



Oregon

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To: Multnomah County Board of Commissioners

Weapons Donated to Oregon State Police Firearms Reference Collection

The Portland Metro Forensic Laboratory in Clackamas is one of the laboratories in the Oregon State Police Forensic Services Division which maintains a firearms reference collection for the purposes of training, education, assistance with casework, and forensic research. These firearms are used for training police officers, detectives, attorneys, and forensic services staff statewide. This training may include identification, function, design, safety, test-firing, bullet and cartridge case comparisons, disassembly/assembly, and serial number location and restoration.

The firearms from the Oregon State Police Firearms Reference Collection are used for training at the Oregon Regional Forensic Academy. These firearms are used to create mock crime scenes for the purpose of proper documentation and photography of firearms evidence at a scene. These firearms are also used to teach officers and other first responders to recognize different types and features of firearms for the purpose of properly unloading and rendering the firearm safe for transport to the agency's property room or to the forensic lab for analysis.

Within the Oregon State Police Forensic Services Division new analysts are trained to do basic firearms examination. This training involves the examination of all types of firearms ranging from semiautomatic pistols, revolvers, shotguns, and machine guns. These examinations can involve using reference firearms as a source for broken or missing parts for inoperable evidence firearms that need to be test fired for microscopic bullet or cartridge case comparison. Firearms are often altered or converted to shoot fully automatic. Reference firearms are used to identify internal parts that have been altered or replaced to convert a semiautomatic firearm to a machine gun. In cases where evidence firearms have had serial numbers or other identifying marks obliterated, the reference firearms are used to determine the serial number location, structure, and fonts when only partial numbers are restored.

Firearms from the OSP Reference Collection have been used to assist various investigating police agencies and district attorneys with firearms or pictures of firearms to be shown to witnesses for identification purposes. These firearms have been used in federal court to demonstrate to the jury how firearms function and in local district court to demonstrate the disassembly and reassembly of certain models.

Firearms in the OSP Reference Collection are maintained in a locked room within the alarm monitored Firearms Lab area at the OSP Lab in Clackamas. The firearms reference collection is only accessible to the firearms examiners in the unit and the Forensic Laboratory supervisors.

Firearms are released to the Oregon State Police Forensic Services Division per ORS 166.279. The firearms obtained for the reference collection are done so for the purpose of training and education of law enforcement personnel, assistance with criminal related casework, and research to further enhance the Forensic Firearms Discipline. These firearms will be maintained within the Oregon State Police Forensic Services Division. If a firearm is deemed no longer useful to the Forensic Services Division it will be destroyed. If there are further questions regarding firearm donation, please contact a Firearms Representative of the Oregon State Police Clackamas Forensic Laboratory at (971) 673-8230.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Barnes', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Thomas Barnes, Laboratory Director
Oregon State Police, Portland Metro Forensic Laboratory