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Office of the City Auditor

Audit Report

**AUDIT OF THE
DESTRUCTION OF RESTRICTED WEAPONS BY THE
DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

(Report No. A07-012)

June 22, 2007

City Auditor

Craig D. Kinton

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Executive Summary

This report presents the results of the examination of the destruction of 2,000 restricted weapons maintained by the Dallas Police Department (DPD). Our examination was limited to those weapons approved by the 194th District Court's Judgment in Rem (JIR).

We verified the weapons destruction was properly authorized, and that weapons designated for destruction were accounted for, adequately safeguarded pending destruction, and were properly destroyed. Our examination also showed that departmental procedures were not followed to ensure that all weapons identified for destruction were initially included in the correct inventory boxes.

Recommendation Summary

Recommendation 1:

We recommend the DPD Chief of Police determine the reasons for not following departmental procedures and take corrective actions in order to prevent future occurrences of this nature.

Management's Response Summary

The Chief of Police agrees with the recommendation and has taken actions to timely address the issues identified in this report. The complete response is included as Appendix III to this report.

Audit Results

I. Weapons were properly destroyed, but DPD personnel did not follow procedures to ensure that two weapons authorized for disposal were initially included in the correct inventory boxes.

Our examination showed the destruction of 2,000 restricted weapons was properly authorized, the weapons were accounted for, adequately safeguarded pending destruction, and were properly destroyed. The weapons destruction was authorized by the 194th District Court's Judgment in Rem (JIR) on January 11, 2007.

Weapons Not In Correct Inventory Box. During our inventory verification tests, we identified two instances in which two different boxes each had one weapon missing, for a total of two missing handguns.

- On January 23, 2007, during our verification of rifles, shotguns, and handguns, we discovered one box was missing one weapon. The weapon was subsequently found and placed in the applicable box to be destroyed.
- On January 25, 2007, during our verification of rifles, shotguns, and handguns, we again discovered one box was missing one weapon. The weapon was subsequently found and placed in the applicable box to be destroyed.

We subsequently completed our inventory tests and found no additional missing or misplaced weapons. DPD Property Room procedures require weapons that are authorized and ready for disposal to be placed in a box and/or barrel. Two members of the Property Unit Weapon Team (PUWT) are to check each weapon in each box against the print out of weapons to be destroyed. DPD Property Room prepares a memo requesting the Pistol Range to send someone to verify the weapons designated for destruction. A secondary verification is conducted with one member of the PUWT and the assigned personnel from the Pistol Range.

Without adherence to verification procedures, a court order may be violated and weapons ordered for destruction could be removed from the DPD Property Room and not destroyed. However, records related to these removed weapons would show them as destroyed.

Recommendation 1:

We recommend the DPD Chief of Police determine the reasons for not following departmental procedures and take corrective actions in order to prevent future occurrences of this nature.

Management's Response

Agree. The Property Unit will continue to adhere to DPD Property Room procedures regarding primary and secondary verification of weapons scheduled for destruction. We will immediately implement our policy to lock weapons scheduled for destruction in the two small closets inside the gun vault and only allow the supervisor or senior storekeeper to access them after completing the verifications.

Appendix I

Background, Objectives, Scope and Methodology

Background

The Dallas Police Department (DPD) has certain weapons come into custody in the course of its activities for which no one has requested the return of the weapon. These weapons have either been turned into the Police Department as found property or seized and retained as evidence in criminal cases and convictions were obtained. In each case, more than sixty days have elapsed since the convicted person's release from jail or the date of judgment.

The Dallas City Code Section 2-37.7 (b) states that witnesses that observe the destruction of restricted weapons shall make a report under oath to the city council, listing the make, model, type, and serial number of the weapons destroyed, and stating the time, date, place, and manner of destruction.

The make, model, type, and serial number of the 2,000 restricted weapons destroyed are listed on a 160 page document which is available for review in the City Auditor's Office.

Objectives, Scope and Methodology

The audit objectives were to ensure that weapons listed for destruction were properly authorized, accounted for, adequately safeguarded, and properly destroyed. Our audit scope was the 2,000 restricted weapons listed in the 194th District Court's Judgment in Rem (JIR) dated January 11, 2007.

To achieve our objectives, we physically counted all 2,000 weapons. We also randomly selected 74 weapons and judgmentally selected 32 weapons to ensure the weapons were in the correct inventory box and were properly included in the Property Room Inventory Management System. Our tests included comparing the selected sample of weapons to the physical evidence stored in the police property room. The weapons were listed in numerical order on the inventory sheets.

The weapons to be destroyed were stored in 17 barrels and 63 boxes in the same room. Upon completion of our verification, the room was marked, sealed, and locked by the City Auditor's Office. On the day of the weapon destruction, we observed the loading of the weapons from the secured area in the property room to the DPD enclosed truck for transport to the destruction site. We also accompanied the transport of the weapons to the destruction site, observed the weapons being removed from the transport truck, and actually destruction.

Appendix II

Major Contributors to This Report

Jimmy Martin, Project Manager
R. Kent Henderson, Project Manager
Andrew Knight, Auditor
Theresa Hampden, Quality Control Manager

Appendix III

Management's Response to the Draft Report

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS


DATE: May 14, 2007
TO: Craig Kinton
City Auditor
SUBJECT: Weapons Destruction

This memorandum is in response to the findings by the City Auditors Office regarding a weapons destruction that was conducted in February 2007. Two guns that were scheduled for destruction had been removed from the designated destruction box and incorrectly placed by personnel in nearby boxes after the verification process. This may have been caused by the stacking of boxes in the open area of the vault for space conservation purposes and convenient access for auditors. In the future, Lieutenant Eric Webb will ensure that weapons scheduled for destruction will be locked in the two small closets inside the gun vault and only the supervisor or senior storekeeper will have access to them after the verifications.

Property Unit Standard Operating Procedure 740.1E.2. states, "A supervisor and another person from either the Property Unit or Firearms Training Center personnel will verify the guns against the list." The Property Unit encourages participation by Firearms Training Center personnel because it allows them to salvage parts as they verify serial numbers. However, Firearms Training Center representation does not always occur due to staffing, weapons qualification periods and other scheduling conflicts.

In summary, the Property Unit will continue to adhere to DPD Property Room procedures regarding primary and secondary verification of weapons scheduled for destruction. Lieutenant Webb will immediately implement the policy of locking up verified boxes of weapons to prevent mishandling/misplacement of weapons by personnel.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Lieutenant Webb at 214-670-8326.


David M. Kunkle
Chief of Police

Cc: Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager

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