

Patrol Rifles

432.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To more effectively and accurately address the increasing level of firepower and body armor utilized by criminal suspects, the Peoria Police Department will make patrol rifles available to qualified officers as an additional and more immediate tactical resource.

432.2 PATROL RIFLE

432.2.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Patrol Rifle - An authorized weapon owned by the Department which is made available to properly trained and qualified officers as a supplemental resource to their duty handgun or shotgun. No personally owned rifles may be carried for patrol duty.

432.3 SPECIFICATIONS

Only weapons and ammunition that meet agency authorized specifications, approved by the Chief of Police and issued by the Department, may be used by officers in their law enforcement responsibilities. The authorized patrol rifle issued by the Department is the AR15/M-4 Carbine.

432.4 RIFLE MAINTENANCE

Primary responsibility for maintenance of patrol rifles shall fall on the Rangemaster, who shall inspect and service each patrol rifle on an annual basis.

Each patrol officer carrying a patrol rifle may be required to field strip and clean an assigned patrol rifle monthly.

Each patrol officer shall be responsible for promptly reporting any damage or malfunction of an assigned patrol rifle to a supervisor or the Rangemaster.

Any patrol rifle found to be unserviceable shall also be clearly identified as non-serviceable, including details regarding the unserviceable condition.

Each patrol rifle shall be subject to inspection by a supervisor or the Rangemaster at any time.

No modification shall be made to any patrol rifle without prior written authorization from the Rangemaster.

432.5 TRAINING

Officers shall not carry or utilize the patrol rifle unless they have successfully completed Department training. This training shall consist of an initial (40) forty hour patrol rifle user's course and qualification score with a certified patrol rifle instructor. Officers shall thereafter be required to successfully complete bi-annual training and yearly firearms proficiency qualification conducted by a certified patrol rifle instructor.

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Any officer who fails to qualify or who fails to successfully complete two or more Department-sanctioned training/qualification sessions within a calendar year will no longer be authorized to carry the patrol rifle without successfully retaking the initial patrol officers user's course and qualification.

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:

- Situations where the officer reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.
- When an officer is faced with a situation that may require the delivery of accurate and effective fire at long range.
- Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.
- When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to deliver fire on a barricaded person or a person with a hostage.
- When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.
- When authorized or requested by a supervisor.
- When appropriate to aid in the dispatch of an animal.

432.7 DISCHARGE OF THE PATROL RIFLE

The discharge of the patrol rifle shall be governed by the Use of Force Policy and the Shooting Policy.

432.8 PATROL READY

Any qualified officer carrying a patrol rifle in the field shall maintain the weapon in a patrol ready condition until deployed. A rifle is considered in a patrol ready condition when it has been inspected by the assigned officer, the fire selector switch is in the safe position, the chamber is empty and a fully loaded magazine is inserted into the magazine well.

432.9 RIFLE STORAGE

When not in use, patrol rifles will be stored in the Department armory in rifle racks.

In-service patrol rifles should be secured in the vehicle gun lock or case.

At the end of the assigned officer's shift, the patrol rifle will be returned and secured in the Department weapon room.