

# UC Merced Police Department - Annual Report (2024)

## Military Equipment

University of California, Merced Police Department Policy #709 "Military Equipment" requires an annual report to be submitted to the Regents on an annual basis and posted on the police department website for as long as the equipment is in use.

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee should submit a military equipment report to the governing body of each type of military equipment approved within one year of approval and annually thereafter for as long as the military equipment is available for use (Government Code § 7072).

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee should also make each annual military equipment report publicly available on the department website for as long as the military equipment is available for use. The report shall include all information required for the preceding calendar year for each type of military equipment in the Department inventory (Government Code § 7072).

The annual military equipment report shall, at a minimum, include the following information for the immediately preceding calendar year for each type of military equipment:

- a. A summary of how the military equipment was used and the purpose of its use.
- b. A summary of any complaints or concerns received concerning military equipment.
- c. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the military equipment use policy, and any actions taken in response.
- d. The total annual cost of each type of military equipment, including acquisition, personnel training, transportation, maintenance, storage, upgrade, and other ongoing costs, and from what source funds will be provided for the military equipment in the calendar year following submission of the annual military equipment report.
- e. The quantity possessed for each type of military equipment.
- f. If the law enforcement agency intends to acquire additional military equipment in the next year, the quantity sought for each type of military equipment.

**UC Merced Police Department does not have or procure equipment from the U.S. DoD.**

## REPORT

### A. How equipment was used and purpose of use

During 2023-2024, there were no deployments of the 5.56 Caliber Patrol Rifles (category 10) except for approved trainings.

During 2023-2024, there were no deployments of the LRAD (Category 13)

During the 2023-2024, there were no deployments of the one Def-Tec 40 mm Launcher (category 14) except for training.

### B. Complaints or Concerns

In 2023-2024, there were no complaints about UCMPD's equipment covered by this statute. There were concerns expressed in September 2024 about UC Merced's request to purchase five (5) Def-Tec 40 mm launchers during the UC Regents AB481 report presentation.

The concerns were about UCMPD utilizing the 40mm launcher for crowd control incidents. Clarification was provided that the 40mm launcher was not a crowd control device but was being requested to provided officers with another less-lethal option.

### C. Internal Audits

In 2023-2024, reviews of the equipment and policies were conducted. There were no identified issues of concern.

### D. Total Costs and Funding Source

See details below

### E. Quantity

See details below

### F. Request for New Military Equipment

See below category 14.

## **CATEGORY 10 – SPECIALZIED FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION OF LESS THAN.50 CALIBER, INCLUDING ASSAULT WEAPONS OR GREATER, EXCLUDING STANDARD-ISSUE SHOTGUNS AND STANDARD-ISSUE SHOTGUN AMMUNITION**

**Type:** Colt M4, 5.56 Caliber Patrol Rifles

**Quantity:** 20

**Cost:** Approximately \$1,500 each (Annual maintenance is estimated to \$0 - \$100)

**Capability:** Rifles outperform handguns providing a higher degree of accuracy over longer distances. The rifle round will also penetrate soft-body armor.

**Manufacturer Description:** The Colt M4 Carbine is an exceptional patrol rifle with tactical accuracy chosen by many federal, state, and local agencies. The 16.1" heavy barrel with a 1:9" rifling twist allows flexibility in ammunition selection from 45 grains all the way up to 69 grains. The telescopic M4 stock adjusts to four positions to enhance mobility and fit to a wider range of operators.

**Purpose:** Officers may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstance where, consistent with law, training, and department policy, the officer can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed.

**Legal:** Officers are required to complete a POST Certified 16-hour course that meets the requirements of Penal Code section 33220(b) - The possession of short-barreled rifles and short-barreled shotguns by peace officer members of a police department, sheriff's office, marshal's office, the California Highway Patrol, the Department of Justice, or the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, when on duty and the use is authorized by the agency and is within the course and scope of their duties, and the officers have completed a training course in the use of these weapons certified by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

**Training:** Officers must complete the POST Certified 16-hour course before they can be assigned a patrol rifle. They must also qualify with the rifle annually.

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**Type:** Hornaday TAP-T2, 5.56 Caliber, 75 grain

**Quantity:** 10,000

**Cost:** Approximately \$550 per 1,000

**Capability:** Duty ammo for use in carbine rifles.

**Manufacturer Description:** The T2 bullet profile is specifically designed to optimize function and feeding in M16/M4 variant guns. The cartridge's propellant technology is custom designed to enhance weapon operation and delivers phenomenal temperature stability. The 75 gr. BTHP T2 bullet is designed to deliver rapid incapacitation upon impact.

**Legal:** Officers are required to complete a POST Certified 16-hour course that meets the requirements of Penal Code section 33220(b). Additionally, officers are required to train with patrol rifles at least quarterly.

**Training:** After completing a POST approved course, all members who operate a rifle are required to qualify at least annually.

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**Type:** Remington PPU FMJ, 223 Caliber, 55 grain

**Quantity:** 1,500

**Cost:** Approximately \$400 per 1,000

**Capability:** Practice (range) ammunition used in the carbine rifles. Used for range training only.

**Manufacturer Description:** Standard Rifle Ammunition - we are proud to present our extensive line of rifle ammunition. Only the best quality components are used during production to ensure that our cartridges are accurate, dependable and effective. Our constant quality improvements are based on continual feedback from our customers, accurate, dependable and effective.

**Legal:** Officers are required to complete a POST Certified 16-hour course that meets the requirements of Penal Code section 33220(b). Additionally, officers are required to train with patrol rifles at least quarterly. The 55 grain rounds are more economical for this purpose.

**Training:** After completing a POST approved course, all members who operate a rifle are required to qualify at least annually.

### **CATEGORY 13 – LONG-RANGE ACOUSTIC DEVICE (LRAD)**

**Quantity –** One (1)

**Cost:** \$9,700 - no annual operating expense

**Capability:** Long Range Acoustical Device (LRAD) is a high-intensity directional acoustical array for long-range, crystal-clear hailing, notification, and an unmistakable warning tone. The LRAD is primarily used as a communication device.

**Manufacturer Description:** The LRAD 100X is a self-contained, portable communication system for on-scene tactical communication. With unparalleled vocal clarity and up to 30db louder than bullhorns, megaphones, and vehicle P.A. systems, the LRAD 100X is 4 to 6 times louder than other acoustic hailers of comparable sizes and weights.

LRAD's optimized driver and waveguide technology ensure every message is clearly broadcast, heard and understood, even above engine, crowd, siren, and background noises. The LRAD warning tone commands attention to the voice messages that follow and provides a safer alternative to non-lethal and kinetic measures for changing behavior.

**Purpose:** The Long-Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) is a self-contained loudspeaker system used for communicating and warning people over large areas. The LRAD delivers clear and highly comprehensible sound up to 600 meters.

LRAD's proprietary audio technology focuses sound in a 30° beam in front of its devices. This ensures that individuals in large crowds and people spread out over large areas with competing noises and audible distractions can hear and clearly understand the message.

The LRAD facilitates communication in evacuation scenarios, emergency messages to the public, hazardous warnings, and information to large crowds. Coastal communities have utilized LRAD devices for tsunami warnings and to provide lifeguards with the ability to communicate clearly with swimmers in the water.

The LRAD emits a noise that causes a piercing tone, which has been a criticism of the system by protestors in communities where it has been used for crowd control.

**Legal:** The department shall only utilize this equipment for official law enforcement purposes and pursuant to state and federal law and applicable department policy.

**Training:** All operators receive training before operating any LRADs in the field.

## **CATEGORY 14 – KINETIC ENERGY WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS**

**Type:** Def-Tec 40mm launcher model #1425

**Quantity:** One (1) – **(This equipment was not deployed last year as there were no munitions for it.)**

**Cost:** Approximately \$1,300 and \$0 annually.

**Capability:** 40mm launchers are capable of firing a variety of munitions with a maximum effective range of one hundred twenty (120) feet. 40mm launchers can deliver 40mm munitions

**Manufacturer Description: (Model #1425/40LMTS)** The 40LMTS is a tactical 40mm single-shot launcher that features a folding stock and an adjustable Integrated Front Grip (IFG) with a light rail. The ambidextrous Lateral Sling Mount (LSM) and QD mounting system allow both a single and two-point sling attachment. The 40LMTS will fire standard 40mm less lethal ammunition, up to 4.8 inches in cartridge length. This weapon is not designed to fire 40mm High-Velocity HE ammunition. The Picatinny Rail Mounting System will accept a wide array of enhanced optics/sighting systems.

**Purpose:** 40mm launchers with less-lethal sponge rounds may be deployed to impact armed subjects who demonstrate assaultive or life-threatening behavior. 40mm launchers utilized with less-lethal sponge rounds may also be used to control an actively resistive subject reasonably believed to possess or have immediate access to a deadly weapon. The intent of this tool's deployment is to provide officers with an additional less-lethal option.

**Legal:** UCMPD's Use of Force Policy. The department shall only utilize this equipment for official law enforcement purposes and pursuant to State and Federal Law and applicable department policy.

**Training:** Officers that have been trained in the use of the 40mm single launcher undergo thorough classroom and live-fire training in its use. Additionally, officers trained in using the 40mm single launcher must pass annual qualifications to maintain proficiency.

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**Type:** FN Herstal – less lethal resource (**This equipment is not deployed and not in-service at UCMPD**)

**Model:** FN 303 Launcher

**Quantity:** One (1)

**Cost:** \$1,300 each unit, \$0 costs

**Capability:** The FN-303 Less-Lethal Launcher is a semi-automatic, shoulder-fired device that fires non-lethal munitions and liquids. The device is powered by compressed air to fire the projectiles loaded into an attached 15-round drum magazine.

Projectiles provide blunt impact, marking, and oleoresin capsicum (OC) effects to deny access, move, and/or suppress individuals from 5–100 meters. The FN 303® is used for crowd control.

**Manufacturer Description:** The FN 303® Less Lethal Launcher is constructed from durable, lightweight polymer with comfortable ergonomics and an easy to operate safety. The FN 303® Launcher is equipped with both flip-up iron sights and an integrated MIL-STD-1913 top mounting rail for optical or electronic sights or other accessories. The lightweight polymer magazine holds 15 projectiles and offers a clear rear cover to allow the operator to instantly verify both the payload type and the number of projectiles remaining. Easy-to-change air bottle provides approximately 110 shots per filling. It has a molded polymer frame, pistol grip, and buttstock flip-up iron sights.

**Purpose:** The FN303 is a less-lethal, semi-automatic launcher that uses compressed air and launches plastic sphere projectiles from a 15-round drum magazine. The plastic spheres burst on impact and release paint or contain PAVA powder (The name "PAVA" stands for Pelargonic Acid Vanillyl Amide, also called Nonivamide, and is the organic compound characteristically in natural chili pepper). The OC powder can effectively control, dissuade or disperse an individual(s) engaged in violent or riotous behavior.

**Legal:** Use of Force Policy, Crowd Demonstration and Management Policy, and Control Devices and Techniques Policy. The department shall only utilize this equipment for official law enforcement purposes and pursuant to State and Federal Law and applicable department policy.

**Training:** Officers authorized to carry and use the FN-303 must have completed the

POST-approved Less-Lethal Instructor course.

**REQUESTS UNDER CATEGORY 14 – KINETIC ENERGY WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS**

*UCM submitted a request to procure five (5) additional launchers and munitions as follows and funding will be from department budget:*

- A. Five (5) Def-Tec 40mm launchers model #1425
- B. 100 – 40 mm Sponge Rounds, Model #6325 eXact iImpact



**Purpose:** 40mm launchers with less-lethal sponge rounds may be deployed to impact armed subjects who demonstrate assaultive or life-threatening behavior. 40mm launchers utilized with less-lethal sponge rounds may also be used to control an actively resistive subject reasonably believed to possess or have immediate access to a deadly weapon. The intent of this tool's deployment is to provide officers with an additional less-lethal option.