

WEAPONS

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This revision of GSDF Regulation 600-95 supersedes all previous versions which should be destroyed.

1. PURPOSE: To establish Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF) policy and procedures governing possession, training and deployment with weapons.

2. REFERENCES:

- a. Georgia Department of Defense Joint Operations Directorate Memorandum 10-4, dated 21 June 2001.
- b. GSDF Policy Memorandum dated 21 March 2007, subject: Policy for Law Enforcement Officers serving in the Georgia State Defense Force.

3. APPLICABILITY: This regulation applies to all elements, units and personnel of the Georgia State Defense Force.

4. DEFINITIONS:

- a. “Weapon” as defined for the purposes of this regulation shall mean:
 - (1) Any firearm, including but not limited to rifles, shotguns, handguns and gas powered or mechanically powered guns.
 - (2) Any knife or other cutting object having a blade exceeding six inches. Axes, hatchets, machetes, chainsaws or similar tools are excluded from this definition when used for search and rescue, debris clearing, construction operations or related training. Kitchen utensils are excluded only when in use during food preparation.
 - (3) Any spear, spring stick, metal knuckles, blackjack, expandable batons, or martial arts devices such as nunchaku, throwing discs, stars or spring loaded knife thrower.
 - (4).Any stun gun, taser or any explosive in any configuration.
- b. “Defensive Spray” shall mean any device which projects, releases or emits tear gas, pepper spray or any other substance intended to produce temporary discomfort through being vaporized or otherwise dispensed in the air.

c. "Baton" shall mean any bat, club, nightstick, riot stick or other bludgeon-type device whether or not intended for use as part of riot prevention or riot control activities.

d. The GSDF on-site commander shall have the authority to determine if a potentially harmful device or item not described above should be classified as a weapon.

5. TRAINING WITH WEAPONS:

a. GSDF personnel are prohibited from training with operable weapons or "defensive sprays" of any type when in uniform or when serving in or out of uniform as an official representative of the GSDF.

b. Batons or similar may be used for purposes of conducting law enforcement augmentation training only when specifically authorized in training orders pre-approved by the Adjutant General and under the supervision of National Guard or civil law enforcement officers.

6. DEPLOYMENT WITH WEAPONS:

a. GSDF personnel are prohibited from deploying on state active duty missions where they would be required to use or employ firearms or weapons other than those needed for search and rescue, debris clearing or similar purposes. (See paragraph 4a(2), above).

b. Possession and use of batons by GSDF personnel as part of riot suppression operations is not permitted unless pre-approved by the Adjutant General, designated personnel have been officially certified by the National Guard or civil law enforcement instructor and have been specifically authorized by HQ, GSDF issued mission orders.

7. POSSESSION OF WEAPONS:

a. GSDF personnel when in uniform or serving out of uniform as an official representative of the GSDF are prohibited from possessing weapons on their person, in vehicle or in baggage when on a Federal or State installation. Violations of this policy can, in event of personal or car search, result in arrest.

b. Possession of defensive sprays is permitted only when in transit to or from missions, drills or training exercises.

8. LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL: The following shall apply as concerns law enforcement personnel who are also serving members of the GSDF:

a. Law Enforcement Officer members of the GSDF shall comply with the provisions of this regulation at all times when on duty with or wearing the uniform of the GSDF

b. Law Enforcement Officer members of the GSDF shall not engage in any police or law enforcement related activities while wearing the uniform of the GSDF.

c. A GSDF member who is also a Law Enforcement Officer must remove all insignia of the GSDF from his/her uniform if a situation arises where they need to take a law enforcement action outside the mission of their GSDF unit or contrary to standing GSDF rules and regulations

9. CEREMONIAL EVENTS: Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, GSDF personnel may under command authorization train with, transport and handle inert or simulated weapons for use in ceremonial functions such as honor guards and honors details, for conduct of ceremonial functions such as military weddings, military organizational birthday events, formal Dining's In/Out, or similar events.

The proponent of this regulation is the GSDF Commanding General. Local supplementation or alteration is not authorized. Comments or suggested changes may be submitted directly to the Headquarters GSDF Judge Advocate General for review.

BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICIAL:

DAVID B. POYTHRESS
Lieutenant General
The Adjutant General

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature is cursive and reads "Lyle E. Letteer".

LYLE E. LETTEER, JR.
Colonel
Chief of Staff

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