



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: Night Vision Goggles

Number: 246-A

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Revised Date: 09/10/2014

Rescinds: 246 *Night Vision Goggles*

Dated: 09/01/2005

Approved By:

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines and qualifications governing the training and use of Night Vision Goggles.

DISCUSSION

The Myrtle Beach Police Department has acquired Night Vision Goggles, which are designed to aid law enforcement officers while in the capacity of their official duties in low light situations. It is important that each officer using this equipment be familiar with its components and limitations, and be able to trouble shoot technical problems if and when they occur while in use.

DEFINITIONS

Night Vision Goggles – Specialized equipment which enhances minimal available light, moonlight or starlight, which allows the user to improve their night vision capability.

Nomenclature – Combination of components in part or in whole, which make up the Night Vision Goggles themselves or aid in the use and storage of the Night Vision Goggles.

Qualified Persons – Officers who have been identified as having a high probability of benefiting from the use of Night Vision Goggles.

Training Qualifications – Established training standards that must be successfully achieved by an individual officer prior to being allowed to use Night Vision Goggles.

PROCEDURE

1. TRAINING

- A. An approved lesson plan or Power Point presentation outlining the nomenclature, proper use of and limitations of the Night Vision Goggles will be used to train and qualify officers to use the Night Vision Goggles. Those officers being identified as Qualified Persons must attend and successfully complete a training class specifically designated to the use of Nightvision Goggles.

2. STORAGE/SECURITY

- A. The department currently has two sets of Night Vision Goggles. One set will be dedicated to the Special Weapons and Tactics Team, (SWAT). This set will be maintained and stored in the same manner as other equipment assigned to this team. The remaining set will be stored in the vault adjacent to the Briefing Room. A Patrol Supervisor will be responsible for signing the Nightvision Goggles in/out and maintaining a log with the following information; the name of the officer using the equipment, time and date of sign in/out and reason for the use of this equipment, without exception. The Patrol Supervisor will also be responsible for inspecting and documenting the condition of the Night Vision Goggles after use. All documentation will be made in the form of a log sign-in/out sheet, which will be kept in the vault. At no time will the Night Vision Goggles be stored with the batteries installed in it.
- B. Night Vision Goggles will be subject to monthly audits by the Office of Professional Standards.

3. MAINTENANCE

- A. Supervisors will be responsible for ensuring that the Night Vision Goggles are being maintained properly. Each time the Night Vision Goggles are signed back in, the Patrol Supervisor will conduct a visual and operational inspection of the equipment. If the equipment doesn't work properly and is in need of repair immediate notification will be made to a Patrol Lieutenant or SWAT Team Leader. Once this notification is made, it shall be the responsibility of the Patrol Lieutenant/SWAT Team Leader to send the equipment off for repair.

4. USE

- A. The Night Vision Goggles are designed to be utilized in low light situations. The primary function is to afford the user the ability to see in low light conditions to the point where the user can take action, make decisions and move with a higher degree of safety.
- B. Primary use for Night Vision Goggles is to enhance planned surveillance operations in low light conditions. These types of operations include but are not limited to,
 - 1. Narcotics
 - 2. Burglary residential/business and vehicle
 - 3. Wanted persons and tracking suspect(s) movements.
 - 4. Following up/corroborating intelligence in on going investigation.
- C. Night Vision Goggles can be a valuable resource in rescue operations in low light conditions.
- D. Tactical application for the SWAT Team varies a great deal from the Patrol/Special Operation and Investigation applications. For this reason, the SWAT Team may expand the use of the Night Vision Goggles as the situation dictates. (Example): Covert entry into a dwelling ,which is the target of the operation. However when this happens approval must be given from the highest ranking Team Member Supervisor on scene and approval shall in part be based on specific training, related to intended use.

5. LIMITATIONS/RESTRICTIONS

- A. Requires some limited light source to work – moonlight or starlight adequate.
- B. As available light decreases performance of unit decreases.
- C. Performance of unit is less effective when viewing into shadows and other dark areas.
- D. Performance is negatively effected when use is in adverse weather conditions – rain, fog, sleet, snow and smoke.
- E. Equipment will not see through dense smoke.
- F. Adverse effect depth perception – Distances of objects distorted.

- G. Manual focus of Infinity Focus Ring Objective Lens. This is important, the lens could be focused for distance use and the user may need to redirect attention to something within a few feet away, focus will be off, which may affect his decision ability.
- H. Distortion of vision if quick movement is made from side to side.
- I. Direct light sensitive, if being worn and direct flash light beam shines into Objective Lens system most likely will white out vision. However a flash light beam can enhance the performance of unit by illuminating viewing objective down range.
- J. Operating vehicles and other forms of transportation while utilizing this equipment is prohibited.
- K. Adverse effect on peripheral vision – major issue must be understood. Unit can be used to clear a building, but this limitation may create serious issue that the user must have knowledge of. Every effort shall be made to dedicate the use of this equipment to outside use as much as possible.

6. FIREARMS RELATED ISSUES

- A. The use of Night Vision Goggles in conjunction with a firearm is extremely difficult, and for this reason it is **highly discouraged**, unless the officer(s) has no other option, the use of deadly force is justified and the officer(s) actions are inline with departmental regulation governing the use of deadly force.
- B. Since SWAT Team operations most likely involve a higher risk of the use of deadly force and these operations could require the use of Night Vision Goggles. Annual firearms qualification training will be scheduled utilizing the Night Vision Goggles in low light situations. Team Members must successfully pass a designed qualification course of fire before they may be issued Night Vision equipment for the purpose of dwelling entry and clearing. The Department Training Section shall maintain documentation of this training.