



## MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

### ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

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**Subject: Police Patrol Rifle**

**Number: 261-C**

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**Effective Date: May 28, 2010**

**Revised Date: November 17, 2023**

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**Rescinds: 261 - Police Patrol Rifle  
261-A Police Patrol Rifle  
261-B Police Patrol Rifle**

**Dated: May 28, 2010  
July 20, 2011  
Sep 30, 2019**

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Approved By:

#### **I. PURPOSE**

To establish guidelines and procedures regarding patrol rifles. Included in the document are topics relating to personnel selection, qualification & training, deployment, ammunition, maintenance, transportation and storage, and the issuance of assigned patrol rifles.

#### **II. DEFINITIONS:**

1. Patrol Rifle - A shoulder fired, long barrel weapon that does not use a bullet of a caliber normally used in a pistol.
2. Small Arms Collimator - An optical device that allows shooters to check the zero and/or reset the zero of their weapon.

#### **III. PROCEDURE**

##### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Officers may be called upon to respond to situations in which the issued/ authorized pistol is insufficient to handle the resistance encountered. As such, the department authorizes the use of the patrol rifle for specific situations. The patrol rifle provides the officer with a means of making a more accurate

shot at greater distances than a pistol, which reduces the margin of error and thus provides greater protection to the officer and the general public. Additionally, this will reduce liability from misses and the total number of rounds fired during an armed encounter.

- B. This regulation and operating procedure is by no means an attempt to eliminate the call out of a special response team, such as SWAT, at a critical situation as may be needed. This procedure offers an intermediate plan of action available to patrol officers who may find themselves and the public at greater risk than usual.

## 2. PERSONNEL SELECTION

- A. To be considered eligible for assignment to carry the patrol rifle, an officer shall have:
  - 1. No disciplinary action for:
    - a. Insubordination;
    - b. Weapons Safety Violations;
    - c. Any other violations that could indicate or reflect poor judgment on the part of the officer that may impact the safety of fellow officers or the public.
  - 2. Achieved a passing score during their most recent Pistol Qualification Course;
  - 3. Be recommended by their Division Captain;
  - 4. Be approved by the Chief of Police.
- B. If an officer while certified to carry a patrol rifle receives discipline as stated above, the officer's Division Commander will make a recommendation to the Chief of Police regarding the officer's ability to continue to carry a patrol rifle.
- C. If the officer fails to qualify after two (2) attempts on future handgun and rifle qualifications, the Training Unit shall make notification to the officer's Division Commander, who will make a recommendation to the Chief of Police regarding the officer's ability to continue to carry a patrol rifle.
- D. SWAT members, approved by the Team Commander, will be authorized to carry their issued rifles during duty hours following the above guidelines; provided they have an approved locking device in their patrol vehicle.

## 3. QUALIFICATION AND TRAINING

- A. In order to carry an issued patrol rifle on duty, officers must have:
  - 1. Successfully completed the department's Patrol Rifle training course, qualified on the department's Patrol Rifle Course of Fire, and skills

sheet (see attachments). Failure to meet these qualifications standards by an officer precludes them from carrying a rifle while on duty.

2. Subsequent re-qualifications as determined by the Departmental Training Sergeant and approval by the Chief of Police, will be required for continued authorization to carry a patrol rifle. All training and qualifications will be monitored by a qualified patrol rifle instructor, and documentation including qualifying scores and skills will be maintained in the officer's departmental training file.
  3. Officers who have been previously certified with another law enforcement agency may submit a current record of training and/or certification may be excused from the Patrol Rifle training and must successfully qualify on the MBPD Patrol Rifle qualification course.
- B. Officers are required to successfully complete annual training and qualification conducted by a certified patrol rifle instructor.
  - C. Any officer who fails to successfully complete any training / qualification sessions, will no longer be authorized to carry the patrol rifle without successfully retaking the initial course and qualification.
  - D. An Officer's authorization to utilize the patrol rifle may be removed at the discretion of their Division Commander or the Chief of Police.
  - E. A SWAT member's authorization to utilize their rifle may be removed at the discretion of the Team Commander, his designee, or the Chief of Police.
  - F. This regulation and operating procedure does not constitute training on the use and deployment of the patrol rifle.
  - G. Officers of this agency, who carry an issued patrol rifle, are provided with a basic course that includes the use and deployment of the patrol rifle. The basic course includes classroom and range training. In order to carry the patrol rifle on duty, the officer must successfully pass both a written test and skills test in the basic course. The department requires officers to qualify with their rifle in both daylight and low light conditions. Additionally, officers will qualify using iron sights and optic sights.
  - H. The department may also provide additional training in an advanced course. The advanced course includes strenuous tactical training on the range.
  - I. The only rifles authorized for use are those purchased and issued by the Department.

#### 4. DEPLOYMENT

- A. The officer deploying a patrol rifle must advise and obtain approval for deployment from the on-duty supervisor, or higher departmental authority; unless exigent circumstances exist.
- B. The following situations provide officers and supervisors with general guidelines for deployment of a patrol rifle:
  - 1. For a perimeter containment situation.
  - 2. Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.
  - 3. When an officer reasonably believes the suspect may be wearing body armor.
  - 4. When an officer is faced with a situation that may require the delivery of accurate and effective fire at long range.
  - 5. Upon request of departmental supervisor.
  - 6. The suspect is armed with, or has immediate access to a shoulder-fired weapon which surpasses the capability of the officer's duty pistol.
  - 7. The suspect is armed and situated in a distant or fortified position that affords them tactical superiority; and the deployment of the patrol rifle reasonably provides the officer with a means of countering the threat to public safety.
  - 8. The suspect is an imminent threat to the general public, and has made manifest their intent and desire to cause death, and/or great bodily injury in such a manner that there is an increased danger level to multiple potential victims.
- C. It is not intended that officers assigned patrol rifles be used as part of the SWAT entry team, but may be used to assist SWAT with perimeter containment.

#### 5. VEHICLE CARRY AND DEPLOYMENT FROM VEHICLE

- A. When the rifle is carried daily in the patrol car, it will be secured in the vehicle's locking mechanism to prevent pilferage and theft.
- B. The rifle will be carried in the patrol car with the safety on, and the chamber empty when not in actual use. A round will be chambered only when necessary to place the rifle in service. Once the situation is safe and contained, the officer will return the rifle back to its deployment condition and secure it in the patrol vehicle's locking mechanism.
- C. The patrol rifle will only be displayed when needed for an authorized use. Unnecessary display may result in disciplinary action, and revocation of patrol rifle certification.

- D. Rifles carried by members of the SWAT Team while on duty must be kept in the approved locking mechanism if operating a marked Patrol vehicle or a Patrol vehicle equipped with a prisoner partition. SWAT Team members operating undercover vehicles equipped with emergency equipment or unmarked patrol cars will be required to store their rifles in the trunk vehicle vault, or rear storage area secured to the vehicle with an approved locking device. Rifles stored in this capacity will be kept in a softcase and not be visible from the exterior of the vehicle. Locking devices will be fed through the magazine well, out of the ejection port, and around a solid part of the vehicle body to prevent pilferage and theft. Rifles will not be carried in undercover vehicles not equipped with emergency equipment.

## 6. AMMUNITION

- A. Officers will carry only department-approved ammunition issued by the Training Unit.
- B. Officers will carry at least 2 extra magazines which will be located in the rifle's turn out bag.
- C. Weapons will utilize 30 round magazines issued by the Department.
- D. SWAT members will carry only department-approved ammunition issued by SWAT leaders. SWAT members will carry their assigned extra magazines as needed.

## 7. MAINTENANCE

- A. Officers are responsible for inspecting their rifle at the beginning of each shift.
- B. Officers are responsible for cleaning and lubricating the rifle as needed.
- C. All rifles are subject to inspection at any time.
- D. The training unit is responsible to conduct random inspections of the rifles.
- E. Personnel assigned to the rifle at the time of the inspection, will be held accountable for the condition of the rifle.
- F. Only the designated department or contract armorer will perform maintenance, other than cleaning and lubricating.
- G. SWAT weapons will be maintained by the SWAT armorer, and will be randomly inspected by the Team Leader(s).

## 8. TRANSPORTING AND STORAGE

- A. The rifle will be kept secured in the designated vault, or the mount of its assigned vehicle when issued for shift unless:
  - 1. The rifle is in the armory for repair;
  - 2. The rifle is in use in the field;
  - 3. The rifle is being cleaned in an assigned area;
  - 4. The rifle is being inspected by Training Unit personnel;
  - 5. The rifle is being used in training.
- B. While stored in the vehicle, the rifle will be secured in an approved locking mechanism.
- C. When not assigned, the rifle will be securely stored in its assigned vault.

## 9. ISSUANCE OF RIFLES

- A. Upon annual qualification with the patrol rifle, officers will be issued a card identifying the specific weapon they are authorized to receive.
  - 1. Officers may only receive a rifle if, they are assigned a vehicle equipped with an approved locking mechanism.
- B. At the beginning of each shift, the officer will present their card to the on duty supervisor, who will allow the officer to remove the weapon from the vault. The supervisor will place the card in the rifle's rack position. NOTE: If the officer does not present the card, the rifle will not be issued.
- C. A supervisor will place the rifle barrel into the clearing barrel; the supervisor will then visually and physically inspect the chamber ensuring it is empty. The supervisor will give the rifle to the officer. The officer will then visually and physically inspect their rifle, ensuring that the rifle and its accessories are in working order. With the bolt open and safety on, the officer will then insert the "small arms collimator" into the barrel, and ensure that the weapon's sights are properly lined up. If any adjustments are made, the officer will double check their adjustments by removing and re-inserting the "small arms collimator".
- D. The officer will then close the bolt, and ensure the safety is on. The officer will then insert a magazine into the rifle, and ensure it is seated. The officer will then close the dust cover. Once at the vehicle, the officer will place the rifle in the vehicle locking mechanism and ensure it is secure.
- E. Prior to placing the rifle back into the rack at end of shift, using the clearing barrel, the supervisor will observe the officer physically check the weapon to insure that the magazine has been removed and there are no rounds in the

chamber.

- F. After the weapon is determined to be clear, the supervisor will receive the weapon, ensure it is safe and then return the weapon to the rack, and return the card to the Officer.
- G. Weapons will be stored in the rack in the following configuration:
  - 1. There is no round in the chamber or magazine in weapon;
  - 2. The bolt is forward;
  - 3. The safety is on;
  - 4. The dust cover is closed.
- H. The on duty supervisor will be responsible if the weapon is not in the rack and a card is not present.
- I. If a weapon is removed by the Training Unit / armorer, a card reflecting such will be placed in the rack.