

USE OF FORCE

RIFLE PROGRAM

Purpose: This directive establishes departmental policy concerning the carry and use of North Little Rock Police Department issued rifles and personally owned rifles.

Policy Statement: The North Little Rock Police Department recognizes the need for weaponry that can increase officer safety, minimize risk to the public, and bridge the gap in ability to provide deadly force left by the sole reliance on a traditional side arm. The Department currently issues a limited number of rifles, however this program encourages officers to purchase Department approved rifles for their use. With this understanding, rifles must be employed only in those circumstances where such force is clearly warranted and justified.

Summary of Changes: Section 6.1 amended to reflect rifles will be stored without a round chambered

Definitions:

Rifle Program Coordinator: Member of training unit designated by the Chief of Police to oversee and manage the approval, training, qualification, armoring, and use of both Department issued rifles and personally owned rifles.

Approved Weapons and Ammunition List: List of approved weapons and ammunition maintained by the Senior Firearms Instructor at the Training Unit.

1. Procedure

- 1.1 Officers wishing to carry a personal rifle while on duty must submit an Interdepartmental letter requesting approval to the Training Unit Commander. Upon notice of receipt of the letter from a member of the Training Unit, the rifle must be brought to the Rifle Program Coordinator for inspection and approval prior to completing qualifications. The rifle cannot be carried on duty until the officer completes the necessary qualifications and is given final approval by the Rifle Program Coordinator. [CALEA 1.3.9 c]
- 1.2 The Rifle Program Coordinator will maintain records of the personally owned rifles in service. The Coordinator will also maintain a list of all officers authorized to carry rifles, both Department and personally owned, and will provide this list to the Chief of Police and each Division Captain. [CALEA 1.3.9 e]

2. Department Issued Rifles:

- 2.1 Department issued rifles, as listed on the *Approved Firearms and Ammunition List*, may be carried by officers of this Department. Rifles will only be used by officers trained and qualified in their use. [CALEA 1.3.9a] [CALEA 1.3.10]
- 2.2 Approved ammunition for both Department issued rifles and personally owned rifles is Remington .223 caliber, 55 grain soft point as is listed on the *Approved Weapons and Ammunition List*. [CALEA 1.3.9b]

3. Personally Owned Rifles

- 3.1 Officers are authorized to carry personally owned rifles for use while on duty only under the following conditions:
 - 3.1.1 The rifle must be an AR-15 platform; semi-automatic only, designed to use .223 or 5.56 caliber ammunition, and must be registered, inspected, and approved by the Rifle Program Coordinator in accordance with the *Approved Firearms and Ammunition List*. Personally owned rifles are subject to inspection at any time by the Rifle Program Coordinator or designee.
 - 3.1.2 Officers who have never been certified to carry a rifle must successfully complete an AR-15 training and qualification course stipulated by the Rifle Program Coordinator before they will be allowed to carry their rifle. Officers failing to demonstrate proficiency during the initial qualification course will not be allowed to carry a rifle until they are able to meet proficiency standards.
 - 3.1.3 Officers who are certified to carry a Department issued rifle and elect instead to carry a personal rifle must successfully complete a rifle qualifications course with their personal rifle as designated by the Rifle Program Coordinator. Officers failing to demonstrate proficiency during any requalification course will be suspended from the program until the next requalification course. Officers who do not qualify for a second requalification course will be removed from the program.
 - 3.1.4 Personal rifles must be equipped as follows:
 - 3.1.5 Required items
 - a. The preferred rifle color is black. Colored weapons are approved at the discretion of the Rifle Program Coordinator
 - b. Barrel length is to be no less than 16" and no more than 18",

- c. Solid or collapsible butt stock,
- d. Sling,
- e. Iron sights,
- h. Must have a minimum of 5.5 lb. trigger pull,
- i. Single stage triggers only
- i. Must have a lighting system.

3.1.6 Optional items:

- a. flip-up iron sights,
- b. Night sights,
- c. Holographic optics with no magnification, however, they must co-witness with the iron sights,
- d. A 3x magnifier with a flip to side feature or detachable option. Magnifiers greater than 3x or those that permanently attach are not allowed,
- e. Electronic sights, must co-witness with iron sights,
- c. Rails and grips.

3.1.7 Prohibited items:

- a. Laser sights
- b. Fully automatic function.
- c. Multi stage trigger

3.1.8 The Rifle Program Coordinator has the final authority in approving any optional equipment.

4. Magazines and Ammunition

- 4.1 Only Remington .223 caliber, 55 grain soft point ammunition will be used in both Department and personally owned rifles.
- 4.2 Officers are required to carry a minimum of 90 rounds of ammunition for use while on duty. This ammunition will be supplied by the Department. Ammunition in excess of 90 rounds may be carried and will be at the officer's expense.
- 4.3 Authorized magazines for use may not hold a capacity greater than 30 rounds. Officers will carry a minimum of three magazines.
- 4.4 Officers who carry personally owned rifles will be required to provide, at their expense, the necessary ammunition for training and qualifications.

5. Rifle Maintenance

- 5.1 All rifles will be kept in a clean and serviceable condition.
- 5.2 Rifles will be subjected to inspection at any time by the Rifle Program Coordinator, Senior Firearms Instructor, or supervisor.
- 5.3 Officers will not make any mechanical modifications, repairs, or adjustments without the approval of the Rifle Program Coordinator. Authorized Training Unit armorers will provide minor repairs to all rifles. Major repairs to, or replacement of, personally owned rifles and accessories due to damage sustained while using the rifle in an official on or off duty capacity will be at the officer's expense.
- 5.4 Any officer who experiences a serious malfunction or sustains damage to a rifle will notify the Rifle Program Coordinator as soon as possible. The rifle will be taken out of service until it is inspected or repaired and approved by the Rifle Program Coordinator to be returned to service. [CALEA 1.3.9 d]

6. Carry and Storage [CALEA 1.3.9 f]

- 6.1 While on duty, both Department issued rifles and personally owned rifles will be stored in the mounting rack in the police unit. If the police unit is not equipped with a rack, the weapon will be stored in a case in the trunk until a rack can be provided. Officers assigned an SUV may only store rifles in the vehicle if it is equipped with a rack or suitable locking box that is secured to the vehicle. The weapon will be stored with the selector switch on SAFE and a fully loaded magazine without a round chambered.
- 6.2 When off duty, rifles will not be stored in the front of any police vehicle at any time, or left unsecured in the back of a police vehicle. Rifles may be stored in a locking rack or locking box attached in the trunk of the police unit, or secured inside the officer's home. The vehicle trunk-unlocking device will be de-activated, making it inoperable when the ignition is not on.
- 6.3 When off duty, officers assigned an SUV equipped with a permanently mounted lock box may secure the rifle in the lock box. Officers assigned an SUV without a permanently mounted lock box will remove the rifle from the vehicle after their tour of duty and store the rifle in their residence.
- 6.4 Officers working extra employment or in an extra duty capacity may store their weapons either secured in a rack or in a case in the trunk of their patrol vehicle.

- 6.5 Department issued rifles that are stored in the officer's home when not on duty will be stored in accordance with section 7.9 of Policy Directive 11-03.
- 6.6 Officers assigned to positions that do not require the wearing of a uniform who choose to deploy their rifle must be identifiable by either a tactical vest with the word POLICE in highly visible letters or, a raid jacket marked with the word POLICE in highly visible letters or, the Department issued traffic vest.



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