

## GENERAL ORDER XIII

Subject: PATROL RIFLE QUALIFICATION STANDARDS

Effective Date: 04-11-02

Review Date: 01-13-12

Note: This rule or regulation is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a high standard of safety of care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

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### I. Purpose

To establish standards of proficiency with the Patrol Rifle for department personnel and to define the various courses of fire to be utilized in the qualification process for these weapons.

### II. Policy

- A. It is the policy of the West Plains Police Department that only those officers demonstrating proficiency in the use of department authorized patrol rifles be permitted to carry them.
- B. Patrol rifle proficiency will be determined by the satisfactory completions of an in-service Patrol Rifle course and qualification administered by an approved Patrol Rifle Instructor and designed to address the shooting skills required in police work.

### III. Qualifications Standards

The minimum Patrol Rifle qualification standards for the West Plains Police Department will be a score of 70% on the designated course of fire.

### IV. Patrol Rifles

- A. The weapons used in this capacity will be of department issue or department approved personally owned weapons. Personal weapons will be of high quality and manufactured from a reputable company approved by the department.

1. Approved Manufacturers

- a. Colt
- b. Heckler and Koch
- c. Bushmaster
- d. Armalite
- e. Ruger
- f. Rock River Arms
- g. DPMS
- h. Olympic Arms

B. Ammunition-Only factory loaded department issued or department approved ammunition loaded to duty ammo specifications will be used in these weapons.

C. Accessories

- a. Accessories on patrol rifles are permitted such as lights, slings, vertical fore grips, electronic sights, etc. All accessories shall be approved by the Patrol Rifle Instructor.

D. Qualifications with these weapons shall be a Pass/Fail basis.

V. Qualifications

A. Each officer authorized to carry a Patrol Rifle shall be required to qualify with his or her rifle annually.

B. Officers authorized to carry a patrol rifle, who fails to attain a qualifying score, shall attend a block of remedial instruction from the department's Patrol Rifle Instructor and shall attempt to qualify after said instruction.

C. In the event the officer fails to achieve a qualifying score after remedial instruction, he or she shall;

- 1. Have the authority to carry the rifle on duty revoked.
- 2. Have the authority to carry the rifle off duty revoked.
- 3. Be afforded an opportunity, on a voluntary basis, to receive additional training and qualify with the particular rifle on his or her off duty time within thirty days.
- 4. After being given the opportunity, on a voluntary basis, to receive additional training, instructions and an opportunity to qualify with the particular rifle, the officer still fails to meet the minimum qualification standards, he or she will be subject to other

appropriate action as deemed fit by the Chief of Police.

VI. Qualification Course

- A. The West Plains Police Department will utilize a qualification course developed specifically for the Patrol Rifle use.
- B. The course of fire for the patrol rifle will be developed and maintained by a certified Patrol Rifle Instructor and department's Firearm Instructor. These weapons officers shall be responsible for the annual review of all courses for the patrol rifle and any recommended modifications or changes required to meet new skill requirements.
- C. All changes or modifications in the department's Patrol Rifle qualification courses will be submitted to the Chief of Police for approval.

VII. Approved Modes of Carry

- A. While on duty, the Patrol Rifle will be carried in an approved soft or hard case with the magazine inserted into the magazine well, bolt forward on an empty chamber and the weapon on safety.
- B. While on duty, the Patrol Rifle will be carried in an approved soft or hard case with the magazine immediately available for use, bolt forward on an empty chamber and the weapon on safety.
- C. Any other mode of carry shall be presented to the Chief of Police for approval.

AUTHORITY

- A. This policy is issued by the authority of the Chief of Police. Any policy additions, deviations or revisions shall be made only at the direction of the Chief of Police.

By Authority of:

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Charles Brotherton, Jr., Chief of Police