




U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Associate Director, Homeland Security Investigations
Executive Associate Director, Enforcement and Removal
Operations
Executive Associate Director, Management & Administration
Principal Legal Advisor

FROM: Dan Ragsdale 
Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Use of Standard ICE-issued Firearm During Basic Law
Enforcement Officer Training

Purpose

This memorandum serves to clarify the *Interim ICE Firearms Policy*, policy number 19002.1, dated July 7, 2004, regarding the requirement that ICE personnel undergoing basic law enforcement officer training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center are only authorized to train and demonstrate proficiency with their assigned standard ICE-issued firearm(s).

Background

Pursuant to the *Interim ICE Firearms Policy*, policy number 19002.1, dated July 7, 2004, “[t]o carry firearms in the performance of their official duties, ICE officers must: . . . [h]ave successfully completed the mandatory basic law enforcement training, including basic firearms training, required for their ICE specific job series and title or successfully completed a substantially equivalent training program approved by the Assistant Secretary through the Director of the National Firearms and Tactical Training Unit (NFTTU).” Part 1(B)(3).¹

Furthermore, officers must “[m]aintain proficiency in the use of firearms they are permitted to carry[.]” Fully-credentialed officers may be authorized by their Program Office head to carry a personally-owned firearm consistent with those listed in Appendix I, Section A, of the *Interim ICE Firearms Policy* and to conduct their quarterly proficiency qualification using that approved personally-owned firearm in lieu of their standard ICE-issued firearm. However, as a matter of

¹ Under ICE’s current internal structure, the term “Assistant Secretary” is synonymous with “Director” and the “Director” of the National Firearms and Tactical Training Unit (NFTTU) is now formally titled the “Assistant Director.”

principled law enforcement management, all ICE law enforcement officers must undergo the same basic training, which includes demonstrating proficiency with the same basic law enforcement equipment.

Guidance

Students undergoing basic law enforcement officer training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center are only authorized to train and demonstrate proficiency with their assigned standard ICE-issued firearm(s). Only after successful completion of the basic law enforcement officer training will recruits receive their credentials and become eligible to solicit approval to carry and demonstrate proficiency with other ICE-issued and personally-owned firearms.

This memorandum also serves as a reminder that all law enforcement officers must demonstrate proficiency in handling the firearm(s) they are authorized to carry on a quarterly basis, and failure to demonstrate proficiency can serve as a basis for reassignment or removal (Interim ICE Firearms Policy, Part 3(A)).

Any questions regarding this memorandum or the *ICE Interim Firearms Policy* should be directed to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C), Assistant Director, NFFTU, (706) 527-(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)h@ice.dhs.gov.

Disclaimer

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