



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report - Secure Holsters - January 1 to December 31, 2023
Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board
Report Date: 2024-06-27

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Service Board (Board) receives this report for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to advise the Board that the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) is in compliance with Board By-Law 498-2024 – Secure Holsters.
- The Chief is required to make an annual written report to the Board with respect to Secure Holsters.
- This report sets out a summary of procedures required by this By-Law and the status of Service compliance with those procedures.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendations contained in this report.

Analysis

In accordance with By-Law 498-2024, the Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year with respect to the secure holster equipment for police service firearms. The report shall contain:

- a) a summary of the written procedures relating to secure holster equipment for police service firearms;
- b) the status of Service compliance with the said procedures; and
- c) confirmation that members have been trained in accordance with section 4.2.

The following is a detailed response to each of the above noted requirements:

- a) a summary of the written procedures relating to secure holster equipment for police service firearms;

The NRPS General Order 053.25 “Use of Force” section 3.51 adequately addresses the provision, use and function of secure holster equipment.

In preparing the written guidelines, the Service considered the following legislations:

- Police Services Act - Ontario Regulation 926 – Equipment and Use of Force
- Police Services Act - Ontario Regulation 268/10 - General
- Police Services Act - Ontario Regulation 3/99 – Adequacy and Effectiveness of Police Services
- The Occupational Health and Safety Act, R.S.O.1990

The specifics of the written direction are as follows:

- (a) All police officers, whether assigned to uniform or plainclothes duties, shall be issued with and receive appropriate training on the use of a secure holster that is designed to meet the needs of their particular assignment, in compliance with the requirements of the Policing Standards Manual;
- (b) Police officers issued with a secure holster shall:
- i) Use the holster in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and the prescribed training;
 - ii) Maintain and care for the holster in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and prescribed training;
 - iii) Regularly inspect their issued secure holster for damage or defect; and
 - iv) Immediately report to their supervisor the absence of, or defect detected in any article of equipment or protective device issued to them, including their secure holster.
- (c) All officers, while wearing their issued uniform duty belt with a secure holster, shall wear the four issued duty belt keepers. One shall be positioned directly in front of the secure holster and one directly to the rear of the secure holster.
- (d) Upon being made aware of the absence of, or defect detected in any article of equipment or protective device issued to a member under their command, a supervisor shall cause an investigation into the matter if appropriate and arrange

for the absent or defective equipment to be replaced without delay (unless there is cause not to replace the equipment);

- (e) In accordance with the provisions of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, supervisors shall ensure that members under their command properly use and care for issued secure holsters. To accomplish this, supervisors shall routinely examine holsters during line inspections or other suitable opportunities and reinforce the requirement for members to maintain and care for this equipment as outlined in this General Order;
- (f) During annual use of force refresher training, secure holsters shall be examined for defects in compliance with the Policing Standards Manual, by members holding a designation from the province as a "Use of Force Trainer." Any defects discovered will be addressed in accordance with this section.

In addition, General Order 048.08 entitled "Uniform and Equipment Supply" Section 3.8 - Inspection of articles of uniform and equipment:

"Supervisors shall inspect articles of uniform and equipment issued to members, ensuring that the articles are serviceable".

- b) the status of Service compliance with the said procedures;

The Chief of Police has established an "Equipment Committee" comprised of representatives from the general membership, Quartermaster Stores, Niagara Region Police Association, Senior Officer Association, and representation from the Training Unit. This committee endorsed the acquisition of the secure holster manufactured by Safariland. The Safariland model ALS 6360 level 3 secure holster meets the needs of the Service and complies with the Adequacy Standards AI-014. Ministry accredited "Use of Force" trainers working within the training unit evaluated the ALS 6360 holster and deemed it to be suitable for Service members. In addition, a low-profile version identified as Safariland model ALS 6377 was acquired for use in plain clothes deployment and specialty units.

- c) confirmation that members have been trained in accordance with section 4.2.

The responsibility of ensuring that all members are properly trained in the use, care, and function of the secure holster rests with the members of the training unit. The members of the training unit who facilitate firearms and holster training are Ministry accredited use of force trainers as required by the adequacy standards.

The secure holster training begins with new recruits. Prior to attending the Ontario Police College, the recruits are trained on proper fitting, use and maintenance of their Safariland 6360 level 3 and 6377 ALS level 2 police duty holsters. They are also issued

the Safariland Owner's Manual for the said holster. An entire 90-minute period is devoted to belt equipment and holster fitting. Recruits also receive an additional 10 hours of pistol training during, which they receive instruction on the use, function and limitations of the issued Safariland holsters. Recruits are also provided with a molded plastic Glock 22 training pistol to practice holster functions.

Firearms facilitators at the Ontario Police College ensure that secure holster and firearms training are reinforced over 13 weeks of Basic Constable Training. Successful completion of firearms and defensive tactics training under supervision of qualified use of force facilitators at the Ontario Police College is required of all officers.

Mandatory annual use of force requalification sessions provided by the Training Unit ensure that members demonstrate confidence and competence in the use and function of their duty holster. These sessions also provide the opportunity to inspect issued belts, holsters and equipment under the supervision of instructors. If problems are found they are corrected, or new equipment is issued. Supervisors are made aware of their responsibilities regarding inspection and maintenance of equipment issued to members under their command. Inspections of officers' secure holsters are ongoing, including daily inspections by individual members in compliance with Equipment Supply General Order 48.08, by supervisors during routine line inspections, as well as during annual In-Service Training by members of the training unit.

Attendance records for annual requalification training are maintained by the training unit.

The Safariland police duty holsters continue to meet all expectations of the Service. Members continue to benefit from the continuity of equipment throughout the Service between uniform and specialty units. Members of the Service have demonstrated confidence and competence in the use and function of their issued police duty holsters.

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

This report is for information purposes and has no immediate strategic priorities.

Relevant Policy Considerations

- Board By-Law 498-2024
- Provincial Adequacy Standard AI-014
- General Order 053.25, "Use of Force"
- General Order 048.08, "Uniform and Equipment Supply"

Other Pertinent Reports

8.13 - 2023.07.27 – Annual Report – Secure Holsters – January 1 to December 31, 2022

This report was prepared by Constable Drew Scobie, Training Unit in consultation with Sergeant Jesse Hicks Training Unit, Staff Sergeant Mike Casella, Training Unit, and Inspector Paul Koscinski, Inspector, Professional Development. Reviewed by Sandy Staniforth, Superintendent, Executive Services. Recommended by Luigi Greco, Deputy Chief, Support Services.

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Submitted by:

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Appendices

Not applicable.