

	<p align="center">BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT</p> <p align="center">POLICY AND PROCEDURE GENERAL ORDER</p>	Distribution	General Order Number
		ALL PERSONNEL	<b>3.08</b>
		Original Issue Date	Reissue/Effective Date
		6/19/18	6/5/19
Order Title:  <b>PATROL RIFLES</b>		Accreditation Standard:	Section
		POSTC 1.14.1; 1.14.4	3
		Section Title <b>RULES OF CONDUCT</b>	
Rescinds:		Armando J. Perez, Chief of Police	

*This General Order is for departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. This General Order should not be construed as creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this General Order will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting*

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines governing the training, carrying, and deployment of a patrol rifle to members of the Bridgeport Police Department.

## II. POLICY

The Bridgeport Police Department (“Department”) is committed to providing its officers with the tools necessary to perform critical functions related to public safety and service. To accomplish this goal, the Department recognizes the need for specialized weapons for use in critical assignments. To this end, Bridgeport Police Department officers are authorized to carry and deploy a patrol rifle, as provided for in this policy.

Only members of the Bridgeport Police Department who have successfully completed the established course of Patrol Rifle training shall be authorized to carry Patrol Rifles. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a member who has not completed the required training from taking custody of a Patrol Rifle for the purpose of securing it, or from deploying the rifle in extraordinary circumstances.

It is the policy of the Bridgeport Police Department that officers use only that level of force that is objectively reasonable to bring an incident under control and protect the officer or third parties from imminent physical harm. The Police Patrol rifle may be considered another implement of deadly force and as such, its usage will be consistent with this department’s use of force and firearms policy. The policy is intended to be consistent with, and a component part of, the Department’s policy on the Use of Deadly Force.

### III. DEFINITIONS

Patrol Rifle/Tactical Carbine: Department issued or authorized rifle or carbine that has been inspected and approved by a Department Armorer. [Stag Arms, Bushmaster, Smith & Wesson Colt, Troy Industries]

Storage Condition: The rifle's selector lever on "safe," magazine removed, chamber empty, and bolt closed.

Tactical Condition: The rifle's selector lever on "safe," magazine loaded into the rifle and a round of ammunition is chambered, making the rifle ready for immediate use.

Patrol Car Ready: Rifle's selector lever on safe, no live round of ammunition in the chamber, bolt closed, [REDACTED]

Deployed: Any time the rifle is removed from its case or mounting and brought into view of the public during an emergency or other police operation.

### IV. PROCEDURES

#### A. General

1. Officers carrying the department approved rifles shall orally advise the shift supervisor at the beginning of each shift that they are carrying said weapon during the shift. The daily roster shall also identify those officers that are carrying the patrol rifle.
2. Patrol rifles shall not be left in patrol cars at the end of a shift.
3. Rifles having a loaded magazine inserted shall not be brought into the police department unless contained within a locked, hard case.
4. A record of all weapons to be used by the Bridgeport Police Department shall be maintained by the Department's firearms training unit officer.
  - a. Weapons will be logged by make, model, and serial number.
  - b. Approvals to carry a patrol rifle will be kept in the approved officer's training file.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. Officers shall use caution when employing a patrol rifle in close proximity to a subject(s) where weapon retention may be an issue. Considerations for when a shotgun or patrol rifle is deployed include, but are limited to:
  - a. Population density of the area;
  - b. Use and construction of building in which the weapon is to be used;
  - c. Type and proximity of surrounding buildings and area;
  - d. Type of weapon known or believed to be in the possession of the suspect(s)
  - e. Rapid response to an active shooter; and
  - f. Presence of a clear field of fire and backdrop.
3. Rifles should not be utilized in an environment that would tactically hinder safe movement and the ability to utilize the weapon, if the situation is avoidable.
4. Discharge of the patrol rifle shall be governed by the Department's *Use of Force Policies*.
5. Following any deployment of a patrol rifle, the deployment and circumstances of the deployment shall be documented in a police report and submitted to the shift commander prior to the end of the shift.

C. Patrol Ready

1. Any qualified officer carrying a patrol rifle in the field shall maintain the weapon in "patrol ready" status until deployed. A rifle is considered "patrol ready" when it has been inspected by the assigned officer and meets the following conditions:
  - a. There is no round in the chamber;
  - b. The rifle bolt is forward with the trigger pulled in a safe direction.
  - c. There is a fully loaded magazine in the rifle with no more than 29 rounds;
  - d. The rifle is stored in a locked in a secured patrol mount inside the police vehicle's trunk, if the patrol vehicle is outfitted with an appropriate rifle mount.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

E. Post Firing Rifle Handling

1. In the event the rifle is fired, the officer must maintain the condition of the rifle.
2. After the incident has been stabilized, the safety shall be engaged.
3. No other actions shall be taken to render the rifle "safe."
4. The rifle shall be turned over to the duty Sergeant or Incident Commander.

F. Rifle Security

1. Vehicles

- a. Rifles will be removed from any vehicle prior to being taken out of service or being serviced by any trustee assigned to the Department (for example, fueling, washing, etc.) unless an officer is available to standby with the vehicle until the maintenance is completed.
- b. Vehicles with electronic locks shall not be left unattended without first removing the ignition key and locking the vehicle
- c. Vehicles with manual locks shall not be left unattended without first removing the rifle lock key and locking the vehicle

2. Department/Headquarters

- a. Employees will secure the rifle in a designated secured rifle storage space in the police facility when not in use. Rifles in vehicles will be "patrol car ready."
- b. Rifles having a loaded magazine inserted shall not be brought into the police department unless contained within a locked, hard case.

G. Equipment

1. The Bridgeport Police Department authorizes for use the following rifles:
  - (a)
2. All patrol rifles used by the Bridgeport Police Department must be approved by the Chief of Police.



4. Officers shall carry only department-issued ammunition.

#### H. Maintenance

1. Officers are responsible for keeping their assigned rifle serviceable, clean, and lubricated.
2. Primary responsibility for maintenance of patrol rifles shall fall on the Department's armorer(s), who shall inspect and service each patrol rifle during qualifications or when requested
3. All rifles are subject to inspection at any time.
4. Officers shall not perform any alterations or modifications other than routine cleaning and maintenance without prior written authorization from the Chief of Police, or designee.
5. The Department may add accessories such as lights and scope after the selected accessories are approved for carry by the firearms officer and the Chief of Police or designee.
6. Any damage, other than cosmetic, or mechanical failure of any kind, shall be immediately reported to the Shift Supervisor in writing by the end of the shift. The rifle shall be taken out of service until repaired and cleared for service by a Department Armorer.
7. The Department is responsible for repairs to rifles damaged during the course of duty.

#### I. Training

1. Prior to carrying a patrol rifle, officers are required to successfully complete a department approved training course, and demonstrate proficiency in the use of the weapon in compliance with POSTC requirements.(see G.O. 3.07, *Firearms*)



3. Failure to attend or successfully complete the training is cause for revocation of permission to carry the rifle while on duty. Officers who fail to qualify shall comply with the procedures set forth in 3.07, *Firearms*, regarding remedial training.

4. All training, including remedial training, shall be documented.

J. Officer-purchased Patrol Rifles

1. The only rifles other than Emergency services unit rifles shall be the rifles approved for purchase by the Firearms Training Unit.