



CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE

GENERAL POLICE ORDER



EFFECTIVE DATE: MARCH 20, 2023	CHAPTER: 4 – Field Operations	PAGE: 1 of 6	NUMBER: 4.06.08
SUBJECT: PATROL RIFLE			
CHIEF: <i>Dornat A. Drummond, Chief</i>			

Substantive changes are italicized

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines and establish requirements for the proper training, qualification, equipment, ammunition, deployment, storage, and maintenance of the patrol rifle.

POLICY: **It is the policy of the Cleveland Division of Police** that members who have been trained with a patrol rifle are required to maintain a high level of skill and proficiency with that firearm.

DEFINITIONS:

Patrol Rifle Operator (PRO) - A sworn member of the Division of Police who is certified by the Division to operate a patrol rifle.

Pool Patrol Rifle - AR-15, gas-operated semi-automatic, .223 / 5.56 NATO caliber carbine rifle *that has been equipped and zeroed to a standard by Firearms Training Unit personnel and issued to a District or Unit within the Division.*

PROCEDURES:

- I. General Guidelines
 - A. Nothing in this order shall be interpreted as a substitute for the Use of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Unit, General Police Order (GPO) 3.2.09.
 - B. Members shall carry and use only the patrol rifle and ammunition that is authorized by the Division.
 - C. Patrol rifles are exempt from member purchase upon separation from the Division.

- II. Certification, Training, and Responsibilities
 - A. Certification Requirements
 - 1. To become a PRO, members shall complete a patrol rifle operator’s course which meets or exceeds OPOTA-mandated training requirements as outlined by the Firearms Training Unit and approved by the Chief of Police.
 - 2. Failure to attend the entire course or failure to obtain a qualifying score shall subject the member to removal from the program.
 - B. Requalification and Training

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1. Each PRO shall attend and successfully complete a requalification course(s) *and training* as outlined by the Firearms Training Unit and approved by the Chief of Police.
2. Failure to attend *training* or failure to obtain a qualifying score shall subject the member *to revocation of their certification*.

C. PRO Responsibilities

1. Operate and handle the patrol rifle in a safe and appropriate manner.
2. Ensure the patrol rifle *weapons mounted light, red dot sight, iron sights, spare magazines, ammunition, rifle bag, bailout bag, and all other* related equipment are properly maintained and functional at all times.
 - a. *Complete and forward a Form-1 detailing any issues discovered with a recommended solution through the chain of command to the Firearms Training Unit.*
3. Respond to requests for a PRO as relayed via the Communications Control Section (CCS).
4. Ensure all ancillary equipment issued with the patrol rifle accompanies it every time it is removed from storage for use *and during deployment*.
5. Submit a Form-1 through the chain of command notifying the Chief upon being detailed or transferred to a unit or position not designated for the patrol rifle and return all issued equipment to the Firearms Training Unit.
6. Advise any superior officer of situations which do not meet deployment criteria.

D. Supervisors Responsibilities

1. *During roll call, determine which members are PRO certified and ensure they and their assigned vehicle are properly equipped with a patrol rifle and all applicable issued equipment.*
2. Ensure patrol rifles are issued to PROs in varying zones and locations to ensure deployment availability throughout the district or area.
3. Upon completion of roll call, provide CCS a list of Patrol Section units that are PRO staffed and equipped.
4. Immediately respond to deployment or request for deployment of a PRO within their geographical area of responsibility.
5. Upon responding, take command of the incident and determine if the incident is within the capabilities of the units at the scene.

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6. Evaluate and ensure that the patrol rifle deployment is within the guidelines of Division policy.
7. Ensure patrol rifles are secured when the incident is resolved.

III. Deployment

- A. Barring exigent circumstances, only certified PROs shall be authorized to deploy or discharge Division patrol rifles.
- B. PROs are authorized to deploy and use the patrol rifle in any circumstance where the officer can articulate a reasonable expectation that the patrol rifle may be needed.
 1. The deployment and discharge shall be in accordance with this policy, the Division's Use of Force policy, and all local, state, and federal laws.
 2. Examples of incidents that may require patrol rifle deployment include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Incidents requiring the delivery of accurate and effective fire at long range.
 - b. Situations where an officer needs to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.
 - c. Barricaded suspects in fortified locations or with tactically superior advantages.
 - d. Suspects wearing or believed to be wearing body armor.
 - e. Any active shooter/*active threat* response.
- C. Members needing the assistance of a PRO shall notify CCS of their location, the circumstances, and request that an operator be dispatched to the scene.
 1. CCS shall notify a supervisor and assign a properly equipped PRO to respond.
 2. PROs and/or supervisor judgment shall determine the appropriate manner and scope of deployment.
- D. The patrol rifle shall not be used as a primary entry weapon or to euthanize wounded or dangerous animals, unless exigent circumstances exist.
- E. PROs deploying the patrol rifle shall:
 1. *Deploy with both the patrol rifle and bailout bag.*
 2. Maintain control of the patrol rifle at all times.

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3. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times when not on target.
4. Notify a supervisor of deployment via CCS as soon as practical and, if applicable and practical, advise CCS of the following:
 - a. The safest route for responding officers to approach.
 - b. Location of the PRO and the location of the suspect.
 - c. Crossfire concerns.
5. At the conclusion of deployment, properly store the patrol rifle.

IV. Storage

- A. Patrol rifles shall be stored in the issued carrying case in a locked location inaccessible to unauthorized personnel at the member's district/unit. *Patrol Rifles shall not be stored in a member's personal locker.*
- B. Accountability
 1. A patrol rifle log in the form of a bound ledger with numbered pages shall be maintained at any district/unit where PROs are assigned.
 2. The supervisor with control of the locked location shall maintain the log.
 3. Each time a patrol rifle is placed in or removed from storage, an entry shall be made in the log.
 4. District and Unit OICs shall ensure accountability for *all* pool patrol rifles at the beginning of their tour *by making an entry of their initials, and badge number into the patrol rifle log after PROs have been assigned a patrol rifle for their tour.*
- C. Vehicle and Patrol Ready Storage
 1. Patrol rifles carried in a vehicle shall:
 - a. Be secured in a locking rack or a locked trunk for vehicles not equipped with a locking rack.
 - b. *The patrol rifle may be stored in a trunk as long as the trunk cannot be opened without a key in the ignition and authorization from an immediate supervisor has been obtained.*
 - c. The patrol rifle shall remain in the carrying case when not secured in a locking rack or actively deployed.

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2. Patrol rifles carried in the field shall be in "Patrol Ready" status until deployed; the PRO shall verify the following conditions for "Patrol Ready" status *at the beginning of each tour of duty or any other time the condition is in question*:
 - a. Chamber is empty.
 - b. Bolt forward on an empty chamber.
 - c. Safety selector switch in the "safe" position.
 - d. Dust cover closed.
 - e. The magazine, 20 rounds downloaded to 18 rounds, is seated in the magazine well.
3. *PRO's shall verify the patrol rifle is rendered safe and clear by the following procedures when returning the patrol rifle to storage*:
 - a. *Ensure the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction.*
 - b. *Ensure their finger is off the trigger of the patrol rifle.*
 - c. *Safety selector switch in the "safe" position.*
 - d. *The magazine, 20 rounds downloaded to 18 rounds, is removed from the magazine well and stored in the rifle bag.*
 - e. *The action (charging handle) is ran three to five times.*
 - f. *The bolt is locked to the rear.*
 - g. *A visual and physical inspection is completed to ensure the safety is on, the magazine well is clear, and the chamber is clear (this shall be done twice).*
 - h. *That the clear chamber indicator flag is inserted into the chamber.*
 - i. *That the bolt is gently lowered onto the clear chamber indicator flag.*

D. *PROs are not permitted to take Division patrol rifles home.*

V. Maintenance and Repair

- A. *Members shall notify their immediate supervisor if a patrol rifle or related equipment is in need of maintenance or repair, so arrangements can be made with Firearms Training Unit personnel.*

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- B. Alterations or repairs to the patrol rifle or related equipment shall only be made by authorized Firearms Training Unit *personnel*.
- C. Members shall be held accountable for damage to the patrol rifle sustained by improper handling, carelessness, and neglect or purposefully or negligently allowing unauthorized persons to handle, tamper with, or repair the patrol rifle or related equipment.

VI. *Issuance/Exchange/Inspection of Patrol Rifles*

- A. *The Firearms Training Unit shall issue Division patrol rifles and related equipment.*
- B. *Firearms Training Unit personnel shall complete an inspection and function test annually concurrently with the shotgun and ammunition box inspections.*
- C. *District or Unit OICs shall inspect patrol rifles quarterly and complete the Quarterly Patrol Rifle and Ancillary Equipment Inspection Form (Attachment A) concurrently with the Quarterly Equipment Inspection. The form shall be forwarded through the chain of command to the respective Deputy Chief. Each Deputy Chief shall review the forms for completeness and forward all documentation to the Firearms Training Unit within 20 business days of the end of the quarter.*

THIS ORDER SUPERSEDES ANY PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DIRECTIVE OR POLICY FOR THIS SUBJECT AND WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE UNTIL RESCINDED OR SUPERSEDED.