



GENERAL ORDER

DURHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
DURHAM, NC

NUMBER:

1047 R-5

PATROL SHARPSHOOTER

Effective Date: 04/15/2002

Revision Dates: R-1 01/10/2005; R-2 01/09/2009; R-3 02/20/2017;
R-4 02/20/2024 **R-5 04/03/2024**

INTRODUCTION

The Patrol Sharpshooter's mission is to provide Field Operations Bureau-Patrol Services with an added resource when responding to situations involving heavily armed suspects and high-risk incidents. The patrol rifle has superior accuracy potential, increased effective range, increased magazine capacity, and superior terminal ballistics performance compared to the issued duty pistol. These characteristics improve the safety of the general public when an officer is forced to use deadly force.

DEFINITIONS

Patrol Sharpshooter: a sworn officer with the rank of Sergeant and below issued a patrol rifle by the Durham Police Department (DPD). These officers will have successfully completed the Patrol Rifle Training Program presented by the DPD.

Patrol Rifle: a carbine rifle (specifications found in Approved Weapons & Ammunition attachment) owned by the DPD.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Rangemaster, or a designated firearms instructor, will serve as the Patrol Sharpshooter coordinator. They will be responsible for the administrative management, inventory, inspection of the equipment, quarterly training, and the annual written evaluation of the program. If different from the Rangemaster, the coordinator will report to the Rangemaster for administrative management, scheduling training, and inspection of the equipment. The coordinator is responsible for submitting documentation of training and selection processes to the Training Division Commander. The coordinator will work with the armorer to ensure inventory and inspection of the equipment is accurate.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION OF PATROL RIFLE PROGRAM MEMBERS

Patrol Sharpshooters will be selected per General Order (G.O.) [1020 Specialized Assignment](#) to include the following modified eligibility requirements:

- Current or imminent assignment to Field Operations Bureau-Patrol Services or Organized Crime Division as a first responder;
- Holds the rank of sergeant and below;
- Completion of 12 months of continuous service as a sworn officer with the DPD, following full release from the Police Training Officer Program by the application deadline date;
- Submission of a favorable recommendation by the applicant's immediate supervisor and district commander;
- Qualification score of 90 % or better on the DPD day and night-time Handgun Qualification Course; and
- Successful completion of the Patrol Rifle Training Program presented by the DPD, scoring 90% or better on all qualification requirements (1 out of 2 attempts).

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DEPLOYMENT & UTILIZATION OF PATROL SHARPSHOOTER

Under no circumstances may any officer obtain a rifle and carry it on duty unless they are currently a member of the Patrol Sharpshooter Program or are otherwise authorized to do so by assignment. Team members are authorized to use their discretion in determining when to utilize the patrol rifle following the Patrol Rifle Training Program and G.O. 4008 [Use of Force](#).

ISSUANCE AND CARE OF PATROL RIFLE

Upon completion of the Patrol Rifle Training Program, the officer will be issued a patrol rifle designated and approved by the program coordinator along with a case and a lock. Members are personally responsible for this equipment, per G.O. 3001 [Firearms & Range Procedures](#). Their responsibilities include properly cleaning, maintaining, and inspecting the rifle before each tour of duty. Only DPD-issued ammunition will be used for training and deployment. Only issued or approved accessories will be used for training and deployment. No alterations or modifications of issued equipment are authorized without the Rangemaster's approval.

Magnified optics must be approved by the Rangemaster and then may be used for training, qualification, and deployment.

CARRYING AND STORAGE OF PATROL RIFLE

When the Patrol Sharpshooter is on duty, the patrol rifle will be stored in the patrol vehicle's trunk inside its case. The patrol rifle will have the bolt closed with an empty chamber, the safety on, and a full magazine in the weapon.

While off-duty, team members will be held to the same safety and security standards in storing the patrol rifle as any other Department weapon. When not being carried by the officer, all Department weapons will be safely stored to reasonably protect against theft or misuse of the weapon. (G.O. 3001 [Firearms & Range Procedures](#)) The patrol rifle will not be secured in a vehicle off duty unless the vehicle is parked inside a residential garage or the vehicle is equipped with an alarm and interior locking vault.

DEPLOYING WITH THE PATROL RIFLE

Because safely handling the rifle requires both hands, when an officer has deployed their patrol rifle, the officer's function will be limited solely to handling the rifle. Searching or handcuffing a suspect or other duties should not occur (whenever possible) until the weapon is re-secured, as directed above.

Patrol Sharpshooters will use the same discretion about discharging their patrol rifle as they currently use with the duty weapon. Display and discharge of a patrol rifle will be documented per G.O. 4008 [Use of Force](#).

QUARTERLY TRAINING SESSIONS

Training sessions will be scheduled by the program coordinator with the supervision of the Rangemaster and approved by the Training Division Commander. Training sessions implement fundamental safe weapon handling skills, accuracy skills, deployment decision-making skills, and use-of-force updates. Training will prioritize safe movement with the rifle, improving accuracy and decision-making abilities.

All patrol sharpshooters will be required to post a day and night-time handgun qualification score of at least 90% during one (1) quarterly training session per calendar year.

Quarterly training will be conducted by a certified rifle instructor who is also a certified North Carolina Specialized Firearms Instructor.

MAINTAINING ASSIGNMENT AS A PATROL SHARPSHOOTER

Members must meet the following criteria to remain a Patrol Sharpshooter and maintain authorization to carry their rifles while on duty:

- Quarterly rifle training is mandatory. Members are required to attend a minimum of two (2) quarterly training sessions per calendar year. Failure to attend training will result in removal from the program. Emergency absences may be approved by the program coordinator.
- Each officer must maintain a minimum score of 90% with their department-issued handgun on the in-service firearms day and night-time course of fire. If an officer fails to qualify with a 90% score or better on the day and night handgun qualification course, their authorization to carry a patrol rifle will be immediately revoked. The officer will turn in their rifle and all related equipment to the armory or to the rangemaster. That officer is authorized to reapply for the program when the next announcement is advertised for openings.

- Each officer must maintain a minimum score of 90% with their patrol rifle on the department-mandated courses of fire. If an officer fails to qualify with a 90% score or better on the day and night department-mandated rifle qualification course, their authorization to carry a patrol rifle will be immediately revoked. The officer will turn in their rifle and all related equipment to the armory or the Rangemaster. That officer is authorized to reapply for the program when the next announcement is advertised for openings.

Any revocation of the patrol rifle assignment will be made, in writing, to the Training Division Commander and the team member's commander.

TERMINATION, EXTENDED ABSENCE & REINSTATEMENT OF PATROL SHARPSHOOTER ASSIGNMENT

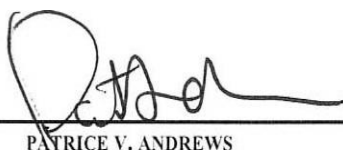
The Patrol Sharpshooter program is designed to make the patrol rifle capability available to Field Operations Bureau-Patrol Services. If a team member is transferred outside of the Field Operations Bureau-Patrol Services or promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, they will automatically discontinue their team membership, without penalty. On their last weekday of day shift, the patrol rifle and ancillary equipment will be turned into the armorer.

Depending on the department's needs, members who discontinued their membership due to a transfer may be reinstated as a team member if they transfer back to patrol within two (2) years of their transfer; and still meet disciplinary and performance appraisal eligibility requirements in G.O. 1020 [*Specialized Assignments*](#).

Should an officer fail to meet the criteria listed above, their authorization to carry the rifle on duty will be suspended immediately. If a member is transferring back to patrol after two (2) years, they will be required to reapply and complete the basic patrol rifle course.

Being assigned to the patrol rifle team is a privilege. At the discretion of their district commander or the Training Division Commander, a patrol rifle team member's authorization to carry the rifle may be suspended immediately at any time for any reason. If authorization to carry is suspended, the district or Training Division Commander will contact the Rangemaster, team coordinator (if different from Rangemaster), and armorer to coordinate collecting the rifle and issued equipment.

If a team member is expected to be on leave from patrol duties for more than six (6) months, it is their responsibility to contact the patrol rifle coordinator to determine storage and eligibility requirements.



PATRICE V. ANDREWS
CHIEF OF POLICE