

 Cambridge Police Department	POLICY & PROCEDURES		No. 404.1
	Subject/Title: Patrol Rifles		
	Issuing Authority:  Robert C. Haas Police Commissioner		Issue Date: Reviewed during 2013 Firearms Training cycle.
			Effective Date: August 29, 2013
		Review Date: August 29, 2013	
		Rescinds: Policy #404 – Patrol Rifles (07/01/08)	
References/ Attachments:		Accreditation Standards:	
		1.3.9 ; 1.3.10; & 1.3.11	

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this directive is to establish and outline the guidelines to be followed as it relates to the training, safekeeping, deployment, issuance, care, and maintenance of the police department's patrol rifles. This directive is also designed to provide broad parameters when it would be considered to deploy these weapons.

II. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Cambridge Police Department to provide access to patrol rifles to its officers for those situations that may necessitate the utilization of a long-gun. Further, only those officers who have been trained and qualified on the use of the patrol rifle may have access to said weapons.

III. DEFINITIONS:

- A. **Patrol Rifle:** The designated "patrol rifle" for the department is either the Colt or Bushmaster M-4 Type Carbine, semi-automatic rifle.
- B. **Approved Gun Box:** The department will install secured boxes in those police vehicles that are equipped to transport the department's patrol rifle. When not in use the patrol rifle will remain in the locked gun boxes in a safe condition (refer to *Section V, subsection D* of this directive). Weapons will not be stored in those patrol vehicles that are not equipped with the approved gun box.
- C. **Chamber:** An area at the breech end of a barrel, of about the diameter of the cartridge for which the gun was intended, and into which the cartridge is inserted.

- D. Magazine:** A spring-operated reservoir for cartridges for a repeating firearm; often removable. Typically, the department will deploy 30 round magazines with patrol rifle.
- E. Safety:** A device, incorporated into the design of most firearms actions that, when engaged, should prevent the discharge of the firearm.
- F. Sling:** A strap, usually of leather or sturdy webbing, fitted to the fore and aft (usually) of a rifle as an aid to carrying over the shoulder and as an aid to holding the rifle steadily while aiming.
- G. Approved Ammunition:** Only the ammunition that has been approved the department's Firearms Coordinator may be used in the department's patrol rifles.
- H. Deployment of Patrol Rifles:** For purposes of this directive, the "deployment" of a patrol rifle shall mean the removal of the patrol rifle from the secure gun box, or removal from its secured facility for the purpose of using the weapon for an operational purpose.

IV. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES:

Traditionally the police have relied upon shotguns as an alternative weapon in tactical situations. In an urban setting the utilization of a shotgun has very limited use. It often proves to be ineffective when it comes to its overall deployment and utilization. As of late the police have been moving to the patrol rifle as a replacement and preferred long-gun when it comes to officers responding to certain types of tactical situations.

There are several advantages for the officer when deploying the patrol rifle. The patrol rifle provides a greater probability of stopping a suspect with minimum number of round than the handgun or shotgun. The patrol rifle will defeat most types of body armor and will defeat most light cover. Due to the light weight design of the patrol rifle round, missed rounds break up more consistently than handgun or shotgun round, thereby causing less of a down range hazard. Compared with the shotgun the patrol rifle is more accurate, has less recoil, greater effective range, faster reloading and larger ammunition capacity.

As with any long-gun, the patrol rifle has its limitations with respect to an officer having the ability to perform any other function other than to maintain cover.

It is essential that officers demonstrate a certain degree of proficiency prior to having access and utilization of the weapon. Only after receiving an orientation on the safe operation of the weapon and a demonstrated ability to handle, manage, and operate the weapon, may an officer be deemed qualified to use this weapon.

The patrol rifle will be stored in a Patrol Vehicle. Only those officers who have been qualified to use the patrol rifle will be permitted to take possession of the weapon.

V. PROCEDURES:¹

A. Training & Orientation:² Only those officers who have successfully completed the training and orientation courses will be permitted to deploy the patrol rifle.³

1. Officers will receive training and orientation on the patrol rifle on an annual basis. The training at a minimum will include instruction on the department's use of force policy, safe handling of the weapon, and demonstrated proficiency on its use and accuracy.
2. The training course for patrol rifle will be in conformance with the training and qualifications established by the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) and conducted by certified firearms instructors.
3. Officers who are not able to demonstrate the safe handling and proficiency with the department's patrol rifle will receive additional training until such time they are able to meet the qualifications standards that have been set by the MPTC.

B. Deployment of the Patrol Rifle: Any time an officer elects or is directed to remove the patrol rifle from the gun box in a patrol vehicle; he/she will be guided by the following considerations:

¹ CALEA Std.: **1.3.9** – A written directive requires that only weapons and ammunition authorized by the agency be used by agency personnel in law enforcement responsibilities. The directive shall apply to weapons and ammunition carried both on and off duty, and must address:

- a. the types and specifications of all lethal and less lethal weapons approved for use, including those weapons used by members of tactical teams or other specialized personnel;
- b. the types and specifications of ammunition approved for use, including ammunition used in specialized weapons for members of tactical teams or other specialized personnel;
- c. the procedure for review, inspection, and approval of all weapons intended for use by each employee in the performance of duty, prior to carrying, by a qualified weapons instructor or armorer;
- d. a process to remove unsafe weapons;
- e. the procedure for maintaining a record on each weapon approved by the agency for official use; and
- f. guidelines for the safe and proper storage of agency authorized firearms.

² CALEA Std.: **1.3.10** – A written directive requires that only agency personnel demonstrating proficiency in the use of agency-authorized weapons be approved to carry such weapons.

³ CALEA Std.: **1.3.11** - At least annually, all agency personnel authorized to carry weapons are required to receive in-service training on the agency's use of force policies and demonstrate proficiency with all approved lethal weapons and electronic controlled weapons that the employee is authorized to use. In-service training for other less lethal weapons and weaponless control techniques shall occur at biannually. In addition:

- a. proficiency training must be monitored by a certified weapons or tactical instructor;
- b. training and proficiency must be documented; and
- c. the agency must have procedures for remedial training for those employees who are unable to qualify with an authorized weapon prior to resuming official duties.

1. Anytime an officer deploys/removes the patrol rifle from the gun box of a patrol vehicle, that officer will be responsible for maintaining control over the that weapon at all times, unless the officer turns the weapon over to another officer who has been qualified on the use of the patrol rifle or returns it to secured gun box (refer to *Section V., subsection D* of this directive for safe storage of the weapon).
 2. Incidents when it may be considered appropriate to deploy the patrol rifle, would include the following, but are not necessarily restricted to these situations:
 - a) Any potentially dangerous/deadly force situation when the officer has reason to believe that deployment of the patrol rifle will contribute to the safe resolution of the incident or diminish risk to the officer or the public.
 - b) The officer has cause to believe that an armed offender(s) is wearing body armor or is shielded by an intervening barrier.
 - c) The officer might be placed in a situation when the offender (s) may be engaged at an extended distance.
 - d) The suspect is believed to be armed with or has immediate access to high powered or shoulder fired weapons.
 - e) Situations when approval for deployment of the patrol rifle is authorized by the Patrol Supervisor.
- C. Security and Care of the Patrol Rifle:**⁴ Whenever an officer is authorized to deploy the patrol rifle, it is that officer's responsibility to maintain custody and security of the weapon at all times. Whenever returning the patrol rifle to a Patrol Vehicle, the officer will render the weapon into a safe condition (as prescribed by training, see *Section V., subsection D* of this directive) prior to storing/securing the weapon.
- D. Storage and Security of the Patrol Rifle:**⁵ When deployed in the field, patrol rifles will be secured and maintained in a Patrol Vehicle. The patrol rifle will be maintained in a ready condition while stored in the vehicle. The ready condition of the patrol rifle will be comprised of the following:
1. The safety for the patrol rifle will in the ON position.
 2. The chamber of the patrol rifle will be empty.
 3. The bolt on the patrol rifle will be in the forward or closed position.
 4. There will be a fully loaded magazine inserted into the patrol rifle.
 5. The dust cover for the patrol rifle will be closed.

⁴ CALEA Std.: 1.3.9 (f)

⁵ CALEA Std.: 1.3.9 (f)

6. The patrol rifle will be properly secured within the firearms locker of the vehicle.

E. Post Deployment of the Patrol Rifle: When returning the patrol rifle following its deployment, the officer who is charged with the position of the weapon will be sure that it is rendered safe and restored to the ready condition (as described in the aforementioned section). The superior officer responsible for the scene / officer shall inspect the weapon to ensure the weapon is in a safe and ready condition prior to storing the weapon. The process for making the patrol rifle safe involves the following steps:

1. The safety for the patrol rifle should be in the ON position.
2. The magazine should be removed from the patrol rifle.
3. The chamber should be cleared of the round that may have been chambered, and as a precautionary measure should always be checked. The ejected round should be inserted back into the magazine.
4. When presenting the weapon for inspection, the bolt should be open, with the magazine out of the weapon.
5. Once the patrol rifle has been inspected to ensure it has been rendered into a safe condition, the bolt should be closed, the magazine reinserted into the weapon, and the rifle should be placed back into its dust cover prior to being secured in the patrol vehicle's gun locker.

F. Security of the Patrol Vehicle: A Patrol Vehicle is never to be left unattended while the patrol rifles are stored in the vehicle, unless the vehicle is turned off and locked. It is the responsibility of the officer who has been charged with the operation of this vehicle to ensure that it is always properly secured when left unattended. When a patrol vehicle is not used it is the responsibility of the Shift Commander to ensure it is properly secured when left unattended.

G. Removal of Patrol Rifles for Maintenance or Storage: The patrol rifle should be left secured in a patrol vehicle, unless the vehicle is being sent out for maintenance. If the weapons are removed from the patrol vehicle they should be moved to the gun locker located within the police station.

H. Loading and Unloading the Patrol Rifle: Whenever loading or unloading the patrol rifle, it should be done at the unloading station in the police station when possible, or outside in a safe area, preferably not in the public view.

VI. MAINTENANCE OF THE PATROL RIFLES:⁶

- A. Routine Inspection & Maintenance:** It will be the responsibility of the Firearms Coordinator to routinely check the patrol rifles to make sure they are properly secured, in good working order, and to make sure they are regularly cleaned, lubricated, and maintained.
- B. Reporting Patrol Rifle Malfunctions:** Whenever it is discovered that a patrol rifle is not working properly, it is to be reported to the Shift Commander, who will be responsible making the appropriate notification to the Firearms Coordinator.
1. The weapon should be taken out of service and stored in the firearms locker at the police station.
 2. A tag should be placed on the rifle case indicating that it is out of service.
 3. It is the responsibility of the Firearms Coordinator to make the necessary arrangements to have the weapon repaired.
 4. No modification should be made to any patrol rifle without proper authorization.

⁶ CALEA Std.: 1.3.9 (c); (d); & (e)