



GENERAL POLICE ORDER CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE



EFFECTIVE DATE: August 10, 2012	REVISED DATE:	NO. PAGES: 1 of 6	NUMBER: 1.3.40
SUBJECT: PATROL RIFLE			
ASSOCIATED MANUAL:		RELATED ORDERS: 1.3.11, 2.1.01	
CHIEF OF POLICE: <i>Michael McGrath, Chief</i>			

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

Nothing in this order shall be construed to substitute for the utilization of the Division’s SWAT Unit as outlined in General Police Order 3.2.09.

POLICY: Officers shall carry and use only that Patrol Rifle and ammunition that is authorized by the Division. Officers shall possess and carry the Patrol Rifle in a safe and professional manner. Officers who are assigned a Patrol Rifle are required to maintain a current high level of skill and proficiency in that firearm. Patrol Rifles are exempt from personal purchase upon separation from the Division.

DEFINITIONS:

Patrol Rifle: Divisionally owned AR-15 Gas-Operated Semi-Automatic, .223 / 5.56 NATO caliber carbine rifle.

Patrol Rifle Operator (PRO): A sworn member of the Division of Police who is qualified to operate a Patrol Rifle and has been issued a Patrol Rifle, ammunition, and ancillary equipment.

PROCEDURES:

I. Certification and Training

- A. To become a PRO requires the successful completion of a Patrol Rifle Operators course which meets or exceeds OPOTA mandated training requirements, as outlined by the Ordnance Unit and approved by the Chief of

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Police. Failure to attend the entire course or failure to obtain a qualifying score shall subject the member to removal from the Patrol Rifle Program.

B. Each PRO member will be required to attend and successfully complete a semi-annual PRO requalification course as outlined by the Ordnance Unit and approved by the Chief of Police. Failure to attend the entire course or failure to obtain a qualifying score shall subject the member to removal from the Patrol Rifle Program.

C. Patrol Rifle Operator (PRO) Responsibilities

1. Operate and handle the Patrol Rifle in a safe and appropriate manner.
2. Ensure the Patrol Rifle is properly maintained and functional at all times.
3. Respond to requests for deployment of a Patrol Rifle as they are relayed via the Communications Control Section (CCS).
4. Ensure that all ancillary equipment issued with the Patrol Rifle accompanies the Patrol Rifle every time that it is removed from storage for use.
5. Use only the ammunition authorized and issued by the Ordnance Unit.
6. Notify the Chief of Police through the chain-of-command via a Form-1 upon being detailed or transferred to a Unit or position not designated for the Patrol Rifle Program; and return the Patrol Rifle to the Ordnance Unit.
7. Advise any superior officer contemplating the inappropriate deployment of the Patrol Rifle of why the situation does not meet deployment circumstances.

D. Supervisor Responsibilities

1. Upon completion of roll call, provide to CCS a list of patrol section unit(s) that are PRO staffed and equipped.
2. Immediately respond to a deployment or request for the deployment of a Patrol Rifle.

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3. Take command of the incident and determine if the incident is within the capabilities of the unit(s) at the scene.
4. Evaluate and ensure that the Patrol Rifle deployment is within the guidelines of policy and procedures.
5. Ensure that all Patrol Rifles are secured once the incident is resolved.

II. Deployment

- A. Barring exigent circumstances, only PRO officers shall be authorized to handle, deploy, or discharge Division Patrol Rifles.
- B. PRO officers and/or supervisor judgment shall determine the appropriate manner and scope of deployment.
- C. PRO officers 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. The deployment and discharge shall be in accordance with this policy, General Police Order 2.1.01 Use of Force, along with state and federal laws. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the Patrol Rifle may include, but are not limited to:
 1. When an officer is faced with a situation that may require the delivery of accurate and effective fire at long range.
 2. Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.
 3. When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to deliver fire on a barricaded suspect. Example: The suspect is in a fortified location or has a tactically superior advantage.
 4. When the officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.
 5. When an officer responds to any active shooter call.
- D. Officers shall not use Patrol Rifles as a primary entry weapon unless exigent circumstances exist or to dispatch wounded or dangerous animals.

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- E. PRO officers deploying the Patrol Rifle shall maintain control of the Patrol Rifle at all times.
- F. PRO officers deploying the Patrol Rifle shall keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times when not on target.
- G. PRO officers deploying the Patrol Rifle shall advise a supervisor of same via CCS as soon as practical. Upon deployment, if applicable and practical, the PRO shall advise CCS of the following:
 - 1. Safest route for responding officers to approach the scene.
 - 2. Location of the PRO and the location of the suspect.
 - 3. Crossfire considerations.
- H. PRO's shall properly store the Patrol Rifle at the conclusion of any deployment.
- I. Division members needing the assistance of a PRO shall advise CCS of their location, the circumstances, and request that a PRO be dispatched to the scene.
- J. CCS shall notify a supervisor and assign a PRO to the incident.

III. Storage

- A. The Patrol Rifle shall be stored in the issued carrying case and secured at the District/Unit when not in use.
- B. The Patrol Rifle shall be stored in a secure (locked) location where it is inaccessible to unauthorized personnel.
- C. PRO officers are not permitted to take their issued Patrol Rifles home unless:
 - 1. The PRO is attending authorized Division or OPOTC training the next day and picking up the Patrol Rifle from the District/Unit is not advantageous.
 - 2. The PRO is attending a Division Open Shooting session the next day during hours not conducive to their tour-of-duty.

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D. Patrol Ready Storage

1. Patrol Rifles carried in a vehicle shall be secured in a locking rack or locked trunk if the vehicle is not equipped with a locking rack.
 - a. PRO officers shall obtain authorization from their immediate supervisor to store their Patrol Rifle in a trunk when using a vehicle without a locking rack.
 - b. The Patrol Rifle shall remain in the carrying case when not secured in a locking rack or actively deployed.
2. When the Patrol Rifle is being carried in the field, it shall be in the "Patrol Ready" status until it is ready to be stored or used for deployment purposes. The Patrol Rifle is considered "Patrol Ready" when the PRO verifies that it meets the following conditions:
 - a. Chamber is empty
 - b. Bolt forward on an empty chamber
 - c. Safety selector switch in the "Safe" position
 - d. Dust cover closed
 - e. A twenty (20) round magazine, downloaded to eighteen (18) rounds, seated in the magazine well.

E. Patrol Rifle Accountability Log

1. A Patrol Rifle Log in the form of a bound ledger with numbered pages shall be maintained at any District/Unit where PRO's are assigned.
2. The Patrol Rifle Log shall be maintained by the supervisor with control of the secured (locked) location where the Patrol Rifle is being stored.
3. Each time a Patrol Rifle is placed in or removed from the storage location an entry shall be made in the Patrol Rifle Log.

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IV. Maintenance and Repair

- A. PRO officers shall care for their issued Patrol Rifle and related equipment. Officers shall be accountable for damage to the Patrol Rifle sustained by rough handling, carelessness, and neglect; as well as purposefully or negligently allowing unauthorized persons to use, tamper with, or repair their Patrol Rifle or related equipment.
- B. PRO officers shall return their issued Patrol Rifle or related equipment to the Ordnance Unit when repair or maintenance is necessary.
- C. Alterations or repairs to the Patrol Rifle or related equipment shall be made only by authorized Ordnance Unit personnel. Alterations or repairs made to the Patrol Rifle by any unauthorized personnel may void any warranties and shall subject the PRO to disqualification from carrying the Patrol Rifle.