



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS BASE
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5001

MCBO 5500.3A
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24 NOV 1996

MARINE CORPS BASE ORDER 5500.3A

From: Commander

To: Distribution List

Subj: ARMING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY PERSONNEL AND THE
USE OF DEADLY FORCE

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 5500.29B
(b) MCO 5500.6F
(c) MCO 3574.2J

Encl: (1) Property and Information Involving National Security

1. Purpose. To promulgate instructions concerning the arming of law enforcement and security personnel and the use of deadly force per references (a) through (c).

2. Cancellation. MCBO 5500.3.

3. Summary of Revision. This Revision contains a significant number of changes and should be reviewed in its entirety.

4. Information

a. Reference (a) grants commanders and commanding officers the authority to arm civilian officials and military members of the Navy and Marine Corps engaged in law enforcement and security duties. It grants the Commander, Naval Security and Investigative Command the authority to arm Special Agents of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). It also grants the CMC and the Assistant CMC the authority to arm military officials of the Marine Corps for personal protection.

b. References (a) and (b) provides guidance concerning the arming of civilian officials of the Marine Corps in the performance of their duties.

c. Reference (b) establishes Marine Corps policy concerning the arming of law enforcement and security personnel and the use of deadly force. It requires arming all Marines performing law enforcement or security duties, consistent with the operating environment and per the principle of use of the minimum force

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consistent with the mission. It requires that law enforcement and security personnel when armed with a firearm carry the firearm loaded, and it establishes minimum amounts of ammunition to be carried. It prohibits the use of privately owned weapons or ammunition in the performance of law enforcement and security duties, and it establishes training requirements in the areas of safety, use and care of firearms, and the use of deadly force.

5. Policies

a. Arming of Personnel

(1) The following personnel will be armed with firearms when in the performance of their duties:

(a) Military police, criminal investigators, NCIS Agents, and game wardens.

(b) Personnel assigned to guard duties at the ammunition and bulk fuel storage areas.

(c) Personnel assigned to gate or flight line security duties at the Marine Corps Air Facility.

(d) Personnel assigned to security duties in the Helicopter Squadron-1 (HMX-1) exclusion area.

(e) Personnel assigned as unit armorers or weapons custodians for unit armories.

(f) Personnel assigned to guard weapons and/or ammunition whether in storage or being transported.

(2) Commanding officers, directors, and the Provost Marshal shall arm all other assigned military personnel performing law enforcement and security duties in a manner consistent with the operating environment and per the principle of using the minimum force needed to accomplish the mission.

(3) The Resident Agent in Charge of the NCIS shall comply with reference (a) and the directives and policies of the director, Naval Security and Investigative Command pertaining to the arming of Naval Investigative Agents.

(4) Commanding officers, directors, and the Provost Marshal shall comply with the provisions of reference (a) and (b) pertaining to the arming of civilian officials. Civilian officials will not carry firearms in the performance of their duties except as requested by the Commander, MCB and approved by the CMC (POS).

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(5) No person will be armed for personal protection duties except as requested via the Commander and approved by the CMC (POS).

(6) No person is authorized to carry a firearm until that person has been instructed in the safe use and maintenance of the firearm, has met the qualification requirements of reference (c), and has been instructed and tested in the use of deadly force, per reference (b).

(7) Weapons are carried only during that period in which law enforcement and security personnel are actually on duty or on special assignment. Weapons must be returned to an authorized armory/storage facility at the end of the tour of duty or upon completion of special assignment.

(8) Armed personnel are not authorized to leave the Base armed except in exigent circumstances. This does not apply to Military Police, Criminal Investigation Division, or NCIS Agents in the performance of their duties.

b. Use of Force

(1) Although this Order is specifically directed at personnel armed with firearms, the principles apply equally to personnel armed with weapons or equipment which, when applied, could cause death or bodily harm.

(2) Marines and civilian officials of the Marine Corps authorized to carry firearms in the performance of their duties will use only the minimum amount of force necessary to reach their objective.

(3) When a firearm is discharged, it will be fired with the intent of rendering the person at whom it is discharged incapable of continuing the activity or course of behavior prompting the individual to discharge a weapon.

(4) Warning shots are not authorized.

c. Circumstances for using Deadly Force. Deadly force is justified only under conditions of extreme necessity, as a last resort, when all lesser means have failed or cannot reasonably be employed, and only under one or more of the following circumstances:

(1) In self-defense and the defense of others.

(2) In defense of property designated to be vital to the national security. See enclosure (1)

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(3) In defense of property not involving national security but inherently dangerous to others.

(4) To prevent or interrupt offenses that threaten serious injury or death to other persons (i.e., rape, aggravated assault, and armed robbery).

(5) To apprehend or prevent the escape of persons who present a serious threat to law enforcement officials or others, or when probable cause exists to believe that a person has committed offenses cited in paragraphs 5c(1) through 5c(4) above.

(6) When directed by the lawful order of competent authority consistent with paragraphs 5c(1) through 5c(5) above.

6. Action

a. Commanding Officers and Directors

(1) Arm all law enforcement and security personnel per references (a) through (c) and this Order.

(2) Maintain and issue weapons in serviceable condition. Conduct limited technical inspections in consonance with appropriate technical directives.

(3) Ensure law enforcement and security personnel are properly screened, instructed, fully trained, rehearsed, and tested on the following:

(a) Nomenclature and functioning of their assigned weapons.

(b) Care and cleaning of their assigned weapons.

(c) Safe handling of their assigned weapons.

(d) Proper loading and clearing procedures of their assigned weapons.

(4) Ensure law enforcement and security personnel possess the mental responsibility and moral maturity for armed security duties.

(5) Ensure law enforcement and security personnel maintain proficiency with the weapon with which they are specifically armed in the performance of their duties.

(6) Ensure all Marines armed with a service rifle or pistol, complete all required qualifications per reference (c). Record this training in the individual's training record and the Marine Corps Total Force System.

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(7) Ensure law enforcement and security personnel are thoroughly instructed and tested relative to policy and orders regarding the proper use of deadly force, per reference (b). Record such instruction in the training record of all law enforcement and security personnel.

(8) Ensure that unit guard schools, guard orders, and appropriate SOP's contain specific/detailed provisions for the foregoing requirements, as well as procedures for effective supervision and enforcement.

(9) Ensure that clearing barrels are available for armed personnel to safely load and clear weapons.

(10) Ensure that the special orders for the posts of law enforcement or security personnel under your cognizance contain specific instructions that designate the locations on their post containing information or property that is vital or of substantial importance to national security as per this Order.

(11) When directed by separate bulletin each October, conduct a zero based audit/review of the arming of personnel, and provide information and justification for arming as may be required to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3.

b. Provost Marshal

(1) In addition to those actions directed to commanding officers above, ensure all personnel assigned to military police duties receive the mandated marksmanship training as required by reference (c).

(2) Receive, review, forward with recommendations, and prepare Authorization to Carry Firearms (NAVMC 10464) in the case of requests for the arming of civilian officials in the performance of official duties.

(3) Maintain records that list the specific locations aboard the Base which contain equipment or information designated by this Order as vital or substantial to national security. Continuously instruct assigned law enforcement personnel as to those locations.

c. Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3

(1) During October of every year, promulgate a bulletin providing detailed instructions concerning the conduct of a zero based audit/review of the arming of law enforcement and security personnel by commanding officers and directors. Military Police are specifically excluded from this audit.

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(2) During November of every year, provide the Commander with detailed information concerning who is armed aboard MCB, Quantico and why. If appropriate, provide recommended changes to policies and orders based upon the need to arm personnel versus the potential for negligent discharge, public safety, and the security needs of the Command.

7. Coordinating Instructions

a. Nothing in this Order is to be interpreted as restricting the inherent authority of a commanding officer to arm assigned military personnel in the performance of their duties.

b. Authority for civilian officials of the Marine Corps to carry firearms in the official performance of their law enforcement or security duties may be granted for a period not to exceed one year per authorization. Submit requests in writing to the Commander, via the Provost Marshal and provide full justification. Specify the minimum period during which the authorization is needed.

c. Paragraphs 5, 6, and 7 of reference (b) contain specific information that must be thoroughly understood by all persons assigned to law enforcement and security duties involving the carrying of firearms. Commanding officers, directors, and the Provost Marshal will include those paragraphs as a mandatory part of the training of personnel assigned to law enforcement and security duties.

d. Use enclosure (4) of reference (b) to document training in the use of deadly force. It may be retyped without modifications or locally reproduced, signed by the person receiving the training, and kept in training records until the person is no longer assigned to law enforcement or security duties or until the training has been renewed. Training in the use of deadly force must be renewed at least once every 12 months.



R. P. ROOK
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION: A

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Property and Information Involving National Security

Property and Information Involving National Security. The following property and information designations are made per paragraph 12e of reference (b):

(1) All documents, equipment, and materials that are classified as Top Secret regardless of location.

(2) All documents, equipment, and materials that if lost, damaged or compromised would seriously prejudice the national security or jeopardize an essential national defense mission.

(3) Aircraft and aircraft support equipment located within the HMX-1 exclusion area.

(4) Computers and automated information systems located within Bldg. 3255 (Newlin Hall) that are designated for support of the Continuity of Operation Plan.