



City of Racine Police Department  
**Policy and Procedure**

**Number: 1403**

Subject: <b>Carrying Support Weapons in Department Vehicles</b>		
Date Issued: <b>04-18-80</b>	Date Revised: <b>03-20-18</b>	Revision Number: <b>5</b>

**POLICY**

Support weapons require the safe storage and ready accessibility for rapid deployment situations. It is the purpose of this procedure to assure that our members are informed on how to make those weapons available for safe use.

**PROCEDURE**

**MEMBER**

1. Department vehicles that have been provided with a weapon rack and an assigned weapon will have that weapon installed in the rack prior to going in service.
2. If the weapon is not in the vehicle, contact a Supervisor:
  - a. If the weapon is ready to deploy, return the weapon to the vehicle.
  - b. If the weapon is unserviceable or unavailable due to special assignments or training requirements, the Supervisor may provide a replacement weapon for the duration of the shift / assignment. Record the replacement weapon's location on the status board in the Weapons Storage Locker.
3. Prior to placing the weapon in the weapon rack, or once a weapon is already mounted in the weapon rack, ensure that you check the weapon for the following:
  - a. The chamber is empty.
  - b. The action is closed.
  - c. The safety is in the "safe" position.
4. Members that find something out of the ordinary during their inspection shall bring it to the attention of a Supervisor or Shift Commander immediately. These circumstances may include (but are not limited to):
  - a. Foreign objects within the barrel or chamber of the weapon.
  - b. Chambered round in the weapon.
  - c. Magazines that appear to contain less ammunition than required.
5. The standard load in each of the support weapons will be; Colt AR15 semiauto rifles – 28rds of .223 ammunition in each magazine.
6. When on a special assignment using a vehicle that is not equipped with a mount to carry a support weapon:
  - a. Adhere to steps 3 & 4.
  - b. Carry the support weapon in a safe and secure manner.
7. Use a gun case while transporting support weapons outside of the designated rack, except during deployments.
8. When the weapon is being transported outside of the weapon rack, it shall be secured in the trunk until arrival at the location of deployment.
9. SWAT personnel are authorized to transport their assigned M16 in the trunk of the vehicle they use for normal patrol duty as long as it is secured per the approved memorandum dated March 20, 2001.

## **SUPERVISOR**

1. The Transportation Sergeant shall check the secure weapons storage locker (which shall be locked at all times) in the Range Vestibule each shift to ensure that all assigned weapons have been placed in their designated vehicles. Unauthorized personnel are not allowed to enter the Range Vestibule area.
2. When a vehicle is sent to DPW for service, or a DPW employee requests that a weapon be removed from a vehicle, remove the weapon from the vehicle and place it in the secure weapons storage locker located in the Range Vestibule.
  - a. The weapon shall be left in squad ready status. Attach a green “ready to deploy” tag to the weapon, indicating that the weapon is ready to deploy.
  - b. When made aware that a vehicle has been returned to service by DPW, ensure that if the vehicle has a weapon rack in it, that the assigned weapon is returned to the vehicle.
  - c. Weapon status shall be documented on the dry erase board located in the Range Vestibule.
3. Any support weapon that needs to be removed from service shall be unloaded. Specify the reason for the removal as well as the nature of the problem with the support weapon on the dry erase board located in the Range Vestibule. Attach a red “do not deploy” tag to the weapon indicating that the support weapon is not ready to deploy. Email the Training Officer of problem/service needed so it can be completed in a timely manner.

## **RELATED PROCEDURES**

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