



RICHMOND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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COMPREHENSIVE GUN LOG (2021)

I. Purpose

One of the top priorities of the Richmond County Sheriff's Office is to reduce gun violence. A comprehensive firearm log will be implemented and maintained by the RCSO for the purposes of providing intelligence on gun ownership in Richmond County that can later be used for leads in firearm related crimes and studied for demographical information as it pertains to firearm ownership in Richmond County for future gun violence reduction plans.

At status quo it is the practice of this agency to complete a Firearms Seizure Log when a firearm is collected by a deputy. This log reflects the following information pertaining to the collection of the weapon: Case number, type case, deputy collecting the weapon, make/model/ser # of the weapon recovered, whether the firearm was stolen, found or a crime gun and whether or not CID responded. The newly comprehensive firearm log will not only reflect guns that have been collected by this agency, but will also reflect information on guns that deputies come into contact with during the course of their duties whether the gun was seized or not. The information documented on the comprehensive firearm log can later be used for investigative leads as well as providing intelligence about firearm ownership in Richmond County.

III. Definitions

A. Firearm Log – A Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that is maintained and constantly updated by both CID and Field Operations personnel reflecting the following information as gathered from a deputy's contact with a firearm during the course of his/her duties: Case #, date, incident type, deputy name, color/make/model/ser # of firearm, amount of ammo, brand of ammo, whether the firearm was seized, person's name/race/sex/DOB having ownership of the firearm, the location/address of the gun encounter, where the firearm was found (in a car (concealed or not), on a person (concealed or not), in a house, etc.)

B. Firearm – Term referring to any of the below guns:

1. Handgun - "Handgun" means a firearm of any description, loaded or unloaded, from which any shot, bullet, or other missile can be discharged by an action of an explosive where the length of the barrel, not including any revolving, detachable, or magazine breech, does not exceed 12 inches; provided, however, that the term "handgun" shall not include a gun which discharges a single shot of .46 centimeters or less in diameter.
2. Long gun - "Long gun" means a firearm with a barrel length of at least 18 inches and overall length of at least 26 inches designed or made and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or made to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed:
 - (A) Shotgun shell to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger or from which any shot, bullet, or other missile can be discharged; or
 - (B) Metallic cartridge to fire only a single projectile through a rifle bore for each single pull of the trigger;provided, however, that the term "long gun" shall not include a gun which discharges a single shot of .46 centimeters or less in diameter.

IV. Procedure

It will be the practice of the RCSO for deputies to collect information in the field for the firearm log any time contact is made with a firearm or with a person carrying a firearm that is the subject of any type of criminal investigation. Deputies should not stop citizens or try to acquire information on their firearms if they are not directly related to a criminal investigation or suspected of a possible crime. Information for the firearm log can be obtained from any persons during a valid investigative stop whether the gun is ultimately seized or not or whether or not the person is ultimately charged with a crime.

A. Deputies response

If a firearm is located by a deputy during a legal search or in plain view during any criminal investigation or call, during an investigative stop, or in any instance where the seizure of the firearm is justified, the deputy should notate the following information for the firearm in his field notes:

1. Case #
2. Date
3. Incident type
4. Deputy name
5. color/make/model/ser # of firearm
6. amount and brand of ammo
7. whether the firearm was seized or not
8. person's name/race/sex/DOB having ownership of the firearm
9. the location/address of the gun encounter

10. where the firearm was found (in a car (concealed or not), on a person (concealed or not), in a house, etc.)

Note: This information can be obtained even if the encounter does not result in arrest or seizure of the firearm. The gathering of this information should be done quickly and should not take any longer than the amount of time needed to run a stolen/wanted check on the firearm.

At the earliest opportunity and before shift change, the deputy should relay the information obtained about the firearm encounter to the Zone Commander for him/her to add to the Firearm Log spreadsheet maintained in a file on the N drive. At the end of every month, each zone commander will forward their gun logs for the month from their respective zones to Lt. Steve Fanning for compilation into an all-inclusive (containing merged data from all zones) zone log also maintained on the N Drive.

B. Interpretation / Significance of the firearm log data

1. Obtaining information on firearms in the field places the handler of such weapon on notice in many cases that the RCSO has the information about the handgun on file and may deter the handler from engaging in crimes with the firearm at a later time.
2. The ammunition brand reflected in the firearm log can be cross referenced by CID/CSU to any recent gun crimes in the area in which cartridges or cartridge casings are recovered for the purposes of developing a lead as to who may be logged as having that brand ammo proximate to the time of the gun crime.
3. The location of firearm contacts can be reviewed by CID for determination of who with a firearm was investigated in an area near the gun crime proximate to the time of the gun crime.
4. Any guns found at a crime scene can be checked through the firearm log in an attempt to determine the prior possessor of the gun to establish leads.
5. The location data of the firearms contained in the log can provide intelligence as to current trends of firearm possession.
6. Demographical information (age, race, sex) on the firearm log can be analyzed for determining current trends of gun possession.