



Smith & Wesson Wins Law Enforcement Contract for M&P45 Pistols

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Hartford, Connecticut Police Convert to M&P45

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Aug. 1 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ --- Smith & Wesson Holding Corporation (Nasdaq: SWHC), parent company of Smith & Wesson Corp., the legendary 155-year old company in the global business of safety, security, protection and sport, announced today that it has received an order for the company's M&P45 pistol from the Hartford, Connecticut Police Department (PD). The order calls for a total of 500 M&P45 pistols chambered in .45 ACP. An M&P45 will be issued to each officer in the department to replace early-model Smith & Wesson pistols that previously served as Hartford PD's primary duty firearm.

Officials at the Hartford PD indicated that they selected the M&P45 because of its unique features including enhanced ergonomics, ambidextrous controls and consistent reliability. Daryl K. Roberts, Chief of the Hartford PD, said, "In our selection process we tested a number of firearms from various manufacturers. The M&P45 provided us with the best combination of features that are important to our officers in the line of duty. Among the most notable were the external thumb safety and the magazine disconnect safety. These options, combined with the pistol's shootability, interchangeable grip sizes, accuracy, and standard design features, made our final selection easy."

While among the first agencies to place an order for the M&P45, Hartford Police Department joins a growing list of police agencies that have selected firearms from the M&P Series for duty use. Recent additions include the Iowa State Patrol; Harris County Sheriff's Office in Texas; Charles County Police Department in Maryland; New Castle Police Department in Delaware; Berkeley Police Department in California; Kenner Police Department in Louisiana; Rocky Mount Police Department in North Carolina; Brookline Police Department in Massachusetts; Hampden County Sheriff's Office in Massachusetts; and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in Wisconsin.

"We are pleased to add the Hartford PD to our growing list of law enforcement agencies that have purchased the M&P Series of polymer pistols for their duty firearms," said Leland Nichols, President and Chief Operating Officer of Smith & Wesson Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Smith & Wesson Holding Corporation. "We commenced shipping the newest model, the .45 caliber M&P45 just two months ago, and with its addition to the M&P Series we now provide a broad portfolio of high-performance, polymer pistols to military organizations, law enforcement agencies, sports shooters and consumers desiring personal protection. Today, the M&P Series is used or approved for carry in a total of 223 law enforcement agencies, which represent more than 60,000 officers across the United States. We are honored to be supporting these men and women in the line of duty."

The M&P45 is manufactured with a traditional black or dark earth brown frame and is available with or without a frame-mounted ambidextrous thumb safety. With an empty weight of 29.6 ounces, the polymer pistol features a 4.5-inch barrel with an overall length of 8.05 inches. Providing one of the smallest grip sizes available on any .45 ACP pistol, the M&P45 comes standard with three interchangeable grips, allowing the user to customize the pistol to their preferred hand size. The M&P45 utilizes a steel dovetail mount front sight and a steel Novak(R) Lo-Mount carry rear sight. Tritium sights are available for low light conditions and a universal Picatinny-style equipment rail allows for tactical lights and lasers. The new frame-mounted ambidextrous thumb safety acts as a passive safety device allowing the slide to be pulled toward the rear, clearing the firearm without disengaging the safety. Another feature available on the M&P45 is the specially designed lanyard attachment.

About Smith & Wesson

Smith & Wesson Holding Corporation, a global leader in safety, security, protection and sport, is parent company to Smith & Wesson Corp., one of the world's largest manufacturers of quality firearms and firearm safety/security products and parent company to Thompson/Center Arms, Inc., a premier designer and manufacturer of premium hunting rifles, black powder rifles, interchangeable firearms systems and accessories under the Thompson/Center brand. Smith & Wesson licenses shooter protection, knives, apparel, and other accessory lines. Smith & Wesson is based in Springfield, Massachusetts with manufacturing facilities in Springfield, Houlton, Maine, and Rochester, New Hampshire. The Smith & Wesson Academy is America's longest running firearms training facility for law enforcement, military and security professionals. For more information on Smith & Wesson, call (800) 331-0852 or log on to <http://www.smith-wesson.com>. For more information on Thompson/Center Arms, log on to <http://www.tcarms.com>.

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