
Patrol Rifles

432.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

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

432.2 PATROL RIFLE

432.21 DEFINITION

A patrol rifle is an authorized weapon which is owned by the Department or personally owned by a sworn member of the Department and 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 unless pre-approved in writing by the Chief of Police.

432.3 SPECIFICATIONS

The authorized patrol rifle issued by the Department shall be the DPMS .223 Panther Carbine. Personally owned rifles will be chambered alike in .223 caliber only. These personally owned rifles must first be inspected by the Department Rangemaster and/or Armorer and approved by the Chief of Police prior to duty use.

Officers are responsible for the care and maintenance of any personally owned rifles that are approved for duty use.

432.31 RIFLE AMMUNITION

The only ammunition authorized for patrol rifles is that which is issued by the Department. The ammunition issued will consist quality factory loan in a .223 caliber.

432.4 RIFLE MAINTENANCE

- (a) Primary responsibility for maintenance of Department issued patrol rifles shall fall on the Rangemaster or Armorer who shall inspect and service each patrol rifle on a monthly basis.
- (b) Each patrol officer carrying a patrol rifle may be required to field strip and clean an assigned patrol rifle as needed.
- (c) Each patrol officer shall be responsible for promptly reporting any damage or malfunction of an assigned patrol rifle.
- (d) Each patrol rifle shall be subject to inspection by a supervisor, the Rangemaster or Armorer at any time.
- (e) No modification shall be made to any patrol rifle without prior written authorization from the Rangemaster or Armorer.

432.5 TRAINING

Officers shall not carry or utilize the patrol rifle unless they have successfully completed departmental training. This training shall consist of an initial 16-hour patrol rifle user's course and qualification score with a certified patrol rifle instructor. Officers shall thereafter

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be required to successfully complete quarterly training and qualification conducted by a certified patrol rifle instructor.

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:

- (a) Situations where the officer reasonably anticipates an armed encounter
- (b) When an officer is faced with a situation that may require the delivery of accurate and effective fire at long range
- (c) Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower
- (d) When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to deliver fire on a barricaded suspect or a suspect with a hostage
- (e) When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor
- (f) When authorized or requested by a supervisor

432.61 S.W.A.T. MEMBERS

Members of the Department's Special Weapons and Tactics Team (S.W.A.T.) may carry a department issued or personally owned department approved rifle that differs in specification and equipment from that of the department issued rifle.

Members of the department's S.W.A.T. team receive unique tactical and military style training allowing them to more effectively deal with critical incidents beyond the normal scope or control of the patrol officer. Nothing in this policy is designed to limit or preclude members of the Department's S.W.A.T. team, when circumstances warrant, from using their training and experience in both weapons and tactics to achieve a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

The Chief of Police and the S.W.A.T. Commander must approve any rifle prior to its deployment in the field by a S.W.A.T. member.

432.7 DISCHARGE OF THE PATROL RIFLE

The discharge of the patrol rifle shall be governed by the Department's Deadly Force Policy, Policy Manual § 300.

432.8 PATROL READY

Any qualified officer carrying a patrol rifle in the field shall maintain the weapon in the "patrol ready" until deployed. A rifle is considered "patrol ready" when it has been inspected by the assigned officer and meets the following conditions:

- (a) The chamber is empty
- (b) The rifle bolt is forward with the hammer down
- (c) The rifle safety is on

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- (d) There is a fully loaded magazine in the rifle with no more than 27 rounds
- (e) The dust cover is closed
- (f) The rifle is stored in the locked patrol vehicle's rifle rack or trunk

432.9 RIFLE STORAGE

- (a) When not in use, patrol rifles will be stored in the department armory in rifle racks
- (b) At the start of each assigned shift, any qualified, on-duty officer may contact the Watch Commander or a patrol supervisor for access to the department armory
- (c) At the end of the assigned officer's shift, the patrol rifle will be returned and secured in the department armory