

BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

AR-15 CHECKOUT AND TRANSPORT

Reviewed by: Lt. Chad Wamsley	Effective Date: July 4, 2003
Authorized by: Chief Clay Wheeler	Revision Date: July 29, 2019

PURPOSE

Department-issued AR-15's (i.e., carbines & short barrel rifles) are general use weapons and are shared by all officers of the Department. This SOP is to ensure that these weapons are made available to qualified officers, that the weapons remain operational, that they are deployed safely, and that the department can account for each weapon.

PROCEDURE

OFFICER AND SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

CHECKING OUT A SHOULDER WEAPON

Officers may be assigned to carry an AR-15 in the performance of their duties by an on-duty supervisor. Officers should be currently qualified to department standards on the firearm requested for checkout. The on-duty staff officer will unlock Patrol Supply and issue the requesting officer the weapon and ammunition required. The officer's name, date, time, and weapon number will be logged and initialed by the supervisor in the checkout binder located in Patrol Supply.

AR-15

The staff officer will oversee the removal of the weapon from the rack. The supervisor will be responsible to ensure that the safety is on. The weapon should be in the unloaded condition: no magazine in place, no round in the chamber, yellow chamber flag in place. Weapon should appear to be in good condition. Both magazines should be inspected to make sure there are 28 rounds in each. (The top bullet should be on the right side, push the stack of bullets down, and there should be only enough room for 2 additional bullets. This confirms 28 bullets are in the magazine.) Officers shall use Department-issued AR-15's for police duties only unless otherwise authorized by the Chief of Police.

The officer will prepare the weapon for car carry: bolt forward on an empty chamber, safety on, charging handle forward and locked, magazine inserted into magazine well. The supervisor will monitor the procedure. The weapon will be placed in a hard or soft case.

The Chief of Police has authorized officers to supply their own AR-15, providing they meet all policy requirements. Personal AR-15's will be securely stored by the officer when not on duty. Department AR-15's issued due to job assignment (SWAT, SRO, etc) will be secured and deployed by the officer in the same manner as a personal AR-15.

NORMAL TOUR TRANSPORT

The weapon will be secured in the vehicle during the officer's normal tour of duty. The weapon/case will be stored in the locked trunk or, if there is no trunk, behind the seat in the locked passenger compartment. The AR-15 will remain in "Car Carry" condition with loaded mag inserted, chamber empty until deployed from the vehicle for emergency response. When returning the AR-15 back to the vehicle once the scene is secured, the AR-15 chamber will be unloaded and the weapon returned to "Car Carry" configuration prior to leaving the scene. This section does not apply to SWAT officers who hand carry their weapons during activation or training.

CHECK-IN AT END OF TOUR

An on-duty supervisor will meet the officer at the Patrol Supply room. The encased shoulder weapon will be brought back to the Patrol Supply room and returned to the unloaded condition by the officer: magazine removed from weapon, bolt or slide locked back, empty chamber. The supervisor will monitor the procedure, ensuring the muzzle is maintained in a safe direction. The yellow chamber flag will be returned to the chamber of the AR-15. It is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure that the rifle is returned to the rack unloaded, and that the yellow flag is in place in the rifle chamber. The time and date of return shall be logged and initialed in the binder by the supervisor.

REPORTING DEFECTIVE WEAPON

Any malfunctions or problems with the weapon shall be reported by informing the on-duty staff officer receiving the checked-in weapon. The staff officer will note the weapon's defect on the shift activity and send an email to the Training Sergeant. If the problem is such that the weapon is not operable or is unsafe, the staff officer shall deadline the weapon by writing "Deadline" on a tag (i.e., evidence tag), wiring the tag through the loading ramp and ejection port and replacing the weapon in the rack. The problem(s), date and staff officer's name shall be written on the evidence tag.

REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR CARRYING PERSONAL AR-15

1. AR-15 has been inspected by rifle instructor or range master and certified to meet the Department specifications (below), before being allowed for carry the first time and annually thereafter. The officer and AR-15 are subject to inspection at any time and must meet Department standards at all times.
2. The officer has successfully passed all required AR-15 training and successfully passed the annual AR-15 qualification.
3. The AR-15 is sighted in for the department 50 yard zero.
4. **Only Department issued ammunition** will be carried in the AR-15.
5. All AR-15's and accessories are subject to approval by the Department Range Master.

PERSONAL AR-15 SPECS GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND CONSTRUCTION:

The weapon shall be an AR-15/M-16 type weapon. It shall be .223/5.56mm caliber operating as a semiautomatic. AR-15's must be factory assembled, armorer modified, or serviced and certified by a gunsmith to be carried for duty. Mixed upper/lowers are allowed (i.e., Armalite upper/Colt lower).

FEATURES

1. Trigger Action: Semiautomatic with trigger pull 4.5 - 8 pounds. The hammer will cycle and release with each pull of the trigger. Each trigger pull will be similar in weight and travel.
2. Safety System: Will be located on the left side and useable by both left- and right-handed shooters or will have an ambidextrous safety. Safety will have SAFE and FIRE positions.
3. Sight System
 - a. Rear Sight - Rear sight will be the AR-15 type intended for use on the weapon and capable of near and long range use. Rear sight may be fixed or folding design.
 - b. Front Sight Base - Front site will be fixed or folding of correct height to function with rear sight.
4. Magazine: Each weapon must have a minimum of 2 (two) magazines supplied by the officer. The loaded or unloaded magazine shall fall free when the magazine catch is depressed. There shall be no magazine safety.
5. Barrel
 - a. Barrel - The AR-15 must have a barrel no shorter than 16 inches (unless it is a registered SBR or pistol) or longer than 20 inches.
 - b. Rifling Twist - Barrel will be rifled from 1 in 7 to 1 in 12; right hand twist.
 - c. Muzzle Protection - Protection for the muzzle is recommended to minimize potential damage to muzzle, but is not required. Flash suppressers/compensators are adequate muzzle protection devices.
6. Stock/Pistol Arm Brace
 - a. Shoulder Stock - stock must be designed for use on the AR-15 and of proper fit/adjustability for proper employment by the officer.
 - b. Pistol Arm Brace - If the AR-15 is a registered pistol, it will be equipped with an **adjustable** arm brace for duty use. The adjustable arm brace must be designed for use on this weapon and be of proper fit/adjustability for proper employment by the officer. (NOTE: At no time will an AR-15 **stock** be installed on a registered pistol receiver in violation of Federal and State Law.)
7. Finish: the rifle will have a dark color matte finish.
8. Repairs: Repairs will be the responsibility of the officer.

WEAPON ACCESSORIES: (supplied by officer)

1. Each AR-15 shall be equipped with a nylon sling.
2. Each AR-15 shall be equipped with a case of appropriate size for the rifle.
3. Eotech brand holographic sights are prohibited. However, the use of a red dot sight is recommended. The red dot sight will be zero magnification (i.e. 1x) and intended for use on an AR-15 with backup iron sights. A clip- on magnifier is authorized with ability to move/remove it immediately for backup sight use. Scopes or low power magnified optics are not allowed without specific Range Master approval for special assignment and/or with documented training.
4. A weapon mounted flashlight is recommended.