

Patrol Rifle Operator Program

432.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The members of the Patrol Rifle Operator Program are a cadre of trained personnel with the ability to effectively place accurate rifle fire from close quarters to distances beyond the effective range of pistols and shotguns. The Patrol Rifle Operator Program has been designed with the intent to enhance police officer and public safety. Patrol Rifles may be employed in any situation where police firearms use is justified, taking into account the enhanced range and penetration capabilities of the rifle.

432.2 PATROL RIFLE

The Department-issued patrol rifle is a semi-automatic, AR15-style rifle, chambered for 5.56 mm ammunition. Department Rifles individually assigned to officers are the Colt AR-15 A2/A3/A4 variants as well as the Sig Sauer M400. Department Pool Rifles (rifles assigned to a specific direct report location for shared use) are the Sig Sauer M400. Patrol rifles, when carried in police vehicles, it must be secured in locking gun racks or weapons cases stored in vehicle trunks. The patrol rifle shall be carried in the "cruiser ready" configuration (~~18-or-28- round fully loaded~~ magazine inserted in the rifle, ~~hammer forward on~~ an empty chamber, and safety "~~off on~~").

432.3 SPECIFICATIONS

- Semi-automatic: AR-15 type rifle
- Caliber: .223 and/or 5.56 mm
- Chamber: 5.56 NATO
- Barrel Length: ~~16"~~ Various
- Barrel twist rate: 1:7" to 1:9" ~~_ Carry handle: Fixed or detachable (flat top receiver)~~
- Sights: Metal sights adjustable for elevation and windage (minimum)
- Stocks: Fixed or collapsible
- Slings: Required. Two- or two-point sling from a quality manufacturer (determined by the Rangemaster Range Master or designee)
- Magazines: Minimum of 20 round box magazines (minimum two magazines).
- Approved personal Rifle Manufacturers to include, but are not limited to: Armalite, Bushmaster, Colt, JP Enterprises, Lewis Machine and Tool, LWRC, Noveske, Rock River Arms, Sig Sauer and Smith & Wesson (other approved manufacturers will be determined by the Rangemaster Range Master). "Kit guns" or other personally assembled rifles are not authorized (however, department AR-15 armorers may be required to assemble rifles).
- Authorized Accessories:
 - Optics (required) from a quality manufacturer:

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- Approved manufacturers include, but are not limited to Aimpoint, EOTech 500 series or newer, Trijicon ACOG series or Reflex series, Sig Sauer Romeo Series. Other manufacturers may be authorized at the discretion of the Rangemaster Range Master or his/her designee. If an optic is attached to the rifle, a backup sighting system is required
- Magnifiers for optics
- Rail-interface systems
- Vertical foregrips/hand stops
- Lights (required) from a quality manufacturer
 - Approved manufacturers ~~to~~ include, but are not limited to Surefire, Streamlight, and Modlite Systems. Other manufacturers may be authorized by the Rangemaster Range Master or his/her designee.

Personnel may add approved accessories (at their own expense) to individually issued departmental patrol rifles. However, a change of optics and/or sights require passing a departmental qualification course prior to carrying the weapon on duty. The patrol rifle must be returned to its original configuration prior to turn in.

Written approval from the Rangemaster Range Master is required for any exceptions to the aforementioned specifications and authorized accessories. A copy of written approval will be kept in the employees personnel file.

A personally-owned rifle used in an officer-involved shooting, may be retained as evidence without compensation or issuance of a replacement to the officer-owner.

432.3.1 WEAPON-MOUNTED LIGHTS

Personnel ~~may~~ shall utilize weapons-mounted lights on their patrol rifles. Weapon-mounted lights are intended to be used for searching, threat assessment, and target acquisition of potentially dangerous persons. Weapon-mounted lights shall not be used as ordinary flashlights for routine lighting purposes. ~~Authorized manufacturers include Pelican, Pentagon Lights, Surefire, and Streamlight -~~

Weapon-mounted lights are subject to the following requirements:

- (a) Personnel must demonstrate proficiency with the weapon-mounted light prior to carrying it in an on-duty capacity.
- (b) The weapon shall be carried with the light affixed to it.
- (c) Personnel equipped with a weapon-mounted light shall also have a handheld light readily available to them at all times while on-duty.

432.3.2 AMMUNITION

Patrol Rifle Operators shall carry only department-authorized ammunition while on duty. Patrol Rifle Operators shall ~~annually be issued duty ammunition- rifle~~ be issued duty rifle ammunition

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~~anually~~ during ~~the semi-annual~~ patrol rifle ~~update training~~ and qualification training session. Replacements for unserviceable or depleted ammunition issued by the Department shall be dispensed by the ~~Rangemaster~~ Range Master when needed in accordance with established policy.

The only authorized ammunition for the AR15 platform is Federal Premium Hi-Shok SP 64 grain, ~~and~~ Federal Premium Bonded SP 62 grain, ~~and~~ Black Hills Barnes TSX 62 grain.

Required Ammunition (Quantity):

- Patrol Rifle Operators shall carry a minimum of two (2) rifle magazines of department-issued duty ammunition. Additional magazines may be carried in a magazine pouch mounted on the stock, coupled to the magazine in the rifle, and/or carried in a pouch/holder separate from the rifle.

432.4 RIFLE MAINTENANCE

Patrol Rifle Operators are authorized to carry a department-issued patrol rifle, or to carry a personally-owned patrol rifle. Personnel must successfully complete a departmental training course or equivalent (with approval of the Range Master), and departmental qualification prior to carrying or using any patrol rifle on duty. The purchase and all expenses related to a personally-owned patrol rifle will be the responsibility of the owner. Duty and practice ammunition for approved training will be provided by the department. Officers who purchase patrol rifles must comply with bureau 12280(g)(2) PC, which requires sworn peace officers to register the weapon with the Department of Justice not later than 90 days after purchase. Decertification of Operations Rifle Operators

~~Patrol rifle operators may be decertified~~ Personnel will be prohibited from carrying/ utilizing a patrol rifle for any of the following reasons:

- (a) Failure to qualify
- (b) Failure to successfully complete required training.
- (c) Failure to attend ~~training qualification sessions~~ sessions .
- (d) Willful and deliberate mistreatment, neglect, or improper use of the patrol rifle.
- (e) Exhibiting a pattern of unsafe tactics during actual rifle deployments.

~~Patrol Rifle Operators may voluntarily resign from the program by submitting a written request to the :~~

~~Active Patrol Rifle Operators~~ Personnel with assigned department rifles may be required to turn-in their assigned ~~Departmental~~ rifles for any of the following reasons:

- Upon promotion in rank ~~Assignment to a non-patrol special assignment~~
- Qualification with a personally-owned rifle
- Assignment to a special assignment ~~the SWAT Team~~

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- For the needs of the Department

432.5 TRAINING

Personnel shall not carry or utilize patrol rifles unless they have successfully completed a Departmental patrol rifle operator course or equivalent training (requires [Rangemaster](#) [Range Master](#) approval), in addition to successfully completing the Departmental patrol rifle qualification course.

The Departmental patrol rifle operator course shall consist of a minimum of 16 hours.

Personnel shall thereafter be required to successfully complete semi-annual patrol rifle update and qualification training conducted by the Range Staff.

432.5.1 QUALIFICATION

Patrol Rifle Operators are required to successfully complete: (1) Day Light and (1) Low Light patrol rifle qualification course per year.

432.6 DEPLOYMENT OF THE PATROL RIFLE

Officers may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstance where the officer can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the patrol rifle may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Situations where the officer reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.
- (b) When an officer is faced with a situation that may require the delivery of accurate and effective fire at long range.
- (c) Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.
- (d) When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to deliver fire on a barricaded suspect or a suspect with a hostage.
- (e) When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.
- (f) When authorized or requested by a supervisor.
- (g) When needed to euthanize an animal.

432.6.1 PATROL RIFLE DEPLOYMENT REPORTING

Whenever an employee deploys a patrol rifle during the performance of his/her duty in the presence of bystanders or to defend, detain, or to take any person into custody, an account of the incident shall be made in a police report. The employee should include in the narrative of the report how the weapon was used in the incident, as well as justification for such action. The documentation of how the patrol rifle was used should include information on how the weapon was presented. Examples of such documentation include, but are not limited to; the rifle was held at a low-ready position or pointed directly at a person.

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432.7 DISCHARGE OF THE PATROL RIFLE

The discharge of the patrol rifle shall be governed by the Department's Deadly Force Policy, Policy Manual § 300, and the Departments' Firearms Policy, Policy Manual § 312.

432.8 PATROL READY

Primary responsibility for maintenance of patrol rifles shall fall on the individual patrol rifle operator. No modification shall be made to any patrol rifle without prior written authorization from the ~~Rangemaster~~ Range Master or designee.

Any patrol rifle that is found to be malfunctioning or needing service shall not be carried and shall be promptly presented to an armorer-trained member of the range staff for inspection. Any weapon determined to be in need of service or repair during the inspection will be immediately removed from service. If a replacement rifle is available, it may be issued to the individual until the duty weapon is again rendered serviceable. ~~However, if~~ if the replacement rifle is issued to an individual, it cannot be carried on duty until after the ~~patrol rifle operator~~ individual qualifies with it.

432.9 RIFLE STORAGE

Patrol rifles shall be ~~stored in the trunk vault or~~ removed from vehicles whenever:

- The vehicle will not be driven on the on-coming shift;
- The on-coming employee is not a patrol rifle ~~or SWAT~~ operator.

When not in use, patrol rifles will be stored in a gun safe or locked locker in the following condition:

- (a) Empty chamber ~~Bolt forward with the hammer down~~
- (b) The safety selector in "~~off~~ on" position
- (c) No magazine in the weapon
- (d) Optics ~~(if equipped)~~ turned off (if applicable)