

DEKALB POLICE DEPARTMENT

Subject: **Police Rifle**

Policy #: **304.8**

Effective Since: 11-1-07

Revision Effective: 1-1-19

FTO Training Task: # 9

Reference Material: Policy 304.7, Firearms; Policy 103.3, Use of Force

ILEAP Standards Covered: NA

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**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to set forth policies regarding the approval, training, use, and deployment of Police Rifles and to establish standards regarding weapon type, caliber, mandatory training, and deployment.

**POLICY:** It is the policy of the DeKalb Police Department to ensure that sworn officers who employ Police Rifles are properly trained in their use, have passed a Departmental qualification course, and maintain an acceptable qualification status.

Each Police Rifle to be carried on-duty shall have its serial number, make, and model recorded with the Department.

Officers who wish to employ a Police Rifle shall meet the requirements set forth in this policy prior to carrying the rifle on-duty.

**DEFINITIONS:** For the purpose of this order, the term police rifle means a semi-automatic, centerfire, 5.56 caliber AR-style rifle that has been inspected and approved by the Weapons Training Commander, or his designee, to be carried by sworn officers while on duty. This definition shall also include personally owned weapons that match the forgoing description. The Weapons Training Commander or his designee may approve variant brands and/or models for carry.

Weapons Training Commander - the supervisor designated to be in charge of firearms training, usually a designated Patrol Sergeant.

**POLICE RIFLE PROCEDURES:**

**A. ACCESSORIES :**

1. Each Police Rifle shall be equipped with a sling.
2. Auxiliary light sources will be attached and utilized as appropriate.
3. Any other accessories must be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Weapons Training Commander or his designee.

**B. PERTINENCE OF OTHER ORDERS:** Officers using Police Rifles shall adhere to the applicable policies set forth in various areas of this manual pertaining to use of force and qualifications, including but not limited to: Policy 103.3, Use of Force and Policy 304.7, Firearms.

**C. QUALIFICATION COURSE :**

1. The qualification course shall be approved by the Weapons Training Commander.
2. Initial qualification shall consist of a course of familiarization, marksmanship training, and a combat-type course of fire.
3. Subsequent qualifications will be completed annually.
4. Any officer who fails to qualify on the second attempt will not be allowed to carry a Police Rifle that year. The officer must then qualify with a department shotgun and check out a department shotgun for use on a daily basis. The officer can attempt to qualify with the Police Rifle the following year.

**D. CARRYING OF POLICE RIFLES:**

1. Police Rifles shall be carried in the lockable vehicle rack of the patrol vehicle and shall only be deployed when deemed necessary in situations stipulated to further in this order.
2. Police Rifles not carried in a lockable vehicle rack shall be encased in the vehicle trunk.
3. Rifles shall be carried with chamber empty, bolt closed, and safety on until deployed.

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**Page 2 of 3****E. DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES :**

1. To ensure efficient and reliable operation when needed, a police department armorer will maintain the department owned weapons in good working order at all times.
2. While being carried on-duty, each weapon is subject to inspection by the on-duty supervisor, department rifle instructors, or department armorers.
3. Any weapon found to be dirty and/or not properly maintained will be immediately removed from service until such time as the weapon is brought into serviceable order and re-inspected by a supervisor, instructor, or armorer.

**F. AMMUNITION :** The department authorizes only the following ammunition for use with approved Police Rifles:

1. Federal 5.56 caliber 55 grain Nosler Ballistic Tip ammunition.
2. Federal 5.56 caliber 55 grain Full Metal Jacket ammunition.

Each rifle case will contain, at a minimum, one loaded magazine of Nosler Ballistic Tip ammunition and two loaded magazines of Full Metal Jacket ammunition.

**G. DEPLOYMENT :** As it is impossible to address every possible scenario in which a Police Rifle should or could be deployed, this section is to serve as a guideline regarding the deployment of police rifles.

Examples of situations in which a Police Rifle could be deployed include but are not limited to situations where the suspect(s) may be:

1. Wearing/utilizing body armor or any other device that would defeat, impede, or otherwise inhibit the use of a handgun;
2. An active shooter situation;
3. Armed with or has immediate access to a high-powered weapon which surpasses the weapons normally carried by field personnel;
4. Armed and situated in a distant or fortified location which affords the suspect(s) a tactically superior position, in which the deployment of a Police Rifle may be deemed necessary to neutralize any threat posed by the suspect(s);
5. Armed and/or barricaded where the officer is manning a perimeter position.
6. Exigent circumstances where the on-duty supervisor deems appropriate. Absent the immediate presence of a supervisor where exigent circumstances exist, the decision to deploy a Police Rifle will be at the discretion of the officer on scene.

As a general rule, when circumstances that can be articulated exist that indicate the deployment of the Police Rifle would greatly enhance the officer's ability to prevent death or serious harm to themselves or others, the rifle may be deployed.

**H. USE OF DEADLY FORCE :** Officers should be aware that even though the ammunition authorized by the department decreases the risk of the 5.56 caliber round over-penetrating, it does not decrease the overall range of the round in the event of a missed shot. Officers should evaluate the surrounding area and the risks a missed shot might pose to persons in the area.

Nothing in this order shall supercede the established Use of Force policy outlined in Policy 103.3.

**Policy originally issued 11-1-07; this revision becomes effective on 1-1-19 by authority of the Chief of Police .**

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NOTE: This policy and procedure summarizes the department's position on this specific matter. This policy is for general direction and guidance primarily designed for use by the department's members. This policy is for internal use only and does not create or enlarge an officer's liability in any way. This policy shall not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of an internal departmental complaint and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.