
Texas Department of Public Safety

Trooper Standard Operating Procedures

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Please continue to the next page! →

Table of Contents

SECTION I

Uniform Guide

This section will include all trooper ranking uniforms and what they rank they're for.

SECTION II

Shift Management

This section will include all information needed for managing your shift time and ensuring you are getting the proper activity time.

SECTION III

Patrolling The Highway

This section will include all information you will need whilst patrolling Highway 55 and more!

SECTION IV

Patrolling Areas Away From The Highway

This section will include all information needed whilst patrolling areas not including the highway.

SECTION V

Traffic Stop Procedures

This section will include all information on how to safely and with conduct proceed through a traffic stop.

SECTION VI

Pursuit Procedures

This section will include all information on how to conduct a pursuit safely.

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SECTION VII

PIT Procedure

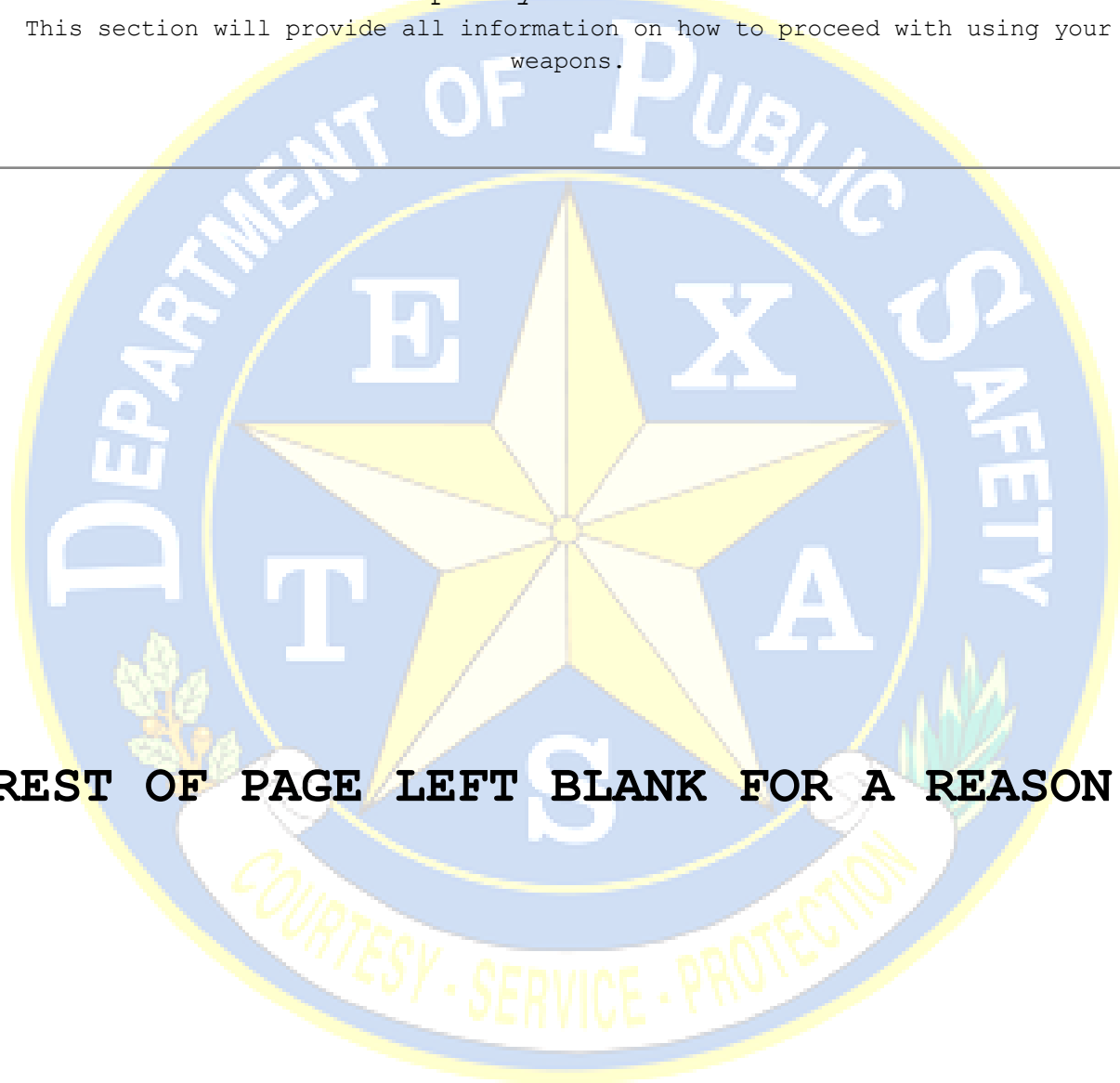
This section will provide all information on how to proceed through a PIT safely and with conduct.

SECTION VIII

Weaponry Procedures

This section will provide all information on how to proceed with using your weapons.

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SECTION I

Uniform Information

All troopers with the ranks of; Trooper, Trooper Third Class, Trooper Second Class, Trooper First Class: Can use the following uniforms: Class As, Class Bs.

All troopers with the ranks of; Senior Trooper and Master Trooper can use the following uniforms: Class As, Class Bs, Class Cs.

No other uniforms unless specified by division and/or high command members.

SECTION II

Shift Management

To turn on your shift: Go to the channel "shift-logs" and type in "/shift manage", from there you will click "Start Shift"

To turn off your shift: Go to the channel "shift-logs" and use the panel you did to turn it on, then you will click "End Shift"

To start your break: Go to the channel "shift-logs" and use the panel you did to turn your shift on/off, then you will click "Start Break"

To turn off your break: Go to the channel "shift-logs" and use the panel you did to turn your break on, then you will click "End Break" (You can also turn off your shift from here.)

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SECTION III

Patrolling the Highway

This section contains all information necessary for troopers while patrolling Highway 55 and related responsibilities.

Highway Patrol Options

When patrolling Highway 55, troopers have two primary options:

1. Stationary Observation

- Troopers may sit in the median at designated paved areas to monitor traffic.
- Use radar and visually observe for traffic violations.

2. Mobile Patrol

- Troopers may drive up and down the highway to monitor traffic.
- While not required, it is **advised** to use a fast unit (e.g., Dodge Charger or similar vehicle) for effective response.

Traffic Stops

When initiating a traffic stop on the highway:

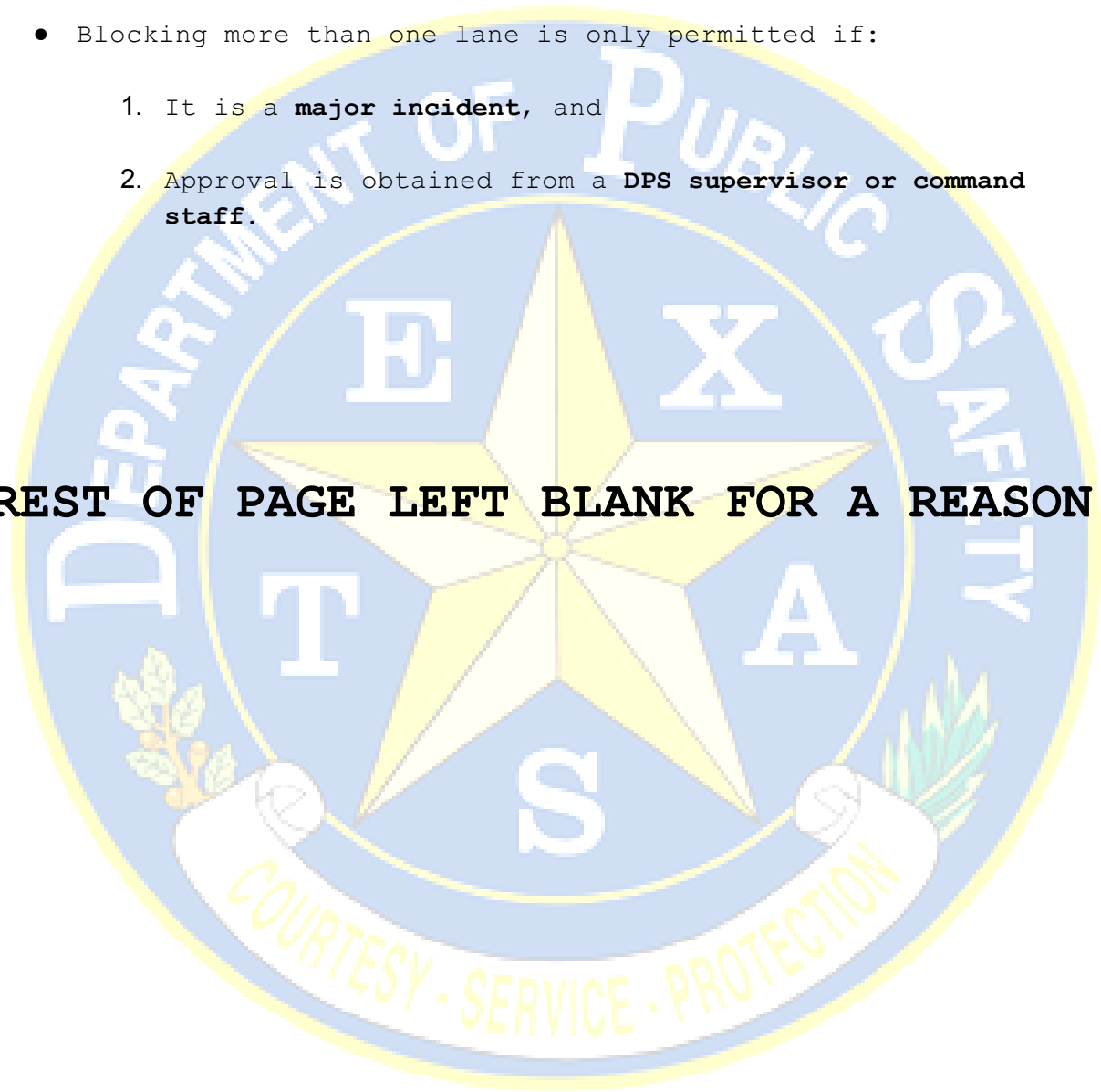
- Ensure the stop occurs in a **safe area**.
 - Never stand on the traffic side of the vehicle; remain on the safe side.
 - Activate emergency lights to **Stage 2**.
 - Deploy the traffic advisor system during the stop.
-

Lane Blocking Procedures

If an incident occurs on the highway:

- Troopers may block **one lane only** to ensure officer and public safety.
- Blocking more than one lane is only permitted if:
 1. It is a **major incident**, and
 2. Approval is obtained from a **DPS supervisor or command staff**.

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SECTION IV

Patrolling Areas Away From the Highway

This section contains all necessary information for troopers patrolling areas that do not include highways.

Patrol Options

Troopers have the same patrol options as on the highway:

1. Stationary Observation

- Troopers may remain in a fixed position to monitor traffic and activity.

2. Mobile Patrol

- Troopers may drive through their assigned area to monitor activity.

Vehicle Recommendations:

- **City Patrol:** A nimble, maneuverable vehicle is recommended for navigating urban environments.
- **Off-Road / Rural Areas:** A truck or SUV is recommended for effective off-road mobility.

Traffic Stops in the City

When making a traffic stop in urban areas:

- Ensure the stop occurs in a **safe location**.
- Use a **spotlight on the vehicle**.
- Activate **Stage 1 emergency lights**.

Traffic Stops in Off-Road Areas

When making a traffic stop in off-road or rural areas:

- Ensure the stop occurs in a **safe location**.
- Use **headlights, left/right alley lights, and spotlights on the vehicle**.
- Activate **Stage 2 emergency lights**.

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SECTION V

Traffic Stop Procedures

This section provides all necessary guidance on conducting traffic stops safely, efficiently, and with proper professional conduct.

1. Initiating a Traffic Stop

- **Location:** Ensure the stop occurs in a **safe area**, away from heavy traffic whenever possible.
- **Communication:** Notify dispatch of the traffic stop, including location, vehicle description, and reason for the stop.
- **Lights & Signals:**
 - **Highway Stops:** Activate **Stage 2 emergency lights** and traffic advisor.
 - **City Stops:** Activate **Stage 1 emergency lights** and spotlight the vehicle.
 - **Off-Road Stops:** Activate **Stage 2 emergency lights**, headlights, left/right alley lights, and spotlights as needed.

2. Positioning & Officer Safety

- Position your vehicle at an angle to create a **buffer zone** between your vehicle and the violator.
- Never stand on the traffic side of the vehicle; remain on the safe side.
- Maintain situational awareness at all times, observing occupants and surrounding activity.

3. Approach & Interaction

- Approach the vehicle **cautiously and professionally**.
- Greet the driver and provide your name, rank, and reason for the stop.
- Request driver documentation (license, registration, and proof of insurance) calmly and clearly.

4. Enforcement & Resolution

- Issue citations, warnings, or other enforcement actions as appropriate.
- Ensure all actions are conducted **lawfully and respectfully**.
- Avoid unnecessary confrontation; maintain a professional demeanor at all times.

5. Concluding the Stop

- Return all documents to the driver safely.
- Ensure the vehicle is ready to re-enter traffic safely.
- Notify dispatch when the traffic stop is concluded, including outcome and any further actions if necessary.

Traffic Stop Checklist

1. ☒ **Choose Safe Location** - Move vehicle to safe area away from traffic.
2. ☒ **Notify Dispatch** - Provide location, vehicle info, and reason for stop.
3. ☒ **Activate Lights** - Stage 1 or 2 emergency lights depending on area; deploy spotlights if required.

4. ☒ **Position Vehicle** - Angle to create buffer zone between trooper and violator.
5. ☒ **Officer Safety** - Stay on safe side; maintain situational awareness.
6. ☒ **Approach Vehicle** - Proceed cautiously and professionally.
7. ☒ **Communicate Clearly** - Identify yourself and explain reason for stop.
8. ☒ **Request Documentation** - License, registration, and proof of insurance.
9. ☒ **Enforce Law** - Issue citation, warning, or other action as appropriate.
10. ☒ **Conclude Stop** - Return documents, ensure safe re-entry, notify dispatch.

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SECTION VI

Pursuit Procedures

This section provides all necessary guidance on conducting vehicle pursuits safely, efficiently, and within policy guidelines.

1. Pursuit Policy

- Troopers must continuously **evaluate the risks and necessity** of a pursuit.
- Pursuits should be conducted **safely, with minimal risk to the public, trooper, and suspect.**
- **Speed Threshold:**
 - If the suspect's vehicle exceeds **130 MPH**, immediately **request an HSU (High-Speed Unit)** to take over the pursuit.
 - If speeds remain **under 130 MPH**, the **patrol unit remains in command** of the pursuit.

2. Initiating a Pursuit

- Ensure **dispatch is notified immediately** of the pursuit, including:
 - Location
 - Direction of travel
 - Vehicle description
 - Reason for pursuit
- Activate emergency lights and sirens.

3. Pursuit Conduct

- Maintain **safe following distance**; avoid aggressive maneuvers that could endanger others.
- Use **road awareness** to anticipate traffic, intersections, and potential hazards.
- Avoid endangering **pedestrians, civilian vehicles, or property**.
- Troopers must adhere to department policies and traffic laws to the extent possible during pursuit.

4. Handoff to HSU

- If speeds exceed 130 MPH or other criteria require, **HSU units should take over** while the initiating patrol maintains visual if possible, providing updates to dispatch.
- Patrol units will follow instructions from HSU and **support safely from a distance**.

5. Terminating a Pursuit

- Pursuit should be terminated if:
 - Risk to the public becomes too high
 - Vehicle speeds exceed safe limits without HSU support
 - Supervisors or command staff order termination
- Upon termination, notify dispatch immediately and provide:
 - Last known location
 - Direction of travel
 - Vehicle description

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6. Spike Strip Deployment

- **Authorized Personnel:** Spike strips may only be deployed by an officer **certified in Stop Stick / Spike Strip use.**
- **Location:** The spike strips should be placed **ahead of the suspect's vehicle**, in a location that is safe for the officer, public, and other traffic.
- **Safety Precautions:**
 - The deploying officer must remain in a **safe area** while the suspect passes over the spike strips.
 - Ensure all other officers are aware of the deployment to avoid accidental collisions.
- **Removal:**
 - Remove the spike strips **immediately after the suspect passes** or once the vehicle has been successfully disabled.
- **Reporting:**
 - Notify dispatch and other troopers whether the deployment was **successful or unsuccessful.**
 - Include details about the suspect's vehicle, location, and any follow-up actions needed.

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SECTION VII

PIT Procedure

This section provides guidance on performing a **Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT)** safely, effectively, and with proper professional conduct.

1. General Guidelines

- PIT maneuvers must only be performed in areas that are **safe for civilians, officers, and the public.**
- Troopers must **always prioritize safety** and avoid unnecessary risk.

2. Authorization

- **Supervisor Permission:** Troopers must request permission from a **supervisor** before performing a PIT.
- **No Supervisor Available:** If no supervisor is online or available, permission must be obtained from the **highest-ranking trooper on shift.**

3. Communication

- Once permission is granted, **notify all nearby troopers** that a PIT maneuver will be conducted.
- Clearly communicate **intentions and timing** to maintain officer safety and coordination.

4. Performing the PIT

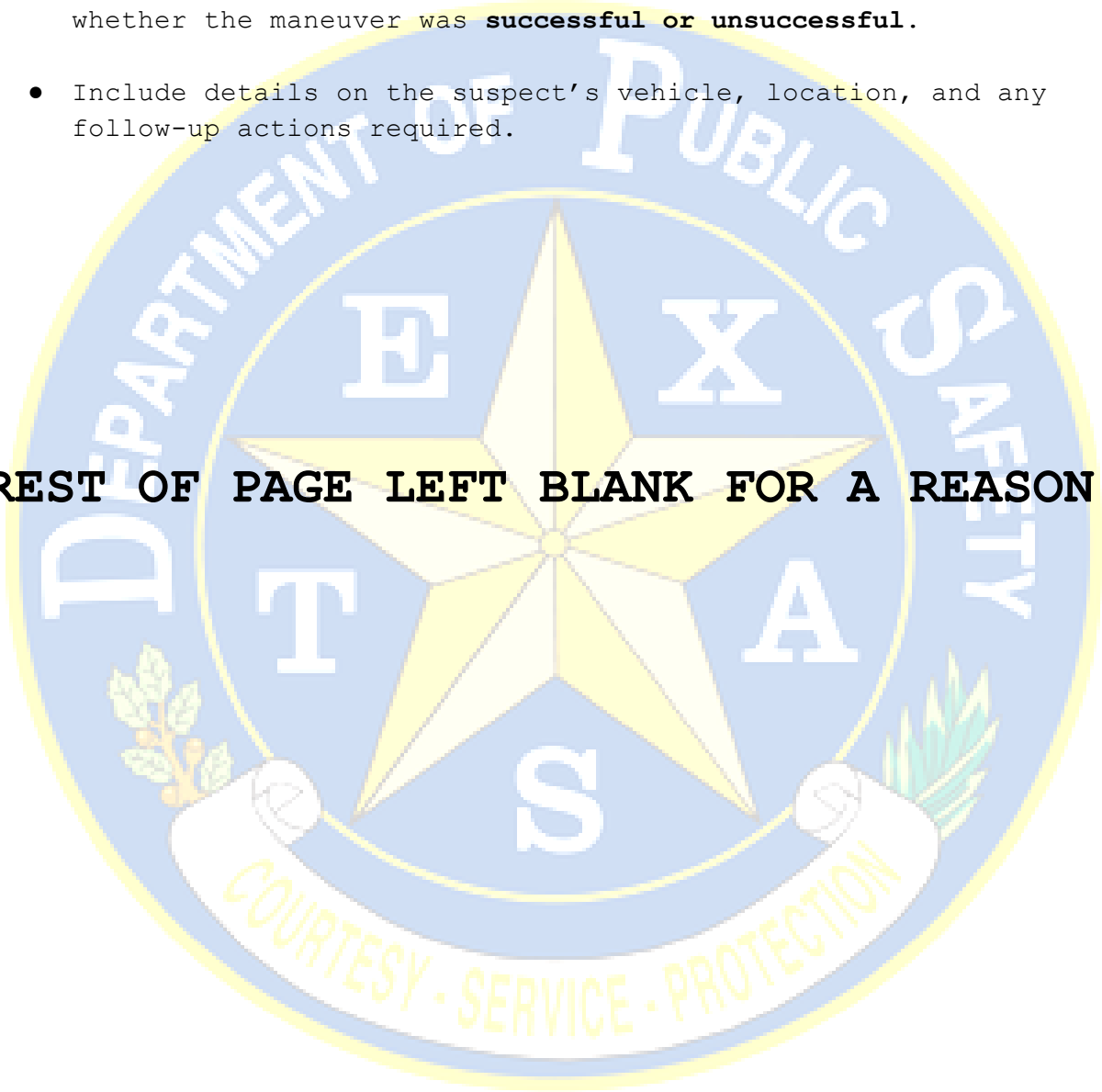
- Execute the maneuver according to department training, ensuring minimal risk to the suspect, public, and officers.

- Continuously evaluate conditions to terminate the maneuver if it becomes unsafe.

5. Post-PIT Reporting

- After completing the PIT, **report to dispatch and other troopers** whether the maneuver was **successful or unsuccessful**.
- Include details on the suspect's vehicle, location, and any follow-up actions required.

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SECTION VIII

Weaponry Procedures

This section provides all necessary guidance on the proper handling and use of weapons for troopers.

1. Standard Issue Weapons

- **Sidearm:**
 - Standard issue sidearms are the **Shield 9** or the **Glock 17**.
 - The sidearm must be **kept on your person at all times** while on duty.
- **Rifle:**
 - The only authorized rifle is the **M4A1**.
 - The rifle must be **kept in the trunk** of your vehicle.
 - If the rifle is deployed, the trooper must **radio and notify dispatch** that rifles are being deployed.
- **Other Weapons:**
 - Any other weapon may only be used if **authorized by command, high command, or division leadership**.

2. Non-Lethal Options

Troopers have the following non-lethal options available:

1. **Degree 1 Less Lethal:** Pepper Spray
2. **Degree 2 Less Lethal:** Taser

3. Degree 3 Less Lethal: Bean Bag Shotgun

- Troopers may carry **any non-lethal option regardless of unit or rank.**
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3. Lethal Force Guidelines

- When using lethal force, troopers should **aim to disable the suspect, not kill them.**
 - Troopers should attempt to **shoot the arms or legs and avoid aiming for vital organs or the head** whenever possible.
 - Always use **good judgment, training, and adherence to department policy** when using lethal force.
-

4. General Guidelines for Weapon Use

- Always prioritize **safety, professionalism, and proper judgment** when handling any weapon.
- Weapons should only be drawn or used in accordance with **department policies and legal standards.**
- Troopers must be **trained and certified** on all weapons they deploy.

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