

<p>MESA POLICE</p> <p>Department Policy Manual</p>	<p>Patrol Rifle Protocols</p>	<p>DPM 1.6.20 Effective 10/10/2012 Revised 01/22/2025</p>
<p>Approved by: Chief of Police</p>	<p>Chapter: Firearms</p>	<p>Page: 1 of 3</p>

1. PURPOSE

This policy provides Mesa Police Department (MPD) members with guidelines for the Patrol Rifle Program, authorization for patrol rifle carry and use, and training requirements.

2. AUTHORIZATION & USE

- A. The affected Division Commanders may approve officers from Patrol, Criminal Investigations, and Special Investigations to carry Department-issued rifles while on duty.
 - 1. The Range Sergeant has final approval of Patrol Rifle Operators.
- B. Training and qualification are required prior to being authorized to carry and use a patrol rifle. See the **Training** section for further information on requirements.
- C. Carry only those rifles approved by the Range Sergeant. Refer to [DPM 1.6.5A1 Authorized Firearms & Accessories List](#) for specific models and specifications.
- D. Only rifles issued by the Department are authorized for use.
- E. Use only Department-issued, factory-loaded ammunition as outlined in [DPM 1.6.5 Authorized Firearms & Ammunition](#).
- F. Patrol Rifle Operators shall follow the use of force protocols as outlined in [DPM 2.1.1 Use of Force](#) and [DPM 2.1.20 Firearms Use](#).
- G. Patrol Rifle Operators in Patrol Divisions should be distributed among the various work shifts so there is always one available.
- H. Patrol rifles are authorized for use as a cover weapon when a potentially lethal threat is encountered, and/or when greater range and/or accuracy are needed.
- I. Officers approved to carry a patrol rifle may be permitted to carry a less lethal shotgun; however, officers shall **NOT** deploy both weapons at the same time.

3. HANDLING, CARE & INSPECTIONS

3.1 Security & Handling

- A. Patrol rifles will be secured and handled as outlined in [DPM 1.6.15 Firearms Handling & Security](#).

3.2 Maintenance & Repairs

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- A. Officers issued patrol rifles are responsible for the care and maintenance of their weapon.
- B. Patrol rifles requiring maintenance or repair must be taken to the Range Sergeant or designee as outlined in [DPM 1.6.5 Authorized Firearms & Ammunition](#).

3.3 Inspections

- A. Patrol rifles shall be inspected annually by Range personnel as outlined in [DPM 1.6.5 Authorized Firearms & Ammunition](#).

4. PATROL RIFLE PROGRAM

- A. The Range Sergeant:
 - 1. Manages the Patrol Rifle Program.
 - 2. Is responsible for updating, ordering, and distributing equipment as needed.
- B. Members eligible for the MPD Patrol Rifle Program must:
 - 1. Have 18 months as a sworn MPD officer and completed the probationary period to be eligible to apply.
 - a. Any exceptions must be approved by the Training Division Commander.
 - 2. Pass workstation file and Internal Affairs reviews and score 190 or above on the AZPOST Pistol Qualification.
- C. If a member is assigned a patrol rifle and is later selected for a SWAT or VOU position, the member will return the rifle to the Range Sergeant or designee for reassignment.

5. TRAINING

- A. Upon acceptance into the Patrol Rifle Program, officers shall attend and successfully complete a Department approved training course covering proper use and deployment of the weapon.
- B. The Range Sergeant or designee shall verify and record the required qualifications and initial training.
- C. Approved Patrol Rifle Operators will train quarterly and qualify bi-annually with the patrol rifle. Training is mandatory.
- D. Members who fail to qualify after two attempts during a qualification are not deployable with their rifle until they remediate and requalify.
- E. If a member fails to qualify after two attempts during two consecutive bi-annual qualifications, they will be removed from the Patrol Rifle Program.

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- F. Missing a quarterly rifle training without an approved excuse will result in the member being non-deployable as a Patrol Rifle Operator until the member makes up the training.
1. Make-up training will be offered after each quarterly rifle training. If a member misses the quarterly training and the make-up dates for that quarterly training, they will be removed from the Patrol Rifle Program.
 - a. For the purposes of this policy, attending a make-up training constitutes missing the allotted timeline for the quarterly training.
 - b. Make-up trainings will be held for two weeks following the completion of each quarterly training.
 2. If the member misses two quarterly rifle trainings without an approved excuse, or two consecutive quarterly rifle trainings, the member will be removed from the Patrol Rifle Program.

REFERENCES

- [DPM 1.6.5 Authorized Firearms & Ammunition](#)
- [DPM 1.6.5A1 Authorized Firearms & Accessories List](#)
- [DPM 1.6.15 Firearms Handling & Security](#)
- [DPM 2.1.1 Use of Force](#)
- [DPM 2.1.20 Firearms Use](#)
- [MPD Patrol Rifle Program Manual](#)