postal inspector discontinues the use of the personally owned 9mm as their service weapon. Approval to carry a personally owned 9mm may not be later reinstated.~~

3-5.1.3.2 Authorization 3-5.1.2.2 Approval of Agency-Authorized Handguns
Approval for Personally Owned Weapons

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Authorizations use of an agency-authorized handgun(s) shall be made according to the following procedures:

- a. a-Requests for approval to carry a personally-owned handgun as an agency-authorized handgun must be submitted in writing to the appropriate PCES Manager. A written ~~request is submitted along with a written~~ statement from a factory-certified armorer or ~~a~~ gunsmith stating that the ~~pistol~~handgun meets factory specifications and the criteria listed in Section 3-5.1.3.1- or 3-5.1.3.2 must accompany the request. For a ~~weapon~~handguns purchased as new, the bill of sale, which ~~must show that shows~~ the ~~pistol~~handgun meets the criteria listed in Section 3-5.1.3.1, is acceptable in lieu of the written statement.
- b. b-The ~~authorizing official~~appropriate PCES Manager will provide a written response to the ~~postal inspector~~Postal Inspector approving or disapproving the request with a copy to the Division Firearms Coordinator (DFC).
- c. c-The approval shall become effective when the ~~postal inspector~~Postal Inspector has qualified with the personally-owned ~~weapon~~handgun. The ~~DFC~~Division Firearms Coordinator will provide written documentation to the ~~authorizing official~~PCES Manager verifying that the ~~postal inspector~~Postal Inspector has qualified with the ~~weapon~~handgun.
- d. Copies of the documentation will be retained by the ~~DFC~~Division Firearms Coordinator or Division Threat Management Coordinator.
- e. A new authorization for the agency-authorized handgun must be obtained prior to the next semi-annual qualification when the Postal Inspector is reassigned to a new division or when PCES manager approval has been withdrawn.

3-5.1.2.3.3 Agency-Authorized Handguns - Usage

Postal Inspectors may utilize agency-authorized handgun(s) as follows:

- a. Replace standard-issue handgun with an agency-authorized handgun that meets the criteria in 3-5.1.3.1.
- b. Maintain standard-issue handgun and utilize an agency-authorized handgun that meets the criteria in 3-5.1.3.1. At the discretion of the Postal Inspector, in accordance with applicable policy, one or both handguns may be carried at any time. An agency-authorized handgun utilized under this section may be chambered for either a 9mm or .40 caliber S&W cartridge.
- c. Replace standard-issue handgun with an agency-authorized handgun that meets the criteria in 3-5.1.3.1. An additional agency-authorized handgun that meets the criteria in 3-5.1.3.1 may also be utilized. At the discretion of the Postal Inspector, in accordance to applicable policy, one or both handguns may be carried at any time. Agency-authorized handguns utilized under this section may be chambered for either 9mm or .40 caliber S&W cartridge.

3-5.1.2.4 Postal Inspector Responsibilities - Agency Authorized Handguns

~~a-~~ A written statement from a factory-certified armorer or a gunsmith stating ~~that the pistol~~ handgun meets factory specifications and the criteria listed in Section 3-5.1.32.1 must be resubmitted annually to the Division Firearms Coordinator (~~DFC~~). Failure to submit the required statement will result in the authorizing official withdrawing permission to carry the firearm for official duties or under authority of 3-5.1.2.2.

~~b-~~ While ~~a personally owned weapon~~ an agency-authorized handgun is being repaired:

- ~~(1)The inspector shall be issued a Postal Inspection Service semiautomatic pistol.~~
a. ~~(2)The Postal Inspector shall be provided a standard-issue handgun. Not applicable if the Postal Inspector maintains an agency-authorized handgun under 3-5.1.2.3.~~
b. ~~The postal inspector~~ Postal Inspector must demonstrate an ability to safely use the ~~official weapon~~ standard-issue handgun prior to issuance. At a minimum, ~~a postal inspector~~ the Postal Inspector must demonstrate familiarization ~~by dry firing and field stripping the pistol and with the standard-issue handgun while~~ demonstrating safe handling techniques. Familiarization shall include dry firing and field stripping the standard-issue handgun.
c. ~~(3)No additional qualification is required with the Postal Inspection Service weapon~~ standard-issue handgun, unless requested by the ~~DFC~~, Division Firearms Coordinator and based on the ~~postal inspector's~~ Postal Inspector's firearms training records.

~~e-~~ If a ~~postal inspector~~ Postal Inspector authorized to carry ~~a personally owned weapon~~ an agency-authorized handgun is reassigned to a new division, a new approval must be obtained prior to the next semi-annual qualification.

3-5.1.3.4 Backup Weapon

3-5.1.2.5 Reporting Removal from Service, Sale, Theft or Loss of Agency-Authorized Handgun

Postal Inspectors must immediately report the removal from service, sale, loss or theft of an agency-authorized handgun to their immediate supervisor and Division Threat Management Coordinator.

Postal Inspectors requesting to remove an agency-authorized handgun from service must present the agency-authorized handgun to their Division Firearms Coordinator or Division Threat Management Coordinator for inspection prior to designating the weapon inactive in charge the firearms database and/or the issuance of a standard-issue handgun.

A report of sale, loss or theft must be accompanied by appropriate documentation to include, but not limited to, bill of sale or transfer, local police report and/or NCIC entry. In addition to the reporting requirement of 3-5.1.2.5, if the agency-authorized handgun is lost or stolen, all procedures as outlined in 1-4.3.4.2 Lost/Stolen Firearm Policy must be followed.

3-5.1.2.6 Surrender of Standard-Issue or Agency-Authorized Firearms

Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel shall surrender any agency-issued or agency-authorized firearms, to include handguns, shotguns, semi-automatic rifles or select-fire weapons, to the appropriate PCES Manager, their designated representative, or an appropriate law enforcement agency when the firearm is required during an investigation of a firearms discharge or use of force incident.

Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel shall surrender any agency-issued or agency-authorized firearms, to include handguns, shotguns, semi-automatic rifles or select-fire weapons, to the appropriate PCES Manager, or their designated representative, whenever the employee:

- a. Fails to qualify with the standard-issue or agency-authorized weapon(s),
- b. Is the subject of a valid court order recognized by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, or
- c. Is placed on restricted duty or administrative leave.

Firearms surrendered under this section shall be retained until the conclusion of the investigation, the restoration of the employee's authorization to carry the firearm, or the removal of any medical or legal restrictions on the employee's ability to carry a firearm. If those conditions are not met, an agency-authorized handgun surrendered under this section will be returned to an employee, provided it is no longer needed for investigative purposes, only if the employee, or their designee, may lawfully possess and carry the firearm as a private citizen.

If appropriate, a PCES Manager may authorize ~~postal inspectors to carry an~~ employee who has surrendered a firearm under this section to be issued a standard-issue handgun, shotgun, semi-automatic rifle or select-fire weapon.

3-5.1.3 Carriage of Standard-Issue or Agency-Authorized Handgun While in Off-Duty or Leave Status – Postal Inspector

Postal Inspectors are authorized to carry the standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun while in an off-duty status. Postal Inspectors who elect to carry a standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun while in an off-duty status are subject to the same protocols and policies which apply while they are officially employed. The policy regarding the carriage of weapons aboard aircraft while off-duty or on leave is found at ISM Section 3-9.

Postal Inspectors who elect to carry a handgun while in an off-duty or leave status, under the authority granted Postal Inspectors under 18 U.S.C. 3061, are required to carry a standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun as outlined in ISM Section 3-5.1.2 et seq. Carriage of all other firearms under this authority is prohibited.

Carriage of a personally-owned ~~backup weapon in addition to the primary firearm. The personally owned weapon must meet the requirements of Section 3-5.1.3.1~~ weapon, other than the standard-

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issued or agency-authorized handgun, in an off-duty status and under different authority, such as the Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act (LEOSA), or state law, is a personal choice of the Postal Inspector. As such, the Postal Inspector may be considered outside the scope of official employment for purposes of liability or Department of Justice representation.

The primary firearm must be carried whenever a backup weapon is carried. The postal inspector must submit a written request to the INC which identifies the safety issues that justify carrying a backup weapon. Approvals will be in writing as required in Section 3-5.1.3.1.

3-5.2 Shotguns

The standard Postal Inspectors in an administrative leave status are not authorized to carry a standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun under the authority granted Postal Inspectors under 18 U.S.C. 3061 unless approved by a PCES manager.

3-5.2 Shotgun

The authorized standard-issue shotguns of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service shotguns are the 12-gauge Remington 870P MAX Shotgun and 12 Gauge Remington 870 Shotgun.

3-5.3 Select Fire Weapon Semi-Automatic Rifle

The Heckler & Koch MP-5 Navy Model caliber 9mm Parabellum (9x19) is the official select fire weapon for the authorized standard-issue semi-automatic rifle of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. This weapon is assigned only to postal inspectors is the LWRC M6 in 5.56 (.223). Only Postal Inspectors and Postal Police Officers, Supervisors, Managers and Range Masters (collectively "Postal Police personnel") who have a current certification are authorized to carry the weapon. CDD is responsible rifle.

Other semi-automatic rifles chambered for 5.56 (.223) previously obtained by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and approved by the National Threat Management Coordinator are authorized for any administrative duties pertaining to the MP-5 program use and subject to the policy and restrictions within this section and all other applicable sections.

3-5.3.1 MP-5 Semi-Automatic Rifle Familiarization

All postal inspectors Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel shall receive familiarization training with the semi-automatic rifle on a yearly basis. This training shall include, but is not limited to, weapon safety and nomenclature.

3-5.3.2 Semi-Automatic Rifle User Selection and Certification

Nominees selected to attend an authorized certification course must possess the following:

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- a. Willingness to carry and operate the weapon;
- b. Familiarity with firearms;
- c. A recent score of 90% or higher on their most recent Practical Pistol Course (PPC) prior to nomination.

Selection of nominees is made by the appropriate PCES Manager.

3-5.3.3 User Certification

Authorized Rifle User certification requires:

- a. Successful completion of an Authorized Rifle User certification course designated by the Career Development Unit.
- b. Bi-annual qualification, once during each qualification cycle with at least one cycle where the Authorized Rifle User is observed and certified by a Rifle Instructor.
- c. Annual participation in low-light and stress or judgmental courses of fire using the rifle.
- d. Annual evaluation of Authorized Rifle User's active status by the appropriate PCES Manager to ensure compliance with certification requirements.

3-5.3.4 Qualifications

3-5.3.4.1 Frequency

Qualifications are conducted bi-annually. Users who do not attend a bi-annual qualification automatically lose their certification at the end of the cycle. If the user qualifies in the subsequent cycle, his or her certification resumes. Should the user not attend two consecutive qualifications, they are decertified pending future nomination and recertification by the Career Development Unit.

3-5.3.4.2 Scoring – Semi Automatic Rifle

Each qualification cycle, using a standard TQ-19 target, Authorized Rifle Users must pass one course of fire with the assigned rifle with a qualifying score of 85% or higher. A maximum of two attempts at the qualification course are allowed. The Division Threat Management Coordinator or a Firearms Instructor shall certify the scores.

3-5.3.4.3 Failure to Qualify and Remedial Training

Rifle users who fail to qualify will immediately be decertified as an Authorized Rifle User. The individual must receive remedial training before any subsequent attempt to qualify.

Remedial training consists of a maximum of twelve hours of instruction per calendar year. After the rifle user determines they have received enough remedial training they will be allowed two attempts to qualify. If the rifle user qualifies during either of these

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attempts, certification shall be automatically reinstated. Failure to qualify will result in immediate revocation of certification pending successful attendance at an authorized certification course as designated by the Career Development Unit.

3-5.3.5 Instructor Complement

The number of Rifle Instructors is at the discretion of the PCES Manager, Career Development Unit. Rifle Instructors should be of sufficient number to meet the needs of the organization.

Instructors must meet all requirements for certification as an Authorized Rifle User, as outlined above, on a yearly basis. Rifle Instructor certifications are valid for three years and must be renewed as needed.

3-5.3.6 Instructor Certification

Rifle Instructor certification requires the following:

- a. Active certification as a Firearms Instructor;
- b. Familiarity with firearms and must have scored 90% or higher on their most recent Practical Pistol Course (PPC) prior to nomination.
- c. Successful completion of an authorized Rifle Instructor certification course.

3-5.3.7 Deployment Authorization - Semi-Automatic Rifle

The semi-automatic rifle is intended for use in potentially high risk situations, including, but not limited to, active shooters, armed robberies, controlled deliveries, and arrest situations involving suspects believed to be armed or other situations which have a reasonable expectation to evolve into dangerous encounters.

Rifle deployment may be authorized by the Team Leader or Postal Police Manager with operational responsibility.

3-5.3.8 Career Development Unit Responsibilities - Semi-Automatic Rifle

The Career Development Unit is responsible for maintaining the names of all rifle users and instructors. The Career Development Unit is responsible for conducting instructor certification sessions and recertification sessions. The Career Development Unit will provide oversight and assistance with new rifle users courses scheduled within the divisions.

3-5.4 Select Fire Weapon

The authorized standard-issue select fire weapon for the U.S. Postal Inspection Service is the Heckler & Koch MP-5 Navy Model caliber 9mm Parabellum (9x19). Only Postal Inspectors with a current certification are authorized to carry the weapon.

3-5.4.1 Select Fire Weapon Familiarization

All Postal Inspectors shall receive familiarization training with the select fire weapon on a yearly basis. This training shall include, but is not limited to, weapon safety and nomenclature.

3-5.4.2 MP-5 Select Fire Weapon Operator Selection Process

The criteria for nomination are not based solely on a particular assignment and include the following: **Certification**

The postal inspector must possess willingness Nominees selected to attend an authorized Select Fire Weapon operator certification course must possess the following:

- a. Willingness to carry and operate the weapon;
- b. The postal inspector must be familiar Familiarity with firearms and must obtain a;
b.c. A score of 90-percent% or higher on the their most recent PPC before his or her Practical Pistol Course (PPC) prior to nomination.
- e. Selection of nominees is made by the INC appropriate PCES Manager.

3-5.4.3 MP-5 Operator Certification

The following qualifications are necessary for Select fire weapon certification requires the following:

- a. The postal inspector must successfully complete a 5-day operator's course Successful completion of an authorized MP-5 Operator course designated by CDD.
- b. a. Active status must be evaluated yearly by the INC to ensure that the operator still meets the current criteria for nomination to maintain the position Career Development Unit.
- c. b. Postal inspectors must qualify quarterly and be certified for Qualification during each of the eight Postal Inspection Service standards drills. Once a year the operator must be qualification cycle with at least one cycle where the Operator is observed and certified by an MP-5 instructor Instructor.
- d. c. Postal inspectors must participate Annual participation in low-light and stress or judgmental courses of fire at least once a year. The FATS machine may be used for low-light firing and judgmental courses in those divisions where proper range facilities are not available.
- d. Annual evaluation of the Operator's active status by the appropriate PCES Manager to ensure compliance with certification requirements.

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3-5.4.4 Qualifications

3-5.4.4.1 Frequency

Qualifications are conducted quarterly. Operators who do not attend a quarterly qualification automatically lose their certification at the end of that quarter. If the operator qualifies in the subsequent quarter, his or her certification resumes. Should the operator not attend two consecutive quarters, they are decertified by CDD pending future nomination and recertification by the Career Development Unit.

3-5.3.4.4.2 Scoring - Select Fire Weapon

Each quarter, ~~postal inspectors~~ Select Fire Weapon Operators must pass one course of fire with the assigned MP-5 with a qualifying score of 90 ~~percent.~~ %. No more than two qualification courses of fire may be shot in order to pass the one qualifying course.

The standard target used is the TQ-19 and the DTMC Division Threat Management Coordinator or a Firearms Instructor certifies the scores. FATS may be used once each calendar year for standard drills.

The quarterly qualifying scores for all Authorized Rifle Users and instructors are reported on PS Form 681 and maintained by the respective Division Threat Management Coordinator.

3-5.3.4.4.3 Failure to Qualify and Remedial Training

Postal ~~inspectors~~ Inspectors who fail to qualify will immediately lose their operator's certification. The operator must receive remedial training before any subsequent attempt to qualify.

3-5.3.4.4 Remedial Training

Remedial training consists of a maximum of twelve hours of instruction per calendar year. After this remedial training, the ~~postal inspector~~ Postal Inspector is given two opportunities to qualify. If the operator qualifies during either of these tries, the certification is automatically reinstated. If the operator does not qualify then their certification is withdrawn.

3-5.3.4 MP_5 Instructors Select Fire Weapon Instructor Complement

The number of instructors is at the discretion of the Inspector in Charge, Career Development Division Unit to meet the needs of the organization. When additional instructors are needed, the Inspector in Charge, Career Development Division Unit will solicit input and concurrence from the ~~field INCs~~ appropriate PCES Managers.

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3-5.4.6 Instructor Certification

Instructors must meet all requirements for an operator's certification. Active status is evaluated yearly by ~~CDD~~the Career Development Unit, and the instructor must be recertified within a 3-year period. On a quarterly basis, the instructor will fire and pass the standards drills and be observed by an MP-5 operator.

3-5.3.54.7 Deployment Authorization - Select Fire Weapon

The MP-5 is authorized for deployment by the ~~INC~~appropriate PCES Manager or designee. The weapon is intended for use in potentially high risk situations, including, but not limited to, armed robberies, controlled deliveries, and arrest situations involving suspects believed to be armed or other situations in which ~~have~~there is a reasonable expectation ~~to evolve into of a~~ dangerous ~~encounters-encounter~~.

3-5.4.8 Weapon Maintenance - Select Fire Weapon

A weapon record book shall be maintained for each MP-5. The number of rounds fired must be recorded in the book, as well as the date, cumulative total number of rounds fired, and the operator or instructor name.

3-5.3.6-Reporting

~~The Division Threat Management Coordinator (DTMC) shall maintain an MP-5 usage report for each incident when the select fire weapon is removed from the case, loaded, and carried. The report is by the weapon's serial number and should identify the operator, date of use, and reason for use. Use of the weapon for training/qualifications should not be reported as part of this process.~~

~~The report is furnished quarterly to the INC and shall be submitted even if there is no use of the particular weapon during the reporting period. Retention of the report is for five years.~~

~~The quarterly qualifying scores for all MP-5 operators and instructors are reported on PS Form 681 and maintained by the respective DTMC.~~

~~The DTMC is responsible for advising the INC and the National Threat Management Coordinator (NTMC) when an MP-5 operator has been decertified due to non-participation or withdrawal of executive approval. The INC will notify the DTMC when he or she has removed an operator from the program.~~

~~CDDAfter each 7500 rounds fired through an MP-5, the weapon must be sent via registered mail or hand-delivered by the Division Threat Management Coordinator to Heckler & Koch or to a certified Heckler & Koch armorer for inspection and maintenance.~~

3-5.4.9 Career Development Unit Responsibilities - Select Fire Weapon

The Career Development Unit is responsible for maintaining the names of all MP-5 operators and instructors, for providing certificates to new operators and instructors, and for scheduling operators' classes and instructors' recertification sessions. ~~CDD~~The Career Development Unit also shall maintain all recertification records for instructors.

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3-5.3.7 ~~Weapons Maintenance~~

~~A weapon record book shall be maintained for each MP-5. The number of rounds fired must be recorded in the book, as well as the date, cumulative total number of rounds fired, and the operator or instructor name.~~

~~After each 7500 rounds fired through an MP-5, the weapon must be sent via registered mail or hand delivered by the DTMC to Heckler & Koch or to a certified H&K armorer for inspection and maintenance.~~

3-5.45 ~~Modifications of Weapons~~Firearms

Modifications to ~~the~~ firing mechanism or disassembly beyond field stripping for cleaning ~~an officially assigned service~~ standard-issue handgun, shotgun, semi-automatic rifle or select fire weapon are strictly prohibited. Repairs to U.S. Postal Inspection Service weapons must be made by a ~~licensed factory-certified armorer or~~ gunsmith or factory-trained armorer and must be consistent with factory specifications. ~~Nonstandard~~

Installation of nonstandard grips must be on standard-issue handgun, shotgun, semi-automatic rifle or select fire weapons must be approved by the Division Firearms Coordinator ~~(DFC).~~

3-5.56 ~~Nonstandard Weapons~~Handguns

Any handgun owned, or considered for purchase, by the Inspection Service not meeting the criteria outlined in sections 3-5.1 or 3-5.1.2.1 are considered nonstandard handguns. The ~~INC~~ appropriate PCES Manager may authorize ~~the purchase of a Postal Inspector to use~~ a nonstandard weapon for use in while conducting an undercover assignments. ~~Postal inspectors who have a need for such weapons assignment. Prior to utilization, Postal Inspectors~~ must qualify with the nonstandard weapons handgun before carrying ~~them~~ and again during each subsequent qualification cycle.

~~Each INC must annually~~ appropriate PCES Manager must conduct an annual review of the types of nonstandard weapons retained or needed ~~in~~ within their division, ~~including to include~~ those for undercover and training.

3-5.67 ~~Armorer Certifications~~

All standard-issue and agency-authorized firearms ~~authorized for use~~ utilized by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service must ~~be certified annually~~ undergo an annual certification by a factory-trained armorer. This requirement applies to ~~the~~ standard-issued handguns, ~~undercover weapons~~ agency-authorized handguns, shotguns, ~~personally owned~~ semi-automatic rifles, select fire weapons, and ~~other tactical~~ nonstandard weapons. ~~For authorized personally owned weapons, the costs~~ issued for undercover operations.

Costs associated with an annual armorer certification and/or repairs of agency-authorized handguns are the sole responsibility of the ~~postal inspector~~ employee.

3-5.8 Handgun Mounted Flashlight

Handgun mounted flashlights must meet the following criteria:

- a. Designed for use with the specific make and model of the Postal Inspector or Postal Police personnel standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun.
- b. Attach to the handgun manufacturer's designed rail system.
- c. Illuminate at 100 lumens or brighter.
- d. Not incorporate a laser sighting or targeting feature. Must be a flashlight only.

3-5.8.1 Requests to Utilize Handgun Mounted Flashlight

Requests to utilize a handgun mounted flashlight shall be made according to the following procedure:

- a. Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel should submit a written request to utilize a handgun mounted flashlight and appropriate holster, which accommodates the handgun mounted flashlight, to the appropriate PCES Manager.
- b. The PCES Manager will provide a written response to the requestor approving or disapproving the request with a copy to the Division Firearms Coordinator (DFC).
- c. The approval shall become effective when the individual has qualified with the handgun mounted flashlight and corresponding holster. The DFC will provide written documentation to the authorizing official verifying that the individual has qualified with the standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun and handgun mounted flashlight. Copies of the documentation will be retained by the DFC.

3-5.8.2 Requirements for Handgun Mounted Flashlight Use

Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel choosing to utilize a handgun mounted flashlight must comply with the following requirements:

- a. All handgun mounted flashlights and corresponding holsters authorized for use must be purchased by the individual unless payment has been approved by the appropriate PCES Manager.
- b. When the handgun mounted flashlight is attached to the standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun, the flashlight may only be used in situations where the individual is authorized and justified to draw their weapon.
- c. Utilize a holster which accommodates the handgun mounted flashlight. The holster must comply with the requirements of ISM Section 3-6.2.1, 3-6.2.2 or 3-6.2.3 as appropriate.
- d. Subsequent to the initial qualification, demonstrate proficiency while using the handgun mounted flashlight during the mandatory low light course of fire on a yearly basis.

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- e. Any violation of the responsibilities outlined above or safety related issues, either in the field or during qualification or demonstrations of proficiency, will terminate the authorization.

3-5 Assignment of Weapons

3-5.1 Standard-Issue Handgun

The authorized standard-issue handgun of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service is the Sig Sauer P229R DAK .40 caliber semiautomatic pistol.

3-5.1.1 Requirements to Carry a Handgun

Postal Inspectors are required to carry a standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun in the performance of their official duties. Postal Inspectors must carry an assigned handgun to and from their residences unless written authorization is received in advance from the appropriate PCES manager. Postal Inspectors must carry their standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun fully loaded with a round in the chamber and a full magazine. When on duty and carrying either a standard-issue and /or agency-authorized handgun(s), Postal Inspectors should carry two spare magazines, with each magazine fully loaded to capacity.

Postal Police Officers, Supervisors, Managers and Range Masters (collectively "Postal Police personnel") are required to carry a standard-issue handgun in performance of official duties. Postal Police personnel must carry their standard-issue handgun with a round in the chamber and a full magazine. Postal Police personnel are required to carry two spare magazines, with each magazine fully loaded to capacity.

Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel are not authorized to carry a handgun if their normal mental status is affected by a neurotic or psychotic conditions or any substance, legal or otherwise, which would affect adversely an ability to act safely and effectively under normal and emergency conditions. All Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel are prohibited from consuming alcohol while carrying a standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun. Alcohol may be consumed by Postal Inspectors working in an undercover capacity but only if necessary to maintain cover.

Postal Inspectors must ensure their handgun is properly concealed and not unnecessarily displayed. Tactical considerations may alleviate the requirement the handgun be concealed. In such circumstances, the Postal Inspector raid jacket, vest or other outer garment with approved POLICE /POSTAL INSPECTOR markings must be worn or the Postal Inspector badge must be visible.

3-5.1.2 Agency-Authorized Handguns

3-5.1.2.1 Use of Personally Owned Handgun as Agency-Authorized Handgun

PCES Managers may approve Postal Inspectors to carry a personally-owned handgun as an agency-authorized handgun. All personally-owned handguns submitted for agency authorization must meet the following criteria:

- a) Semi-automatic pistol chambered for 9mm Luger or .40 caliber S&W cartridge.

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- b) Minimum 6-round magazine capacity.
- c) Minimum 2.5" barrel length.
- d) Double-action or safe action only.
- e) Minimum 5.5 pound trigger pull.
- f) No external slide or frame-mounted manual safety physically deactivated by the user. Trigger, grip and internal-only mechanical safeties are authorized for use subject to the approval of the National Threat Management Coordinator.
- g) No magazine disconnect.
- h) No hammer spurs. If the pistol has an external hammer, it must be bobbed or be flush with the slide.
- i) Authorized manufacturers are as follows: Beretta, FN Herstal, Glock, Heckler & Koch, Kahr Arms, Ruger, Sig Sauer, Smith & Wesson, Springfield Armory, Walther.

3-5.1.2.2 Approval of Agency-Authorized Handguns

Approval for use of an agency-authorized handgun(s) shall be made according to the following procedures:

- a. Requests for approval to carry a personally-owned handgun as an agency-authorized handgun must be submitted in writing to the appropriate PCES Manager. A written statement from a factory-certified armorer or gunsmith stating that the handgun meets factory specifications and the criteria listed in Section 3-5.1.3.1 or 3-5.1.3.2 must accompany the request. For handguns purchased as new, the bill of sale, which shows the handgun meets the criteria listed in Section 3-5.1.3.1, is acceptable in lieu of the written statement.
- b. The appropriate PCES Manager will provide a written response to the Postal Inspector approving or disapproving the request with a copy to the Division Firearms Coordinator (DFC).
- c. The approval shall become effective when the Postal Inspector has qualified with the personally-owned handgun. The Division Firearms Coordinator will provide written documentation to the PCES Manager verifying that the Postal Inspector has qualified with the handgun.
- d. Copies of the documentation will be retained by the Division Firearms Coordinator or Division Threat Management Coordinator.
- e. A new authorization for the agency-authorized handgun must be obtained prior to the next semi-annual qualification when the Postal Inspector is reassigned to a new division or when PCES manager approval has been withdrawn.

3-5.1.2.3 Agency-Authorized Handguns - Usage

Postal Inspectors may utilize agency-authorized handgun(s) as follows:

- a. Replace standard-issue handgun with an agency-authorized handgun that meets the criteria in 3-5.1.3.1.

- b. Maintain standard-issue handgun and utilize an agency-authorized handgun that meets the criteria in 3-5.1.3.1. At the discretion of the Postal Inspector, in accordance with applicable policy, one or both handguns may be carried at any time. An agency-authorized handgun utilized under this section may be chambered for either a 9mm or .40 caliber S&W cartridge.
- c. Replace standard-issue handgun with an agency-authorized handgun that meets the criteria in 3-5.1.3.1. An additional agency-authorized handgun that meets the criteria in 3-5.1.3.1 may also be utilized. At the discretion of the Postal Inspector, in accordance to applicable policy, one or both handguns may be carried at any time. Agency-authorized handguns utilized under this section may be chambered for either 9mm or .40 caliber S&W cartridge.

3-5.1.2.4 Postal Inspector Responsibilities - Agency Authorized Handguns

A written statement from a factory-certified armorer or gunsmith stating the handgun meets factory specifications and the criteria listed in Section 3-5.1.2.1 must be resubmitted annually to the Division Firearms Coordinator. Failure to submit the required statement will result in the authorizing official withdrawing permission to carry the firearm for official duties or under authority of 3-5.1.2.2.

While an agency-authorized handgun is being repaired:

- a. The Postal Inspector shall be provided a standard-issue handgun. Not applicable if the Postal Inspector maintains an agency-authorized handgun under 3-5.1.2.3.
- b. The Postal Inspector must demonstrate an ability to safely use the standard-issue handgun prior to issuance. At minimum, the Postal Inspector must demonstrate familiarization with the standard-issue handgun while demonstrating safe handling techniques. Familiarization shall include dry firing and field stripping the standard-issue handgun.
- c. No additional qualification is required with the standard-issue handgun, unless requested by the Division Firearms Coordinator and based on the Postal Inspector's firearms training records.

If a Postal Inspector authorized to carry an agency-authorized handgun is reassigned to a new division, a new approval must be obtained prior to the next semi-annual qualification.

3-5.1.2.5 Reporting Removal from Service, Sale, Theft or Loss of Agency-Authorized Handgun

Postal Inspectors must immediately report the removal from service, sale, loss or theft of an agency-authorized handgun to their immediate supervisor and Division Threat Management Coordinator.

Postal Inspectors requesting to remove an agency-authorized handgun from service must present the agency-authorized handgun to their Division Firearms Coordinator or Division Threat Management Coordinator for inspection prior to designating the weapon inactive in the firearms database and/or the issuance of a standard-issue handgun.

A report of sale, loss or theft must be accompanied by appropriate documentation to include, but not limited to, bill of sale or transfer, local police report and/or NCIC entry. In addition to the reporting requirement of 3-5.1.2.5, if the agency-authorized handgun is lost or stolen, all procedures as outlined in 1-4.3.4.2 *Lost/Stolen Firearm Policy* must be followed.

3-5.1.2.6 Surrender of Standard-Issue or Agency-Authorized Firearms

Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel shall surrender any agency-issued or agency-authorized firearms, to include handguns, shotguns, semi-automatic rifles or select-fire weapons, to the appropriate PCES Manager, their designated representative, or an appropriate law enforcement agency when the firearm is required during an investigation of a firearms discharge or use of force incident.

Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel shall surrender any agency-issued or agency-authorized firearms, to include handguns, shotguns, semi-automatic rifles or select-fire weapons, to the appropriate PCES Manager, or their designated representative, whenever the employee:

- a. Fails to qualify with the standard-issue or agency-authorized weapon(s),
- b. Is the subject of a valid court order recognized by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, or
- c. Is placed on restricted duty or administrative leave.

Firearms surrendered under this section shall be retained until the conclusion of the investigation, the restoration of the employee's authorization to carry the firearm, or the removal of any medical or legal restrictions on the employee's ability to carry a firearm. If those conditions are not met, an agency-authorized handgun surrendered under this section will be returned to an employee, provided it is no longer needed for investigative purposes, only if the employee, or their designee, may lawfully possess and carry the firearm as a private citizen.

If appropriate, a PCES Manager may authorize an employee who has surrendered a firearm under this section to be issued a standard-issue handgun, shotgun, semi-automatic rifle or select-fire weapon.

3-5.1.3 Carriage of Standard-Issue or Agency-Authorized Handgun While in Off-Duty or Leave Status – Postal Inspector

Postal Inspectors are authorized to carry the standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun while in an off-duty status. Postal Inspectors who elect to carry a standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun while in an off-duty status are subject to the same protocols and policies which apply while they are officially employed. The policy regarding the carriage of weapons aboard aircraft while off-duty or on leave is found at ISM Section 3-9.

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Postal Inspectors who elect to carry a handgun while in an off-duty or leave status, under the authority granted Postal Inspectors under 18 U.S.C. 3061, are required to carry a standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun as outlined in ISM Section 3-5.1.2 et seq. Carriage of all other firearms under this authority is prohibited.

Carriage of a personally-owned weapon, other than the standard-issued or agency-authorized handgun, in an off-duty status and under different authority, such as the Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act (LEOSA), or state law, is a personal choice of the Postal Inspector. As such, the Postal Inspector may be considered outside the scope of official employment for purposes of liability or Department of Justice representation.

Postal Inspectors in an administrative leave status are not authorized to carry a standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun under the authority granted Postal Inspectors under 18 U.S.C. 3061 unless approved by a PCES manager.

3-5.2 Shotgun

The authorized standard-issue shotguns of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service are the 12-gauge Remington 870P MAX Shotgun and 12 Gauge Remington 870 Shotgun.

3-5.3 Semi-Automatic Rifle

The authorized standard-issue semi-automatic rifle of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service is the LWRC M6 in 5.56 (.223). Only Postal Inspectors and Postal Police Officers, Supervisors, Managers and Range Masters (collectively "Postal Police personnel") who have a current certification are authorized to carry the rifle.

Other semi-automatic rifles chambered for 5.56 (.223) previously obtained by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and approved by the National Threat Management Coordinator are authorized for use and subject to the policy and restrictions within this section and all other applicable sections.

3-5.3.1 Semi-Automatic Rifle Familiarization

All Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel shall receive familiarization training with the semi-automatic rifle on a yearly basis. This training shall include, but is not limited to, weapon safety and nomenclature.

3-5.3.2 Semi-Automatic Rifle User Selection and Certification

Nominees selected to attend an authorized certification course must possess the following:

- a. Willingness to carry and operate the weapon;
- b. Familiarity with firearms;

- c. A recent score of 90% or higher on their most recent Practical Pistol Course (PPC) prior to nomination.

Selection of nominees is made by the appropriate PCES Manager.

3-5.3.3 User Certification

Authorized Rifle User certification requires:

- a. Successful completion of an Authorized Rifle User certification course designated by the Career Development Unit.
- b. Bi-annual qualification, once during each qualification cycle with at least one cycle where the Authorized Rifle User is observed and certified by a Rifle Instructor.
- c. Annual participation in low-light and stress or judgmental courses of fire using the rifle.
- d. Annual evaluation of Authorized Rifle User's active status by the appropriate PCES Manager to ensure compliance with certification requirements.

3-5.3.4 Qualifications

3-5.3.4.1 Frequency

Qualifications are conducted bi-annually. Users who do not attend a bi-annual qualification automatically lose their certification at the end of the cycle. If the user qualifies in the subsequent cycle, his or her certification resumes. Should the user not attend two consecutive qualifications, they are decertified pending future nomination and recertification by the Career Development Unit.

3-5.3.4.2 Scoring – Semi Automatic Rifle

Each qualification cycle, using a standard TQ-19 target, Authorized Rifle Users must pass one course of fire with the assigned rifle with a qualifying score of 85% or higher. A maximum of two attempts at the qualification course are allowed. The Division Threat Management Coordinator or a Firearms Instructor shall certify the scores.

3-5.3.4.3 Failure to Qualify and Remedial Training

Rifle users who fail to qualify will immediately be decertified as an Authorized Rifle User. The individual must receive remedial training before any subsequent attempt to qualify.

Remedial training consists of a maximum of twelve hours of instruction per calendar year. After the rifle user determines they have received enough remedial training they will be allowed two attempts to qualify. If the rifle user qualifies during either of these attempts, certification shall be automatically reinstated. Failure to qualify will result in

immediate revocation of certification pending successful attendance at an authorized certification course as designated by the Career Development Unit.

3-5.3.5 Instructor Complement

The number of Rifle Instructors is at the discretion of the PCES Manager, Career Development Unit. Rifle Instructors should be of sufficient number to meet the needs of the organization.

Instructors must meet all requirements for certification as an Authorized Rifle User, as outlined above, on a yearly basis. Rifle Instructor certifications are valid for three years and must be renewed as needed.

3-5.3.6 Instructor Certification

Rifle Instructor certification requires the following:

- a. Active certification as a Firearms Instructor;
- b. Familiarity with firearms and must have scored 90% or higher on their most recent Practical Pistol Course (PPC) prior to nomination.
- c. Successful completion of an authorized Rifle Instructor certification course.

3-5.3.7 Deployment Authorization - Semi-Automatic Rifle

The semi-automatic rifle is intended for use in potentially high risk situations, including, but not limited to, active shooters, armed robberies, controlled deliveries, and arrest situations involving suspects believed to be armed or other situations which have a reasonable expectation to evolve into dangerous encounters.

Rifle deployment may be authorized by the Team Leader or Postal Police Manager with operational responsibility.

3-5.3.8 Career Development Unit Responsibilities - Semi-Automatic Rifle

The Career Development Unit is responsible for maintaining the names of all rifle users and instructors. The Career Development Unit is responsible for conducting instructor certification sessions and recertification sessions. The Career Development Unit will provide oversight and assistance with new rifle users courses scheduled within the divisions.

3-5.4 Select Fire Weapon

The authorized standard-issue select fire weapon for the U.S. Postal Inspection Service is the Heckler & Koch MP-5 Navy Model caliber 9mm Parabellum (9x19). Only Postal Inspectors with a current certification are authorized to carry the weapon.

3-5.4.1 Select Fire Weapon Familiarization

All Postal Inspectors shall receive familiarization training with the select fire weapon on a yearly basis. This training shall include, but is not limited to, weapon safety and nomenclature.

3-5.4.2 Select Fire Weapon Operator Selection and Certification

Nominees selected to attend an authorized Select Fire Weapon operator certification course must possess the following:

- a. Willingness to carry and operate the weapon;
- b. Familiarity with firearms;
- c. A score of 90% or higher on their most recent Practical Pistol Course (PPC) prior to nomination.

Selection of nominees is made by the appropriate PCES Manager.

3-5.4.3 Operator Certification

Select fire weapon certification requires the following:

- a. Successful completion of an authorized MP-5 Operator course designated by the Career Development Unit.
- b. Qualification during each qualification cycle with at least one cycle where the Operator is observed and certified by an MP-5 Instructor.
- c. Annual participation in low-light and stress or judgmental courses of fire. The FATS machine may be used for low-light firing and judgmental courses in those divisions where proper range facilities are not available.
- d. Annual evaluation of the Operator's active status by the appropriate PCES Manager to ensure compliance with certification requirements.

3-5.4.4 Qualifications

3-5.4.4.1 Frequency

Qualifications are conducted quarterly. Operators who do not attend a quarterly qualification automatically lose their certification at the end of that quarter. If the operator qualifies in the subsequent quarter, his or her certification resumes. Should the operator not attend two consecutive quarters, they are decertified pending future nomination and recertification by the Career Development Unit.

3-5.4.4.2 Scoring - Select Fire Weapon

Each quarter, Select Fire Weapon Operators must pass one course of fire with the assigned MP-5 with a qualifying score of 90%. No more than two qualification courses of fire may be shot in order to pass the one qualifying course.

The standard target used is the TQ-19 and the Division Threat Management Coordinator or a Firearms Instructor certifies the scores. FATS may be used once each calendar year for standard drills.

The quarterly qualifying scores for all Authorized Rifle Users and instructors are reported on PS Form 681 and maintained by the respective Division Threat Management Coordinator.

3-5.4.4.3 Failure to Qualify and Remedial Training

Postal Inspectors who fail to qualify will immediately lose their operator's certification. The operator must receive remedial training before any subsequent attempt to qualify.

Remedial training consists of a maximum of twelve hours of instruction per calendar year. After this remedial training, the Postal Inspector is given two opportunities to qualify. If the operator qualifies during either of these tries, the certification is automatically reinstated. If the operator does not qualify then their certification is withdrawn.

3-5.4.5 Select Fire Weapon Instructor Complement

The number of instructors is at the discretion of the Inspector in Charge, Career Development Unit to meet the needs of the organization. When additional instructors are needed, the Inspector in Charge, Career Development Unit will solicit input and concurrence from the appropriate PCES Managers.

3-5.4.6 Instructor Certification

Instructors must meet all requirements for an operator's certification. Active status is evaluated yearly by the Career Development Unit, and the instructor must be recertified within a 3-year period. On a quarterly basis, the instructor will fire and pass the standards drills and be observed by an MP-5 operator.

3-5.4.7 Deployment Authorization - Select Fire Weapon

The MP-5 is authorized for deployment by the appropriate PCES Manager or designee. The weapon is intended for use in potentially high risk situations, including, but not limited to, armed robberies, controlled deliveries, and arrest situations involving suspects believed to be armed or other situations in which there is a reasonable expectation of a dangerous encounter.

3-5.4.8 Weapon Maintenance - Select Fire Weapon

A weapon record book shall be maintained for each MP-5. The number of rounds fired must be recorded in the book, as well as the date, cumulative total number of rounds fired, and the operator or instructor name.

After each 7500 rounds fired through an MP-5, the weapon must be sent via registered mail or hand-delivered by the Division Threat Management Coordinator to Heckler & Koch or to a certified Heckler & Koch armorer for inspection and maintenance.

3-5.4.9 Career Development Unit Responsibilities - Select Fire Weapon

The Career Development Unit is responsible for maintaining the names of all MP-5 operators and instructors, for providing certificates to new operators and instructors, and for scheduling operators' classes and instructors' recertification sessions. The Career Development Unit also shall maintain all recertification records for instructors.

3-5.5 Modifications of Firearms

Modifications to the firing mechanism or disassembly beyond field stripping for cleaning a standard-issue handgun, shotgun, semi-automatic rifle or select fire weapon are strictly prohibited. Repairs to U.S. Postal Inspection Service weapons must be made by a factory-certified armorer or gunsmith and must be consistent with factory specifications.

Installation of nonstandard grips on standard-issue handgun, shotgun, semi-automatic rifle or select fire weapons must be approved by the Division Firearms Coordinator.

3-5.6 Nonstandard Handguns

Any handgun owned, or considered for purchase, by the Inspection Service not meeting the criteria outlined in sections 3-5.1 or 3-5.1.2.1 are considered nonstandard handguns. The appropriate PCES Manager may authorize a Postal Inspector to use a nonstandard weapon while conducting an undercover assignment. Prior to utilization, Postal Inspectors must qualify with the nonstandard handgun before carrying and again during each subsequent qualification cycle.

Each appropriate PCES Manager must conduct an annual review of the types of nonstandard weapons retained or needed within their division to include those for undercover and training.

3-5.7 Armorer Certifications

All standard-issue and agency-authorized firearms utilized by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service must undergo an annual certification by a factory-trained armorer. This

requirement applies to standard-issued handguns, agency-authorized handguns, shotguns, semi-automatic rifles, select fire weapons and nonstandard weapons issued for undercover operations.

Costs associated with an annual armorer certification and/or repairs of agency-authorized handguns are the sole responsibility of the employee.

3-5.8 Handgun Mounted Flashlight

Handgun mounted flashlights must meet the following criteria:

- a. Designed for use with the specific make and model of the Postal Inspector or Postal Police personnel standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun.
- b. Attach to the handgun manufacturer's designed rail system.
- c. Illuminate at 100 lumens or brighter.
- d. Not incorporate a laser sighting or targeting feature. Must be a flashlight only.

3-5.8.1 Requests to Utilize Handgun Mounted Flashlight

Requests to utilize a handgun mounted flashlight shall be made according to the following procedure:

- a. Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel should submit a written request to utilize a handgun mounted flashlight and appropriate holster, which accommodates the handgun mounted flashlight, to the appropriate PCES Manager.
- b. The PCES Manager will provide a written response to the requestor approving or disapproving the request with a copy to the Division Firearms Coordinator (DFC).
- c. The approval shall become effective when the individual has qualified with the handgun mounted flashlight and corresponding holster. The DFC will provide written documentation to the authorizing official verifying that the individual has qualified with the standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun and handgun mounted flashlight. Copies of the documentation will be retained by the DFC.

3-5.8.2 Requirements for Handgun Mounted Flashlight Use

Postal Inspectors and Postal Police personnel choosing to utilize a handgun mounted flashlight must comply with the following requirements:

- a. All handgun mounted flashlights and corresponding holsters authorized for use must be purchased by the individual unless payment has been approved by the appropriate PCES Manager.
- b. When the handgun mounted flashlight is attached to the standard-issue or agency-authorized handgun, the flashlight may only be used in situations where the individual is authorized and justified to draw their weapon.

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- c. Utilize a holster which accommodates the handgun mounted flashlight. The holster must comply with the requirements of ISM Section 3-6.2.1, 3-6.2.2 or 3-6.2.3 as appropriate.
- d. Subsequent to the initial qualification, demonstrate proficiency while using the handgun mounted flashlight during the mandatory low light course of fire on a yearly basis.
- e. Any violation of the responsibilities outlined above or safety related issues, either in the field or during qualification or demonstrations of proficiency, will terminate the authorization.