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I. Policy

The Division issued rifle is the FN 15. If the Division does not have a agency owned patrol rifles available to be issued, Officers may choose to purchase, at their own expense, the AR-15/M4 type rifle as an alternative patrol rifle pending approval from the Chief, Park Police Division, or their designee via the Division Range Master. This Directive does not preclude the Chief, Park Police Division, from approving other Patrol Rifles for use by Division personnel.

II. Selection for the Patrol Rifle Program

The Chief, Park Police Division, or their designee will establish the selection criteria for personnel to participate in the patrol rifle program.

III. Issuance

- A. Patrol Rifles will be assigned to selected officers upon successful completion of a Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission (MPCTC) approved patrol rifle Type 2 or Type 3 course. Officers must attend classroom, demonstrate proficiency, and must qualify with a score of 90% or better for each portion of the patrol rifle course (day and reduced light, optics and iron sights).
- B. Any unsafe firearm will be made safe by the officer assigned to the firearm. If the officer cannot make it safe, then a certified armorer or firearms instructor will make it safe. Appropriate firearms safety areas will be utilized to make a firearm safe. The firearm will be removed from service, inspected and repaired.
- C. The Division Range Master will ensure that rifles are issued according to procedures and the appropriate forms are completed. The Division Range Master will develop, submit to MPCTC for approval, and implement an approved training program.

IV. FN 15 Rifle

- A. In specific instances, the Chief, Park Police Division, or designee may approve a patrol rifle, other than the Division issued rifle, for use by personnel. This approval will be submitted in writing through the Range Master. All applicable sections of this Directive as well as the Firearms Directive will govern the use of the approved patrol rifle.
- B. Officers are not authorized to perform modifications, alterations, or make repairs to Division issued firearms. Any changes to issued or personal rifles for duty use must be

approved by the Division Range Master or designee.

- C. It is the responsibility of each officer to maintain the issued firearm in a clean and serviceable condition to include monthly supervisor inspections and yearly inspections by a certified armorer or gunsmith. Any firearm found to be unsafe will be removed from service. The Division Range Master will be notified.
 - D. The FN 15 will be equipped with, at a minimum, a red dot sight system or Low Power Variable Optic (LPVO), flashlight, sling, at least (3) three 30 round capacity magazines with magazine pouches and a carrying case.
- V. AR-15/M4 Type Personal Purchase Rifle
- A. The AR-15/M4 rifle platform must meet the following requirements (no other accessories are allowed unless authorized by the Division Range Master):
 - 1. 5.56/.223 caliber capability
 - 2. Direct gas impingement system
 - 3. Standard or collapsible stock
 - 4. Picatinny 1913 rail type system, M-Lok rail, or standard handguard
 - 5. 16-inch barrel
 - 6. Front and rear sights (fixed and/or flip type)
 - 7. Red dot type sights (see approved list)
 - 8. Forend mounted flashlight
 - 9. Flash hider
 - 10. At least (3) three magazines: 20 round or 30 round maximum capacity
 - 11. Sling
 - B. The following list is approved for rifle mounted optics. This does not prevent any future models from being added due to technological enhancements. The Division Range Master will maintain an updated list:
 - 1. Aimpoint variants such as the Pro, Comp M3/ML3, Comp M4, Micro series.
 - 2. Eotech variants such as XPS2/XPS3, EXPS2/EXPS3, MRDS, 550 series.
 - 3. Trijicon variants such as RMR, SRS, Reflex.
 - 4. Leupold Variants
 - 5. Vortex Variants
 - C. Officers will maintain the rifles in serviceable condition to include monthly supervisor inspections and yearly inspections by a certified armorer or gunsmith, purchasing parts, cleaning supplies/ materials, etc. The rifles will be transported in an approved case. The agency will have certified armorers available. The agency will supply duty ammo (issuance) and practice ammo (qualifications).
- VI. Storage/Security
- A. The patrol rifle, except for deployment, training, etc., will be kept in a secure in-car mount, locking trunk vault, or approved lockable gun case, in "cruiser condition", while the officer is on-duty.
 - B. While the patrol rifle is being carried in a cruiser, an officer may not leave the cruiser unlocked or running while unattended. (K-9 exception)
 - C. When officers are off duty the patrol rifle must be secured, i.e., in a safe, lockbox,

weapon locking mechanism, etc. It will be stored in “storage condition” (Just having a secured residence but leaving the gun unattended and not in a secured container is considered careless and may be grounds for disciplinary action.

VII. Qualification - Refer to firearms directive 400.1

VIII. Conversions

- A. A clarification as it relates to Type 3 rifle types in COMAR. COMAR makes frequent reference to Type 3 rifles in regard to when a conversion class is needed, however “Type” is never defined in COMAR. Since the term is never defined in COMAR, it is incumbent upon the various agencies throughout the State to determine if there is a difference in operation that warrants conversion training to ensure safe and effective use of the firearm.

While there are many manufacturers of the AR pattern rifle, they all hold the same characteristics, such as an external safety selector, detachable box magazine, and a pistol grip. After further consideration the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division, will consider all brands of AR pattern rifles chambered in 5.56 NATO and capable of firing .223 REM as the same type and will not require a conversion class if the Division or an officer change’s models.

IX. Ammunition

- A. The approved ammunition for the patrol rifles will be:
1. .223/5.56mm
 2. 9mm
- B. The ammunition will be carried in approved magazines. One magazine will be in the patrol rifle. The other magazines will be in an approved carrying device/pouch.

X. Damage to Division Issued Patrol Rifles

- A. All personnel will follow the procedures in the sections of the Division Directive “Equipment” that apply to Repair and to Lost, Stolen or Damaged Uniforms and Equipment as they apply to weapons.
- B. Personnel who damage issued firearms through abuse, neglect, carelessness, misuse, or fail to properly maintain an issued Patrol Rifle will be reported, in writing, to the Chief, Park Police Division, through that individual's chain of command.
- C. Personnel will be required to replace, at their own expense, any Division Patrol Rifle lost, stolen, or damaged through negligence, in accordance with the provisions of Division Directive Equipment.

By Authority of

Lakeisha Robinson

A/Chief Lakeisha Robinson
Maryland-National Capital Park Police
Montgomery County Division

End of Directive






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Final Audit Report

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