

APRIL 18, 1990

PARK DIRECTIVE 3000.2

FIREARMS POLICY

The purpose of the following policy is to establish certain guidelines to be followed in the use and care of service-issued firearms to fully commissioned Arkansas State Parks Law Enforcement Officers.

1. No employee of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism will carry a firearm while on duty without written authorization from the Director of Arkansas State Parks or the Manager of Operations.

Rangers will carry authorized weapons while on duty. Superintendents and other commissioned personnel will carry authorized weapons on duty only when circumstances warrant such action.

- a. Authorized weapons will be those firearms and other defensive equipment, such as batons, which are assigned, issued and/or approved by the Manager of Operations;
 - b. While on duty, all law enforcement personnel, excluding the Manager of Operations and Regional Supervisors, shall be dressed in class "A" or class "B" uniforms with the following exceptions: Coveralls or civilian clothing may be worn when on special missions, such as stake outs; during wildlife management exercises; or when circumstances warrant such attire. All personnel will have on their person, proper identification, i.e., issued badges and ID cards.
2. Issued weapons will not be carried during off-duty hours without written authorization from the Director of State Parks.
 3. Weapons will not be carried outside areas of Arkansas State Parks jurisdiction unless the Law Enforcement Officer is assigned to bank deposit, is in transition between State Park areas, or on assigned official business.
 4. Non-authorized weapons will not be carried by Law Enforcement Officers at any time while on duty.

5. Whenever a Law Enforcement Officer uses or draws and exhibits a firearm, or baton, so the equipment can be observed by a member(s) of the public, or whenever he/she discharges a firearm either accidentally, or in the performance of his/her duty, the Law Enforcement Officer shall:
 - a. Notify his/her supervisor and the Manager of Operations immediately;
 - b. File a complete, detailed, written report within 12 hours to the Manager of Operations.

Whenever the use of a firearm or any defensive equipment results in a death, the Law Enforcement Officer will immediately be placed on “Inactive Status with Pay” pending results of a Board of Review.

The director shall establish, as soon as possible, a Board of Review of not less than three persons who will review the incident. One member of the Board shall be a Law Enforcement Officer from the Parks Division. The results of the investigation and the findings of the Board shall be forwarded to the Parks Director for action.

As soon as possible, following the incident, stress counseling will be made available for the officer through Parks Operations.

6. Firearms, when unattended, will have trigger locks attached to prevent accidental firing.
7. The department will furnish each Law Enforcement Officer with 18 rounds of approved ammunition. At each Firearms Qualification, the Law Enforcement Officer will fire his/her issued ammunition. At the end of qualifications, the Law Enforcement Officer will be issued an equal amount of new rounds before returning to his/her park.

ONLY THE APPROVED ISSUED AMMUNITION WILL BE USED IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S ASSIGNED FIREARM.

8. Park Law Enforcement Officers are responsible for the care and maintenance of their service revolver. Minor maintenance may be performed, but the removal of the weapon sideplate is prohibited. Only authorized certified Smith and Wesson armorers are to remove the revolver sideplate and perform internal maintenance and repairs.

Department revolvers are to be maintained in factory working condition. Weapon custom work, such as spring-cutting, filing, honing, etc., is prohibited by this department.

Failure to maintain department service revolvers in factory condition, other than normal wear, may result in disciplinary action.

9. The greatest trust placed in a Law Enforcement Officer is the responsibility for proper use of assigned firearms. This responsibility holds each officer accountable for discriminate use of firearms based on policy, sound judgement, and discretion.

Deadly force will be used only to protect the life of the officer or other individuals and will not be used to apprehend an escaping felon unless loss of life or serious physical injury to you or other persons is imminent.

The Law Enforcement Officer must consider four factors before he/she commits to the use of a firearm:

- a. Is the offense of sufficient gravity to justify the possibility of serious injury or death?
- b. Is there a possibility the suspect can be captured or recaptured through the use of less extreme methods?
- c. Does a risk exist to the officer or other persons if a firearm IS NOT used?
- d. Does a risk exist to the lives of innocent persons if a firearm IS used?

Supersedes PD 3000.2 dated July 18, 1988

APPROVED BY _____
RICHARD W. DAVIES, DIRECTOR
Arkansas State Parks