

MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

April 27, 2009

TO: ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL

FR: EDWARD A. FLYNN
CHIEF OF POLICE

RE: DEPARTMENT FIREARMS



On April 16, 2009, I issued a Department memorandum informing members that Training Division range personnel would be switching out magazines for the department-issued Glock Model 22 .40 caliber duty pistols. I issued this directive to the range after firearms personnel discovered a malfunction with the magazines. The switch-out was made, but there have been a few reported malfunctions with the new magazines.

Effective Monday, April 27, 2009, Milwaukee Police recruits will be issued Smith & Wesson M&P .40 caliber pistols. This is the beginning of a department-wide transition from the Glock .40 caliber pistols to the Smith & Wesson .40 caliber pistols.

We do not have a margin for error here. We have been prudent and proper in ensuring that officer safety is paramount throughout this process and I want to assure every Department member that we have done everything to protect our officers.

Transitioning in the new duty pistols will necessitate an 8-hour firearms training session for each department member who had one of the Glock Model 22 .40 caliber pistols. This transition may take some time, but will be done in as expeditious a manner possible over the coming months.

Recruit training begins today and our current in-stock inventory of Glock handguns consists of serial numbers beginning with LWC, one of the prefixes that is at the center of the magazine issue. As a result, the initial shipment of Smith & Wesson handguns will be distributed among the recruit officers so that they can begin their firearms training. The rest of the department will follow with priority given to the officers who recently were transitioned to the new magazines. We will begin the transition with those officers who have Glocks from the affected lots # LWC, KLC and LMU.

Range personnel researched the issue of the malfunctioning magazines extensively since I first became aware of the problem in January 2008. Because of the Firearms Section findings, Glock redesigned the magazines believing that the new design would eliminate the malfunction issue. Range personnel researched and tested a sampling of the new magazines and found them to work without error.

We believed that replacing the questionable magazines would provide an adequate and timely remedy to the problem. Glock replaced 2,700 pistol magazines at no cost to MPD. During the transition to the new magazines, however, additional malfunctions were reported on the range, including failure to eject and failure to extract. Our research indicates there have been no problems with the Smith and Wesson M & P .40 caliber. The switch-out will be done at no cost to the Department.

The Smith and Wesson M & P .40 caliber is currently the duty weapon for police departments in Detroit, Atlanta, Charlotte NC, Iowa State Police, Columbus OH, Cincinnati OH, New Mexico State Police, New Hampshire State Police and Wisconsin's Division of Criminal Investigation.