

Patrol Rifles

432.1 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 CSU Police Department, San Luis Obispo will make patrol rifles available to qualified patrol officers as an additional and more immediate tactical resource.

432.2 PATROL RIFLE

432.2.1 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.

432.3 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.

432.4 RIFLE MAINTENANCE

- (a) Primary responsibility for maintenance of patrol rifles shall fall on the Rangemaster or his designee, who shall inspect and service each patrol rifle on a quarterly basis.
- (b) The department armorer will conduct an inspection of the patrol shotgun every 2 years.
- (c) Each patrol officer carrying a patrol rifle is to inspect the patrol rifle at the beginning of each shift and may be required to field strip and clean an assigned patrol rifle as needed.
- (d) Each patrol officer shall be responsible for promptly reporting any damage or malfunction of an assigned patrol rifle.
- (e) 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.
- (f) Each patrol rifle shall be subject to inspection by a supervisor or the Rangemaster at any time.
- (g) No modification shall be made to any patrol rifle without prior written authorization from the Rangemaster.

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432.5 TRAINING

Officers shall not carry or utilize the patrol rifle unless they have successfully completed the patrol rifle course in the Police Academy or departmental training. The training shall consist of the following:

- (a) Introduction-Overview, Course Objectives and Firearm Safety
- (b) Nomenclature of Weapon- Weapon specifications, External Nomenclature, Internal Nomenclature, Disassemble/reassemble Rifle and Cleaning
- (c) Functioning of Weapon- Sights, Loading/Unloading of Weapon
- (d) Fundamentals of Rifle Marksmanship- Sight Alignment, Sight Picture, Trigger Control, Breath Control and Follow Through
- (e) Firing Positions-Prone, Squatting, Sitting, Kneeling, and Standing
- (f) Live Fire Training- Reloading, Malfunctions, Failure Drills, Transition to Handgun, Shooting on the Move and Improvised Shooting Positions
- (g) Qualification Course

The initial patrol rifle user's course and qualification score shall be with a certified patrol rifle instructor. Officers shall thereafter be required to successfully complete training and semianual qualification conducted by a certified patrol rifle instructor.

Any officer who fails to qualify or who fails to successfully complete two or more department 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.

432.6 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 an officer is faced with a situation that may require the delivery of accurate and effective fire at long range.
- (c) Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.
- (d) When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to deliver fire on a barricaded suspect or a suspect with a hostage.
- (e) When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.
- (f) When authorized or requested by a supervisor.
- (g) When needed to euthanize an animal.

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432.7 DISCHARGE OF THE PATROL RIFLE

The discharge of the patrol rifle shall be governed by the Department's Deadly Force Policy, Policy Manual § 300.

432.8 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, the fire selector switch is in the safe position, the chamber is empty and a loaded magazine is inserted into the magazine well.

432.9 RIFLE STORAGE

- (a) When not in use, patrol rifles will be stored in the department armory in rifle racks.
- (b) Rifles may be stored in patrol vehicles, locked in the appropriate locking rack
- (c) Rifles may never be left in a vehicle when that vehicle is in the maintenance shop or left unattended for long periods of time.