



PATROL RIFLE

Directive: 8 – 101.4

Date of Issue: August 2017 Amends/Cancel: 8-101.4 February 2017

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Directive is to implement the Department of General Services Maryland Capitol Police (MCP) patrol rifle policy.

II. POLICY

MCP sworn personnel will utilize patrol rifles only as outlined in the Directive and consistent with the department's policy on firearms and the use of force. The department will identify patrol rifles authorized for use by sworn police officers and set standards for training consistent with requirements set forth by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission.

DGS-MCP will also establish policies and procedures for the care, handling, and storage of patrol rifles.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Patrol Rifle – A Type III rifle of .223 or 5.56 calibers.
- B. Department Armorer – Officer who is trained by the factory to work on departmental firearms.
- C. Range Master – A Police Officer designated by the Chief of Police to oversee the firearms program for the Department. The range master has overall authority and supervision of range activities and firearms safety.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. PATROL RIFLES IN GENERAL

1. Police officers will comply with all MCP rules, regulations and directives, as well as all federal, state and local laws pertaining to patrol rifles.
2. Police officers will only carry an MCP issued patrol rifle or an approved personally owned patrol rifle while on-duty.
3. Whenever a police officer is wearing, carrying or transporting a patrol rifle, the officer will have their MCP issued police identification, badge and MPCTC card in their possession.

B. REQUIREMENTS TO CARRY

1. Prior to carrying or using any patrol rifle, an officer must successfully complete the required basic patrol rifle training course as outlined in Directive 8-101.1.
2. An officer will be considered for participation in the patrol rifle training if:
 - a. He achieved at least an 80 percent on his most recent day-fire, handgun qualification;
 - b. He receives a recommendation from his commander; and
 - c. The written recommendation is sent to the Commander of SSD.

C. PURCHASING PERSONALLY OWNED PATROL RIFLES FOR ON-DUTY USE

1. Federal Requirements
 - a. 18 U.S.C. § 925(a)(1), allows law enforcement officers to purchase semi-automatic assault weapons, destructive devices and other regulated firearms (typically stamped with wording to the effect “For Law Enforcement Use Only”) for use in their official duties.
 - b. A signed approval for the purchase of a semi-automatic assault weapons, or other regulated firearms does not permit the purchase of these weapons for personal use or for the purpose of transfer or resale.
2. Maryland Requirements
 - a. MD. CODE ANN., PUB. SAFETY §5-102, exempts law enforcement personnel, while acting within the scope of their official duties, from the laws regulating the purchase of regulated firearms.
 - b. This exemption only applies to regulated firearms and assault weapons, as defined in MD. CODE ANN., CRIM. LAW §4-301(d), that the officer purchases with the intent to use and carry in the performance of his official duties.
 - c. Police officers purchasing a rifle under this exemption will have completed or be approved to attend basic patrol rifle training course.
 - e. Police officers purchasing a regulated firearm for personal use are not exempt under this section and must abide by all applicable Maryland statutes.
3. A police officer wishing to purchase a regulated firearm for law enforcement purposes will:
 - a. Submit a request to his commander that includes the make, model, caliber and type of firearm that he would like to purchase; and
 - b. Request that his commander provide written certification on MCP letterhead stating specifically that:

- (1) The officer is a member in good standing with MCP;
 - (2) The officer is permitted by the MCP to use and carry the regulated firearm while acting within the scope of his official duties; and
 - (3) A records check reveals that the purchasing officer has not been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence which includes probation before judgment for any crime deemed to be domestically-related and mental health provisions as defined in MD. CODE ANN., HEALTH-GEN. §10-101.
4. The commander receiving the request will contact the Training Unit and verify that the firearm is an approved weapon and:
 - a. Note on the request the date and time of verification and the name of the Training Unit member consulted;
 - b. Note on the request whether the firearm is approved or not approved;
 - c. Provide the requesting officer the written certification; and
 - d. Ensure a copy of the request is placed in the officer's personnel file.
 5. Upon purchase of the weapon, the officer will complete the approval process as outlined in Directive 8-101.2, IV, C. and completing an MCP Form 101 - Request and Approval to Carry Weapon.

D. ASSIGNMENT OF RIFLES

1. Personnel authorized to carry a Patrol Rifle may carry either an approved personally owned rifle or one assigned to them by the Department.
2. All MCP owned weapons will remain secured in locked weapon storage lockers at the Detachment/Division until they are signed out by the officer utilizing an MCP Form 10 – Equipment Sign-out Log.
3. Rifles will be assigned to only one officer and only that officer will sign the rifle out for use.
4. Officers will remove the rifles from storage only when:
 - a. Assigned to a vehicle for mobile patrol;
 - b. Assigned to a post where the weapon can be placed in an MCP patrol rifle locker;
 - c. Transporting the rifle for approved training or range practice;
 - c. Circumstances exist that authorize deployment of the patrol rifle as delineated in “D” below.

5. Rifles will be transported from storage to the patrol car in approved carrying cases to avoid unnecessary public concern.
6. MCP assigned rifles are for on-duty use and will be returned to storage at the Detachment when not in use.
7. Personnel authorized to carry a patrol rifles and assigned MCP vehicles may take the department issued patrol rifle home but must remove the rifle from the vehicle and secure it in an approved and locked storage container in their residence when off-duty.

E. TRANSPORT IN MCP VEHICLES

1. Patrol rifles will be carried in MCP vehicles with the bolt forward on an empty chamber, weapon on safe without a magazine inserted (i.e., car-carry condition).
2. Regardless of the magazine capacity, officers will load each magazine with no more than 30 rounds.
3. The weapon will be stored in the trunk in a locked container approved by the Training Unit.

F. DEPLOYMENT

1. Police officers who deploys the patrol rifle will do so in accordance with department's use of force and firearms policy as outlined in Directive 8-100 and 8-101 respectively.
2. Police Officers must advise dispatch on the radio that they are deploying the patrol rifle.
3. Police Officers will maintain control of the firearm at all times or ensure that the weapon is secured by another police officer.
4. Police Officers must get supervisory approval prior to deploying the patrol rifle unless:
 - a. There is a possible active assailant/shooter in progress;
 - b. There is an equal amount of fire-power being used by a suspect;
 - c. The officer has cause to believe that an armed offender is wearing body armor or is shielded by an intervening barrier; or
 - d. The officer is being engaged at an extended distance.