



Eric Hawkins
Chief of Police

ALBANY, NEW YORK
POLICE DEPARTMENT
165 HENRY JOHNSON BOULEVARD
ALBANY, NY 12210



1789

PATROL RIFLE TEAM/OPERATORS
GENERAL ORDER NO: 3.9.20

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- PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines in the selection, training standards, equipping, and deployment of the Albany Police Departments patrol rifle team and its operators.
- POLICY:** It is the policy of the Albany Police Department to provide selected patrol rifle team/operators training, equipment, and deployment procedures to increase safety to all members by offering a weapon that can provide superior effective range and accuracy capabilities, load capacity for sustained fire, and the ability to defeat body armor.
- DEFINITIONS:**
- Critical Incident** – A critical incident means an event that poses a threat to public safety and requires the department’s response to reduce the danger to life and property. High risk events include, but are not limited to, barricade situations, hostage situations, sniper situations, high risk apprehension, personal protection, terrorism response, active shooter, and civil disturbance. These events have an elevated risk of physical injury, serious physical injury, and/or death to all parties involved.
 - Barricade Situation** – A barricade situation means a standoff created by an armed suspect(s) or subject(s) in any location, whether fortified or not, who is refusing to submit to lawful police authority.
 - Hostage Situation** – A hostage situation means the holding of any person(s) against their will by an armed or potentially armed suspect(s).
 - Sniper Situation** – A sniper situation means the firing upon citizens and/or police by an armed suspect(s) whether stationary or mobile.
 - High Risk Apprehension** – A high risk apprehension means the arrest or apprehension of an armed or potentially armed suspect(s) where the likelihood of resistance is high.
 - Personal Protection** – Personal protection means providing security to designated people (e.g. dignitaries, witnesses, suspects, etc.) based upon the

threat or potential threat to the safety of those persons.

Terrorism Response – A terrorism response means a response to any situation involving an individual or group utilizing violence in the furtherance of a political or religious agenda.

Active Shooter – An active shooter means a suspect(s) who is actively engaged in using illegal deadly physical force upon others who, if not immediately engaged by the police, will continue to commit such acts upon additional victims within his/her range.

Civil Disturbance – Civil disturbance means acts of violence and disorder prejudicial to the public law and order. It includes acts such as riots, acts of violence, insurrections, unlawful obstructions or assemblages, or other disorders prejudicial to public law and order. It also includes all domestic conditions requiring or likely to require the use of federal armed forces.

NYS DCJS Basic Patrol Rifle Operators Course – New York State Division of Criminal Justice Service's certified course for patrol rifle operators.

Patrol Rifle – Patrol rifle means a firearm that is meant to provide department members with increased safety by offering a firearm with greater range capabilities and an ability to defeat modern body armor. The patrol rifle is not a fully automatic weapon, and will fire in semiautomatic mode only. The patrol rifle is an [REDACTED] and has a removable magazine capable [REDACTED].

Patrol Rifle Operator – A patrol rifle operator is an Albany Police Officer who has been selected and passed the Albany Police Department/NYS DCJS basic patrol rifle operators course.

Patrol Rifle Instructor – A patrol rifle instructor is a NYS DCJS certified firearm instructor who has attended and passed a certified NYS DCJS basic patrol rifle operators course or an equivalent.

I. MISSION

- A. The mission of the Albany Police Department's patrol rifle team/operator is to provide a trained, and specially-equipped police first responder/operator to assist in the successful resolution of high risk or critical incidents, with a minimum of risk, injury, or loss of life to citizens, police personnel.

II. GOAL

- A. It is the goal of the Albany Police Department to provide a trained and equipped patrol rifle operator to be a resource in responding to and assisting other first responding police officers and/or other agencies in the resolution to critical incidents/high risk events, such as hostage situations, barricade subjects, sniper situations, high risk apprehension, personal protection, terrorism response, and active shooter events.

III. ANNUAL REVIEW

A. This General Order will be reviewed annually at a minimum for content and consistency with contemporary standards. The review will include a risk assessment based on the following criteria:

1. Legal:

a. Implications of legal rulings and precedents on current training, operations, and policies.

2. Training:

a. Compliance with applicable laws and the NYS DCJS patrol rifle course.

3. Operational:

a. Risk assessment of patrol rifle assignments and tactical incident responses.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND CHAIN OF COMMAND

A. Routine Patrol

1. During routine patrol, patrol rifle operators will operate within normal chain of command protocols via their station assignment.

B. Critical Incidents

1. During critical incident situations, patrol rifle operators will fall under the command of the Incident Commander and/or their designee until relieved.

2. Once the Albany Police Department's Emergency Services Team (EST) Leader or his designee have been deployed and have taken over tactical operations, patrol rifle operators will fall under the EST Leader or designee's command.

a. Patrol rifle operators will stay under the EST Leader or designee's command until they are relieved by the team leader or his designee at which time the operator will then fall back under the command of the Incident Commander.

3. Patrol rifle operators will also follow Albany Police Department's G.O. 3.9.00 - Emergency Operations Plan/Critical Incidents.

C. Training

1. Patrol rifle operators will fall under the command of the sergeant of training while assigned to training.

V. SELECTION

- A. Recognizing that the nature of patrol rifle/critical incident response requires disciplined, physically fit, mission-capable professionals, the Albany Police Department Patrol Rifle Team will select its members through a fair and non-discriminatory process that measures the applicant's ability to be trained in the essential tasks deemed necessary for the performance of patrol rifle operators
- B. There are certain personality traits and individual abilities necessary in the make-up of patrol rifle operators. The personality traits are courage, self-discipline, initiative, decisiveness, responsibility, integrity, and an adherence to the mission first concept. Individually, it is recommended that an operator be physically fit, have good motor coordination, good shooting and weapons handling skills, and the ability to perform his/her duties under stress. Applicants who possess these personality traits and individual abilities are usually capable of being trained in the essential tasks required for a patrol rifle operator.
- C. The selection process, designed to measure the quality of a candidate against these traits and abilities, occurs in three stages as follows:

1. Stage I: Application

- a. When an announcement for an Patrol Rifle Operator opening(s) is made, and a NYS DCJS Patrol Rifle Course has been scheduled applicants who meet the following criteria may apply:
 - i. Members of the Albany Police Department and Certified MPTC Police Officers; and
 - ii. Minimum of twelve (12) months of service and must be off the Albany Police Department's probationary period; and
 - iii. A recommendation from the officer's supervisors.

2. Stage II: Testing

- a. Applicants who have met the above criteria will be evaluated and selected by reviewing of their latest in-service firearm's qualification score and an oral interview:
 - i. In-Service Firearm's Qualification Score:
 - a) The applicant must pass the Albany Police Department firearm's qualification course for both the department issued sidearm and the department patrol shotgun.
 - b) For the department issued sidearm the applicant must pass the qualification course at the 90th percentile.
 - c) For the patrol shotgun the applicant must pass the qualification course at the 100th percentile.

ii. Oral Interview:

- a) Applicants will participate in an oral interview conducted by a panel of members selected by the Chief of Police. It is recommended that the panel comprises at least a supervisor, training unit personnel and/or patrol rifle operators.

3. Stage III: Scoring and Selection

- a. Results of each of the events will be compiled and applicants will be ranked in order of their performance.
 - b. A recommendation will be sent to the Chief of Police or his/her designee for final approval.
 - c. Upon successful completion of the NYS DCJS Patrol Rifle Course, applicants will be selected.
4. Any applicant may be disqualified when there is a consensus on the part of Chief of Police or his/her designee that the disqualification of that applicant is in the best interest of the Patrol Rifle Team.

D. Probationary Status:

1. Once a new member joins the Patrol Rifle Team, he/she will be placed on probationary status for one (1) year.
 - a. Prior to completion of the probationary status, a member must have successfully completed FEMA ICS-200 for Single Resources and initial Action Incident Course and FEMA ICS-700 National Incident Management System Course.
2. At the end of the probationary period, the Training Unit sergeant will meet with and review the new member's performance.
 - a. At this time, if a member is progressing adequately, he/she will be given full Patrol Rifle Team status and be removed from probation.
 - b. If the member is not progressing adequately, he/she may be placed on extended probationary status until it is determined that he/she is ready for full status.
 - c. At any time during the probationary period, the new member may be dismissed from the Patrol Rifle Team upon a review of the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

VI. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

A. Meeting Performance Standards:

1. All patrol rifle operators must maintain adequate levels of performance as outlined in the Patrol Rifle Operators Mandatory Minimum Performance Standards.
 - a. These performance standards, which are evaluated on a pass/fail basis, will be tested throughout the training year.

- b. The procedure when a member fails to perform at an adequate skill level is immediate remedial training followed by a retest.
 - c. Failure to pass the retest will result in the member being placed in a non-deployable status for a period of thirty (30) days. Before the end of the thirty (30) days, the member must bring the skill level in question up to standard and request a retest.
 - d. Failure to take or pass a retest will result in a recommendation of dismissal from the Patrol Rifle Team.
2. Weapons handling is an extremely important skill that requires constant training and is never to be taken for granted. Given that members of the Patrol Rifle Team utilize several weapons systems, and handle those weapons more often than other members of the Albany Police Department, extra vigilance is required to ensure the safety of all involved. As such, failure to maintain mandatory minimum performance standards will be dealt with swiftly and decisively.
3. An unintentional discharge by a patrol rifle operator, at any time, with any weapon, either on or off shift, will result in the following actions:
 - a. If the unintentional discharge did not impact another person, the member will be immediately placed in a non-deployable status for thirty (30) days and will be subjected to remedial training in the handling of weapons.
 - b. If the unintentional discharge impacted another person, the member will be immediately dismissed with no possibility of return to the Patrol Rifle Team.
4. If a patrol rifle operator is unable to attend two (2) consecutive scheduled training dates (unless it has been excused by the Training Unit sergeant), the operator may be placed on a non-deployable status for thirty (30) days.
5. Any member, who is placed in a non-deployable status twice within a one-year period, starting with the date of the first period of non-deployable status, will be reviewed by the Training Unit sergeant. At which time, removal from the Patrol Rifle Team may be recommended to the Chief of Police or designee for his/her review and decision.

B. Properly Maintaining Equipment:

1. All patrol rifle operators are issued a standard weapon with an array of weapon accessories.
2. Given the expense and significant effort that is expended in order to outfit a patrol rifle operator with the equipment it needs to operate effectively, any member who fails to adequately maintain assigned equipment will be subjected to a review with the Training Unit sergeant.
3. The responsibility for ensuring that issued equipment is adequately cared for lies with the individual; however, patrol rifle instructors are expected to conduct periodical inspections and rectify any shortcomings within the team and notify the Training Unit sergeant if assistance is necessary.

VII. REMOVAL/REINSTATEMENT

A. Removal and reinstatement from the Patrol Rifle Team:

1. Any patrol rifle operator may voluntarily withdraw from the team at any time by giving written notice to the Chief of Police.
2. Any patrol rifle operator may be removed at the discretion of the Chief of Police for disciplinary matters pertaining to their employment.
3. Any patrol rifle operator may be removed due to promotions and/or change of assignment.
4. Fully-certified, non-probationary members who have voluntarily left the Patrol Rifle Team, and wish to return, may request reinstatement via Intra-Departmental Correspondence (IDC), provided a vacancy exists.
 - a. If approved, the member will be placed on the standard one year probationary period in order to demonstrate that the ability to achieve the mandatory minimum standards has been retained before he/she is deemed fully deployable.

VIII. TRAINING

A. The success of the Patrol Rifle Team and a patrol rifle operator is firmly rooted in the training that the patrol rifle operator attends. As such, the Albany Police Department recognizes that mission-based, efficient, and effective training is crucial to the accomplishment of the mission. Training is based on performance standards for which all patrol rifle operators must be held accountable. Attendance is mandatory unless excused prior to the training iteration.

B. Training Plan:

1. A schedule of training will be completed prior to the beginning of each training year.
2. At a minimum, all training iterations will have a lesson plan to include any courses of fire.
3. At a minimum, the patrol rifle team will train four (4) days per calendar year.
4. The completed training plan will be kept on file with the Training Unit.

C. Instructors:

1. Only personnel who are qualified to teach patrol rifle topics will be used.
2. Patrol Rifle instructors must possess the following valid certifications
 - a. NYS DCJS General Topics Instructor
 - b. NYS DCJS Firearms Instructor
 - c. NYS DCJS Patrol Rifle Operator course or an equivalent course.
3. Additionally, instructors must be deemed knowledgeable and/or experts in the discipline being trained, by means of additional subject matter specific training, gained in-house, or via an outside training entity. It is

recommended that patrol rifle instructors or potential instructors attend additional training to enhance their skills.

D. Training Records:

1. All training will be recorded and those records will be maintained pursuant to the official compilation of codes, rules, and regulations of the State of New York.
2. Training records will include lesson plans, course curriculum, class rosters with dates of training, total hours, names of course, students names, and results of training.
3. Each team member requires an individual training record.
4. All instructors shall be compliant with provisions of Title 9 NYCRR 6023 and 6024, as appropriate.
5. All training records to include outside training will be maintained by the Albany Police Departments Training Unit, as defined in G.O. 4.1.05 - Training Organization and Functions.

E. Training Safety:

1. During range training (indoor and outdoor), a Range Safety Checklist will be completed and reviewed by the Chief Range Instructor. Additionally, at least two Range Safety Officers will be identified to assist in safe operations prior to any range deployment.
2. All operators, their gear, and weapon systems will be visually and physically checked during non-live fire scenarios.

F. As per G.O. 1.3.05 - Use of Force – Lethal Weapons, all patrol rifle operators will adhere to the training standards set forth in the orders.

IX. EQUIPMENT

A. The Patrol Rifle Team must be well equipped with current and state-of-the-art equipment and weapon systems in order to guarantee the operational readiness of the patrol rifle operator. Given the sensitive and costly nature of this equipment, policies must be established to direct the issuance of standard weapon and weapon accessories.

B. Standard Equipment:

1. Standard equipment shall be issued to a patrol rifle operator(s).

- a. Patrol Rifle Weapon System – [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
any other system authorized by the Chief of Police. Weapon systems will be recommended by the Lead Patrol Rifle Instructor. The weapon system will consist of the following:

- i. [REDACTED]

- ii. [REDACTED];
- iii. [REDACTED];
- iv. [REDACTED];
- v. [REDACTED];
- vi. [REDACTED];
- vii. [REDACTED];
- viii. Tactical Sling and/or single point sling w/mounts; and
- ix. Weapon case for storage.

C. Ammunition:

- 1. Only department authorized ammunition shall be utilized by patrol rifle operators while on duty. The following ammunition is authorized
 - a. [REDACTED].
 - b. [REDACTED].

D. Care, Maintenance, and Storage:

- 1. All patrol rifle operators will follow G.O. 1.3.05 in ref to proper care, maintenance and storage of patrol rifles

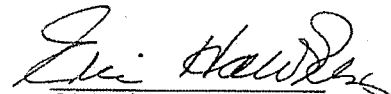
X. DEPLOYMENT/USE OF FORCE

- A. All patrol rifle operators will follow G.O. 1.3.05 - Use of Force – Lethal Weapons in regards to deployment and use of force.

XI. MINIMUM STANDARDS

- A. There exists a set of critical skills that each patrol rifle operator must possess in order to operate effectively.
 - 1. The mandatory minimum standards checklist, as shown as pages 11 and 12 of this order, denotes each task along with the conditions for testing and the standard that must be achieved.
 - 2. Each patrol rifle operator will be tested on these mandatory skills throughout the year, with the results of their testing logged on a training checklist.
- B. The mandatory minimum standards checklist consists of the following:
 - 1. Qualifications - Patrol rifle operator(s) must complete and pass at a minimum four (4) qualifications per year. Two (2) while using the [REDACTED] and two (2) using [REDACTED]
 - 2. General Orders – Patrol rifle operator(s) shall know all general orders pertaining to the patrol rifle program and be able to summarize those orders.
 - 3. Disassemble/Assemble – Patrol rifle operator(s) must be able to completely field strip their assigned weapon and reassemble the weapon. Then the operator must complete a function check.

4. Nomenclature – Patrol rifle operators(s) must correctly identify all weapon components. (This procedure will be completed while weapon is completely disassembled).
5. Carry Positions – Patrol rifle operator(s) will correctly demonstrate the following carrying positions. [REDACTED] ready.
6. Shooting Positions – Patrol rifle operator(s) will correctly demonstrate the following shooting positions. [REDACTED]
7. Phase One Malfunction – Patrol rifle operator(s) will demonstrate the proper sequence to clear a phase one malfunction. [REDACTED]
8. Emergency Reload – Patrol rifle operator(s) will demonstrate the proper reloading procedure when a weapon runs empty.
9. Tactical Reload – Patrol rifle operators will demonstrate one of the three tactical reloads, [REDACTED]
10. Bilateral – Patrol rifle operators will demonstrate the proper transition of moving the weapon from shoulder to shoulder.
11. Weapon Inspection – Patrol rifle operator(s) are required to properly maintain and clean all issued weapons.
 - a. Additional minimum standards or a change to the minimum standards may be implemented based on training needs/deficiency and/or new contemporary training. All patrol rifle operators will be notified and receive training prior to any changes being tested.


Eric Hawkins
Chief of Police

Albany Police Patrol Rifle

YEAR: _____

Minimum Standards Check list

NAME: _____ PIN: _____ SERIAL#: _____

QUALIFICATIONS			
OPTICS:		IRON SIGHTS:	
SCORE: _____, DATE: _____		SCORE: _____, DATE: _____	
SCORE: _____, DATE: _____		SCORE: _____, DATE: _____	

Attempts

1ST

2ND

MINIMUM STANDARD

PASS

FAIL

PASS

FAIL

GENERAL ORDERS				
DISSASSEMBLE/ASSEMBLE				
NOMENCLATURE				
CARRY POSITIONS - OVERALL				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DIAMOND/SAFETY CIRCLE • HALF DIAMOND • LOW READY • CONTACT READY • CONTACT • HIGH PORT • RELOAD READY 				
SHOOTING POSITIONS - OVERALL				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STANDING • SQUATTING • HIGH/SPEED KNEELING • LOW/SUPPORTED KNEE • DOUBLE KNEE • SITTING • PRONE 				
PHASE ONE MALFUNCTION				
EMERGENCY RELOAD				
TACTICAL RELOAD				
BILATERAL				
WEAPON INSPECTION				

