



MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

466 – PATROL RIFLE

GENERAL ORDER: 2025-12
ISSUED: February 24, 2025

EFFECTIVE: February 24, 2025

REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:
Assistant Chief Steven Johnson
DATE: January 21, 2025

ACTION: Amends General Order 2023-25 (May 19, 2023)

WILEAG STANDARD(S): 5.2.1, 5.3.1,
12.1.1, 12.1.2, 12.1.3

466.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to provide guidance to police members on the proper use of the department's patrol rifle system.

The department is authorizing the use of a Smith & Wesson M&P 15 and Bravo Company Manufacturing BCM4 rifle as a deadly force option in conjunction with existing department policies, practices, and under law and ordinance.

Advantages of the patrol rifle as a deadly force option include:

- Defeating body armor;
- Distance shooting with the accuracy of optics for target isolation;
- Increased officer and citizen protection against superior weapon that are used by suspects;
- Response to active shooters;
- Ambidextrous sighting systems for left or right handed officers.

466.05 DEFINITIONS (WILEAG 12.1.1)

A. PATROL RIFLE

A Smith & Wesson M&P 15X or Bravo Company Manufacturing BCM4 semi-automatic rifle, .223 caliber, external magazine fed, equipped with a two point sling and a Surefire mini scout light PRO with pressure pad.
(WILEAG 12.1.1.1, 12.1.1.2)

B. MAGAZINE

External ammunition source that feeds ammunition into the weapon.

C. SLING

A Vickers Combat Applications Sling attached to the patrol rifle that allows the users to carry the weapon in various positions over their bodies.

D. SIGHTING ZERO

The point of aim in relation to the point of a bullet's impact when looking through a sighting system. The red dot sight and the iron sights are zeroed for 50 yards.

E. RETICLE

The image that is projected in the optic, which is used for aiming.

F. AIMPOINT PATROL RIFLE OPTIC (AIMPOINT PRO) OR VORTEX CROSSFIRE

The red dot sighting system mounted on the patrol rifle. It utilizes a two Minute of Angle (MOA) red dot as a reticle.

466.10 MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITIES (WILEAG 5.2.1, 5.3.1, 12.1.2, 12.1.3)

- A. Only police members that have completed the department's patrol rifle certification training program, or former members of the Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU) with a satisfactory training history, shall be authorized to carry and deploy the patrol rifle. Former TEU members shall submit a *Department Memorandum* (form PM-9E) stating their desire to carry a patrol rifle through the chain of command to the Range Master for approval prior to using a patrol rifle on duty. Members not officially trained in the patrol rifle may operate the rifle in emergency circumstances (e.g., rifle operator is injured or unable to use the rifle) to prevent the imminent threat of death or great bodily harm to themselves or others. Members are required to complete recertification on an annual basis.
- B. All members who are patrol rifle operators are required to complete recertification training on an annual basis. Members who do not attend the annual recertification training will not be allowed to carry the patrol rifle until the member attends the following year's recertification training. Any member who does not attend two (2) consecutive recertification trainings will be removed as a patrol rifle operator. The only exemption to the above is members who are returning from FMLA or military leave. Members who are unable to attend due to an internal investigation will be evaluated by the range master on a case by case basis upon being cleared by the Internal Affairs Division.
- C. When not in use, the rifle, case, and peripherals shall be stored in a secure area of the work location as designated by the commanding officer. Patrol rifle trained and certified members shall sign-out the patrol rifle at the start of their shift and sign-in the patrol rifle at the end of their shift in a *Patrol Rifle Log Book*. Patrol rifle trained members shall sign-out a patrol rifle if one is available at their work location. Rifles shall be unloaded and cleared each time they are stored.
- D. Prior to the start of each shift, as well as at the end of the shift, the member signing out the patrol rifle shall conduct a pre-shift check in a designated area with a clearing barrel to inspect the rifle, ammunition, optics/sighting systems, slings and rifle cases to ensure the equipment is in proper working order and that all ammunition is accounted for.

- E. A supervisor shall be notified immediately if any patrol rifle equipment is damaged, not functioning properly or if all rounds are not accounted for and in such cases the patrol rifle shall be taken out of service and tagged “do not use.” The Training Division – Firearms Unit shall be notified as soon as practicable.
- F. At the start of each shift, members equipped with a patrol rifle shall notify the dispatcher that they are equipped with a patrol rifle. A notation identifying the member as being equipped with the patrol rifle shall also be made on the daily line-up in the SharePoint “Lineup Drive.”
- G. The patrol rifle shall be secured in the rifle rack of the member’s vehicle when not in use. If the member’s vehicle does not have a rifle rack, the patrol rifle shall only be removed from its case when a member anticipates its use, when it is being inspected, conducting a pre-shift safety check in a safe area, or it is being taken out of service. The member shall ensure the patrol rifle and rifle case remain together after the patrol rifle is signed out. If the member secures the patrol rifle in the rifle rack, the member shall secure the rifle case in the [REDACTED].

Note: Members assigned to Federal Task Force partnerships may have alternative storage options, which must be approved by the member’s commanding officer and the range master.

- H. While on patrol, the rifle shall be kept with the safety on and the dust cover closed in a squad-ready status with an empty chamber and a loaded magazine inserted in the magazine well. The rifle shall be kept in a case in the [REDACTED] or in the vehicle’s rifle rack if it is so equipped. It shall have two or three magazines loaded with 25 rounds each.
- I. When the member makes the determination to deploy the patrol rifle, the member shall retrieve the rifle from the rifle rack, if equipped, or the rifle case and charge the weapon bringing the rifle to call-ready. The member shall then activate the rifle’s optics system. If the optics system is not functioning properly, the member shall flip up the iron sights and utilize the iron sighting system.
- J. The patrol rifle shall remain with the safety on until the decision has been made to use deadly force by the member.
- K. If the patrol rifle is to be discharged, the member shall determine which sighting device to use.
- L. If the weapon is discharged, whether intentionally or unintentionally, the member shall notify a supervisor immediately. If a person is struck, emergency medical care must be provided and EMS should be called for through the dispatcher. The responding supervisor shall notify the shift commander of the incident, conduct an administrative review of the incident, and file a *Use of Force Report* in accordance with SOP 460 Use of Force.
(WILEAG 5.3.1.1)

466.15 SHIFT COMMANDER / COMMANDING OFFICERS RESPONSIBILITIES (WILEAG 12.1.1)

- A. Shift commanders shall ensure that the *Patrol Rifle Control Log* is properly used, only certified and trained patrol users are fielding the weapons system, and the weapons are properly maintained by the individual users. Commanding officers shall ensure a control log is maintained for every patrol rifle as well as a register of ammunition. The control log shall include the type, description, manufacturer, model, and serial number for each patrol rifle as well as the name of the assignee.
(WILEAG 12.1.1.4)
- B. Commanding officers shall review all *Use of Force Reports* related to the use of the patrol rifle. They shall ensure that the reports are complete and accurate and tracked pursuant to SOP 460 Use of Force.

466.20 EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND CARE (WILEAG 12.1.1)

- A. Only patrol rifles, ammunition, optics/sighting systems, slings and rifle cases issued, inspected, and approved by the Training Division - Firearms Unit shall be used. No modifications shall be made to the optics system, or iron sight, zero except by the Training Division - Firearms Unit.
(WILEAG 12.1.1.3)
- B. The patrol rifle and peripheral equipment shall be treated with due care and shall not be abused or mistreated. Rifle trained members may change batteries in the light and optics system when necessary.
- C. Only personnel authorized by the Training Division - Firearms Unit shall conduct repairs of the patrol rifle and peripherals.
(WILEAG 12.1.1.3)
- D. The patrol rifles shall be stored in the cases in squad-ready condition with an empty chamber and loaded magazine inserted in the rifle when stored at the work locations. The spare magazine shall be loaded and stored in the case or an approved rifle magazine pouch on the members' belt.



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