

# Memorandum

**TO: ALL DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL**

**FROM:** Anthony Mata  
Chief of Police

**SUBJECT: MINIATURIZED RED DOT SIGHT  
OPTICS FOR DUTY PISTOLS**

**DATE:** July 26, 2021

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APPROVED

Memo# 2021-022

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## **BACKGROUND**

The Department has been using "red dot optics" for many years. These sights have been successfully used on MERGE carbines, patrol 40mm multi-launchers and Patrol Specialist/Rifle Operator carbines (both Department and personally owned). For pistols, this type of optic is known as a miniaturized red dot sight (MRDS). MRDS optics have not previously been authorized for widespread use on duty pistols at the Department.

MRDS optics are authorized for use by the MERGE Unit for daily carry. As expected, MERGE personnel reported increased accuracy and target acquisition when using MRDS optics.

## **ANALYSIS**

MRDS optics have many advantages over traditional "iron sights." The MRDS optics allow quicker visual identification of the target, ability to focus more on the threat (which may be constantly changing) and provide opportunity to address the threat from less traditional positions for greater cover/concealment. All these advantages lead to increased officer safety.

The disadvantage of MRDS optics is that they are electronic devices which are generally powered by batteries. They have proven to be very reliable, but they can fail if battery power is lost or if the electronics are damaged. As a remedy, the Department has required that all firearm-mounted red dot optics be backed up by iron sights. On pistols, mounting MRDS optics will interfere with traditional iron sights. The installation of taller or "suppressor height" iron sights will be required.

A secondary issue of MRDS optics mounted on pistols is that the pistol will not fit in currently issued holsters. A holster manufactured to fit a pistol with MRDS optics installed shall be used.

Pistols currently issued by the Department are not able to be equipped with MRDS optics. Department members using a Department-issued pistol shall not modify the firearm to mount MRDS optics. To carry an MRDS-equipped pistol, Department members must purchase a new approved firearm or modify an existing approved, personally owned firearm.

**ALL DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL**

**SUBJECT: MINIATURIZED RED DOT SIGHT OPTICS FOR DUTY PISTOLS**

July 26, 2021

Page 2

Department members who wish to use MRDS optics on personally owned firearms must meet the following requirements:

- Optics must be from a quality manufacturer such as Holosun, Leupold, Trijicon, Vortex or other manufacturer approved by the Range.
- The optic must be affixed to the pistol with a quality mount that is manufactured specifically for the make/model of optic to be used.
- The pistol must have iron sights affixed to the weapon. These iron sights must be able to acquire a target with the optic in place.
- The pistol must be carried in a safe manner in an approved holster.
- Department members must attend a Range Unit approved MRDS transition course.
- No MRDS optic shall be used on a pistol unless the Range Unit has approved the optic and the Department member has successfully qualified with the optic on that pistol.

**ORDER**

Effective immediately, all sworn personnel wishing to carry an authorized, personally owned pistol with MRDS optics must meet the above listed requirements.



Anthony Mata  
Chief of Police

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