

1.3.10 Officer owned/purchased patrol rifle

- A. The department authorizes individual officers to purchase and use personally purchased/owned patrol rifles for duty use. Personally owned/purchased patrol rifles and accessories used for duty shall be inspected and approved annually by the Chief of Police and/or his/her designee prior to deployment. Officers are required to qualify and train annually with their personally purchased / owned patrol rifles as stated in 1.3.9 of this manual.
1. Personally purchased/owned patrol rifles for duty use shall be of the AR-15 platform chambered in 5.56/223 caliber only. Rifles that accept an AR-15 style 5.56/223 magazine but are not of the AR-15 platform are not permitted for duty use.
 2. Personally purchased/owned patrol rifles shall be manufactured. No "parts" rifles better known as "basement" or "garage" assembled rifles will be permitted. This does not apply to replacement parts due to failure, damage or wear and tear. Under no circumstances should the manufacturers specification or internal parts that control the feed, fire and function of the rifle be altered in any way without approval of the Chief of Police and or his/her designee. In the event that an internal part or parts that control the feed, fire and function of the rifle require replacement only manufacturer or manufacturer approved replacement parts will be utilized.
 3. Personally purchased/owned patrol rifle action will be semi - automatic only, no fully automatic rifles / or rifles with a selector switch allowing fully automatic fire are permitted. No modifications/additions to the rifle shall be made in any way to increase the rifles rate of fire as determined by the manufacturer.
 4. Patrol rifles with standard barrel lengths as determined by the manufacturer are permitted. SBR's or short barrel patrol rifles with barrel lengths determined by the manufacturer are permitted. No AR-15 pistols or AR-15 pistol variants are permitted. It shall be the individual officer's responsibility to ensure that they are in compliance with all local, state and federal laws when purchasing, using, storing and transporting SBR's or short barrel rifles. Proof of compliance shall be provided to the Chief of police and/or his/her designee prior to the deployment of such patrol rifles.
- B. Optics, sights, lights and accessories.
1. Personally owned/purchased patrol rifles for duty are required to have an approved method for sighting approved by the Chief of Police and/or his/her designee. Standard iron sights, holographic, reflex and/or red dot sights along with optical sights not to exceed 1X power are permitted. All personally owned / purchased patrol rifles that are equipped with red dot, reflex, a holographic sight or optical sight not to exceed 1X are also required to have an approved back up "iron" sight consisting of a front and rear sight capable to being used in the

event that the primary sight system fails. The iron sights shall not require batteries or an external source of power or light. Officers will be required to train and qualify with both methods of sighting annually.

2. Permanent and/or removeable flashlights or sources of light designed to illuminate the path to a target, the target and what is beyond the target are permitted to be mounted on and utilized on an officers personally owned/purchased patrol rifle. The flashlight and method of mounting will be at the officer's discretion with approval of the Chief of Police and/or his/her designee.
3. Sound suppressors designed to reduce the decibel level of the rifle at discharge are permitted to be used on personally purchased/owned patrol rifles. Sound suppressors and their method of attachment shall be approved by the Chief of police and/or his/her designee. It shall be the responsibility of each officer to ensure they are in compliance with all local, state and federal laws/regulations regarding the purchase, ownership and use of sound suppressors on their firearms. Proof of such compliance shall be provided to the Chief of Police and/or his/her designee. If an officer chooses not to utilize a sound suppressor on their patrol rifle a flash hider similar to the A2 flash hider designed to direct flash and gasses upward is encouraged.
4. Rifle slings are encouraged

C. Ammunition and magazines

1. Only ammunition approved in 1.3.8 (B) of this manual is approved for use in personally owned/purchased patrol rifles while on duty.
2. Personally owned/purchased patrol rifles are not to be equipped with an ammunition magazine that exceeds 30 rounds. Magazine couplers or similar devices are permitted. No drum magazines are permitted for duty use.

D. Rifle maintenance

1. Primary responsibility for maintenance of personally owned / purchased patrol rifles shall fall upon the individual officer.
2. Routine cleaning of the personally owned / purchased patrol rifle is the responsibility of the individual officer.
3. Each officer will be responsible for promptly reporting any damage or malfunction of their personally purchased / owned patrol rifle to the Chief of Police and/or his/her designee. Each individual officer is also responsible for providing the Chief of Police and/or his/her designee with the remedy of any damage or malfunction.

E. Personally purchased / owned patrol rifle storage

1. On duty – All personally owned /purchased patrol rifles shall be locked in the rifle designated gun lock inside of the patrol car in the cruiser ready condition. Cruiser ready is defined as safety on – chamber empty – action and dust cover closed – full magazine inserted into the rifle. At no time shall an officers personally purchased / owned patrol rifle, regardless if it is locked in a case or not, be stored loose in a passenger compartment or other rear storage area in the patrol vehicle.
 - a. Tarentum Borough police cars are equipped with department issued patrol rifles. Officers choosing to deploy their personally purchased/owned patrol rifles will be required to remove and make safe the department owned patrol rifle and store it in the department armory in a safe condition. Safe condition is defined as safety on – chamber empty – action and dust cover closed – magazine removed. At the conclusion of the shift the officer shall remove his/her personally purchased/owned rifle from the patrol car, make the firearm safe and replace it with the department issued rifle in “cruiser ready” condition.
2. Off duty – All personally owned/purchased patrols rifles are permitted to be taken home, secured in individual officer lockers or the department armory. While off duty and in storage all personally purchased / owned patrol rifles shall be kept in a safe condition. In the interest of public safety at no time should an officer store their personally purchased / owned patrol rifle in their personal vehicle. All on duty safety rules apply to off duty storage, transportation, use and care of individually purchased / owned patrol rifles.