

**SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURE**

DATE: JUNE 20, 2017

NUMBER: 1.41 – ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: RIFLE CALIBER CARBINE

RELATED POLICY: [1.04, 1.05](#)

ORIGINATING DIVISION: TRAINING AND EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

NEW PROCEDURE:

PROCEDURAL CHANGE: **MINOR CHANGES**

SUPERSEDES: DP 1.41 – 04/11/2014

I. PURPOSE

This Department procedure establishes guidelines for the use of rifle caliber carbines.

II. SCOPE

This procedure applies to all sworn members of the Department.

III. BACKGROUND

The carbine provides officers the ability to engage hostile suspects at distances generally greater than the effective distance of their handguns. The use of the rifle caliber carbine in response to a deadly force situation shall be governed by this procedure and Department Procedures 1.04, Use of Force, and 1.05, Firearms Procedures. The use of this weapon will also be evaluated and reviewed in accordance with criteria contained in the law.

IV. DEFINITION

A. Rifle Caliber Carbine – A semi-automatic shoulder-fired long gun that fires a rifle caliber cartridge. The Department-approved carbine is the AR15 style weapons system designed to fire a .223 caliber projectile.

V. **PROCEDURES**

A. Authorized Uses

1. Only those officers who have successfully completed the “Rifle Caliber Carbine Basic” class or the SWAT equivalent and pass the annual qualification class are authorized to carry the carbine.
2. Rifle caliber carbines offer advantages over handguns, such as increased accuracy potential and the ability to defeat soft body armor, but are not appropriate for every situation. Officers and supervisors must use good judgment in deciding whether to deploy a carbine. Officers may deploy the carbine when the officer can articulate why the carbine is the most reasonable force option for the situation
3. Factors to consider before deployment include but are not limited to:
 - a. Active Shooter situation.
 - b. The officer reasonably believes the suspect is wearing body armor.
 - c. Armed/multiple suspects.
 - d. Suspect’s weapon system is superior to what officers normally carry on-duty.
 - e. The situation requires accurate gunfire at distances greater than the effective range of handguns.

B. Carbine Storage

1. The Rifle Caliber Carbine may be carried in marked vehicles equipped with an interior dual gun mount only if the mount is specifically designed for the AR-15 and prevents disassembling the weapon and removing it from the mount. If carried in the interior dual gun mount, the weapon must be locked in when not in use. The Rifle Caliber Carbine shall be stored or transported in the patrol vehicle’s trunk if an AR-15 specific interior mount is not available.
2. Carbines shall be carried in the vehicle with a loaded magazine in the weapon, hammer down on an empty chamber, with the bolt closed and with the safety “OFF.” This condition is known as “patrol ready.” The carbine shall not be stored or carried in a vehicle with a cartridge in the chamber.

3. The rifle caliber carbine shall be loaded only with Department-approved ammunition.

C. Carbine Loading and Unloading Procedures

1. Loading

- a. Inspection with the carbine pointed in a safe direction:
 - (1) Place the safety in the “ON” position.
 - (2) Remove the magazine.
 - (3) Lock the bolt open and inspect the chamber and magazine area.
 - (4) Verify the weapon is empty.
 - (5) Close the bolt.
 - (6) Place the safety in the “OFF” position and pull the trigger.
 - (7) Insert a loaded magazine.

b. Chambering a Cartridge

Pull the bolt rearward and release it. The carbine is now ready to fire.

2. Unloading with the carbine pointed in a safe direction:

- a. Place the safety in the “ON” position.
- b. Remove the magazine.
- c. With the finger off the trigger, point the muzzle of the carbine upward.
- d. Pull the bolt rearward, releasing the chambered cartridge (if one exists).
- e. Lock the bolt “OPEN.”
- f. Inspect the chamber area to verify that the weapon is empty.

3. To reduce the danger of injury associated with an unintentional discharge, the carbine shall not be loaded or unloaded in a vehicle, in a police facility, under any overhead structure or close to multi-storied buildings (e.g., Headquarters E Street parking lot).

D. Rifle Caliber Carbine Cleaning, Maintenance and Repairs

Officers approved to carry a rifle caliber carbine are responsible for its care and routine maintenance. If the carbine needs servicing or repair beyond routine maintenance, the carbine shall be brought to the Range.

E. Carbine Qualification Requirements

1. Officers who carry an approved rifle caliber carbine must attend a mandatory training class and pass a qualification shoot each year.
2. The mandatory annual training class will be held during the first shift of the calendar year (normally January-April).
3. The annual qualification shoot for record will be held during the second shift of the calendar year (normally May-August).
4. Officers must attend the mandatory annual training or they will not be allowed to attend the qualification shoot.
5. If an officer does not attend and pass the annual qualification, he or she shall not carry a rifle caliber carbine on duty. If the officer fails to qualify on the first attempt, he or she will be allowed a second attempt immediately following the first. If the officer does not qualify after two attempts, he or she will be required to attend and pass the "Refresher Class" class before carrying a rifle on duty.
6. If an officer attends the mandatory annual training, but not the qualification, he or she shall not carry a rifle caliber carbine on duty but will be allowed to attend the mandatory annual training and qualification in the next calendar year.
7. If an officer does not attend the mandatory annual training, he or she may with prior Rangemaster approval, take the two hour "Rifle Caliber Carbine Refresher" in its place and attend the annual qualification shoot.
8. If an officer does not attend the mandatory annual training and qualification then fails to attend the mandatory annual training in the next calendar year, he or she shall take and pass the two day "Rifle Caliber Carbine Basic" class before carrying a rifle or pistol caliber carbine on duty.

9. If an officer does not attend both the mandatory annual training and the qualification shoot in a calendar year, he or she will be required to attend the two hour “Rifle Caliber Carbine Refresher” class. After completion the officer may attend the mandatory annual training in the next calendar year.
10. Prior to each mandatory annual training class and qualification shoot, each rifle will be inspected by Range staff for unauthorized accessories or modifications. If a rifle has unauthorized accessories or modifications the officer will not be allowed to shoot and is not authorized to carry the rifle on duty until it is in compliance. The list of approved accessories is available from Range staff.
11. Personnel returning from Military leave or long term disability should contact the Rangemaster for requalification procedures.
12. The Department will provide ammunition for the mandatory annual training and qualification. Sixty rounds of practice ammunition per month will be provided for officers’ current with their carbines who are not assigned to SWAT. Rifle caliber ammunition for the Basic, Intermediate and Refresher classes is provided by the officer.
13. SWAT personnel qualify with rifles annually through SWAT. When personnel leave SWAT, they are subject to the above requirements.

NEW

F. Personal Weapons

1. The Department authorizes the personal purchase and carrying of the rifle caliber carbine.
2. Officers are restricted to the rifle caliber carbine AR15 style weapons system chambered in caliber .223 Remington. The AR15 style rifles will be as follows:
 - a. Semi-automatic
 - b. An overall barrel length of 16 inches
 - c. A-2 or A-3 style upper and lower receivers
 - d. Fixed or Adjustable stocks are authorized
 - e. Direct impingement operating system only, no gas piston systems

3. Officers who desire to purchase and carry their carbine shall first complete the Department authorization and inspection process. The original copy of the PD-899TR, Authorization to Carry a Personal Weapon form, shall be placed in the officer's personnel file that is maintained in the Human Resources Division at Headquarters. The yellow copy of the form is provided to the officer.
4. The personal carbine is not included in the five-gun limit that officers are restricted to for personally-owned weapons.
5. Officers who carry their personal carbine shall be responsible for the condition, cleaning and maintenance of their weapon. Department-owned carbines requiring maintenance or repairs shall be brought to the Range.
6. The Rangemaster shall develop and maintain a list of authorized accessories and equipment that may be used on the carbines. The list will be available from the Range staff. Equipment, accessories, and modifications not on the list are not authorized for carry. As time permits, Range staff is available to install authorized accessories and equipment.