

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF POLICE  
OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Personnel

DATE: 6 Oct 08

SUBJECT: Publication of new Departmental General Order K-6,  
PATROL RIFLE PROGRAM (Rev. 3 Mar 00)

The subject order has been revised to update Departmental policy and procedures regarding the Patrol Rifle Program (PRP), to regulate the use of the Department's patrol rifle, establish selection and certification procedures, and establish training protocols.

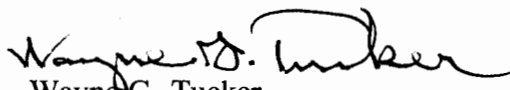
The evaluation coordinator for this order shall be the Bureau of Field Operations Deputy Chief, who, without further notice, shall forward the required report to the Chief of Police on or by 6 Apr 09.

The Evaluation Coordinator shall receive, review and document the acceptance or rejection of all comments and/or recommendations received prior to submitting his/her six-month evaluation report.

The Evaluation Coordinator shall forward a copy of the six-month evaluation report, along with the comments/recommendations received, to the Office of Inspector General to be maintained in the appropriate Departmental General Order archive folder.

Personnel shall acknowledge receipt, review, and understanding of this directive in accordance with the provisions of DGO A-1, DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

By order of

  
Wayne G. Tucker  
Chief of Police

Date Signed: 03 Oct. 08



DEPARTMENTAL  
GENERAL  
ORDER

Effective Date:  
6 Oct 08

K-6

Evaluation Coordinator:  
Patrol Rifle Program Coordinator

Index as:

Evaluation Due Date:  
6 Apr 09

Patrol Rifle Program

Automatic Revision Cycle:  
3 Years

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## PATROL RIFLE PROGRAM

The purpose of this order is to set forth Department policy and procedures regarding the Patrol Rifle Program (PRP), to regulate the use of the Department's patrol rifle, establish selection and certification procedures, and establish training protocols.

Recognizing that officers are not normally equipped to safely address threats from persons wearing body armor and/or who are at distances beyond the effective range of standard issue police pistols and shotguns, the PRP has been implemented to address such threats and enhance police officer and public safety.

### I. DEFINITIONS

#### A. Patrol Rifle

1. The Departmental patrol rifle shall be an AR-15 Semi-Automatic Carbine, utilizing .223 caliber/5.56 mm ammunition.<sup>1</sup>
2. Modifications to the patrol rifle are not authorized unless approved by the Patrol Rifle Program Coordinator and shall only be completed by a Department certified AR-15 armorer.

#### B. Patrol Rifle Officer (PRO)

A police officer shall be designated as a certified PRO when he/she has:

1. Successfully completed the selection and training process described in this order;

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<sup>1</sup> Entry and Sniper Team members utilizing Department issued or privately owned AR-15 carbines are not subject to this order.

2.      Been issued a patrol rifle; and
  3.      Is current on all training and qualification standards set by the Patrol Rifle Program Coordinator.
- C.      Patrol Rifle Program Coordinator (PRPC)

A member selected by the Bureau of Field Operations (BFO) Deputy Chief to coordinate and oversee the Patrol Rifle Program.

## **II.      POLICY**

- A.      Only members certified as PROs shall be authorized to deploy Departmental patrol rifles.
- B.      Discharge of the patrol rifle shall be in accordance with the provisions of Departmental General Order K-3, USE OF FORCE.
- C.      Discharge of the patrol rifle shall be reported in accordance with the provisions of Departmental General Order K-4, REPORTING AND INVESTIGATING THE USE OF FORCE.
- D.      To ensure that members of the PRP maintain skill levels required by the Department, PRP members shall successfully complete an initial Departmental training course and additional training as determined by the PRPC.

## **III.     ORGANIZATION**

The PRP is designed to regulate the use of the patrol rifle, train PROs, and provide the Department with an additional tool to enhance officer and public safety. The PRP is not an organizational unit. PRP members are primarily assigned to the Patrol Division to ensure appropriate coverage of the City and shall report to their assigned supervisors within their normal chain-of-command.

## **IV.     RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRPC AND RANGE MASTER**

- A.      The PRPC shall report directly to the BFO Deputy Chief regarding all matters concerning the Patrol Rifle Program. The PRPC shall have the following responsibilities:
  1.      Coordinate the selection process of all PROs;

2. Coordinate all PRO training; and
  3. Distribute and maintain Patrol Rifle Logs.
- B. The Range Master shall ensure the following provisions are met:
1. Issue and recover patrol rifles as necessary, and document the required information on a Departmental Equipment Control Card (TF 536-804).
  2. Ensure maintenance of the patrol rifle, beyond operator level maintenance and cleaning, is performed by a certified Department AR-15 armorer.
  3. Maintain replacement parts for the patrol rifle.

**V. PATROL RIFLE PROGRAM COORDINATOR SELECTION**

The PRPC shall be a member selected by the BFO Deputy Chief who meets the following criteria:

- A. Has successfully completed a POST certified Firearm Instructor School.
- B. Has successfully completed a manufacturer's or equivalent AR-15 armorer course.
- C. Meets the criteria established in Part VI, D of this order.

**VI. PATROL RIFLE OFFICER SELECTION**

- A. Officers requesting assignment as a PRO shall submit a memorandum through channels to the PRPC.
- B. The PRPC shall maintain submitted requests for use in the selection process.
- C. Responsibilities of requesting officer's supervisor:
  1. Supervisors reviewing PRO assignment request memoranda shall endorse the request based on the criteria set forth in Part VI, D of this order.

2. Supervisors shall submit the memorandum for review and endorsement through the chain-of-command to the PRPC.
- D. All prospective PRO candidates shall meet the following minimum qualification criteria:
1. Full-time member (non-probationary), in a field-based uniformed assignment (excluding Canine Officers and Police Evidence Technicians), with a minimum of one (1) year of patrol duty experience, unless specifically exempted from this requirement by the BFO Deputy Chief;
  2. Exhibit the ability to work independently and with minimal supervision;
  3. Exhibit the ability to maintain a calm, professional demeanor while making sound decisions during stressful situations;
  4. Exhibit the ability to communicate professionally with the public;
  5. Exhibit an ability to render effective testimony in court; and
  6. Exhibit proficiency in report writing.
- E. All candidates meeting the criteria in Part VI, D, shall participate in the remaining selection process.
- F. The selection process for all PROs shall include:
1. Selection Panel
- The PRPC shall convene an oral board selection panel to personally interview each candidate. The interview shall address Departmental policies, tactics, and the candidate's motivation and judgment in hypothetical situations.

2.      Physical Agility Test

The physical agility test consists of a series of events designed to test strength, agility, and endurance and must be successfully completed within a specified time. Criteria for successfully passing the test shall be determined by the PRPC.

3.      Rifle Marksmanship Test

Candidates must demonstrate accuracy in shooting the patrol rifle. Criteria for successfully passing the test shall be determined by the PRPC.

4.      Departmental Work History Evaluation (Matrix) prepared by the PRPC. The candidate shall be evaluated on the following criteria:

- a.      Performance Appraisals;
- b.      IAD complaints and sustained findings;
- c.      Preventable vehicle collisions;
- d.      Sick and injury record;
- e.      Documented use of force;
- f.      Disciplinary history;
- g.      Patrol duty experience; and
- h.      LRMS review.

5.      Other

Additional relevant information may also be considered (e.g., letters of appreciation, training, self-improvement, military experience, and firearm-related experience).

G.      The PRPC shall prepare a list of candidates based on the following:

1.      Overall evaluation of "Pass."
2.      Ranking based on selection process scores.
3.      The Department's operational needs for PROs, based on patrol rifle availability, and geographic and temporal coverage throughout the City. Priority shall be given to PRO assignments in the Patrol Division.

- H. The PRPC shall forward the list of candidates through channels to the Chief of Police who shall select which candidates attend the Departmental Patrol Rifle School.
- I. Officers who successfully complete the Patrol Rifle School and are issued a patrol rifle shall be certified as PROs.

#### **VII. PATROL RIFLE OFFICER ASSIGNMENT**

- A. The BFO Deputy Chief shall select which officers who have successfully completed the Departmental Patrol Rifle School are issued a patrol rifle based on Departmental needs.
- B. PROs assigned to the Patrol Division shall not select their Patrol Division assignments based on their PRO status.

#### **VIII. DEPLOYMENT**

The purpose of deploying the patrol rifle is to enhance officer and public safety.

- A. The following factors shall be considered prior to deploying the patrol rifle:
  - 1. A patrol rifle deployment provides a distinct tactical advantage for officers;
  - 2. The subject is known to possess or is suspected of possessing a deadly weapon or firearm;
  - 3. The subject is beyond the effective range of Departmental pistols or shotguns; or
  - 4. The subject is known to wear or is suspected of wearing body armor.
- B. When a PRO deploys the patrol rifle, the officer shall, as soon as practical, advise the Communications Division. Upon deployment, if applicable and practical, the PRO shall advise the Communications Division of tactical considerations to include:
  - 1. Safest route of approach;

2. Location of the PRO;
  3. Location and description of the suspect; and
  4. Containment, and crossfire concerns.
- C. PROs shall not be deployed as a substitute for the Department Tactical Operations Team.<sup>2</sup>
- F. When a PRO is directed to deploy his/her rifle in an inappropriate circumstance, he/she shall advise the directing supervisor/commander prior to deploying the rifle.
- G. Patrol rifles shall be used to dispatch a wounded or dangerous animal only when a Departmental pistol is inappropriate.
- H. Patrol rifles shall only be discharged during actual duty deployment or at an authorized firearms range.

#### **IX. PATROL RIFLE LOG**

- A. A PRO who deploys a patrol rifle shall document the incident in the Patrol Rifle Log (TF-3118) assigned to that rifle.
- B. Each PRO shall submit his/her Patrol Rifle Log to the PRPC on a quarterly basis.
- C. The PRPC shall review Patrol Rifle Logs on a quarterly basis, and prepare and forward a quarterly report summarizing patrol rifle deployments documented in the logs to the BFO Deputy Chief.

#### **X. STORAGE/SECURITY**

- A. When on-duty, PROs shall store their patrol rifles in one (1) of two (2) conditions:
  1. Rendered safe inside an approved hard gun case in the locked trunk of their assigned police vehicles; or

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<sup>2</sup> Refer to Departmental General Order K-5, TACTICAL OPERATIONS TEAM for Departmental policy and procedures.



2. Locked in a designated rifle rack of a police vehicle in the following condition:
  - a. Weapon safety placed on "SAFE."
  - b. Bolt group closed/forward on an empty chamber.
  - c. Loaded magazine fully inserted in the magazine well.
- B. At the end of the PRO's shift, the patrol rifle shall be stored in a secure location with restricted access (e.g., locker, secured cabinet).
- C. PROs may take their patrol rifles home at the end of their shift, but only if they are secured at their residence.
- D. Patrol rifles shall not be stored in a privately-owned vehicle except when traveling between work and home, or to and from training.

#### **XI. TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. PROs shall attend quarterly training and undergo physical fitness and shooting proficiency evaluations (qualifications).
- B. The PRPC shall document and maintain training and qualification records for all PROs.

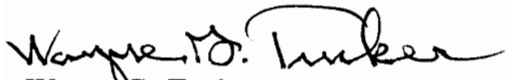
#### **XII. DECERTIFICATION OF PATROL RIFLE OFFICERS**

- A. Removal from the program shall occur automatically when a member is promoted to a rank other than Police Officer or is permanently transferred to a non-field based assignment.
- B. A PRO may voluntarily resign from the program by submitting a memorandum through channels to the PRPC. The PRPC shall notify the BFO Deputy Chief of a PRO resignation.
- C. The PRPC may decertify a PRO for any of the following reasons:
  1. Substandard performance;
  2. Failure to successfully complete required training;
  3. Failure to progress in training;

4. Any documented willful and deliberate mistreatment, neglect or improper use of the patrol rifle;
  5. Failure to satisfactorily complete a physical fitness or shooting proficiency evaluation and subsequent remediation;
  6. Exhibiting a pattern of unsafe tactics during actual patrol rifle deployments; or
  7. Failure to comply with the provisions of this order.
- D. Within 72 hours of a PRO's decertification, the PRPC shall submit a memorandum documenting the circumstances which led to the decertification to the BFO Deputy Chief, the decertified PRO's immediate supervisor, Shift Commander, and Area Commander.
- E. The PRPC shall consult with the BFO Deputy Chief to determine if remedial training would rectify the problem(s) or if the PRO is to be immediately removed from the program.
- F. Any PRO removed from the program shall immediately surrender his/her patrol rifle to the Range Master.
- G. Remedial Training
1. In the event remedial training is prescribed, the PRPC shall schedule the appropriate training with the subject PRO.
  2. The PRPC shall notify the BFO Deputy Chief of the satisfactory completion of the remedial training with a recommendation for recertification.
  3. Upon positive endorsement from the BFO Deputy Chief, the PRPC shall notify the subject PRO and his/her immediate supervisor of the recertification
  4. If remedial training has not been satisfactorily completed, the PRPC shall forward a memorandum through channels to the BFO Deputy Chief detailing the remedial training provided and the PRO's failure to satisfactorily complete the training, and shall recommend the removal of the PRO from the program.

5.      Upon the negative endorsement from the BFO Deputy Chief, the PRPC shall notify the subject PRO and his/her immediate supervisor of the removal from the program.
  
- H.      A PRO who is decertified for unacceptable performance or conduct shall have the right to appeal that action in the same manner and within the same time frames as a member may appeal a Performance Appraisal Report within the Department, with the final determination made by the Chief of Police.

By Order of

  
Wayne G. Tucker  
Chief of Police

Date Signed: 03 Oct 08