



PATROL RIFLE

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<i>C.A.L.E.A.</i> 1.3.9; 1.3.10; 1.3.11	<i>Reference</i> (see "INDEX AS:")

INDEX AS:

Ammunition
Firearms
Munitions
SRT

Training
Weapons
Use of Force

I. PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the proper use of semi-automatic rifles in the performance of police duties.

II. POLICY

The Iowa City Police Department issues or approves semi-automatic rifles to specifically selected officers for unconventional situations where the police may face heavily armed and/or ballistically protected suspects. These rifles are a tool to allow the potential resolution of these incidents by providing a tactical advantage not available with more conventional police firearms.

III. DEFINITIONS

SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLE - For the purposes of this order, the ICPD issue patrol rifle is the Rock River Arms CAR A4- a semi-automatic rifle in .223 caliber with 16 inch barrel and 30 round capacity box magazine.

PATROL RIFLE OPERATOR (PRO) - A specially selected and trained officer of the patrol division currently issued one of the above rifles; or an officer

selected and trained to carry a personally owned rifle approved by the department. Operators are selected based on guidelines established by the Commander of Field Operations.

IV. RULES

- A. Patrol rifles are only to be deployed under guidelines established by this order.
- B. The decision to fire the rifle shall be in accordance with State Law and the ICPD Use of Force General Order 99-05.
- C. Off-duty Patrol Rifle Operators may only remove agency issued rifles from the Department premises for practice purposes. Rifles shall be stored and secured in accordance with Iowa Code 724.22(7) and ICPD General Order 00-08 Weapons.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. Deployment of Patrol Rifles
This order does not seek to articulate the only situations where rifle deployment is appropriate. The on-scene judgment of the officer or supervisor is the first indicator of appropriate deployment.
 - 1. Patrol Rifles shall be deployed only in situations that the officer reasonably believes that the tactical advantage afforded by the rifle may be necessary.
 - 2. The patrol rifle may be deployed in situations:
 - a. Where the officer believes a suspect he/she may encounter is wearing protective body armor or
 - b. Is believed to be armed with or has immediate access to high powered or shoulder fired weapons or
 - c. Is believed to be armed and situated in a distant or fortified location which affords the suspect a tactically superior position.
 - d. Other situations where approval for deployment of patrol rifle is authorized by the Watch Supervisor.
- B. Department Guidelines for Patrol Deployment
 - 1. The patrol rifle is issued to individual officers specially trained in their use. The rifles are issued in protective cases with up to 90 rounds of department approved and issued ammunition.
 - a. All rifles are to be stored in the trunk of the assigned officer's patrol car during his/her tour of duty; alternately, if the vehicle is equipped with a locking rack appropriate for the weapon, the rifle may be secured in the rack. Department issued rifles are to be secured in the officer's locker at the end of tour. No rifles shall be left in fleet vehicles at the end of an officer's tour of duty.
 - b. Officers are responsible for the safe and secure storage of their issued rifles at all times.
 - 2. Physical readiness of the rifle.

- a. The rifle shall be stored with a magazine inserted in the rifle, chamber empty, and safety on.
 - b. Rifle magazines will be loaded consistent with the training provided by Departmental PRO Instructors.
 - c. The rifle should be inspected frequently and adequately maintained. An armorer's inspection of the rifle and its magazines shall occur at a minimum of one time per year.
3. Qualification
- a. PRO Range days shall be held twice per year. PRO's must attend one of the PRO Range days each year in addition to sight confirmation at each Department Range day (spring and fall) in accordance with standards established by the Department's Rifle Instructors.
 - b. During qualification, failure to fire a passing score will result in a second attempt approximately one month later. Failure to fire a passing score at that time will result in the officer being suspended from the rifle program for a period of not less than three months. Upon failure to qualify on the second attempt, the officer shall surrender the department issued rifle to their Watch Commander. The Watch Commander may reissue the rifle to another qualified PRO on the watch or the Commander of Field Operations may designate a new PRO. Upon the expiration of the 3-months, the Commander of Field Operations shall determine if the rifle will remain with the current PRO or revert to the original officer.

C. Personally Owned Patrol Rifles:

The Iowa City Police Department may allow individual officers to purchase and carry their own patrol rifles, on duty, pursuant to this order.

1. Qualifications for Individually Owned Patrol Rifles
 - a. The officer must have successfully completed his/her probationary period.
 - b. The officer must submit a request to the Commander of Field Operations via the Chain of Command.
 - c. The officer's immediate supervisor and the Commander of Field Operations must approve the officer and weapon before a personally owned rifle can be used on duty.
 - d. The rifle shall be inspected by the department's Lead Range Officer in accordance with General Order 00-08 Weapons.
2. Training
 - a. Officers desiring to purchase and carry their own rifle must complete the same training and qualification as

- PROs using Department owned weapons.
- b. The Department Rifle Instructors shall track and keep records of both department owned and personally owned rifles being used by Patrol Rifle Operators. All qualification and sight confirmation records will be provided to the Department's Training Officer.
- c. The officers approved to carry personally owned rifles must successfully comply with Section B3 above in order to carry personally owned rifles.

3. Weapon Specifications

- a. Rifle shall be a gas-operated, semi-automatic, .223-caliber rifle of the type commonly known as AR-15, but with various designations depending upon manufacturer.
- b. Rifle manufacturer must be approved by Commander of Field Operations.
- c. The rifle barrel must be between 16 and 20 inches in length and may have either a fixed or collapsible stock. Officers who wish to carry a National Firearms Act registered short barreled rifle with a barrel length of less than 16 inches may do so with proof of registration submitted at time of application. Barrels of less than 10 inches are prohibited.
- d. Rifle must be equipped with an approved tactical sling.
- e. Rifle must have an attached light with illumination capabilities of at least 65 Lumens.
- f. The rifle must have either fixed or flip-up iron sights.
- g. An optical sighting device may be used. Common examples of acceptable optics would be Aimpoint or EOTech holographic sights.
- h. Officers shall only use magazines approved by the Commanding Officer Field Operations. Magazines shall be inspected on an annual basis by a Departmental Armorer.
- i. Officers must have an appropriate case to protect the rifle in the patrol car.
- j. Rifle shall only be deployed with .223 ammunition approved and supplied by the Iowa City Police Department.
- k. The owner of any weapon(s) approved pursuant to this policy; is responsible for all expenses related to the care, repair and maintenance of the weapon unless otherwise approved by the Commander of Field Operations.

- D. Special Response Team Members
Trained SRT members may carry their assigned shoulder weapon while on duty and on their patrol watch. SRT members carrying their

assigned weapon must follow the guidelines provided in this policy.

- E. To the extent practical, each Watch Commander will have assigned to their watch four (4) Patrol Rifle Operators. If an officer is a designated PRO and desires to transfer to another watch, that officer may be removed from the Patrol Rifle program and the rifle surrendered to the Watch Commander. The Watch Commander shall secure the weapon and may designate another officer as a PRO. The newly appointed PRO shall have completed the minimum course for Patrol Rifle Operators and supply qualifying range scores and sight confirmation records to the Training and Accreditation Sergeant.

Samuel Hargadine, Chief of Police

WARNING

This directive is for departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. The department policy should not be construed as a creation of higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third-party claims. Violations of this directive will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions.