



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Policies and Procedures

TITLE: FIREARMS-SHOTGUNS		NO: G-701	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
EFFECTIVE: December 1, 1992	REVIEWED: 11/10/2017	REVISED: 7/1/2011	UPDATED: 11/10/2017

POLICY

The Kern County Sheriff's Office has adopted the Remington 870, 12-gauge shotgun as the official shotgun to be issued to Sheriff's Office personnel.

Authorized personnel may also carry their own shotguns in lieu of Sheriff's Office issued shotguns, providing that the weapon complies with the specifications and policy outlined in this chapter. Deputies using personally owned shotguns are responsible for all maintenance and repairs.

Privately-owned weapons must be inspected and approved by the Sheriff's Office Rangemaster before being put into service. Personal shotguns must also be inspected by the Rangemaster following any modification or repair.

Nothing in this section shall prohibit the use of other shotguns or specially modified shotguns by authorized personnel assigned to Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (SERT), or Special Investigations Division (SID). These units receive special training with specialized shotguns and it is an advantage to the Sheriff's Office to utilize that expertise in its law enforcement mission. The requirements for the use of these specialized weapons in general law enforcement are:

- The shotgun must be 12-gauge,
- The deputy must qualify with the gun during general Sheriff's Office qualifications, and
- Directive A will apply.

Any other policy or procedure governing the use of special weapons by personnel assigned to these units will be set forth in the unit/division policy and procedure manual.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

The only shotgun authorized by the Sheriff's Office is:

- Remington 870 or its variants, black, blue, or other subdued finish with 14, 18, or 20-inch barrel. Shotguns with 18 or 20 inch barrels may be equipped with a magazine extension tube. Deputies may carry an alternate shotgun due to tactical considerations when so authorized by the deputy's section lieutenant and with Rangemaster approval.

- Shotgun stocks may be black composite material or a collapsible stock of good quality. The stock shall not interfere with the ability to secure the shotgun and shall be approved by the Rangemaster prior to being carried in the field.
- Sights may be bead, ghost ring, or rifle type. A Red-Dot or Holographic sight may be used to co-witness the fixed sights. Privately-owned sights must be of good quality, shall not interfere with the ability to secure the shotgun and shall be approved by the Rangemaster prior to being carried in the field.
- Accessories such as side-saddle shell holders and weapon-mounted tactical lights must be inspected and approved by the Rangemaster.
- Shotguns must be equipped with a sling. The purpose of the sling is to carry the weapon when both hands are needed for other purposes, which is critical for officer safety.
 - Any personally owned sling must be approved by the Range Master. Tactical slings may only be attached to shotguns assigned to an individual Deputy, and only after that Deputy has attended Sheriff's Office Training in the use of tactical slings.
- Personnel with personally-owned shotguns equipped with 14-inch barrels must comply with all State and Federal regulations relative to the possession and use of these weapons.
- Ammunition issued by the Sheriff's Office will be the only authorized ammunition for duty use. Personnel who wish to carry additional rounds, in excess of Sheriff's Office issue, must purchase the **exact** ammunition issued by the Sheriff's Office.
 - The standard issue shotgun ammunition will be 00 buckshot.
 - The Sheriff's Office Rangemaster may issue shotgun slugs to individual deputies when so authorized by the deputy's division commander, and after the deputy has successfully completed Sheriff's Office training in the use of shotgun slugs.
 - Shotgun slugs may be used when necessary to destroy large animals in compliance with Section G-100 of this manual, or when necessary to resolve an immediate, life threatening situation.
 - Shotguns must be equipped with adjustable sights to be approved for use with slugs.

DIRECTIVE A:

The Sheriff's Office Rangemaster will maintain records of all shotguns utilized by members of the Sheriff's Office. Records will include the serial number of the approved shotgun, and a description of approved modifications to the shotgun. When Sheriff's Office personnel are authorized to use personally-owned shotguns equipped with 14-inch barrels, the Rangemaster will also require and maintain proof of compliance with all State and Federal regulations.

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