	Matthews Police Department		
	General Order: POLICE CARBINE, CARE & USE	Section .04: Equipment and Personal Appearance	Order #: 04-09
	Review: Annually in December by the Administrative Division Commander	Issue Date: 02/25/2021 Supersedes G.O. 04-09 dated 09/17/2020	

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this General Order is to provide guidelines for the deployment and/or use of semi-automatic carbines in the performance of police duties. These carbines are a tool intended to allow for the potential resolution of critical incidents by providing a tactical advantage not available with conventional police firearms.

II. CROSS-REF:

CALEA Standard 4.3.1

III. DISCUSSION:

IV. POLICY:


Officers of the Matthews Police Department shall carry/utilize semi-automatic carbines weapons only when approved by a member of the Command Staff and only after the officer has demonstrated proficiency with the weapon, as verified by a member of the Firearms Training Staff.

V. DEFINITIONS:

Suppressor- devices typically constructed of a metal cylinder with internal mechanisms to reduce the sound of firing by slowing the escaping propellant gas.

VI. AUTHORIZATION OF POSSESSION & USE:

1. The carbine shall be issued only to officers approved for specialty trained in their use.
 - A. The officer must have successfully completed his/her field training period with the Matthews Police Department;
 - B. The officer must be approved by the Training Staff to attend department instructed training before being issued a patrol carbine weapon;
 - C. The officer must complete appropriate training relating to the use of the patrol carbine as designated by the Department policy or directive.
 - a. To become authorized to carry, the officer shall attend the department inservice carbine training course or approved equivalent and qualify with the patrol carbine with a qualification score of 90% in accordance with standards established by the North Carolina Training and Standards Commission and the Matthews Police Department.
 - b. Failure to qualify as required will result in the officer being placed in an unqualified status. As a result, the officer will be denied the use of the carbine as well as access to the firearm. Further use or access to the firearm will be prohibited until satisfactory qualification and/or remedial training is accomplished.
2. Department-issued police carbines shall be utilized for official purposes only; personal use is prohibited.
3. Personally-owned AR-style rifles and carbines are no longer approved for department use and shall be transported in a Department vehicle without prior authorization.
4. Police carbines are only to be deployed under the guidelines established by this order.
5. The decision to fire the police carbine shall be in accordance with N.C.G.S.15A-401(d) and

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Matthews Police General Order 05-04 Use of Force.

VII. WEAPON SPECIFICATIONS:

1. Police carbines shall be of a gas-operated or AR piston-driven design, semi-automatic, and 5.56 NATO in caliber, or other, approved caliber. This definition would include carbines of various manufacturers that fall into the same general design parameters as that of the AR-15. No polymer-framed versions of the AR-15 will be allowed by the department.
2. The police carbines are purchased and issued by the department. Make and models may vary from purchase based on availability and current manufacturer's guidelines. Generally, carbines with 16-inch barrels will be purchased and issued. Personally owned suppressors (devices typically constructed of a metal cylinder with internal mechanisms to reduce the sound of firing by slowing the escaping propellant gas) are prohibited for use.
3. The patrol carbine must be equipped with an appropriate sling that allows the carbine to be slung in front of the carrying officer and that does not interfere with the officer's ability to draw his/her duty handgun.
4. The patrol carbine must have fixed or auxiliary (flip-up) type sights.
5. The patrol carbine may be equipped with an optical device (i.e. Red Dot or Holographic Sight). The optical sighting device must be of a design and manufacturer that is intended for military or law enforcement applications on a patrol rifle. Matthews Police issued optical sighting devices are the Aimpoint, EOTech, or Vortex sights. The Department supplies each rifle with an attached red dot sight of one of these brands (primarily the Vortex red dot site).
6. Following the addition of any approved Red Dot or Holographic Sight, the officer will be required to conduct a mechanical sight zero prior to utilizing or deploying the rifle in an official capacity.
7. Police Carbines issued to Special Response Team members and others selected by duty position, may be of shortened length barrel, approximately 10.5 inches in length.
8. The use of Department-owned suppressors is authorized upon issuance and the re-zeroing or zero confirmation of the weapon system.

VIII. DEPLOYMENT CIRCUMSTANCES:

1. Police carbines shall be deployed only in situations where the officer may reasonably believe that the tactical advantage afforded by the carbine would be necessary. They are not to be used for routine calls where the use of the issued handgun is appropriate or for calls where the information dispatched is not matched by a clear threat to public safety in actuality.
2. This order does not seek to articulate the only situations where the deployment of the patrol carbine is appropriate. Sound officer/supervisor judgment is the first step for the appropriate deployment of the patrol carbine. The patrol carbine may be deployed in the following situations:
 - A. Where the officer believes a suspect is wearing protective body armor and/or
 - B. Where the officer believes a suspect is armed with or has immediate access to a high-powered rifle or other shoulder-fired weapons and/or
 - C. Where the officer believes a suspect is armed and situated in a distant and/or fortified location that affords the suspect a tactically superior position and/or

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D. Where approval of the patrol carbine is authorized by an on-duty supervisor.

IX. STORAGE & SECURITY:

1. The carbines must be stored in protective cases or locked in a rack/safe with a minimum of two (2) thirty-round magazines and 60 rounds of department-approved and/or issued ammunition.
 - A. Carbines are to be stored in the trunk of the assigned officer's patrol vehicle during his tour of duty or in the appropriate locking mount within the passenger compartment of the patrol vehicle.
 - B. Officers are responsible for the safe and secure storage of their issued or carbine at all times.

X. PHYSICAL READINESS OF THE CARBINE:

1. When stored in the trunk of the patrol vehicle, the carbine may be stored in the case in an unloaded condition (empty chamber/safety in the on-safe position), or in the cruiser-safe position (empty chamber but magazines in the rifle). Two fully loaded magazines will be stored with the carbine inside the case or on a tactical vest, or duty-belt if appropriate for ready access.
2. The carbine should be inspected frequently by the officer and adequately maintained. The carbine should be inspected once per calendar year by the departmental armorer.

XI. WEAPON INVENTORY AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

1. The departmental armorer will maintain a complete listing of all patrol rifles that are in use by the Matthews Police Department utilizing our on-line weapons management system. This list will be by serial number and will note all accessory items issued with carbine optics, magazines, slings, etc. The department armorer will make a current copy of these lists available to all members of the command staff and firearms instructors on request.
2. Weapons authorized for Departmental use shall be made available for immediate inspection when directed by a department supervisor or armorer.

XII. WEAPON MODIFICATION AND ALTERATION:

1. Any officer carrying a patrol carbine under the guidelines of this order shall not modify, alter, or add accessories to his/her patrol carbine. This includes the addition of Red Dot or Holographic Sights, Aftermarket fixed or Flip-up sights, handguards, foregrips, pistol grips, or any part or equipment that would require disassembly of the rifle system.
2. Patrol carbines may only be modified or repaired, by a department armorer or sent to an authorized manufacturer repair center by an agency armorer.
3. If any repairs or modifications, that may affect barrel harmonics, are done to the rifle then a new ZERO target must be submitted to the department firearms instructor(s) before returning it to duty.