



*Town of Marlborough Police Department*

## **GENERAL ORDER**

**SUBJECT: Patrol Rifle**

**Order Number: 3.26**

DATE ISSUED: 09/10/10 BY ORDER OF POLICE CHIEF: COCOZZA

DATE EFFECTIVE: 09/10/10 REPLACES ORDER #(S): APR

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### **PATROL RIFLES**

**PURPOSE:** To establish policy and procedure for the use of patrol rifles by members of the Town of Marlborough Police Department.

#### **I. POLICY**

No member of the police department shall be authorized to carry a patrol rifle on duty unless that member has successfully completed the established course of patrol rifle training conducted by this police department. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a member who has not completed the required training from taking custody of a patrol rifle for the purposes of securing it, or from utilizing the weapon in an extreme emergency when the authorized officer has been incapacitated.

#### **II. PROCEDURE**

A. Patrol rifles are special weapons which have the tactical advantages of increased firepower and increased range. They are to be deployed only when the deployment of a handgun would be justified and circumstances indicate that one of the tactical advantages is required.

B. Only patrol rifles with an authorized sling and approved by the police department shall be carried on duty.

C. Unless a locked carrier has been provided within the passenger compartment, patrol rifles shall be carried in a case in the trunk while on patrol.

D. Upon the start of each shift, the condition of the patrol rifle in the patrol vehicle shall be as follows:

- 1) The magazine shall be loaded with department approved ammunition. Department supplied ammunition will be utilized when available.
- 2) The bolt shall be closed on a verified "*Empty*" chamber
- 3) The loaded magazine shall be inserted into the patrol rifle
- 4) The safety shall be in the "*Safe*" position.

The officer will utilize the clearing barrel and follow the clearing barrel procedures to safely put the patrol rifle in the appropriate condition for patrol.

E. The patrol rifle shall be removed from the locked carrier or trunk when deemed necessary as per the provisions of this order. Round shall be chambered when the tactical situation dictates. The officer's finger shall remain along side the trigger guard and the safety shall remain in the "Safe" position until the officer has committed to firing the weapon.

F. While deploying a patrol rifle, maintain a safe and sufficient distance from the suspect in order to keep the suspect from grabbing the rifle.

G. An officer deploying a patrol rifle will perform the duties and responsibilities of cover man. At no point will the cover man approach the suspect and effect an apprehension. The cover man is responsible for providing protection for the officer conducting the search and handcuffing of a suspect. The cover man will position himself in such a manner that he never has the search man between himself and the suspect. This may require that the cover man move around the suspect as the search/apprehension is being conducted. The cover man should remain alert during the search/apprehension and never take his eyes off of the suspect.

If another officer on the scene is armed with a patrol rifle, they will provide secondary cover and also scan the area for any additional subjects.

Officers utilizing patrol rifles to engage a subject will not normally conduct the search and handcuffing of that individual. It is preferable to have another arriving officer not armed with a long gun perform that task. However, when no backups are available or in other unusual circumstances, one of the officers armed with a long gun will sling their weapon and handcuff the subject.

H. Once the tactical need for the patrol rifle has ceased, return the patrol rifle to the vehicle locked carrier or case within the trunk, in the "condition" defined in section D of this policy.

I. Every time a patrol rifle is deployed by a member, a verbal report will be made by the deploying member to their patrol supervisor as soon as is practical following the incident.

J. Authorized Patrol Rifles:

1. M-4/AR-15 Carbine
2. Ruger Mini 14

K. Authorized Ammunition:

1. Brand: Federal
2. Caliber: .223
3. Grain: TBD
4. Round: Full Metal Jacket

L. Officers who are interested in carrying a patrol rifle on duty will submit a request in writing to the Chief of Police. Sign up forms will be posted periodically with available training dates. A roster will subsequently be provided to the Chief of Police by certified Range Instructors with the names of officers and their inspected weapons who have completed the

police department mandated training to carry a patrol rifle. All weapons must be inspected by a member of the police department's firearms section. All officers must complete the required course of fire prior to carrying a patrol rifle on duty. Any officer in violation of this policy will face administrative disciplinary action.

## M. Clearing Barrel Procedures

### M4 /PATROL RIFLE LOADING

1. PLACE MUZZLE INTO CLEARING BARREL WHILE KEEPING FINGERS OUT OF TRIGGER GUARD.
2. VISUALLY INSPECT RIFLE ENSURING SELECTOR LEVER IS IN THE "SAFE" POSITION.
3. VISUALLY INSPECT THE CHAMBER, RECEIVER, AND MAGAZINE WELD TO ENSURE RIFLE IS "CLEAR" OF AMMUNITION AND OR OBSTRUCTION.
4. YOU MUST VERIFY CONDITION OF RIFLE IS "SAFE & CLEAR" TO PROCEED.
5. DEPRESS BOLT RELEASE ALLOWING BOLT TO MOVE FORWARD (CLOSED) POSITION; AND CLOSE EJECTION PORT COVER.
6. IF IMMEDIATE DUTY ASSIGNMENT REQUIRES, INSERT MAGAZINE, IF NOT, INSERT UPON ASSUMING POST.  
\*WHEN INSERTING MAGAZINE, DO NOT OPERATE CHARGING HANDLE UNLESS REQUIRED TO CHAMBER A ROUND IN THE LINE OF DUTY!!!
7. SLING RIFLE OVER SHOULDER WITH MUZZLE POINTED EITHER UP OR DOWN.

### M4 /PATROL RIFLE UNLOADING AND CLEARING

1. REMOVE LOADED MAGAZINE IMMEDIATELY UPON RELIEF FROM POST OR DUTY LOCATION.
2. APPROACH CLEARING ZONE WITH WEAPON IN THE "SLING ARMS" OR "PORT-ARMS" POSITION.
3. UPON ENTERING THE CLEARING ZONE, PLACE LOADED MAGAZINE TO THE SIDE. UNSLING RIFLE AND IMMEDIATELY PLACE MUZZLE INTO CLEARING BARREL.
4. IF MAGAZINE HAS NOT BEEN REMOVED, DEPRESS MAGAZINE RELEASE AND REMOVE. YOU MUST VERIFY REMOVAL OF MAGAZINE AND THE RIFLE IS "SAFE" TO PROCEED.
5. VISUALLY INSPECT TO ENSURE SELECTOR LEVER IS IN THE "SAFE" POSITION.
6. PULL CHARGING HANDLE TO REAR AND LOCK BOLT TO THE REAR (OPEN) POSITION.
7. VISUALLY INSPECT THE CHAMBER, RECEIVER AND MAGAZINE WELD TO ENSURE NO AMMUNITION OR OBSTRUCTION IS PRESENT.
8. YOU MUST VERIFY THE WEAPON CONTAINS NO AMMUNITION AND IS "SAFE" FOR TURN-IN.
9. UPON DIRECTION, PROCEED TO TURN-IN POINT WITH RIFLE AT PORT-ARMS, BOLT LOCKED TO REAR (OPEN) POSITION, AND SAFE SELECTOR ON SAFE.