



# *San Diego Community College District Police Department Policy and Procedures*

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1.20 PATROL RIFLE

EFF. 10/01/19

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## **I. PURPOSE**

This Department procedure establishes guidelines on the use of the patrol rifle.

## **II. SCOPE**

This procedure applies to all members of the Department.

## **III. BACKGROUND**

The patrol rifle provides officers the ability to engage hostile suspects at distances generally greater than the effective distance of their handguns. The use of the rifle in response to a deadly force situation shall be governed by this procedure and Department Procedures 4.01 Use of Force, and 4.02, Firearms Procedures. The use of these weapons will also be evaluated and reviewed in accordance with criteria contained in the law.

## **IV. DEFINITIONS**

Patrol Rifle – A semi-automatic shoulder-fired long gun that fires a rifle caliber cartridge. The Department-approved rifle is the AR15 style weapons system designed to fire a .223 caliber projectile.

## **V. PROCEDURES**

### A. Authorized Uses

1. Only those officers who have successfully completed the required training, will be required to purchase their own patrol rifle and all accessories. The Department will supply all duty and training ammunition.
2. Factors to consider before deployment include but are not limited to:
  - a. Active Shooter situation.

- b. The officer reasonably believes the suspect is wearing body armor.
- c. Armed/multiple suspects.
- d. Suspect's weapon system is superior to what officers normally carry on-duty.
- e. The situation requires accurate gunfire at distances greater than the effective range of handguns.

#### B. Rifle Storage

1. The patrol rifle may be carried in marked vehicles equipped with an interior dual gun mount only if the mount is specifically designed for the AR-15 and prevents disassembling the weapon and removing it from the mount. If carried in the interior dual gun mount, the weapon must be locked in when not in use. The patrol rifle shall be stored or transported in the patrol vehicle's trunk if an AR-15 specific interior mount is not available.
2. Patrol rifles shall be carried in the vehicle with a loaded magazine in the weapon, hammer down on an empty chamber, with the bolt closed and with the safety "OFF." This condition is known as "patrol ready." The rifle shall not be stored or carried in a vehicle with a cartridge in the chamber.
3. The patrol rifle shall be loaded only with Department approved ammunition.

#### C. Rifle Loading and Unloading Procedures and Storage

##### 1. Loading

- a. Inspection with the carbine pointed in a safe direction:
  - (1) Place the safety in the "ON" position.
  - (2) Remove the magazine.
  - (3) Lock the bolt open and inspect the chamber and magazine area.
  - (4) Verify the weapon is empty.
  - (5) Close the bolt.
  - (6) Place the safety in the "OFF" position and pull the trigger.
  - (7) Insert a loaded magazine.

##### b. Chambering a Cartridge

Pull the bolt rearward and release it. The carbine is now ready to fire.

2. Unloading with the carbine pointed in a safe direction:
  - a. Place the safety in the “ON” position.
  - b. Remove the magazine.
  - c. With the finger off the trigger, point the muzzle of the carbine upward.
  - d. Pull the bolt rearward slowly, releasing the chambered cartridge (if one exists) into the cup of the hand.
  - e. Lock the bolt “OPEN.”
  - f. Inspect the chamber area to verify that the weapon is empty.
3. To reduce the danger of injury associated with an unintentional discharge, the rifle shall not be loaded or unloaded in a vehicle, in a police facility, or close to multi-storied buildings. Loading and unloading may be done in loading chambers located in the sally port areas of each sub-station.
4. Storing of Patrol Rifle

It is the Officers responsibility to be aware of all safety parameters regarding the storing of their patrol rifle not only at their assigned duty station but at their place of residence. Officers may load their weapons when they arrive to their duty station and unload them when they leave. Officers are reminded that it is their responsibility to be cognizant of the safety parameters when loading and unloading rifles whether it is done at their assigned duty station or at home.

Officers authorized to carry a patrol rifle that will be transporting it from their place of residence will do so carrying it in a rifle case (see required accessories) and in a “patrol ready” mode. It is the Officers responsibility to be cognizant of all the safety parameters while transporting their rifle to and from their place of residence and assigned duty station.

Officers may choose to store their patrol rifle at their assigned duty station within their assigned, and secured, locker. If the officer chooses to do so, the weapon must be stored in a completely safe mode. The magazine must be removed, round removed from the chamber using the loading and unloading chamber and weapon must be safe. It is the Officers responsibility to be aware of all safety parameters regarding the storing of their patrol rifle not only at their assigned duty station but at their place of residence too.

#### D. Patrol Rifle Qualification Requirements

1. Officers who carry an approved rifle must attend a mandatory training class and pass a qualification shoot each year.

2. The training will be a two-day course consisting of the following:

- a. Classroom instruction;
- b. Live fire drills;
- c. Classroom and live fire qualification
- d. Re-qualify once a year and attend one open range training day.

Additionally, the FTU recommends that each officer authorized to carry a patrol rifle conduct personal rifle training whenever possible.

3. If an officer does not attend and pass the annual qualification, he or she shall not carry a patrol rifle. If the officer fails to qualify on the first attempt, he or she will be allowed a second attempt immediately following the first. If the officer does not qualify after two attempts, he or she will be required to attend and pass the two day class before carrying a rifle on duty.
4. Prior to each mandatory annual qualification shoot, each rifle will be inspected by Range staff for unauthorized accessories or modifications. If a rifle has unauthorized accessories or modifications the officer will not be allowed to shoot and is not authorized to carry the rifle on duty until it is in compliance. The list of approved accessories is available from Range staff.
5. Personnel returning from Military leave or long term disability should contact the Range Master for requalification procedures.

#### E. Personal Weapons

1. The Department authorizes the personal purchase and carrying of the patrol rifle.
2. Officers are restricted to the rifle caliber carbine AR15 style weapons system chambered in caliber .223 Remington. The AR15 style rifles will be as follows:
  - a. Semi-automatic
  - b. A barrel length of 16 or 20 inches
  - c. A-2 or A-3 style upper and lower receivers
  - d. Fixed or Adjustable stocks are authorized
  - e. Direct impingement operating system only, no gas piston systems
3. Officers who carry their personal carbine shall be responsible for the condition, cleaning and maintenance of their weapon. Department-owned carbines requiring maintenance or repairs shall be brought to the attention of the Range Master
4. The Range Master shall develop and maintain a list of authorized

accessories and equipment that may be used on the carbines. The list will be available from the Range staff. Equipment, accessories, and modifications not on the list are not authorized for carry. As time permits, Range staff is available to install authorized accessories and equipment.