

Patrol Rifles

416.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In order to more effectively and accurately address the increasing level of fire power and body armor utilized by criminal suspects, the Santa Monica Police Department will make patrol rifles available to qualified patrol officers as an additional and more immediate tactical resource.

416.2 PATROL RIFLE DEFINITION

A patrol rifle is an authorized weapon which is owned by the Department and which is made available to properly trained and qualified officers as a supplemental resource to their duty handgun or shotgun. No personally owned rifles may be carried for patrol duty unless pre-approved in writing by the Chief of Police and the Department armorer.

416.3 SPECIFICATIONS

Only weapons and ammunition that meet agency authorized specifications, approved by the Chief of Police, and issued by the Department may be used by officers in their law enforcement responsibilities. The authorized patrol rifle issued by the Department is a semi-automatic rifle in .223 caliber or 300 AAC.

416.4 RIFLE MAINTENANCE

- (a) Primary responsibility for maintenance of patrol rifles shall fall on the Rangemaster, who shall inspect and service each patrol rifle on a monthly basis.
- (b) Each patrol officer carrying a patrol rifle may be required to field strip and clean an assigned patrol rifle as needed.
- (c) Each patrol officer shall be responsible for promptly reporting any damage or malfunction of an assigned patrol rifle.
- (d) Any patrol rifle found to be unserviceable shall be removed from service. The rifle shall be clearly labeled as "out of service" and details regarding the weapon's condition shall be included on the label.
- (e) Each patrol rifle shall be subject to inspection by a supervisor or the Rangemaster at any time.
- (f) No modification shall be made to any patrol rifle without prior written authorization from the Rangemaster.

416.5 TRAINING

Officers shall not carry or utilize the patrol rifle unless they have successfully completed Departmental training. This training shall consist of an initial 16-hour patrol rifle user's course and

Santa Monica Police Department

Santa Monica Police Department Policy Manual

Patrol Rifles

qualification score with a certified patrol rifle instructor. Officers shall thereafter be required to successfully complete training and qualification conducted by a certified patrol rifle instructor.

Any officer who fails to qualify or who fails to successfully complete two or more Department sanctioned training/qualification sessions within a calendar year will no longer be authorized to carry the patrol rifle without successfully retaking the initial patrol officers user's course and qualification.

416.6 PATROL RIFLE INSPECTION

Officers shall complete an inspection of the Department patrol rifle before going in-service. The inspection shall be completed outside of the police vehicle, with the muzzle inserted into one of the wall mounted bullet traps inside of the police parking structure. The inspection call consist of the following:

- (a) Clear the rifle by removing it from the rifle rack, with the muzzle pointed up; ensure the safety selector is in the safe position.
- (b) Remove any magazine from the magazine well.
- (c) Place the muzzle into a bullet trap; lock the bolt to the rear.
- (d) Visually and physically inspect for an empty chamber.
- (e) Close the bolt and cycle the charging handle several times.
- (f) Depress the trigger to ensure the safety functions.
- (g) Place selector to fire position.
- (h) Depress the trigger, listen for solid movement of parts and hold the trigger back. If movement of parts sounds weak, not normal, or rifle does not fire, tag the rifle as "out of service" and notify the Rangemaster.
- (i) Holding the trigger back, cycle the charging handle and release the trigger. Listen for the reset.
- (j) Depress the trigger again to ensure the rifle will fire.
- (k) Cycle the charging handle and place the selector to the safe position.
- (l) Lock the rifle into the vehicle rack and insert issued magazine.

416.7 DEPLOYMENT OF THE PATROL RIFLE

Officers may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstance where the officer can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the patrol rifle may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Situations where the officer reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.
- (b) When a sworn officer is faced with a situation that may require the delivery of accurate and effective fire at long range.

Santa Monica Police Department

Santa Monica Police Department Policy Manual

Patrol Rifles

- (c) Situations where a sworn officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.
- (d) When a sworn officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to deliver fire on a barricaded suspect or a suspect with a hostage.
- (e) When a sworn officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.
- (f) Situations involving tactical operations on a SWAT or Narcotic detail
- (g) When authorized or requested by a supervisor.
- (h) When needed to euthanize an animal.

416.8 DISCHARGE OF THE PATROL RIFLE

The discharge of the patrol rifle shall be governed by the Department's Use of Force Policy (as found in § 300).

416.9 PATROL READY

Any qualified officer carrying a patrol rifle in the field shall maintain the weapon in a "patrol ready" condition until deployed. A rifle is considered in a "patrol ready" condition when it has been inspected by the assigned officer and meets the following conditions:

- (a) The chamber is empty
- (b) The rifle bolt is forward and hammer is cocked
- (c) The rifle safety is on/enabled
- (d) There is a fully loaded Department magazine in the magazine well
- (e) The dust cover is closed
- (f) The rifle is stored in the locked vehicle's rifle rack

416.10 RIFLE STORAGE

- (a) When not in use, patrol rifles will be stored in the Department armory in rifle racks.
- (b) In-service patrol rifles shall be secured in the vehicle in a locked gun rack or locked in the trunk.

416.11 LONG BARRELED SCOPE RIFLE

The purpose of the long barreled scope rifle is to provide advanced tactical equipment to selected officers to better protect the community from armed threats while maintaining a greater level of safety for officers and citizens. The officers issued these rifles will be required to achieve high levels of marksmanship skill that will be tested and verified regularly.

Rifles will be of caliber capable of precise accuracy at up to 200 yards. A rifle will be assigned to trained officers. This will insure the highest level of safety and accountability. Each officer will

Santa Monica Police Department

Santa Monica Police Department Policy Manual

Patrol Rifles

be responsible for the maintenance, security, and accuracy of the assigned rifle. Rifles shall be stored in a locked gun locker in the evidence preparation room or in the officer's locker when not deployed in the field or used for training/qualification. The safety in storing, securing, deploying and using these weapons is of the utmost importance.

Training shall occur when practical to maintain shooting proficiency, accuracy and rifle maintenance. In addition to the physical qualification with the rifle and other related tactics, current policy and case law will be reviewed and discussed. Each training session shall be recorded and forwarded to the Department Rangemaster.