

**PALOS VERDES ESTATES POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**POLICY MANUAL**

**SECTION 53**

**PATROL RIFLE**

**9/2012**

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### **53.0 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 Palos Verdes Estates Police Department has made patrol rifles available to qualified patrol officers as an additional and more immediate tactical resource.

A patrol rifle is an authorized weapon which is owned by the Department or individually owned by an officer. These weapons will be available to properly trained and qualified officers as a supplemental resource to their duty handgun or shotgun.

### **53.1 SPECIFICATIONS**

The only authorized patrol rifle is one which is owned and/or authorized by the Department. This rifle shall be manufactured by Colt and be of the AR15 style which must meet specific criteria set forth by the Range Staff and approved by the Chief of Police.

Officers are responsible for the care and maintenance of any personally owned rifles that are approved for use.

### **53.2 RIFLE AMMUNITION**

The only ammunition authorized for the patrol rifle is that which has been issued by the Department. This will consist of a quality factory load in a .223 cal./5.56mm.

### **53.3 RIFLE MAINTENANCE**

- (a) Primary responsibility for maintenance of patrol rifles shall fall on the Department Rangemaster who shall inspect and service each patrol rifle on a monthly basis.
- (b) Each patrol officer shall be responsible for promptly reporting any damage or malfunction of an assigned patrol rifle.
- (c) Each patrol rifle shall be subject to inspection by a supervisor, range staff or the Department Rangemaster at any time.
- (d) No modification shall be made to any patrol rifle without prior written authorization from the Department Rangemaster.

#### **53.4 TRAINING**

Officers shall not carry or utilize the patrol rifle unless they have successfully completed Departmental training. This training shall consist of an initial patrol rifle user's course and qualification score with a certified patrol rifle instructor. Officers shall thereafter be required to successfully complete semiannual training and qualification conducted by a certified patrol rifle instructor.

Any officer who fails to qualify or who fails to successfully complete a Department sanctioned training/qualification will no longer be authorized to carry a patrol rifle until they have successfully qualified.

#### **53.5 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 precise and effective round(s) at long range;
- (c) When there is a barricaded suspect or a suspect with a hostage;
- (d) When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor;
- (e) In an armed encounter or incident where the officer reasonably determines the rifle will provide a tactical advantage;
- (f) When authorized or requested by a supervisor.

#### **53.6 DISCHARGE OF THE PATROL RIFLE**

The discharge of the patrol rifle shall be governed by the Department's Use of Force Policy Section 11.

### **53.7 PATROL READY**

Any qualified officer carrying a patrol rifle in the field shall maintain the weapon in the "patrol ready" condition 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;
- (c) The rifle safety is on;
- (d) There is a loaded magazine in the rifle and a second loaded magazine is readily accessible;
- (e) The dust cover is closed;
- (f) The rifle is stored in the locked patrol vehicle's rifle rack or trunk.

### **53.8 RIFLE STORAGE**

(a) When not in use, Departmentally issued patrol rifles shall be kept at the station and either stored in the armory or in the officer's secured locker. Issued patrol rifles shall not be taken home and are not authorized for off-duty or personal use unless authorized by the Chief of Police. Personally authorized and owned patrol rifles, when not in use, shall be stored in accordance with State Law.