

	DELMAR POLICE DEPARTMENT	
	Policy 6.7 Patrol Rifle	
	Effective Date: 12/27/10	Replaces: 1-18-2
	Approved: <u>Ivan Barkley</u> Chief of Police	
	Reference: N/A	

I. POLICY

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

II. PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the proper use patrol rifles in the performance of police duties.

III. DEFINITION

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 handgun. No personally owned rifles may be carried for patrol duty unless pre-approved in writing by the Chief of Police

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Specifications

The authorized patrol rifles issued by the Department shall be the Colt M-16/AR-15, Rock River Arms LAR-15, H&R Arms Co. M-14, and the LWRC M6. Personally owned rifles will be chambered in 5.56/.223 caliber or 6.8mm only. These personally owned rifles must first be inspected by the Department Firearms Instructor 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.

B. Rifle Ammunition

1. Officers shall only carry department-approved and issued ammunition. The Hornady 5.56 NATO 75 gr. BTHP T2 TAP, Hornady 308 WIN 168 gr. BTHP TAP Precision and the SSA 6.8mm SPC 110 gr. Nosler AccuBond are the department's approved duty ammo.
2. Officers will carry at least three (3) department approved magazines when deploying the rifle.

C. Rifle Maintenance

1. Officers authorized to deploy rifles are responsible for cleaning and proper function of their assigned rifle.
2. Only a department designated armorer is authorized to repair any malfunctions or mechanical failures. Officers are not permitted to modify department issued Patrol Rifles without permission from the Chief of Police or designee.
3. All rifles are subject to inspection at any time and will be inspected by a firearms instructor or any supervisor. The rifle will also be inspected by a department armorer before being issued and/ or authorized for use. Rifles found to be unsafe or defective will not be sanctioned by the department or used for qualification until repaired or replaced.
4. Any damage to the rifle or mechanical failure of any kind shall be immediately reported to a supervisor or appropriate designee and the rifle will be taken out of service until it is repaired. If left in a designated locker, the rifle will be tagged, identifying the deficiency, the bolt will be locked open and the selector switch placed on safe.
5. Failure to properly maintain an assigned Patrol Rifle may result in disciplinary action.

D. Training

Officers shall not carry or utilize the patrol rifle unless they have successfully completed that training which is mandated by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission and Delaware Council on Police Training for an initial patrol rifle user. Officers shall thereafter be required to successfully complete bi-annual training and qualification by a certified patrol rifle instructor.

Any officer who fails to qualify or who fails to successfully complete the Department's 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.

E. 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:

1. Situations where the officer reasonably anticipates an armed encounter;
2. When an officer is faced with a situation that may require the delivery of accurate and effective fire at long range;
3. Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower;
4. When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to deliver fire on a barricaded suspect or a suspect with a hostage;
5. When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor;
6. When authorized or requested by a supervisor

F. Discharge of the Patrol Rifle

The discharge of the patrol rifle shall be governed by Delmar Police Department Policy 6.1 entitled Response to Resistance.

G. 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:

1. The chamber is empty;
2. The rifle bolt is forward with the hammer down;
3. The rifle safety is on;
4. There is a fully loaded magazine in the rifle with no more than 28 rounds;
5. The dust cover is closed;
6. The rifle is stored in the locked patrol vehicles trunk

H. Rifle Storage

Officers are responsible for the security of the Departmental issued patrol rifle issued to them. Officers shall secure their patrol rifle in the electronically controlled patrol rifle mount located in the trunk of their patrol vehicle in the “patrol ready” condition. For those patrol vehicles not equipped with an electronically controlled patrol rifle trunk mount, the patrol rifle shall be stored in the Departmental issued rifle bag in the trunk of the patrol vehicle in the “patrol ready” condition. The patrol rifle shall be placed in the trunk of the officers patrol vehicle at the beginning of his/her shift and removed from the trunk of his/her patrol vehicle at the end of their shift. Officers shall not leave their patrol rifle in an unlocked patrol vehicle or other location that is readily accessible to other individuals. Officers may not store their patrol rifle at home where it may be visible and/or accessible to children or other persons.