

M.P.T.C. POLICY ON TRANSPORTING OF FIREARMS BY STUDENT OFFICERS

The M.P.T.C. wants all police departments to be fully informed of the recently enacted changes to Firearms Law in Massachusetts. These changes impact on the firearms segment of the Basic Curriculum for Municipal Police Officers. Under the provisions of MGL c. 41, §96B, persons attending the Basic Curriculum to become police officers are Student Officers (with the exception of returned to duty officers). As Student Officers, it is questionable if they are entitled by law to carry firearms without a proper license to carry.

Therefore, when Student Officers are to attend the firearms qualification segment of the Basic Curriculum, consideration must be given to the above. Only those Student Officers who are in possession of a license to carry may transport firearms. Departments must make other arrangements for the transportation of firearms for those Student Officers who do not possess a license to carry. A person who has a license to carry could transport the weapons or the department could transport the weapons to the range and leave them in the safekeeping of the range instructor.

In order to avoid these problems, one of the following courses of action must be taken prior to the firearms segment of the Basic Curriculum:

- The Student Officer must have a license to carry
- A person with a license to carry must transport the firearms to and from the range
- The department must make arrangements for the transportation of their firearms to and from the range and place in the safekeeping of an instructor