



ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29904-5001

ASO 5500.10B
PMO

30 APR 2014

AIR STATION ORDER 5500.10B

From: Commanding Officer
To: Distribution List

Subj: POSSESSION, REGISTRATION, USE, TRANSPORTATION, PURCHASE AND TRANSFER
OF PRIVATELY-OWNED WEAPONS, AMMUNITION AND PYROTECHNICS

- Ref: (a) MARADMIN 176/14, Interim Guidance for Privately Owned Firearms
Policy Aboard Marine Corps Installations
(b) MCO 5530.14A, Physical Security Program Manual
(c) 18 U.S.C. § 930, Possession of Firearms and Dangerous Weapons in
Federal Facilities
(d) 18 U.S.C. § 922, Lautenberg Amendment
(e) MARADMIN 186/03, Policy for Implementation of the Lautenberg
Amendment
(f) MCO 5500.6H Ch 1, Arming of Law Enforcement and Security Personnel
and the Use of Force
(g) DOD 4160.21M, Defense Materiel Disposition Manual
(h) CG Policy Letter 13-13, Arming and Training of the Officer of the
Day (OOD) and Uniform Requirements for Duty Personnel
(i) MCO 5800.6A, Control/Registration of War Trophies and War Trophy
Weapons

- Encl: (1) Definitions
(2) Weapons Registration Form

1. Situation. Balancing weapons ownership, transportation and storage with population safety is paramount. In accordance with references (a) and (b), this Order gives clear directives regarding the possession, registration, use, transportation, purchase, and transfer of privately owned weapons, ammunition and pyrotechnics so that military and civilians alike can lawfully possess firearms, ammunition, and other legal weapons while ensuring the safety of all personnel and visitors aboard the Air Station and the Laurel Bay housing community.

2. Cancellation. ASO 5500.10A

3. Mission. All personnel, visitors, and other persons aboard MCAS Beaufort and Laurel Bay will practice lawful and responsible possession and handling of firearms, ammunition, and other legal weapons in order to ensure the safety of the community.

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent

(a) Purpose. Ensure the safety of the community by regulating the responsible and safe possession and handling of all weapons.

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(b) Method. Military service members and civilians desiring to possess legal weapons aboard the Air Station and Laurel Bay will do so in compliance with applicable civilian law as well as this Order.

(c) End State. Individuals desiring to possess weapons around the Air Station and Laurel Bay will do so in a manner which supports the privilege while ensuring the safety of all members of the community.

(2) Concept of Operations

(a) A system of weapons registration, in combination with the safe possession, storage, and handling of weapons will provide for the safety of all military members and civilians aboard the Air Station and Laurel Bay.

(b) In addition to the requirements set forth in this Order, all personnel will continue to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws for the purchase, registration, transportation and storage of privately owned firearms and ammunition.

b. Tasks

(1) Commanding Officers. Commanding Officers will ensure all newly assigned personnel are informed of the provisions of this Order during initial orientation, and as often thereafter as necessary to ensure compliance.

(2) Provost Marshal. Enforce the provisions of this Order in support of the Air Station physical security program.

(3) All Personnel. Ensure that all weapons aboard the installation are maintained in accordance with this Order and immediately report all violations to the chain of command or to the Provost Marshal.

c. Possession, Registration, Storage, Transportation and Use of Weapons

(1) Possession of Weapons

(a) No person shall possess, store, transport or use any weapons aboard the Air Station or Laurel Bay except when specifically authorized either by this Order or in writing by the Air Station Commander.

(b) Reference (c) makes it a crime to possess a firearm or other weapon in a federal facility, including Government leased spaces, except as otherwise provided by law. No person shall possess, store, transport or use any weapon within any work building, work section, work space or Government vehicle, except when specifically authorized by this Order, when specifically authorized in writing by the Air Station Commander, or as otherwise provided by law.

(c) Persons Authorized to Possess Legal Weapons and Ammunition

1. Military personnel, civilian employees, military retirees, and their respective dependents residing aboard the Air Station or Laurel Bay may possess and store legal weapons and ammunition which, where required, have been properly registered, in accordance with paragraph 4.c.(3) below.

2. Other civilians are not permitted to carry, possess, or store weapons aboard the Air Station or Laurel Bay unless they are issued

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military weapons for the performance of their duties or are involved in authorized recreational shooting or hunting.

(d) Lautenberg Amendment. Reference (d) makes it a felony offense for anyone convicted of a "misdemeanor crime of domestic violence" to ship, transport, possess, or receive firearms or ammunition, unless these privileges were re-instated by a judge. It also makes it a felony for anyone to sell or otherwise dispose of a firearm to any person they know or have reasonable cause to believe has such a conviction. The law applies to anyone who has a conviction for a "misdemeanor crime of domestic violence" regardless of when the conviction occurred. There is no exemption for military personnel or for military issued weapons. Major military weapons systems (aircraft, missiles, tanks, etc.) and crew served weapons and ammunition are excluded from the definition of "firearms." Reference (e) is in regard to the implementation of reference (d).

(e) Concealed Carry Permits. Reference (f) entails provisions for carrying concealed weapons aboard a military installation and/or within federal jurisdictions. State-issued concealed weapons carry permits are not valid aboard the Air Station or Laurel Bay. Except as specifically authorized by this Order or in writing by the Air Station Commander, no person shall conceal from view, on his or her person, in a vehicle, or at any other location aboard the Air Station or Laurel Bay, any weapon.

(f) Youth Handgun Safety. Federal regulations prohibit adults from selling, delivering, or transferring handguns or handgun ammunition to juveniles (defined as people less than 18 years of age). These regulations prohibit juveniles from knowingly possessing handguns or handgun ammunition. Exceptions may include situations where the handgun is needed for employment, or where the handgun is used under the personal supervision of an adult, if the juvenile has received permission of a parent or legal guardian.

(g) Illegal weapons. No person may possess an illegal weapon, as defined in enclosure (1), aboard the Air Station or Laurel Bay except when specifically authorized to do so in writing by the Air Station Commander. Illegal weapons will be confiscated and a report made to the service member's Commanding Officer. Upon completion of any related legal proceedings, illegal weapons will be disposed of in accordance with reference (g). Civilians may be subject to prosecution for possession of any illegal weapons.

(h) Pyrotechnics. The introduction, possession or use of fireworks or other pyrotechnics aboard the Air Station or Laurel Bay is prohibited, except when specifically authorized by the Air Station Commander.

(i) Personal carry of a firearm while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance is strictly forbidden.

(2) Registration Procedures

(a) Any person who resides aboard the Air Station (including any person occupying billeting, i.e. the Bachelor Enlisted Quarters (BEQ) or Laurel Bay must register their firearm(s), and other registrable weapons with the Provost Marshal's Office (PMO) upon introducing the firearm or other registrable weapon to the Air Station or Laurel Bay. Definitions of "firearms" and "other registrable weapons" are contained in enclosure (1). Registrations are conducted by PMO in the Vehicle Registration Office in Building 2077.

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(b) Any person residing off-base who brings any privately-owned firearm aboard the Air Station or Laurel Bay for the purpose of hunting or recreational fire must first register the firearm with PMO.

(c) Owners will not bring firearms or other weapons to the Vehicle Registration Office; however, an owner should be prepared to provide make, model, serial number, and caliber of the firearm or weapon, to include primary location within the residence (enclosure 2). When an owner is concerned with the legality of the firearm or other weapon, an owner is encouraged to contact PMO's Operation Division to arrange for a cursory examination of the firearm or other weapon.

(d) The owner is responsible for deregistering a firearm or other registrable weapon with PMO upon transfer or sale within three (3) working days of transfer or sale.

(e) There is no limit to the number of firearms or other registrable weapons which may be registered.

(f) New join personnel arriving from another Marine Corps Installation, whose weapons were registered at the previous duty station's PMO, must report to the Vehicle Registration Office to update their personal information and the physical storage location of the weapon.

(3) Storage of Firearms, Other Registrable Weapons and Ammunition

(a) Housing Residents

1. Servicemembers. Servicemembers residing in military or privatized family housing aboard the Air Station or Laurel Bay housing may store legal weapons in their quarters if they are registered with PMO, except as otherwise provided in paragraph 4.c.(3)(d) below. Each servicemember is responsible for proper storage and registration of all legal weapons stored within that servicemember's quarters. If the quarters will be vacant for more than one week, firearms should be stored in unit armories, bank safe deposit boxes or other safe locations.

2. Military retirees and Civilians. Military retirees and civilians residing in military or privatized family housing on Laurel Bay may store legal weapons in their quarters if they are registered with PMO, except as otherwise provided in paragraph 4.c.(3)(d) below.

3. Reservists, Coast Guard and National Guard. Members of the qualified selective reserve, inactive ready reserve, Coast Guard and National Guard residing in military or privatized family housing aboard the Air Station or Laurel Bay housing may store legal weapons in their quarters as set forth in paragraphs 4.c.(3)(a)1 above.

(b) Barracks occupants (E-5 and below). All personnel in the grade of E-5 and below residing in transient barracks/rooms and the BEQ are prohibited from possessing or storing weapons. The only authorized storage area on the Air Station for weapons belonging to those personnel is within their unit's armory. All firearms and other registrable weapons stored in the armory will be registered with PMO prior to their acceptance by the armory.

(c) Officers and SNCOs. Officers and staff noncommissioned officers residing in the Bachelor Officer Quarters (BOQ) may store firearms

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and other registrable weapons, including one user amount of ammunition, as defined in enclosure (1), in their rooms. These firearms and other registrable weapons must be registered with PMO.

(d) Ownership of firearms. Each servicemember, civilian and military retiree residing in base housing (including military or privatized housing, BEQ, or BOQ) is prohibited from storing any firearms, other registrable weapons or ammunition for persons that are not part of his or her household.

(e) Authorized storage methods. Privately owned firearms stored in base housing (to include military or privatized housing or BOQ) by servicemembers, civilians and military retirees, must be stored in a fully encased container (e.g. commercial gun safe, hard plastic case, etc.) that is capable of completely enclosing the firearms and being locked with a key or combination lock. All firearms will be fitted with a trigger lock. Ammunition must be stored separately from firearms and in a container capable of being locked with a key or combination lock.

(f) Storage in POVs. Under no circumstances will firearms, other registrable weapons, or ammunition be stored in a privately-owned vehicle aboard the Air Station or Laurel Bay.

(4) Transportation of Firearms, Other Registrable Weapons and Ammunition

(a) Whenever a firearm or other registrable weapon is transported within a vehicle aboard the Air Station or Laurel Bay, the registration receipt issued by PMO must be in the immediate possession of the registered owner.

1. Firearms or other registrable weapons may be transported in privately-owned vehicles to and from an authorized storage area on-base or to an off-base location.

2. Firearms or other registrable weapons may also be transported to and from on-base areas where firearms use is authorized, such as hunting areas or recreational shooting ranges.

(b) When transporting firearms or other registrable weapons in a vehicle, they will be unloaded and locked in the glove box or trunk of the vehicle or unloaded and locked in a portable weapons carry case.

(c) If the vehicle does not contain a locking glove box, the firearms or other registrable weapons must be unloaded and secured in the glove box with a locked trigger guard device or unloaded and locked in a portable weapons carry case.

(d) Ammunition must be transported in a separate and distinct location separate from the weapon. For example, ammunition may not be transported in the same glove compartment or in the same weapons carry case as the firearm.

(e) A firearm or other registrable weapon will not be loaded while being transported on the Air Station or Laurel Bay. In addition, magazines, clips, speed loaders or any storage device inside of a firearm or other registrable weapon will not be loaded or ready for immediate use with any ammunition.

(f) Current Marine Corps Community Services purchase policy requires that patrons purchasing firearms at one of the exchange facilities must pass a national criminal investigation, must register purchased firearms (if intended to be transported or stored aboard the Air Station or Laurel Bay), and be escorted out of the facility once the firearm has been transferred to the purchaser. In addition, patrons shall immediately transport their newly-purchased firearm to an approved storage area, either on-base or off-base. The exchanges will require patrons to state, in writing, the intended storage location of their firearm.

(5) Use of Firearms and Other Registrable Weapons. Firearms and other registrable weapons will not be discharged or used aboard the Air Station or Laurel Bay, except in designated areas. Any discharge of firearms or other registrable weapons will be reported immediately to the Provost Marshal.

(6) Legal weapons, other than firearms or other registrable weapons, will not be registered; however, they will be transported in the same manner as firearms (i.e., in a locked trunk compartment or carry case).

d. Identifying Marks or Numbers

(1) Altering or removing identifying marks or serial numbers from a firearm or other weapon is prohibited.

(2) Possession of any firearm or other weapon from which the identifying marks or numbers have been altered or removed is prohibited aboard the Air Station and Laurel Bay.

(3) Any firearm with altered or removed identifying marks or serial numbers is subject to confiscation and ultimate disposal by the U.S. Government.

e. Knives. Pocket knives with a blade of no more than three inches (3") are authorized to carry. There is no requirement to register authorized pocket knives.

f. Pepper Spray/Stun Guns. Legally purchased, commercially available pepper spray/stun guns for self-defense purposes are authorized. However, these items will be declared upon inquiry by competent law enforcement authorities.

g. Duty Status and Law Enforcement Officers

(1) Nothing in this Order shall be construed as interfering with law enforcement, security or military personnel in the performance of their official duties, in accordance with references (f) and (h).

(2) State and federal civilian law enforcement personnel are exempt from the provisions of paragraph 4.c. of this Order while in a duty status; however, such individuals shall verbally declare possession of a firearm or other weapon upon entering the Air Station or Laurel Bay.

5. Administration and Logistics

a. Administration

(1) Commanding Officers. Commanding Officers are responsible for ensuring that personnel in their commands appropriately store and register all firearms, other registrable weapons, and ammunition, by taking the following measures:

(a) Provide storage within unit armories for firearms and other registrable weapons that have been registered with PMO.

(b) Ensure that firearms, other registrable weapons, and ammunition stored in the unit's armory are secured in locked containers, separate from military weapons and ammunition, and are inventoried.

(c) Ensure daily site counts and inventory reflect the accountability and proper storage of firearms, other registrable weapons and ammunition.

(d) Ensure that any privately-owned firearms, other registrable weapons, and ammunition, stored in the armory, for which the owner cannot be determined are disposed of in accordance with guidance contained in the references.

(2) Provost Marshal

(a) PMO is responsible for the administration and conduct of the Air Station's Vehicle Registration Office, which is tasked with registering weapons aboard the installation in accordance with internal procedures.

(b) All weapons seized by PMO will be processed in accordance with internal procedures.

b. Logistics. Applicable definitions are set forth in enclosure (1).

6. Command and Signal

a. Command. The provisions of this Order are applicable to all units, military personnel and civilians assigned to, employed at, residing on, or visiting the Air Station or Laurel Bay housing.

b. Signal

(a) This Order is effective on the date signed.

(b) All paragraphs of this Order are punitive in nature. A violation of these provisions, and the laws and regulations promulgated by these provisions, is punishable in accordance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) as a violation of a lawful general order for military personnel, and is the basis for appropriate disciplinary action and criminal prosecution of civilians aboard the Air Station and Laurel Bay. A violation of this Order may also result in adverse administrative action.


P. D. BUCK

DEFINITIONS

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1. "Air Station" means: Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and all lands, buildings and improvements thereon.
2. "Ammunition" means: all shells, cartridges, bullets and similar material fired, scattered or detonated from any weapon.
3. "Explosives" means: all solid, liquid or gaseous substances (or mixtures of substances) which, in themselves, are capable by chemical reaction of producing gas at a temperature and pressure and at such a speed as to cause damage to the surroundings; and all articles which contain explosives. This definition does not include the following items: ammunition; pyrotechnics; and reasonable quantities of household articles or products which are intended to be used primarily for non-detonative purposes, such as cigarette lighters, lubricants, cleaning products, fuels for small engines and propane for cooking, when such household articles or products are possessed for their intended uses. Although this list is not all-inclusive, it provides a guide to the types of items generally considered to be explosives, as well as a guide to the types of items generally considered to be household articles or products.
4. "Firearms" means: any instrument or device capable of expelling a projectile by means of compressed air, compressed gas, or explosive force.
5. "Illegal weapons" means:
 - a. any weapon in which the possession, use or transfer, or which is prohibited by federal, state or local statute or regulation;
 - b. any firearm with altered or removed identifying marks or serial numbers;
 - c. semiautomatic rifles and shotguns with barrels less than eighteen (18) inches in length; weapons made from shotguns or rifles, if the overall length is less than 26 inches (such as a "sawed-off shotgun"); machine guns or automatic weapons, firearms with bores over one-half (1/2) of an inch; sound suppressors or silencers for any firearm; automatic and assault pistols; armor-piercing ammunition (Federal regulations expand the definition of armor-piercing ammunition to include a full jacketed projectile larger than .22 caliber, designed and intended for use in a handgun, and whose jacket has a weight of more than 25% of the total weight of the projectile); blackjacks; billy clubs; explosives; metal knuckles; nunchucks; throwing stars; gravity knives; stun-guns; and any fully automatic firearms; and
 - d. any other device that is primarily designed to inflict death or grievous bodily injury upon humans.
 - e. Although this list is not all-inclusive, it provides a guide to the type of items generally considered as being designed to inflict death or grievous personal injury.
6. "Laurel Bay" means: the Laurel Bay housing community and all lands, buildings and improvements thereon.
7. "Legal weapons" means: war trophies; and firearms or weapons produced by a licensed manufacturer in the United States or an exporter of weapons to the United States. Such firearms or weapons (other than war trophies) must be

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designed for hunting, fishing or authorized recreation, such as rifles, pistols, shotguns, spear guns, hunting knives, bows and arrows, and pneumatic BB rifles or pistols. Although this list is not all-inclusive, it provides a guide to the type of weapons generally accepted as legitimate for sport and recreation.

8. "Other registrable weapons" means: underwater spear guns; air pistols and rifles; compressed gas pistols and rifles that fire pellets, BBs, or darts; and crossbows and bolts.

9. "Pyrotechnics" means: combustible or explosive devices which produce a display of light, smoke, or noise primarily for entertainment and amusement, including such devices commonly known as "fireworks."

10. "User amount of ammunition" means: up to eleven (11) pounds, by total weight, of ammunition. This weight limit, although variable by caliber, equates to approximately four (4) one-hundred round (100-round) boxes of 9mm ball ammunition or five (5) fifty-round (50-round) boxes of .45 ACP ammunition. Therefore, a user amount of ammunition is limited to a cumulative combined weight not exceeding 11 pounds, regardless of caliber or grain.

11. "War Trophies" include: all items of enemy public or private property utilized as war materiel (e.g., arms, military accoutrements) acquired in a combat area or zone within a prescribed period of time, and authorized by the commander to be retained under the provisions of reference (i).

12. "Weapons" means: ammunition; firearms; illegal weapons; legal weapons; other registrable weapons; pyrotechnics; war trophies; and any other object, instrument, or device designed to inflict death or grievous bodily harm. Included are rifles, blackjacks, slingshots, billy clubs, BB guns, metal knuckles, stars, nunchucks, spring-loaded knives, gravity knives, knives with a blade exceeding 3 inches, butterfly knives, bows and arrows, crossbows, and spear guns (this list is not all-inclusive). While certain weapons may be possessed legally, others are illegal and will be confiscated as contraband.