

RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE OR ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR

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 department recognizes the need for weaponry to increase officer safety, minimize risk to the public, and bridge the gap in the ability to respond to resistance outmatched by the traditional sidearm. The department currently issues a limited number of rifles; however, the rifle program encourages officers to purchase department-approved rifles for use when justified.

Summary of Changes:

Definitions:

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

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

Procedure:

1. General

- 1.1 Officers wishing to carry a personal rifle while on duty must submit a letter requesting approval to the Training Unit Lieutenant. 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 before completing qualifications. An officer cannot carry a rifle on duty until qualifications and final approval from the Rifle Program Coordinator. [CALEA 4.3.1c]
- 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 the list to the Chief of Police and each Division Captain. [CALEA 4.3.1e]

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. Only officers trained and qualified in the use of a rifle are authorized to carry the weapon. [CALEA 4.3.1a, 4.3.2]
- 2.2 Approved ammunition for both department-issued rifles and personally owned is .223 caliber, soft-point listed on the Approved Weapons and Ammunition List. [CALEA 4.3.1b]

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 following the Approved Firearms and Ammunition List. Personally, owned rifles are subject to inspection at any time by the Rifle Program Coordinator or designee. [CALEA 4.3.1a]
 - 3.1.2 Officers not certified to carry a rifle must complete an AR-15 training and qualification course stipulated by the Rifle Program Coordinator. Officers failing to demonstrate proficiency during the initial qualification course will not be allowed to carry a rifle until they meet proficiency standards.

- 3.1.3 Officers who are certified to carry a department-issued rifle and elect instead, to maintain a personal rifle must complete a qualification course designated by the Rifle Program Coordinator. Officers failing to demonstrate proficiency during any requalification course will be suspended from the program until the next qualification 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:
 - 3.1.5.1 The preferred rifle color is black. Colored weapons are approved at the discretion of the Rifle Program Coordinator.
 - 3.1.5.2 Barrel length is to be no less than 11” and no more than 18.”
 - 3.1.5.3 Solid or collapsible buttstock;
 - 3.1.5.4 Sling,
 - 3.1.5.5 Iron sights,
 - 3.1.5.6 Must have a minimum of 4lb trigger pull,
 - 3.1.5.7 Single-stage triggers only,
 - 3.1.5.8 Lighting system.
- 3.1.6 Optional items:
 - 3.1.6.1 Flip-up iron sights,
 - 3.1.6.2 Night sights,
 - 3.1.6.3 Holographic optics with no magnification, they must also have iron sights,
 - 3.1.6.4 3x magnifier with a flip to side feature or detachable option, magnifiers greater than 3x or those that are permanently attached are not allowed. The SFI or the Patrol Rifle Coordinator must approve these items.
 - 3.1.6.5 Electronic sights must also have iron sights,
 - 3.1.6.6 Rails and grips,
 - 3.1.6.7 The SFI must approve any suppressor. The suppressor must be legal and commercially manufactured.
- 3.1.7 Prohibited items:
 - 3.1.7.1 Fully automatic function,
 - 3.1.7.2 Multistage trigger,
 - 3.1.7.3 Magnified scopes. Officers must be in the Patrol Designated Marksman Program or be a member (or former member) of the NLRPD SWAT Team.
- 3.1.8 The SFI and the Rifle Program Coordinator have the final authority in approving any optional equipment.

4. Magazines and Ammunition [CALEA 4.3.1b]

- 4.1 Only .223 caliber, 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. The department will supply this ammunition. Ammunition above 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. Therefore, 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, SFI, 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. Significant repairs, or replacement of, personally owned rifles and accessories due to damage sustained while using the weapon in an official on or off-duty capacity will be at the officer's expense.

5.4 Any officer who experiences a severe malfunction or sustains damage to a rifle will notify the Rifle Program Coordinator as soon as possible. The weapon will be taken out of service until inspected or repaired and approved by the Rifle Program Coordinator to be returned to service. [CALEA 4.3.1d]

6. Carry and Storage [CALEA 4.3.1f]

- 6.1 While on duty, both department-issued rifles and personally owned rifles will be stored in the mounting rack of a police unit. If the vehicle is not equipped with a rack, the weapon will be stored in the truck, secured in a gun case. Officers assigned an SUV may only store rifles when equipped with a rack or suitable locking box secured to the vehicle. Officers will store the weapon with the selector switch on SAFE and a fully loaded magazine with a clear closed chamber.
- 6.2 When off duty, rifles will not be stored in the front of any police vehicle or left unsecured in the back of a police vehicle. Instead, officers may store rifles in a locking rack or locking box attached to 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 lockbox may secure the rifle in the lockbox. Officers assigned an SUV without a permanently mounted lockbox 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 stored in an officer's home when not on duty will be stored according to section 7.9 of Policy Directive 11-03.
- 6.6 Officers assigned to positions that do not require wearing a uniform who choose to deploy their rifle must be identifiable as police. Either identifiable by a tactical vest with the word POLICE in prominent letters or a raid jacket marked with the word POLICE in prominent letters, or the department-issued traffic vest.

7 Patrol Designated Marksman Program

- 7.1 The Patrol Designated Marksman Program (PDM) provides focused marksmanship skills to select officers. The purpose of the PDM is to produce officers who are confident in their skills to engage targets from 100 to 300 plus yards, with and without optics.
- 7.2 The PDM program extends the Patrol Rifle Program but is not designed to replace SWAT snipers/designated marksman. However, the PDM officers will have more training, additional equipment, and capability than the standard patrol rifle operator.
- 7.3 Officers will be selected for the program chosen from a list of several criteria including (but not limited to): current patrol rifle operator, former SWAT operator, specialized firearms training/experience, decision-making ability (work history and conduct record), physical fitness readiness, and previous shooting scores. If selected, they must pass a department-approved PDM class to qualify for the program.
- 7.4 PDM officers will be issued approved rifles/weapon systems. These will include a rifle, sling, light, iron sights, an electronic sight and a magnification device, or an approved magnified optic. The SFI and Patrol Rifle Coordinator will have the final say on all equipment.
- 7.5 PDM Training will consist of the department-approved training class (PDM class) and additional training throughout the year. Training will focus on marksmanship, firearms fundamentals, long-range shooting, observation skills, and decision-making. This training will be in addition to all mandatory patrol rifle training. PDM officers are required to attend all mandatory training and qualifications throughout the year. Failure to attend training and failure to qualify may result in the removal from the program.