



Colorado Springs Police Department

Standard Operating Procedure

DL-1530-02 Designated Marksman Program

Section 1500 – Police Equipment

Effective Date: 6/23/2021

Supersedes Date: 12/14/2018

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to establish the guidelines for equipping and training patrol personnel to deploy approved rifle systems to address distant threats in an emergency situation, termed the designated marksman program.

.02 Cross Reference

[GO 1500 Issuing & Accountability of Police Equipment](#)

[DL-800-01 Firearms Qualification](#)

[DL-1200-01 Barricaded Suspects](#)

[DL-1200-02 Hostage Situations](#)

[DL-1530-01 Patrol Carbine Program](#)

[DL-1720-03 Armory](#)

.03 Definitions

Designated Marksman: A sworn officer who has attended and successfully completed the department's mandatory marksman training and who has been approved to by the division commander to deploy a designated marksman rifle (DMR).

Weapon Status Conditions:

- Safe Condition: action open, empty chamber and magazine well, safety is "on."
- Transport Condition: action closed, empty chamber, safety is "on," and a fully loaded magazine is inserted in magazine well. The magnified scope is on power setting #1 and the illuminated reticle is turned off.
- Tactical Condition: action closed, round chambered, safety is "on" and a loaded magazine in magazine well.

- Firing Condition: action is closed with a round chambered, safety is "off" and a loaded magazine is in the magazine well.

.04 Procedure

The purpose of the designated marksman program is to provide specially trained patrol officers the capability to defend themselves and the public at extended ranges. Through the use of variable power optics and purpose built rifles, officers have the capability to engage threats at distances up to 300 yards.

Designated marksman rifles (DMR) those selected to deploy the weapon will conform to the criteria established by this procedure.

Designated Marksman Rifle

The designated marksman rifle must conform to the same requirements as the patrol rifle (see [DL-1530-01 Patrol Carbine Program](#)) with some exceptions.

Designated marksman rifles must also have:

- [REDACTED]

All department issued and personally owned DMR must be deployed as issued. No modifications or alterations will be made without range master approval.

Inspection of DMR

DMR will be approved and inspected by a department range master.

DMR are required to be inspected annually, the time and date of the inspection will be determined by the in-service training sergeant. These inspections will be conducted according to standards set by the training academy. DMR that fail to meet the inspection standard will be deadlined for repair and will not be deployed until serviced by a certified armorer.

Accessories/Alterations on Designated Marksman Rifle

Any alteration or accessory added to any designated marksman rifle must be approved by a range master. Accessories could include, but are not limited to:

- Slings
- Optics
- Tactical lights

Any modifications to a DMR must be approved and completed by a range master.

Prohibited Accessories

Laser aiming devices are not approved and will not be affixed to any DMR deployed during an officer's work assignment.

Training

Only those officers who have attended and successfully completed the patrol rifle certification can apply to attend the designated marksman course. The designated marksman course will be held at least twice annually, at the discretion of the training academy.

Any qualified officer assigned to deploy the weapon will only do so after successfully completing the 20 hour designated marksman course. This course is designed to instruct and qualify the operator as to the functions and limitations of the weapon. Upon the completion of the course, the operator will know how and when to deploy the weapon effectively and safely. The operator will learn necessary marksmanship skills, malfunction response, carry techniques, range estimations, long range shooting, positional shooting, and longer range deadly force considerations.

Upon completion of the designated marksman course, the operator must qualify regularly with the weapon in accordance with [DL-800-01 Firearms Qualification](#). The operator's qualification to carry and deploy the weapon will be determined only by a department range master and the marksman's chain of command.

Any officer who has not satisfactorily completed the designated marksman course and yearly qualification courses is not authorized to deploy the DMR.

The training academy will be responsible for maintaining qualification records, rifle maintenance records and other training records. Scheduling will be coordinated through the training academy.

Deployment Procedures

All certified designated marksmen will carry the rifle while on duty.

At the beginning of a duty shift, the operator will inspect the weapon and its components (e.g., magazine, approved accessories) to ensure the weapon is operable and free from any damages that would render it inoperable. Extra attention should be paid to the condition of the magnified scope and its battery.

The marksman will have available: [REDACTED]

The operator will ensure that the weapon is in transport condition and is secured in its case. The weapon will be secured within the locked trunk of the vehicle. Cases must be secured in such a manner as to prohibit accidental ejection from the trunk.

Deployment Considerations

The decision to deploy the weapon in an emergency situation must be governed by the marksman's assessment of the situation and understanding of the capabilities and limitations of the weapon as well as the assessment that the handgun or shotgun would be less effective. Examples of appropriate deployments are when suspect(s) are in possession of assault type weapons and a firefright is imminent, or in a sniper situation.

Due to the ballistic capabilities of the rifle cartridge, and the sighting system of the weapon, the weapon's optimal effective distance is approximately 300 yards. Although the DMR can be utilized at any distance, any shot at a distance exceeding 100 yards, they must weigh the exigency of the shot against the diminished accuracy, created by the greater distance.

As with the use of any firearm, the operator must be aware of the background of the target, even more so due to the distance of travel and penetration of the bullet. The following additional factors should be considered:

- Target and threat identification
- Obstructions between the weapon and the target
- Immediacy of threat to hostages, innocent bystanders, and officers, to include the marksman
- Range estimation

The situations that warrant the deployment of the weapon may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Precision shooting situations.
- Situation where a threat is immediate and distance is longer than the capabilities of either the handgun or shotgun.
- Directed fire will allow for the rescue of injured officer(s) or citizen(s) under fire.
- Suspect is wearing protective body armor.
- Rural setting where distance is a factor (such as limited cover available creating long distance).
- Multiple targets posing an immediate threat that is beyond the capabilities of other duty issued weapons to control.

- If the weapons being utilized by the suspect(s) are high magazine capacity assault type weapons.

Storage of DMR Rifles

Private or department owned designated marksman rifles utilized for duty will be stored in compliance with division guidelines. If no guideline is provided, they will be stored in a secure location at either the division or at the employee's personal residence. No weapon will be stored in police cruisers or in a non-secure location.