

## 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 San Joaquin Delta Community College Police Department will assign patrol rifles to qualified patrol officers as an additional and more immediate tactical resource.

### 432.2 PATROL RIFLE

#### 432.2.1 DEFINITION

A patrol rifle is an authorized weapon which is owned by the Department and assigned to each qualified patrol officer as a supplemental resource to their duty handgun or shotgun. Personally owned rifles may not be carried for patrol duty without the written approval of the Director of Police Services and the Department Rangemaster.

### 432.3 SPECIFICATIONS

Only weapons and ammunition that meet this agency's authorized specifications, approved by the Director of Police Services, 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 Colt AR-15, 5.56 caliber design and specifications.

(a) Officers may use their own personal rifle if it meets the following criteria:

1. Colt AR-15 Series
2. Bushmaster MX-15 Series
3. Any other factory manufactured AR-15 design rifle approved by the department rangemaster and Director of Police Services.

Only ammunition authorized by the department shall be used in the rifle.

Sling systems will be attached to each rifle.

Optics may be put on the patrol rifle at the discretion of the rifle operator. The department rangemaster may approve any optical sighting device other than the EOTECH if its operation and function fit the following criteria:

- (a) The optic device has no magnification capabilities.
- (b) The optic device and mount allows for use of the rifle's iron sights. Iron sights shall be affixed to all rifles.
- (c) The optic device does not project a laser light toward the target.
- (d) The optic device is utilized for training and qualification in addition to the iron sights.

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Weapon mounted lights may be utilized and approved by the department rangemaster if they meet the following criteria:

- (a) The light can be operated with a switch that allows momentary and constant on features.
- (b) The light is mounted so that it does not interfere with any part of the rifle that would affect the safe operation of the rifle.

Muzzle brakes may be utilized in lieu of flash suppressors on the barrel in order to make a rifle conform to legal assault weapon configuration as determined by the California Department of Justice.

No other modifications, internal or external may be done to the rifle that would affect the safe operation of the rifle. All additional support equipment shall be approved by the department rangemaster.

#### **432.4 RIFLE MAINTENANCE**

- (a) Primary responsibility for maintenance of patrol rifles shall fall on the Rangemaster, 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) Any patrol rifle found to be unserviceable shall be removed from service. The rifle shall be clearly labeled as "out of service" and details regarding the weapon's condition shall be included on the label.
- (e) Each patrol rifle shall be subject to inspection by a supervisor or the Rangemaster at any time.
- (f) 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 departmental approved training course, or other POST equivalent law enforcement training program, as approved by the Director of Police Services. The basic rifle course will include but is not limited to:

- (a) Liability aspects
- (b) Weapon Proficiency
- (c) Ammunition ballistics and trajectory
- (d) Care, maintenance, and nomenclature of the weapon system

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(e) Policy and procedures regarding the deployment of the patrol rifle

This training shall consist of an initial 24-hour patrol rifle user's course and qualification score with the Department Rangemaster. Officers shall thereafter be required to successfully complete quarterly training conducted by the Department Rangemaster.

Any officer who fails to successfully complete the initial patrol officers user's course, and if they fail to demonstrate proficiency with their assigned rifle, or if they fail to successfully complete two or more department sanctioned training/qualification sessions within a calendar year will not be authorized to carry the patrol rifle during the course of their assigned duties.

#### **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.
- (g) When needed to euthanize an animal.

#### **432.7 DISCHARGE OF THE PATROL RIFLE**

The discharge of the patrol rifle shall be governed by the Department's Use of Force Policy 300.

#### **432.8 PATROL READY**

Any qualified officer who is assigned to carry a patrol rifle in the field shall maintain the weapon in a patrol ready condition until deployed. A rifle is considered to be patrol ready when it has been visually and physically inspected by the assigned officer, the fire selector switch is in the safe position, bolt forward on an empty chamber, dust cover closed and a fully loaded magazine is inserted into the magazine well before leaving the police building.

Officers assigned to patrol duties shall carry their rifle secured in a locking device in their patrol vehicle, in a patrol ready condition during their assigned shift.

A fully loaded magazine may be either 20 or 30 round capacity, less one round. The patrol rifle will be secured in the vehicles weapons rack while on duty.

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At the end of the officer's patrol shift, the patrol rifle will be removed from the patrol vehicle, it shall be unloaded and transported to the department armory.

(a) Transportation between the vehicle and department shall be the same as patrol ready EXCEPT the loaded magazine will be removed from the patrol rifle and the weapon is checked visually and physically and cleared of any ammunition prior to entry into the police building.

(b) While off duty the assigned officer will secure their Patrol Rifle in a locked location. Examples of acceptable secured storage are:

1. The department armory
2. Other secure locations within the department as approved by the Director of Police Services or the officer's immediate supervisor.

(c) All other handling of Patrol Rifles will follow the guidelines established in Policy Manual 312.3.1 and 312.3.2.