432 PATROL RIFLES

432.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This written directive will establish guidelines and procedures for the Columbia Police Department Patrol Rifle Program to include the following:

- Type and specifications of patrol rifles approved for use by patrol officers, members of tactical teams, or other specialized personnel;
- Type and specifications of ammunition approved for use;
- Procedure for review, inspection and approval of all rifles intended for use by each employee in the performance of their duty, prior to carrying, by a qualified weapons instructor or armorer;
- Procedure to remove unsafe weapons;
- Maintaining records for each rifle approved by the Department for official use;
- Guidelines for the safe and proper storage of authorized rifles.
- Required training, training frequency, documentation, prerequisites and proficiency requirements to be authorized to use a patrol rifle.

432.2 POLICY

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. The majority of patrol vehicles will be equipped with the patrol rifle in use by the department at the time and all patrol personnel should be trained, qualified, and authorized for the appropriate use of this valuable tool.

432.2.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Patrol rifle - An authorized long gun (rifle) 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. Personally owned rifles that meet required specifications and are pre-approved by the Armorer may be carried for patrol duty by authorized operators.

432.3 SPECIFICATIONS

Only weapons and ammunition that meet Department authorized specifications, approved by the Chief of Police, may be used by officers in their law enforcement responsibilities.
432.3.1 SPECIFICATIONS FOR PATROL RIFLES (DEPARTMENT AND PERSONALLY OWNED)

The specific make and model of patrol rifles owned and issued by the department may change over time but the general specifications for department and personally owned rifles intended for patrol use should be as follows:

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.
7. Two magazines each with a capacity of 30 rounds, loaded (28 rounds) with department issued ammunition.
8. A carrying case for personally owned rifles.

Personally owned rifles must meet the above specifications and be inspected and authorized for use by the Department Armorer prior to use while on duty. Repair and maintenance of personally owned rifles is the responsibility of the individual officer. Personally owned rifles being used for patrol rifle purposes are expected to be checked, maintained, serviced and carried to the same specifications as a Department owned rifle as outlined in this policy.

432.3.2 SPECIFICATIONS FOR PATROL RIFLE AMMUNITION

All ammunition approved for official use will be provided by the department. The specific brand of ammunition used by the department may change over time but the general specifications should be as follows:

GENERAL PATROL APPLICATION

This type of cartridge is intended for general patrol use where the need for barrier penetration is typically not a factor and collateral risk is high. This will be the primary cartridge issued to officers for patrol use.

1. Caliber .223
2. Must be Factory made (no personal loading or reloading of ammunition allowed for patrol use).
3. 55 grain polymer tipped fragmenting bullet.

COVER AND BARRIER APPLICATIONS

This type of cartridge is intended for situations where a suspect is located behind cover or a barrier and barrier penetration is desired. This type of cartridge may be issued as a secondary cartridge for use in these specific situations. Officers who choose to carry this type of cartridge will do so in addition to the two magazines and ammunition required for general patrol applications.

1. Caliber .223
2. Must be Factory made (no personal loading or reloading of ammunition allowed for patrol use).
3. 55 grain full metal jacket bullet designed for this application.

### 432.4 PATROL RIFLE MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE

The Department Armorer will keep a complete record for firearms approved by the Department including Department owned and personally owned patrol rifles. These records will contain the type, description, identifying model number, serial number, owner and/or assignee or vehicle number to which the rifle is assigned.

Each patrol vehicle will be assigned a patrol rifle that stays with the vehicle. As such, the rifles will be shared among officers who are assigned to that vehicle during different shifts.

Although the patrol rifles will be removed periodically by the Armorer for routine cleaning, the primary responsibility for daily maintenance of patrol rifles shall fall on the individual officer who shall inspect and service their patrol rifle prior to the beginning of their shift. The following procedures should be followed for daily inspections and removing unsafe weapons from service:

#### 432.4.1 PRE-SHIFT INSPECTION PROCEDURE

1. The patrol rifle inspection is part of the pre-shift inspection of the patrol vehicle and should be documented by the officer using the body worn camera system.
2. The rifle should be removed from the in-car carrier, unloaded and confirmed safe by visual inspection.
3. A function check should be performed on the unloaded rifle.
4. The magazine(s) should be checked and cartridge count confirmed.
5. Return the rifle to a “Patrol Ready” condition as described in section 432.8.
6. Secure the patrol rifle in its carrier.
7. Each patrol rifle shall be subject to inspection by a supervisor or the Armorer at any time.
8. No modification shall be made to any patrol rifle without prior written authorization from the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

#### 432.4.2 PROCEDURE - REMOVING AN UNSAFE PATROL RIFLE FROM SERVICE

1. Each patrol officer shall be responsible for promptly reporting any damage or malfunction of a Department owned patrol rifle to a supervisor or the Armorer.
2. Any patrol rifle found to be unserviceable shall be removed from its assigned vehicle, made safe, clearly identified as non-serviceable using a red service card and zip-tie, and secured in the designated location. The attached service card shall include details regarding the unserviceable condition, the discovering officer and the supervisor who authorized the removal of the rifle from service.
3. To ensure timely maintenance/repair of firearms, the authorizing supervisor is responsible for sending an email notification to the Armorer requesting the weapon be serviced and made operational.
4. The Armorer will return the repaired rifle to the designated location and send email notification to the appropriate officer and supervisor.
5. When that officer returns to duty, he/she shall return the patrol rifle to the assigned vehicle.
432.5 TRAINING

All officers of this department will receive, and acknowledge receipt of training in all use of force (response to resistance) policies prior to being authorized to use lethal and less lethal weapons. Officers shall not use the patrol rifle unless they have successfully completed Department training. This training shall be conducted by a certified patrol rifle instructor and consist of an initial sixteen (16) hour Patrol Rifle User’s Course and qualification to demonstrate proficiency. The training should cover at minimum the legal implications and requirements, weapon specific operating and care procedures, documentation and reporting procedures, obligations following any use of force, live fire exercises and a proficiency qualification.

At least annually, each officer must receive in-service training on the agency’s use of force (response to resistance) policies and demonstrate proficiency with all weapons (including patrol rifle) they are authorized to use.

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 use the patrol rifle. Remedial training will consist of retaking the initial Patrol Rifle User’s Course and successful qualification to demonstrate proficiency.

All patrol rifle training, and proficiency testing will be monitored by a certified patrol rifle instructor. All training and proficiency testing will be documented and the records maintained by the Training and Recruitment Unit.

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:

- The rifle has been inspected by the assigned officer;
- The rifle is cocked (hammer back);
- The bolt is forward;
- The chamber is empty;
- The fire selector switch (safety) is in the safe position;
- The dust cover is closed; And
- A loaded (28 rounds) magazine is inserted in 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.