

**432 PATROL RIFLES****432.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

To more effectively and accurately address the increasing level of firepower and body armor utilized by criminal suspects, the Columbia Police Department will allow the use of patrol rifles by qualified officers as an additional and more immediate tactical resource.

**432.2.1 DEFINITIONS**

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Patrol rifle** - An authorized weapon owned by the Department or an officer, which is made available to properly trained and qualified officers as a supplemental resource to their duty handgun or shotgun. No personally owned rifles may be carried for patrol duty unless pre-approved by the Department Rangemaster and the owner is appointed to the patrol rifle program.

**432.3 SPECIFICATIONS**

Only weapons and ammunition that meet agency authorized specifications, approved by the Chief of Police, may be used by officers in their law enforcement responsibilities. The authorized patrol rifle issued by the Department is the Heckler and Koch G36.

Specifications for personally owned patrol rifles are:

1. Gas operated
2. Semi-automatic
3. Caliber .223
4. Barrel length of 10" to 20"
5. A sling that accommodates both left and right side operation
6. Attached light with a minimum of 65 lumen brightness
7. Iron sights
8. At least three magazines, each with a capacity of 20 to 30 rounds
9. A carrying case for the rifle

**432.4 RIFLE MAINTENANCE**

Primary responsibility for maintenance of patrol rifles shall fall on the officer who shall inspect and service each patrol rifle on a monthly basis.

Each patrol officer carrying a patrol rifle may be required to field strip and clean an assigned patrol rifle as needed.

Each patrol officer shall be responsible for promptly reporting any damage or malfunction of an assigned patrol rifle to a supervisor or the Armorer.

Any patrol rifle found to be unserviceable shall also be clearly identified as non-serviceable, including details regarding the unserviceable condition.

Each patrol rifle shall be subject to inspection by a supervisor or the Armorer at any time.

No modification shall be made to any patrol rifle without prior written authorization from the Armorer.

## **432.5 TRAINING**

Officers shall not carry or utilize the patrol rifle unless they have successfully completed Department training. This training shall consist of an initial twenty-four hour patrol rifle user's course and qualification score with a certified patrol rifle instructor. Officers shall thereafter be required to successfully complete eight to sixteen hours of training annually and yearly firearms proficiency qualification conducted three times a year by a certified patrol rifle instructor.

Any officer who fails to qualify or who fails to successfully complete the department-sanctioned training/qualification sessions within a calendar year will no longer be authorized to carry the patrol rifle without successfully retaking the initial patrol officers user's course and qualification.

## **432.6 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:

1. Situations where the officer reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.
2. When an officer is faced with a situation that may require the delivery of accurate and effective fire at long range.
3. Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.
4. When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to deliver fire on a barricaded person or a person with a hostage.
5. When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.
6. When authorized or requested by a supervisor.
7. When needed to euthanize an animal.

## **432.7 DISCHARGE OF THE PATROL RIFLE**

The discharge of the patrol rifle shall be governed by the Response to Resistance Policy and the Firearm Discharge Policy.

## **432.8 PATROL READY**

Any qualified officer carrying a patrol rifle in the field shall maintain the weapon in a patrol ready condition until deployed. A rifle is considered in a patrol ready condition when it has been inspected by the assigned officer, the fire selector switch is in the safe position, the chamber is empty and a fully loaded magazine is inserted into the magazine well.

**432.9 RIFLE STORAGE**

Officers shall take reasonable measures to ensure that their owned/assigned rifle is stored in a safe and secure manner at all times.