

Hamden Police Department General Orders

Policy Number: 025-010
Section: Role and Authority
Title: Patrol Rifles

Effective Date: January 01,2015
Rescinds:
Approved By: Police Commission
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines governing the training, carrying, and deployment of a patrol rifle to members of the Hamden Police Department.

POLICY

The Hamden Police Department (“Department”) is committed to providing its officers with the tools necessary to perform critical functions related to public safety and service. To accomplish this goal, the Department recognizes the need for specialized weapons for use in critical assignments. To this end, Hamden Police Department officers are authorized to carry and deploy a patrol rifle as provided for in this policy.

Only members of the Hamden Police Department who have successfully completed the established course of Patrol Rifle training shall be authorized to carry Patrol Rifles. 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 purpose of securing it, or from deploying the rifle in extraordinary circumstances.

It is the policy of the Hamden Police Department that officers use only that level of force that is objectively reasonable to bring an incident under control and protect the officer or third parties from imminent physical harm. The Police Patrol rifle may be considered another implement of deadly force and as such, its usage will be consistent with this department’s use of force and firearms policy. This policy is intended to be consistent with, and a component part of, the Department’s policy on the Use of Deadly Force.

DEFINITIONS

Patrol Rifle/Tactical Carbine: Department issued Colt M4 5.56MM caliber, Colt M-16A1 5.56MM caliber rifle, and Stag 5.56MM.

Storage Condition: The rifle’s selector lever on “safe,” magazine removed, chamber empty, and bolt closed.

Tactical Condition: The rifle’s selector lever on “safe,” magazine loaded into the rifle and a round of ammunition is chambered, making the rifle ready for immediate use.

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Patrol Car Ready: Rifle's selector lever on safe, no live round of ammunition in the chamber, bolt closed, and maximum 30 round magazine inserted into rifle. Rifle is locked in a secured patrol mount inside patrol vehicle.

Deployed: Any time the rifle is removed from its case or mounting and brought into view of the public.

PROCEDURES

A. General

1. The carrying and use of the AR15 patrol rifle on patrol is a requirement for every officer. Issuance will be at the decision of the shift commander (or in his absence the senior supervisor) unless for some reason the issue of a patrol rifle conflicts with job role or officer familiarity of equipment. Otherwise, carrying the patrol rifle on patrol will be a requirement of authorized, qualified personnel as directed by policy, situation and supervisory direction. In the event that a patrol rifle is issued, the following steps will be followed:
 - a. The Supervisor issuing the patrol rifle will make sure that the correct weapon matches the issued police vehicle number and note same on the daily schedule. If the matching patrol vehicle is inoperative and the weapon still needs to be issued for another patrol vehicle then notation will be made of the change on the schedule. If the weapon is inoperative and a substitute is issued, the numbers will be noted on the daily schedule.
2. Upon receiving the weapon, the officer will inspect the weapon for safety.
 - a. Basic Loading: Patrol rifles shall be loaded exercising due safety and preferably outside or muzzle in the clearing barrel if weather conditions are unsafe. The patrol rifle will be pointed in a safe direction, emptied and hammer discharged and placed on safe (shotgun) or semi (M16). The bolt released, or moved forward on an empty chamber (M16) Both the shotgun and rifles will be maintained fully loaded. Correct functioning of the weapon locking mount will be tested.
3. All Patrol Vehicles
 - a. Weapon will stay installed in all patrol vehicles. The Supervisor(s)/Officer(s), upon assuming control of the vehicle,

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will inspect the weapon for safety, loading and readiness.
Correct functioning of the weapon locking mount will be tested.

4. Rifles having a loaded magazine inserted shall not be brought into the police department unless contained within a locked, hard case.
5. A record of all weapons to be used by the Hamden Police Department shall be kept by the firearms officer.
 - a. Weapons will be logged by make, model, and serial number.
 - b. Approvals to carry a patrol rifle will be kept in the approved officer's training file.

B. Deployment Guidelines

1. 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, or is receiving gunfire from an identified hostile source and the use of the handgun would not be practical;
 - 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. Rapid response to an active shooter;
 - f. When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor;
 - g. When authorized or requested by a supervisor.

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2. Officers should not employ a patrol rifle in close proximity to subject(s) where weapon retention may be an issue.
3. Considerations for when a shotgun or patrol rifle is deployed:
 - a. Population density of the area;
 - b. Type of building in which the weapon is to be used;
 - c. Type and proximity of surrounding buildings and area;
 - d. Type of weapon known or believed to be in the possession of the suspect(s); and
 - e. Officers will ensure that they have a clear field of fire.
4. Rifles should not be utilized in an environment that would tactically hinder safe movement and the ability to utilize the weapon, if the situation is avoidable.
5. Discharge of the patrol rifle shall be governed by the Department's Use of Force Policy, General Order 001-006.
6. Following any deployment of a patrol rifle, the deployment and circumstances of the deployment shall be documented in a police report and submitted to the shift commander prior to the end of the shift.

C. Patrol Ready

1. Any qualified officer carrying a patrol rifle in the field shall maintain the weapon in "patrol ready" status until deployed. A rifle is considered "patrol ready" when it has been inspected by the assigned officer and meets the following conditions:
 - a. There is no round in the chamber;
 - b. The rifle bolt is forward with the hammer down;
 - c. The rifle is set on "fire";
 - d. There is a fully loaded magazine in the rifle with no more than 30 rounds;
 - e. The rifle is stored in a hard case in the trunk of the patrol unit or locked in a secured patrol mount inside the police vehicle, if the patrol vehicle is outfitted with an appropriate rifle mount.

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D. Deployment Ready and Making Safe the Patrol Rifle

1. Any qualified officer deploying a patrol rifle in the field shall follow the below listed steps to chamber a live round and, once the circumstances no longer require the use of the weapon, to make the patrol rifle safe:
 - a. Safely remove the rifle from the locking rack or hard case;
 - b. Point the rifle in a safe direction (ie: pointed down toward a soft surface) and pull the charging handle back fully, releasing it and charging a live round into the chamber;
 - c. Move the safety to the “safe” position until ready to discharge the rifle;
 - d. Once the circumstances no longer require the rifle, move to a safe location, point the weapon in a safe direction, and remove the magazine;
 - e. Pull the charging handle back fully allowing the chambered round to eject onto the ground;
 - f. Rack the rifle twice to ensure an empty chamber and point in a safe direction, move safety to “fire” and pull the trigger to drop the hammer to the down position;
 - g. Pick up previously chambered round and secure it in a safe location for return to armory later;
 - h. Return magazine to magazine well (now missing one round) and replace weapon into locking rack in “patrol ready” condition;
 - i. At first opportunity, or end of shift, return the rifle to the firearms officer or supervisor to replace the missing round.

E. Post Firing Rifle Handling

1. In the event the rifle is fired, the officer must maintain the condition of the rifle.
2. After the incident has been stabilized, the safety shall be engaged.
3. No other actions shall be taken to render the rifle “safe.”

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4. The rifle shall be turned over to the duty Sergeant or Incident Commander.

F. Rifle Security

1. Vehicles

- a. Rifles will be removed from any vehicle prior to being taken out of service or being serviced by any trusty assigned to the Department (for example, fueling, washing, etc.) unless an officer is available to standby with the vehicle until the maintenance is completed.
- b. Vehicles with electronic locks shall not be left unattended without first removing the ignition key.
- c. Vehicles with manual locks shall not be left unattended without first removing the rifle lock key.

2. Department/Headquarters

- a. When returning the patrol rifle to storage, the officer shall unload the patrol rifle outside exercising due safety and return the weapon, in a clean operational condition, to the supervisor who shall return the patrol rifle to the rifle storage locker on the basement level (empty of chamber and magazine). The weapon will be signed in on the proper form and return of the ammunition assured.
- b. Rifles having a loaded magazine inserted shall not be brought into the police department unless contained within a locked, hard case.

G. Equipment

1. The Hamden Police Department authorizes for use the following rifles:
 - (a) Mossberg M590 pump action shotgun, 12 gauge
 - (b) Mossberg 9200 Police semi –auto 12 gauge shotgun
 - (c) Colt M16 or AR15 type models in .223 (5.56 NATO)
 - (d) Stag AR15 .223
2. All patrol rifles used by the Hamden Police Department must be approved by the Chief of Police.

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3. Patrol rifles shall be equipped with either a twenty (20) or thirty (30) round magazine, sling, and iron sights.
4. Officers shall carry only department-issued ammunition:
 - a. SHOTGUN/40mm:
 - 12 gauge,
 - 00 buckshot,
 - slug,
 - sabot,
 - birdshot
 - SIM (Specialty Impact Munitions) are all authorized munitions and will be used according to situational need.
 - b) RIFLE:
 - 5.56 NATO
 - FMJ 1 or Soft expansion tip.308 tactical ammunition
 - Magazines will be loaded with no more than 30 rounds during routine storage. Each on duty M16 weapon will have one 30 round magazine inserted/loaded with three 30 round magazines pouched in reserve.
 - Bullet types are as follows:
 - (1) Full metal jacket
 - (2) Frangible
 - (3) Hollow point
 - (4) Tracer
 - (5) Soft Point
5. Officers deploying a patrol rifle will carry a second loaded magazine.

H. Maintenance

1. Officers are responsible for keeping their assigned rifle serviceable, clean, and lubricated.
2. Primary responsibility for maintenance of patrol rifles shall fall on the Department's armorer, who shall inspect and service each patrol rifle on a monthly basis.
3. All rifles are subject to inspection at any time.

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4. Officers shall not perform any alterations or modifications other than routine cleaning and maintenance without prior written authorization from the Chief of Police.
5. The Department may add accessories such as lights and scope after the selected accessories are approved for carry by the firearms officer and the Chief of Police.
6. Any damage, other than cosmetic, or mechanical failure of any kind, shall be immediately reported to the Shift Supervisor in writing by the end of the shift. The supervisor shall notify the armorer, if damaged, or the Division Commander, if missing. The rifle shall be taken out of service until repaired and cleared for service by the firearms officer.
7. The Department is responsible for repairs to rifles damaged during the course of duty.

I. Weapon magazines

1. Under no circumstance will a magazine be repaired except for spring, follower or base replacement.
2. Questionable, but working magazines will be spray-painted orange and relegated to range training purposes.
3. Malfunctioning magazines will be smashed and disposed of.
4. Only used working and new tested magazines will be issued to street officers for the purpose of street duty.

J. Training

1. Prior to carrying a patrol rifle, officers are required to successfully complete a department approved training course.
2. Officers must qualify annually thereafter.
3. Failure to attend or successfully complete the training is cause for revocation of permission to carry the rifle while on duty.

K. Specialty Impact Munitions (SIMS)

1. Presently authorized SIMS 2 is the less-lethal, 12 ga., "Super Sock", beanbag round. No other beanbag is authorized at this time in 12

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gauge configuration. These are low velocity rounds meant to be used as an extension of police batons. They are designed for use against body areas as defined by Monadnock. Refer to the following

- a) Monadnock green level body areas
 - b) Monadnock yellow area impact zones are authorized as a precursor to use of deadly force.
 - c) Monadnock red area impact zones are only authorized in a deadly force circumstance where the life of an Officer or innocent person is in jeopardy of death at the hands of the targeted subject.
2. SIM(s) are not designed to kill but can kill under some circumstances when applied to a red zone impact area.
 3. Other SIM(s) can include rubber munitions, OC munitions, CS-munitions, (Ferrett Type) and other distraction type munitions.