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# BASIC COURSE INSTRUCTOR UNIT GUIDE

21

PATROL TECHNIQUES

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THE COMMISSION  
ON PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

The curricula contained in this document is designed as a *guideline* for the delivery of performance-based law enforcement training. It is part of the POST Basic Course guidelines system developed by California law enforcement trainers and criminal justice educators in cooperation with the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

**UNIT GUIDE 21**

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Patrol Techniques**

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# CURRICULUM

## I. GENERAL CONCEPTS OF PATROL

A. Patrol is one of the most frequent duties that a uniformed peace officer will be called upon to perform.

1. Due to its repetitive nature, patrol carries the inherent danger of becoming routine.
2. As a result, an officer may be tempted to become complacent and careless.

NOTE: It may be effective to complement training by citing examples of officer killings and assaults that have occurred during the course of general patrol activities. Often these cases reveal carelessness or the application of improper tactics. A number of effective video reenactments are available to enhance instruction.

B. Sources of information on assaults and killings of peace officers related to general patrol:

1. FBI peace officer killing statistics (national figures)
2. POST peace officer killing studies (California figures)
  - a. 1980-1986 POST Peace Officer Killing Study
  - b. 1987-1989 POST Peace Officer Killing Study
  - c. *Guidelines for Law Enforcement Officer Safety* (published by POST following completion of the 1980-1986 Peace Officer Killing Study)

NOTE: Copies of these studies are available by contacting the POST Media Distribution Desk. A study addressing 1990-1993 statistics is currently in progress.

- d. POST telecourse and associated student workbook - *Surviving Deadly Assaults - July 1993*

NOTE: Copies of the telecourse video and workbook are available by contacting the POST Training Program Services Bureau.

3. Video resources
  - a. POST Video Catalog
  - b. Individual agency video libraries
  - c. Commercial video catalogs

C. Effective officer safety techniques should always be applied to patrol activities. Officers should keep in mind and avoid committing any of the following "ten fatal errors":

1. Improper attitude (e.g., the officer should avoid distractions)
2. Tombstone courage
3. Not enough rest
4. Taking a bad position
5. Ignoring danger signs
6. Failure to watch the suspect's hands
7. Relaxing too soon
8. Improper use or no handcuffs
9. No search or a poor search
10. A dirty or inoperative weapon

NOTE: Although patterns and trends in assaults and killings of peace officers change, one or more of the preceding errors are always present. Additional information on the ten fatal errors is contained in Basic Course Instructor Unit Guide #23 - Crimes in Progress. A handout is contained in the supporting materials section of that document.

D. The basic elements of patrol

1. It has been said that the basic duties of police patrol can be summed up in two words: protection and service.
  - a. "Protection" implies a public expectation that law enforcement will provide some form of insulation from criminal activity.
  - b. "Service" implies a public expectation that law enforcement will efficiently and professionally address public concerns and needs.

E. Basic activities of a patrol officer: patrol and observation

1. Patrol is often referred to as "routine." This term is erroneous for several reasons.
  - a. The objective of patrol is to avoid any semblance of an anticipated routine.
  - b. A perception that patrol is "routine" can cause an officer to become complacent.
  - c. The art of effective patrol is for an officer to become routinely "unroutine."

2. Patrol uses both preventative and directed enforcement techniques.

NOTE: Preventative patrol and directed enforcement are discussed in more detail in sections III and IV respectively.

3. When officers establish a predictable patrol pattern, their effectiveness in suppressing crime is often compromised. Some criminals have been known to deliberately check an officer's patrol patterns to avoid detection.
4. Conversely, if an officer varies patrol patterns and does not maintain a "routine", the risk for the criminal increases.
5. Varying patterns is also a primary element of preventative patrol.
6. This flexibility also increases an officer's visibility and perceived presence to a greater number of people. Community relations is positively impacted by the increased visibility.



## II. OBSERVATION AND PERCEPTION

### A. Effective patrol involves both observation and perception

1. Observation literally means "the act or the power of observing." To a patrol officer, this means the ability to gather information by noting facts or occurrences.
  - a. Observation involves the use of all the senses. It is through our eyes, ears and other sense organs that we obtain information from the outside world.
  - b. Observation will be enhanced by experience and effective training. (e.g. the officer knowing what to look for, when to look for it, etc.)
  - c. Observation can also be enhanced by a variety of tools. (e.g. binoculars, etc.)
2. In order to interpret our observations, we must organize them and attach meaning or significance to them. This process is called perception.
  - a. Perception is a **personal** analysis derived from observation.
  - b. Perception is impacted by a variety of factors including:
    - (1) Past experiences
    - (2) Maturity
    - (3) Mental and physical condition
    - (4) Emotional involvement
    - (5) Environmental conditions
    - (6) Education/training
    - (7) Cultural/ethnic factors
    - (8) Personal prejudice and bias
  - c. In order to perceive a situation accurately, a person must be paying full attention.
  - d. A peace officer is expected to be a "trained observer." This implies that the officer is expected to
    - (1) practice **disciplined observation** and;
    - (2) apply training and experience to accurately perceive what is occurring or is about to occur.

e. A non-peace officer (e.g., an average citizen) is more likely to be an "untrained observer". As a result, the person is likely to

- (1) not practice disciplined observation and
- (2) have little or no training and experience which applies to the situation (e.g., criminal activity in-progress, physical descriptions, etc.) and
- (3) differ in their perceptions of objects and events.

f. Perception examples

- (1) A witness who is unfamiliar with firearms may not recognize the difference between the sound of a shotgun and that of a pistol - Conversely, a person who is familiar with firearms may be able to easily distinguish between the two sounds
- (2) A witness who is racially prejudiced against a certain group may tend to consistently perceive the actions of a person from that group as being negative.
- (3) A young child may be incapable of distinguishing the motives of a suspicious adult.
- (4) A parent of a person being taken into custody may often have difficulty accepting the fact that their child has committed a criminal act.

C. Applications of observation and perception

1. An officer is constantly faced with the question of evaluating the reliability/credibility of witnesses.
2. The officer must recognize that two persons witnessing the same collision may perceive it differently.
  - a. A person who observes the collision from 150 yards down the street will not necessarily give the same report as a person standing on the sidewalk just a few feet away.
  - b. A person who observed the situation developing and who realized that a collision was going to happen may provide an account which is significantly different from that of a person whose attention was first attracted by the sound of the collision.
  - c. A person who is a close friend of one of the parties in the accident may provide an account that is significantly more favorable to the friend than is the account of a neutral witness.

NOTE: Each of these persons may feel that they are describing the situation in a complete and truthful manner.



### III. PREVENTATIVE PATROL

#### A. The concept of preventative patrol

1. As was mentioned in Section I, effective patrol is comprised of both protection and service. Preventative patrol is specific to the element of protection.
2. It has been consistently demonstrated that where there is a visible law enforcement presence, there is a reduction in criminal activity.
3. The concept of preventative enforcement was formally introduced by Sir Robert Peel just prior to 1829 when he suggested the formation of the Metropolitan Police to the British Parliament.

#### B. Four basic elements of preventative patrol

1. Frequent checks of businesses, residences or other high risk crime targets/areas
2. Looking for and talking to suspicious persons
3. Varying patrol patterns
4. Maintaining high visibility

NOTE: Patrol patterns are discussed in detail in Section VII of this instructional unit guide.

#### C. Conducting checks of business, residences and other high risk crime targets/areas

1. Checks of structures should concentrate on the following:
  - a. Broken windows
  - b. Open doors
  - c. Pry marks
  - d. Presence of suspicious vehicles/persons in the area
  - e. Property damage (e.g. vandalism)
  - f. Unusual conditions (e.g. lights off which are normally on etc.)
  - g. Access to roof
2. Security checks of structures within a beat area have three fundamental objectives:
  - a. To make the officer more knowledgeable about the beat (e.g. layout of businesses)
  - b. To discover any open businesses or evidence of a crime (e.g. burglary)

- c. To employ effective crime prevention principles and enhance community relations
3. When conducting security checks, the officer should consider the following:
- a. Covering as much of the beat area as possible including secondary thoroughfares (i.e. alleys, walkways, etc.)
  - b. Constantly varying patrol patterns
  - c. Emphasizing high crime/high risk areas
  - d. Employing additional patrol methods when possible (e.g. foot patrol, bike patrol)
  - e. Employing appropriate tactics and equipment (e.g. use of spotlight, flashlight, alley light, etc.)
  - f. Checking suspicious vehicles and persons in area
4. Discovering an open business/structure (evidence of forced entry)
- a. Notify communications
  - b. Maintain surveillance/establish perimeter
  - c. Request assistance, if available
  - d. Initiate a tactically-sound search of the building.
  - e. Return to service as soon as possible.
  - f. Typically, the discovering officer is responsible for the crime report and notification of the property owner.

NOTE: Burglary-in-progress incidents are addressed in detail in Learning Domain #23 (Crimes in Progress). Specific considerations for handling these types of incidents are detailed in the associated Instructor Unit Guide. Also, Instructors should consider advising students that reporting responsibility may be dictated by individual agency policies.

5. Discovering an open business/structure (evidence of no forced entry)
- a. Use same precautions as discussed in a forced-entry situation.
  - b. Secure and leave if owner has been notified and premises secured. Note time of discovery and date.
  - c. If premises cannot be secured, it may desirable to leave a note if the owner cannot be notified or if the owner knows that the premises is not secure but declines to respond.

NOTE: Because the discovery of an unsecured premises may imply agency liability (if an officer leaves the structure unsecured), instructors may wish to mention that the officer's actions may be governed by individual agency policies.

D. Conducting checks of suspicious persons (field interview)

1. Officers must always have a lawful reason to conduct a check of a suspicious person.
2. Officers must use appropriate tactical skills when contacting suspicious persons. (e.g. approach, positioning, etc.)

NOTE: Specific information concerning pedestrian contacts is contained in Section X of this Instructor Unit Guide

3. Officers should use effective tactical communication skills when contacting suspicious persons.
  - a. Officers should explain to the individual why they were stopped and the authority for the stop. This will often minimize hostility and enhance community relations.
  - b. Officers should avoid becoming inappropriately defensive or officious if their authority is challenged.
4. If appropriate, the officer should initiate a want/warrant check.
  - a. Employ proper radio communication procedures
  - b. Provide the following information:
    - (1) Full name (last name first)
    - (2) Race and sex
    - (3) Date of birth
    - (4) Height
    - (5) Weight
    - (6) Any information needed for further check on subject such as NCIC, DMV, wants in other counties

NOTE: Individual agency policies may differ regarding procedures to be followed for checking of suspicious persons. (e.g. when a criminal history check is run, use of the telephone to minimize radio traffic, etc.)

E. Beat locations which warrant frequent patrol checks

1. Sites likely to produce criminal acts

- a. Shopping centers
    - (1) Purse snatches
    - (2) Auto burglaries
  - b. School grounds
    - (1) Narcotics activities
    - (2) Child molesters
  - c. Areas having nightlife activities
    - (1) Bars/after hours establishments
    - (2) Night clubs
    - (3) Gambling activities
  - d. Areas with poor lighting and pedestrian traffic
    - (1) Bus stops
    - (2) Isolated restaurants
    - (3) Isolated bars
    - (4) Convenience stores
2. Locations likely to produce breaches of the peace
- a. Youth congregations
    - (1) Recreation centers
    - (2) School dances
    - (3) Local drive-ins
    - (4) Favorite "drinking spots" (e.g., lover's lane areas, etc.)
    - (5) Amusement centers
    - (6) Public parks
    - (7) Sporting events
  - b. Adult congregations
    - (1) Popular bars

- (2) Sporting events
  - (3) Concerts
  - (4) Favorite gathering places
    - (a) Beaches
    - (b) Parks
  - (5) Community meetings
    - (a) Emotional issue
    - (b) Negative public sentiment (against issue)
    - (c) Public political debates
3. Locations hazardous to public safety
- a. Poor road conditions
    - (1) Dirt roads
    - (2) Deadend streets--not properly marked
    - (3) Inferior/inadequate lights or signs
    - (4) Roads with potholes or rocks
  - b. Property susceptible to arson/fire potential
    - (1) Abandoned buildings
    - (2) Open fields
  - c. Areas with collections of water
    - (1) Ponds used for fishing and swimming
    - (2) Back bays (areas that breed mosquitoes)
    - (3) Man-made dams (susceptible to seepage and erosion)
  - d. Poorly lighted residential and commercial districts



#### IV. DIRECTED ENFORCEMENT

- A. Realistically, patrol officers cannot completely cover all parts of their assigned areas. Calls for service and the general press of business will mandate that an officer prioritize activities by patrolling where problem and/or areas where problems are likely to occur.
  - B. Directed enforcement attempts to deal with this dilemma by targeting specific violations or concentrating patrol activities on particular circumstances. For example:
    - 1. Directed enforcement can reduce traffic collision rates when resources are directed towards specific types of violations which contribute to collisions.
    - 2. The number of drug violations could be reduced by directing enforcement efforts towards areas where there is a high amount of drug activity.
  - C. Personnel and equipment can be deployed depending upon specific crime patterns or service needs. (e.g. assignment of undercover officers to reduce muggings or assignment of additional patrol officers to an area that is plagued by a cruising problem)
  - D. To be able to respond where problems are more likely to occur, the patrol officer should consider the following:
    - 1. General beat conditions (e.g. what is happening in the officer's service area)
    - 2. Any crime analysis or statistical information which addresses criminal activity or beat health issues including:
      - a. Traffic collision profiles
      - b. Crime patterns by time of day, day of week, etc.
      - c. Trend analysis (statistical projection of where a crime is likely to occur)
- NOTE: The availability of crime analysis information will be dependent upon individual agency capabilities and may vary dramatically.
- 3. Exchanging information with officers who work the same area on other shifts
  - E. Some directed enforcement efforts may be impacted by geographical considerations.
    - 1.. Theft of livestock, for example, may require the use of horse patrol officers to patrol areas where the crimes are occurring.
    - 2. Aerial patrol may be necessary for the detection of marijuana cultivation in rural areas.



## V. SELECTING A PATROL STRATEGY

### A. Preventative and apprehension strategies

1. There are two basic types of patrol strategies that can be employed in dealing with problem areas: "preventative" and "apprehension."

- a. In "preventative patrol", the objective is to be highly visible in order to discourage the occurrence of the problem the officer is seeking to control.

EXAMPLE: An officer foot patrols a parking structure where there have been a large number of auto thefts. The officer's intention is to dissuade potential thieves from stealing a car.

- b. In "apprehension patrol", your objective is to apprehend the violator or criminal in the act.

EXAMPLE: An officer hides from view and maintains surveillance of the parking garage in order to arrest a car thief in the act of stealing a car.

2. An officer's choice of patrol strategies will depend upon a variety of factors including:

- a. The type of crime or enforcement problem
- b. Whether or not the officer wants to be visible to the public and/or the criminal element

(1) Preventative (visible) patrol has the distinct advantage of increasing citizen confidence by virtue of public awareness of the law enforcement effort.

(2) Conversely, the reduction of some kinds of crimes such as muggings or purse snatches may be more easily accomplished by undercover officers.

3. Procedural considerations

- a. If an officer has selected to employ an apprehension strategy, appropriate tactics should be employed so as not to reveal the presence of the officer to a potential suspect. (e.g. minimizing vehicle noise, use of lights, etc.)

NOTE: Instructors may wish to discuss liability considerations and the impact of individual agency policy. (e.g. not using vehicle lights during hours of darkness)

- b. Conversely, when an officer has selected a preventative strategy the officer generally wants to be visible. As a result, the use of lighting, for example, would be dramatically different.

### B. Beat profiling

1. In order to effectively choose a patrol strategy, the officer must be able to "profile" the beat area. This involves the following:
  - a. Awareness of particular beat characteristics
    - (1) Specific crime hazards
      - (a) Burglary-prone businesses and residences (e.g. buildings with poor lighting, poor security, etc.)
      - (b) Robbery-prone establishments (e.g. all-night stores, businesses with night money deposits, etc.)
      - (c) Areas attractive to auto theft suspects
      - (d) Areas prone to acts of petty theft or malicious mischief
      - (e) Narcotics activity i.e. "safe houses," "hype pads"
      - (f) Problem bars
    - (2) Knowledge of other beat problems (e.g. youth and adult congregations, gang activity, traffic problems, etc.)
    - (3) Calls-for-service patterns and types
    - (4) Knowledge of available community resources
      - (a) Hospitals
      - (b) Fire stations
      - (c) Mental health facilities
      - (d) Government facilities
      - (e) Rape crisis intervention centers
      - (f) Rehabilitation centers
      - (g) Transportation resources
      - (h) Services for persons with disabilities
  - b. Awareness of beat demographics
    - (1) Population distribution and density (e.g. presence of apartments, housing projects, etc.)
    - (2) Age percentages (e.g. high concentration of elderly or high concentration of juveniles)

- (3) Cultural composition
- c. Geography/topography
  - (1) Adequacy of access and egress to various parts of the beat area
  - (2) Roadways and thoroughfares
    - (a) Disconnected streets
    - (b) One-way streets
    - (c) Deadend streets
    - (d) Bridges
    - (e) Freeways
  - (3) Railroad crossings
  - (4) Mountains, canyons, etc.
  - (5) Waterways (e.g. lakes, reservoirs, dams)
  - (6) Activity hubs (e.g. malls, recreation centers, etc.)
- d. Community characteristics
  - (1) Seasonally oriented community (e.g. summer beach population, winter skiing population, etc.)
  - (2) School/sporting events (e.g. night games, dances, parades, etc.)



## VI. TYPES AND METHODS OF PATROL

- A. Patrol activity generally occurs within specific geographical areas called patrol beats. Individual agencies, however, may use other terms such as sectors, districts or neighborhoods to define patrol boundaries.
- B. Sizes and staffing of patrol areas
  - 1. The size of the beat or patrol area is generally determined by:
    - a. The type of patrol technique used (foot, motorized, boat, airplane, horse, etc.)
    - b. The type of area to be patrolled (i.e. high density apartment, rural farmland, etc.)
    - c. Crime frequency/pattern
    - d. Personnel available
    - e. Frequency of calls for service
  - 2. Shifts (manpower allocations) are generally determined by:
    - a. Personnel availability
    - b. Calls for service
    - c. Time factors based on frequency of occurrence

NOTE: Generally, beat areas and shift patterns are periodically reevaluated as service demands change.

- C. Patrol methodologies
  - 1. Foot patrol
    - a. Foot patrol is one of the oldest types of patrol methods. It is still a highly effective way of combatting crime. It is especially effective in crimes of burglary, robbery, purse snatching, street muggings that occur in highly congested areas, etc.
    - b. This type of patrol puts the officer into direct contact with the public. The officer is able to know the beat more thoroughly and inspect it more closely.
    - c. Foot patrol, however, will reduce the size of area that an officer can effectively patrol because of the inherent lack of mobility.
    - d. Because the patrol area has to remain small, foot patrol is also expensive. The expense, however, may be mitigated by the fact that the officer is in close contact with the public and is, therefore, more accessible to them.

- e. Overall advantages of foot patrol:
  - (1) Close contact with the public
  - (2) More accessible to the public
  - (3) Can move around easily in congested areas with large crowds
  - (4) Can be more familiar with their beat
  - (5) Can inspect their beat more closely
  
- f. Overall disadvantages of foot patrol:
  - (1) Unable to participate in extensive patrol over a large geographical area
  - (2) Officer can easily be kept under observation.
  - (3) If suspects have transportation, it becomes easy for them to escape apprehension.
  - (4) In some areas, handheld radio equipment may not be as effective as vehicle-mounted radios. (e.g. communications blind spots)
  - (5) Limits the ability of the officer to carry supplemental equipment (e.g., evidence collection materials, raingear, shotgun, riot control equipment, etc.)
  
- g. Conducting foot patrol
  - (1) Basic techniques of patrol are much the same whether it is done on foot or in a vehicle; however, a much more detailed inspection is possible on foot.
  - (2) Observations between buildings or in narrow passageways ordinarily can be made more effectively on foot.
  - (3) Even if assigned to motorized patrol, an officer may wish to employ foot patrol in certain areas as calls for service may permit.
  - (4) Just as with any other kind of patrol method, an officer on foot can elect to engage in highly visible patrol (preventative) or can adopt an apprehension posture (covert) depending upon individual circumstances.
  - (5) The effectiveness of foot patrol is optimal when it is combined with motorized patrol.

## 2. Vehicle patrol

a. Vehicle patrol (e.g. the standard patrol car) is the most common and generally the most economical type of patrol. For the most part, vehicle patrol provides the greatest mobility and flexibility of operation for the vast majority of law enforcement agencies. A patrol vehicle:

- (1) Provides wider coverage than foot patrol
- (2) Permits considerably more calls for service to be handled
- (3) Generally provides enhanced communications (e.g. better radio range, availability of computer, etc.)
- (4) Allows officers to contend with mobile offenders reduces response time
- (5) Reduce response time
- (6) Allows officers to carry additional equipment with them during a tour of duty. (e.g. helmets, riot control equipment, shotguns, etc.)
- (7) Provides excellent means of preventative enforcement because vehicle is more conspicuous over a larger area
- (8) Provides environmental protection
- (9) Increases transportation capability by providing the officer with a method of transporting prisoners, evidence or other articles

b. Disadvantages of vehicle patrol

- (1) Lack of direct contact with public
- (2) Expense incurred when equipment is not handled properly

3. Other types of patrol methods

a. Bicycle patrol

- (1) Bicycle patrol is emerging as an extremely popular and cost-effective patrol method.
- (2) Bicycles provide quicker response than can be provided by an officer on foot.
- (3) Bicycles are extremely quiet and can be used effectively for apprehension patrol where a silent or covert approach is desirable.
- (4) Bicycles can be used in combination with vehicle patrol where they can be mounted on a patrol vehicle rack until they are needed in a specific area. (e.g. to patrol a park, bike path, downtown mall, etc.)
- (5) Bicycles are extremely maneuverable and can be used in areas where a patrol car cannot be driven.

(6) Bicycles provide close contact with the public and enhance community relations.

b. Motorcycle patrol

(1) The most typical use of motorcycles by law enforcement is for traffic related activities.

(2) The traditional police motorcycle is generally not utilized for general purpose patrol.

(3) Light weight motorcycles such as dirt bikes, ATC's and Quad Runners are increasing in popularity as methods to enhance an officer's patrol capability.

(4) Patrol motorcycles share many of the advantages of bicycles in terms of their maneuverability.

(5) Patrol motorcycles, however, are generally noisy and inappropriate for covert activities.

(6) Patrol motorcycles are particularly valuable for patrolling rural areas and off-road terrain.

c. Mounted patrol

(1) Mounted patrols are particularly valuable for patrolling rural areas and off-road terrain.

(2) Mounted patrols are proving equally valuable in congested urban areas for general patrol.

(3) Mounted officers have an exceptional platform from which to observe.

(4) Mounted officers are exceedingly valuable in specialized enforcement applications such as crowd management, riot control and parade security.

(5) Mounted officers are also extremely popular with the public and tend to promote positive contacts with the public and contribute to effective community relations.

d. Water vessel patrol

(1) By their very nature, waterways are generally best patrolled by water vessels.

(2) Criminal activity upon waterways has increased significantly (e.g. boating under the influence, vessel thefts, intoxicated persons, etc.) making water vessel patrol a necessity for many law enforcement agencies.

- (3) A wide variety of water vessels (e.g. cruisers, wave runners, jet skis, inflatables, etc.) are in use depending upon the type of waterway the law enforcement agency is required to patrol.

e. Aircraft patrol

- (1) Aircraft provide the greatest single resource for patrolling large geographical areas.
- (2) Aircraft provide one of the most effective observational platforms available to law enforcement.
- (3) Certain aircraft are fitted with specialized observational equipment such as high-intensity lights and infra-red systems which can also complement an agency's patrol capabilities.
- (4) Aircraft can dramatically complement ground units. (e.g. assist in a pursuit by maintaining constant observation of a target vehicle)
- (5) Generally speaking, officers in aircraft will not land to intervene in an enforcement situation.

D. Criteria for selecting a patrol method

1. The type of area

- a. The geographical area will be a determining factor of the type of patrol that will be employed.
- b. (For example) It is more practical to use foot patrol in the middle of a business district that is made up of large buildings, alleyways and areas that are not accessible by auto.

2. The type of criminal activity

- a. The type of criminal activity will determine the type of patrol employed.
- b. A motorized unit would not be used to patrol an area that is being worked by pickpockets.
- c. If a park area has high crime activity, it more than likely would be worked by foot, bicycle, or even air units backed up by motorized officers.

3. The number of calls for service

- a. An area with an unusually high number of calls for service may dictate the need for a certain type of patrol method (e.g., an assigned foot patrol).
- b. Conversely, an area with few calls for service (e.g. a rural area or open range) could be patrolled by aircraft.

4. Resource availability

- a. The frequency of criminal activity is one of the factors that a law enforcement agency will consider in assigning personnel and equipment to a given area.
- b. Other factors, including economic resources, available personnel and available equipment will also impact an agency's choice of a patrol method and the degree to which an area can be staffed.

## VII. PATROL PATTERNS

- A. Effective patrol involves more than simply driving through a beat area and responding to radio calls. It requires the officer to
  - 1. engage in a series of planned movements through the beat which will enable the officer to observe specific areas requiring attention.
  - 2. achieve the goals of being visible to the public and/or the criminal element and, at other times, patrolling in a covert fashion in order to apprehend suspects in the act of committing a crime.
- B. Selecting a patrol pattern
  - 1. The basic reasons for planning movements throughout the beat area are to be certain that
    - a. all streets in the area are adequately patrolled.
    - b. the officer's arrival at any given point in the beat is not predictable.
  - 2. Lack of predictability
    - a. Lack of predictability is a crucial objective for keeping potential criminals "off balance."
    - b. If the patrol officer has just passed a given point, a potential suspect should not be able to predict that the officer will return at a given time. (e.g. five minutes later, an hour later, etc.)
- C. Types of patrol patterns
  - 1. There are three basic patrol patterns.
    - a. Circular
    - b. Double-back
    - c. Random
  - 2. Most patrol activity will involve a combination of the three rather than strict adherence to one particular type.
  - 3. Elements of circular patrol pattern
    - a. The patrol vehicle is driven either from the approximate center of the beat in ever-increasing "circles" or from the outside of the beat in ever-decreasing circles.
    - b. Obviously, the pattern is not truly circular, but approximately so.
  - 4. Elements of the double-back patrol pattern

- a. The starting point varies and occasionally either loops at the end of a block or makes a double-back on the same street as was just covered.
  - b. Double-backs are particularly helpful in problem areas or in cases where an officer has spotted something on the first pass and may want to take another look.
  - c. It may also be desirable to pause and observe an area from the opposite side of the street from where an observation was first made.
5. Elements of the random patrol pattern
- a. By definition, a random pattern presupposes patrolling without a definite direction or in a haphazard course.
  - b. Obviously, this does not imply purposeless movement but it suggests unpredictable movement.
  - c. A key objective is still to provide as complete a coverage of the beat as possible. Although it may be characterized by the officer paying greater attention to high-hazard areas, it must be done in a manner which is sufficiently unstructured so as to prevent the movements of the officer from being anticipated.

## VIII. PREPARING FOR A PATROL SHIFT

### A. Introduction

1. Preparation for a patrol shift enables an officer to be properly equipped to handle expected duties.
2. All equipment carried by an officer must be authorized, serviceable, and well maintained.
3. Preparing for a patrol shift will generally involve:
  - (1) Checking personal equipment (e.g., uniforms, assigned equipment, etc.)
  - (2) Acquiring necessary materials and resource information
  - (3) Inspecting equipment issued for use during the shift (e.g., patrol vehicles, hand-held radios, shotgun, etc.)

### B. Inspecting personal equipment

1. Although the type of items carried by officers may vary by agency, officers should carefully inspect their own uniforms and personal equipment for serviceability, appearance, and conformance with agency policy.
2. The following are typical items of personal equipment which an officer might carry and would subsequently need to inspect prior to each tour of duty:
  - a. Uniform components
  - b. Leather gear/nylon web gear
  - c. Handgun
  - d. Personal aerosol chemical agents
  - e. Handcuffs and other restraint equipment
  - f. Baton/impact weapon
  - g. Flashlight (batteries or a full charge)
  - h. Badge and name plate
  - i. Clipboard and citation book
  - j. Helmet and face shield
  - k. Inclement weather gear
  - l. Gloves (e.g. puncture resistant, rubber, leather, etc.)

- m. Binoculars
- n. CPR mask
- o. Any other equipment approved by the officer's department

3. Inspectional considerations

a. Handgun (including backup, if applicable)

- (1) Cleanliness
- (2) Ammunition/magazines/loaders
- (3) Holster (gun retention)

b. Personal aerosol chemical agent device

- (1) Content amount
- (2) Expiration date
- (3) Shake contents
- (4) Trigger device
- (5) Clear nozzle

C. Acquiring appropriate materials and resource information

1. Officers need to ensure that they obtain any necessary supplies, resources, and information prior to beginning a tour of duty.

2. Typical examples include

a. Resources - which include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Daily incident log
- (2) Review of crime reports affecting assigned area
- (3) Briefing boards
- (4) Sharing of individual officer information
- (5) Debriefing by off-going shift
- (6) Investigation unit
- (7) Specialized units (e.g. narcotics, robbery, burglary, gangs, intelligence unit, etc.)

- (8) Warrants desk
- (9) Hot sheet/watch bulletin
- (10) Communications

b. Materials and supplies

- (1) Reference materials (e.g., Vehicle Code, Penal Code, Municipal/County codes, etc.)
- (2) Report forms
- (3) Fingerprint kit/evidence collection supplies
- (4) Notice to Appear (citations forms)
- (5) Court calendar

D. Inspecting equipment issued for use during the patrol shift

1. Typically there will be a variety of items that an officer will acquire for use during the particular tour of duty (e.g., a patrol vehicle, shotgun, portable radio, etc.)
2. These items are usually "joint custody" items. In other words, an officer rarely has a patrol vehicle assigned for their exclusive use. Officers should be particularly scrupulous in their inspection of items that have been in the possession of other persons.
3. Inspectional considerations:

a. Patrol vehicles

- (1) Fuel
- (2) Emergency equipment (e.g. lights, siren)
- (3) Tires/brakes
- (4) Rear seat (e.g., for the presence of contraband)
- (5) Damage (inside/outside)
- (6) Mileage report
- (7) Trunk and equipment (e.g. spare tire, jack, first aid kit, etc.)

b. Shotgun

- (1) Proper ammunition
- (2) Five-point check ( barrel, extractor, ejector, firing pin and safety)

- (3) Proper operation of a shotgun rack (manual or electronic)
- c. Portable handheld radio
  - (1) Battery
  - (2) Transmission /reception
  - (3) Damage

## IX. PATROL CONSIDERATIONS

### A. Basic patrol tactics

1. Select an appropriate patrol speed
  - a. Slower speeds provide a maximum opportunity to observe while maintaining effective control of the vehicle.
  - b. Slower speeds also contribute to public awareness and enables the officer to have maximum contact with the community while providing a positive law enforcement image.
  - c. Slower speeds decrease engine noise which enables the officer to get closer to criminal activity without being detected.
  - d. Having the window down during patrol enables the officer to hear outside activity. (e.g. shots fired, calls for help, alarms, etc.). This is applicable at all patrol speeds.
2. Parking
  - a. Parking is an important consideration while on patrol.
    - (1) A reasonable effort should be made to park the patrol vehicle in a lawful manner
    - (2) Although it may seem minor to the officer, a patrol vehicle which is illegally parked when no emergency exists can infuriate the public and unnecessarily damage relations with the community.
    - (3) Parking a patrol vehicle illegally when no emergency exists can also expose a law enforcement agency to liability if the placement of the vehicle contributes to a collision.
  - b. Nonemergency situations
    - (1) Parking in an area that would provide maximum visibility to the public could be a form of **preventative** patrolling.
    - (2) If the plan is **apprehension**, the selection of where to park the vehicle should be made after considering the legal as well as visibility factors.
    - (3) Be aware of potential tampering or vandalism to the patrol vehicle.
    - (4) Be sure to secure the vehicle and take the keys.
  - c. Emergency situations

- (1) Type of incident (e.g. in-progress, medical emergency, officer assistance, etc.)
  - (2) Location
    - (a) Terrain
    - (b) Type of building (e.g. shopping mall, high rise, apartment, etc.)
  - (3) Legal considerations (e.g. blocking traffic, driveways, liability, etc.)
3. Awareness of artificial lighting hazards
- a. Street lights
  - b. Apartment/residential floodlights
4. Selection of an appropriate lane position
- a. In heavy traffic the officer should maintain a sufficient distance behind other vehicles to enable a quick exit out of traffic. This will provide
    - (1) a quicker response to calls.
    - (2) an available escape route.
    - (3) increased reaction time.
5. Driving
- a. Selecting a traffic lane
    - (1) Which lane an officer uses to patrol will generally be dependent upon the specific type of patrol activity and the time of day.
    - (2) Generally the number one lane (nearest the center of the roadway) is best for observing traffic.
      - (a) For example, this is the best lane choice if the officer expects to initiate a U-turn to pursue a traffic violator.
      - (b) This is also a desirable lane choice where the officer may need to maintain the flexibility to exit the traffic pattern. (e.g. at a railroad crossing where the officer could make a U-turn to respond to a call rather than becoming blockaded by stopped traffic)
    - (3) Most of the time patrolling officers will travel in the curb lane for the following reasons:
      - (a) This is the best lane choice if travelling at reduced speeds.

- (b) An officer is better able to hear calls for help or any unusual noises. (e.g. breaking glass, etc.)

NOTE: It is generally recommended that officers patrol with at least part of their windows down for this reason.

- (c) It is easier to pull to the curb if it is necessary to stop and take enforcement action or provide some type of law enforcement service.
- (d) It generally provides a better view of street-front windows, sides of buildings, alleys, walkways and potential hiding places.
- (e) When traffic permits it, the officer is able to slow the patrol vehicle in order to focus attention on a particular area.
- (f) If use of a spotlight or an alley light is necessary, it would not shine across vehicles travelling in the same direction.

6. Avoid making telltale noises

- a. "Telltale noises" are those sounds distinctive to law enforcement officers and patrol vehicles that may indicate an officers' presence and location. They include:

- (1) Vehicle noises, including, engine, seat belts, doors slamming and screeching tires
- (2) Law enforcement radio
- (3) Keys, batons, leather gear and footwear
- (4) Law enforcement relations conversation
- (5) Pagers, cellular phones and electronic watches

- b. Problems associated with unnecessary noise

- (1) Provides the suspect(s) with officer(s) exact location
- (2) Makes officer(s) a subsequent target
- (3) Provides suspect(s) with knowledge of how many officers are present and/or approaching
- (4) Allows suspect(s) to plan an alternate course of action
- (5) Takes the element of surprise away (e.g. lag time)

NOTE: Instructor should encourage class participation by asking for examples of problems associated with unnecessary noise.

d. Ways to avoid creating unnecessary noise

(1) Vehicle

- (a) Secure seat belt and doors quietly. (e.g. possibly removing seat belt immediately before arrival at scene)
- (b) Don't "gun" engine or apply brakes abruptly prior to arrival.

(2) Radio

- (a) Reduce volume. (This has no effect on transmission volume)
- (b) Use ear piece if available.

(3) Keys, batons, leather gear and footwear

- (a) Secure keys and small items.
- (b) Ensure baton does not bang against any objects.
- (c) Ensure leather gear and footwear are properly maintained to prevent squeaking.

(4) When appropriate, avoid unnecessary conversation by using departmentally recognized hand signals.

(5) Pagers, cellular phones and electronic watches

- (a) Pagers should be put on vibrate mode.
- (b) Avoid carrying a cellular phone
- (c) Watch alarms should be deactivated.

(6) When possible, avoid stepping on leaves, twigs, rocks and gravel which would compromise a solid footing.

7. Avoid silhouetting

a. Silhouetting means assuming a position which provides the suspect(s) with a definite identifiable target created by back lighting

b. Problems associated with silhouetting

- (1) Provides the suspect(s) with officer(s) exact location.
- (2) Makes officer(s) a potential target.
- (3) Provides suspect(s) with knowledge of how many officers are present and/or approaching.

- (4) Allows suspect(s) to plan an alternate course of action.
- (5) Takes away the element of surprise (e.g. lag time).

NOTE: Instructor should encourage class participation by asking for examples of problems associated with silhouetting.

c. Ways to avoid silhouetting

- (1) Position patrol vehicle away from street lights and other sources of back lighting.
- (2) Avoid walking through spot lights and head lamps when approaching pedestrians and vehicles.
- (3) Hold the flashlight in such a way so as not to illuminate oneself or other officers/units.
- (4) Do not stand in doorways, hallways or in front of windows. Do not peer openly through windows.
- (5) Be aware of backlighting when traversing open areas. (e.g. streets, fields, hills, alleys, etc.)
- (6) Disable interior patrol vehicle lighting that is activated when door is opened.
- (7) Minimize map light intensity. (e.g. cover with red cellophane, use red bulb, etc.)

B. Patrolling specific areas

1. Parks (recreation areas, beaches, amusement parks, etc.)

a. If necessary, officers should drive onto the park grounds instead of parking in a lot or at curb. This allows access to the patrol vehicle, equipment and provides:

- (1) Cover and/or concealment
- (2) The ability to secure prisoners/multiple subjects
- (3) Better visibility for assisting units
- (4) A work station

b. Officers should be aware of the terrain. (e.g. trees, bushes, canyons, high ground, etc.)

2. Encountering large groups

- a. Prior to contact, observe group activity to determine course of action or presence of criminal activity.
  - b. Once criminal activity is determined, visually identify and isolate primary offenders.
  - c. If possible do not make contact without assisting units.
  - d. Plan a course of action by safely directing responding units where needed.
3. Rural areas
- a. Become familiar with surroundings and reference locations
  - b. Ensure clear radio reception.
  - c. Know response times of additional units.
  - d. Be familiar with criminal activity.
  - e. Avoid becoming separated from patrol vehicle.
  - f. Communicate with other agencies. (e.g. CHP, state parks, border patrol, etc.)
  - g. Become familiar with community members willing to assist law enforcement.
4. Patrol of Indian reservations requires liaison with the tribal government agency or Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs.
5. Shopping centers
- a. Check for car clout, purse-snatching, armed robbery, shoplifting, grand thefts, etc.
  - b. Look for possible getaway vehicles. (e.g. engine running)
  - c. Look for persons who may be casing vehicles to commit burglaries or auto theft.
  - d. Look for persons who may be attempting purse snatches.
  - e. Conduct surveillance of parking lots and coordinate assisting units when necessary.
  - f. Know type of security measures established.
6. School grounds
- a. Look for signs of drug activity. (e.g. transactions)

- b. Look for persons attempting to accost or videotape/photograph children.
- c. Look for signs of gang activity. (e.g. wearing of colors, crowds, etc.)

7. Areas having nightlife activities

- a. Monitor parking lots for criminal activity and coordinate assisting units when necessary.
- b. Get to know what type of security personnel are employed (e.g. are they armed, unarmed, licensed, etc.)
- c. Coordinate with specialized units when necessary.
- d. Know type of criminal element associated with establishment. (e.g. organized crime, criminal street gang, etc.)
- e. Conduct frequent bar checks for ABC violations.
  - (1) Do not enter without appropriate assistance.
  - (2) Advise communications of actions.
  - (3) Apply contact and cover tactics.
  - (4) Avoid arrest or prolonged interviews with subjects/suspects within the facility.
  - (5) Be familiar with escape routes.
  - (6) Be aware of the unpredictability of dealing with intoxicated subjects.

8. High risk areas (e.g. gang hangouts, known locations of drug activity, public housing, etc.)

- a. Consider the need for additional cover officer(s) (e.g. two patrol units or one two-person unit)
- b. Often foot patrols are complimented by motorized patrol (actual deployment, however, will generally be agency specific)
- c. Strictly adhere to contact and cover tactics.
- d. Become familiar with key hazardous locations/residences.
- e. Become familiar with specific individuals who, based upon previous contacts or information, are a threat to law enforcement.
- f. Become familiar with current/impending gang warfare and potential retaliations.

C. Foot pursuits

## 1. Introduction

- a. Foot pursuits are one of the most dangerous and unpredictable situations for a patrol officer.
  - (1) There is no way to plan them and once the officer is involved, they become very difficult to control or coordinate.
  - (2) In many cases, pursuing officers lose track of their own location as well as that of the suspect.
- b. Radio transmissions often become very difficult to understand during the pursuit. At times, officers even drop their radios.
- c. The physical changes that the body goes through as it reacts to stress also add to the situation.
  - (1) The mind slows down so that the body can speed up.
  - (2) When sprinting after a suspect, officers may involuntarily hold their breath the first 30 yards or so, which deprives the brain of oxygenated blood.
- d. It has been said that "when officers chase a suspect they probably leave the best part of their mind back at the patrol car."
- e. This is not to say that foot pursuits cannot be conducted with a degree of safety and tactical awareness.
  - (1) If partner officers stay together, it increases the likelihood that a safe and successful foot pursuit will occur.
  - (2) What must be remembered is that any foot pursuit is a high risk situation and must not be taken lightly.

## 2. Foot pursuit considerations

NOTE: Instructors should encourage class participation by asking questions regarding foot pursuits.

- a. Firearm positioning: Whether to pursue a suspect with or without a firearm drawn will often be an individual agency policy decision.
  - (1) Some agencies take the position that the seriousness of the offense would indicate that an officer's firearm should be in hand. Typically these policies give the officer the discretion to determine the seriousness of the offense based upon the officer's perceptions at the time.
  - (2) Other agencies, however, discourage this practice because they feel it might increase the potential for an accidental discharge or a create weapon retention problem.

b. Necessity for the pursuit

- (1) There should be a legal justification for initiating a foot pursuit.
- (2) Prior to initiating a foot pursuit, the officer should consider the following:
  - (a) Why is the person running?
    - 1) The implication is that only a guilty person would run, however, this may not always be true. A person may simply be afraid of law enforcement.
    - 2) In some cultures/countries law enforcement officers are feared..
    - 3) The person may be attempting to bait the officers by leading them into an ambush situation.
    - 4) The officer observed criminal activity.
    - 5) The person knows they have committed an unrelated offense (e.g., they know they have a warrant, they have recently committed some type of crime, etc.)

c. Indicators that a person may be planning to run

- (1) Looking/scanning for avenues of escape.
- (2) Standing on balls of their feet or rocking back and forth.
- (3) Backing away while distracting the officer.

d. The physical ability/condition of officers involved in the pursuit is also a consideration:

- (1) All officers involved in a foot pursuit should have the physical capability to function effectively when the pursuit concludes.
  - (a) If the officers are in very different degrees of physical condition, there is a greater possibility of separation during the pursuit (e.g., one officer becoming windèd and dropping back a substantial distance behind the pursuit)
  - (b) Officers must have the capability to retain their firearms
- (2) There is always a possibility of a physical confrontation between the suspect and the officer(s) after the foot pursuit ends.

e. Effect of equipment

- (1) The average officer carries approximately twenty-five pounds of leather gear and equipment (gun belt, radio and other accessories). The officer must be able to maintain control of this equipment during a pursuit.
  - (a) Keep baton/keys from flapping.
  - (b) Retain firearm. (snapped holster, swivel holster v. nonswivel holster, backup weapons)
- (2) The officer should know the limitations of footwear. (combat boots v. lightweight footwear)
- (3) Officers should not become separated from their baton, handheld radios and/or handguns when leaving the vehicle for a foot pursuit.
- (4) Officers should make sure they take the keys and, if possible, secure the patrol vehicle before beginning the foot pursuit.

3. Foot pursuit tactics

- a. Ideally, preplanning foot pursuit tactics should be discussed between partners/beat partners long before a foot pursuit situation arises.
- b. Avoid becoming separated from partners if at all possible during the course of the foot pursuit. If separation occurs, reevaluate the situation before continuing the pursuit.
- c. Take corners wide while "cutting the pie." (This means to systematically clear around corners. It is also referred to as "fanning" or "slicing the pie")
  - (1) Use a handheld mirror to see around corners, if possible.
  - (2) If conditions prevent "cutting the pie," a last resort option could be peering around corners at a level lower than where a subject would expect to encounter the officer.
- d. If the suspect has gone over a fence, the officer should stop, listen and peer over or through the fence at a location other than where the suspect went over. This should be done for the following reasons:
  - (1) The suspect could be lying in wait.
  - (2) There may be vicious animals on the other side of the fence.
  - (3) There is unknown terrain on the other side of fence. (e.g. longer drop, hazardous obstacles, etc.)
- e. Nighttime pursuit problems
  - (1) Poor visibility in unfamiliar terrain

- (2) Inability to identify physical obstacles (e.g. ditches, rocks, rebar, barbed wire fences, etc.)

f. Pursuits terminating at buildings/structures

- (1) Avoid chasing suspects into buildings or structures. If the suspect flees into a building or structure, a perimeter should be established.
- (2) In these instances, there is often a possibility of a hostage situation.
- (3) The location could be "suspect-friendly" and officer(s) may encounter additional suspect support.
- (4) There is a possibility that weapons may be accessible to the suspect.

g. If a foot pursuit begins during a vehicle pullover, officer(s) should not run past an "uncleared" vehicle. (one which may contain additional suspects)

h. During a foot pursuit, officer(s) should pay close attention to the suspect(s) and be alert to any movement or actions which may indicate the suspect(s) has a weapon.

- (1) Type of clothing
- (2) Location of suspect's hands and arms

4. Additional officer safety considerations

a. Officers should consider what actions they would take when a fellow officer is wounded and a suspect flees on foot.

NOTE: Considerations for officer down situations are discussed in detail in Basic Course Instructor Unit Guide #23 - Crimes in Progress.

b. When a foot pursuit represents an unusual risk to officers or the public, it may be more desirable to establish a perimeter and initiate a systematic area search.

c. Officers should avoid an emotional reaction or tendency to make the foot pursuit a personal contest with the suspect. (e.g., becoming drawn into a "good versus evil" situation). If this occurs, the officer will commonly abandon proper tactics and compromise the safety of all involved parties.

D. Encounters with plainclothes/undercover officers

1. Whether an officer is on or off duty, they should not greet or otherwise show any recognition towards a plainclothes officer, unless the plainclothes officer initiates the contact. To do so might inadvertently compromise an undercover operation or investigation.

2. If the plainclothes officer sees, but does not acknowledge the officer, the officer should treat the plainclothes officer like any other private person with whom they are not acquainted.
3. If an officer initiates an enforcement contact and realizes an undercover officer is present (e.g., posing as part of the group), they should treat that undercover officer as they would any other individual being contacted.

EXAMPLE: If the above situation should occur, the officer should separate all individuals as if conducting a field interrogation/interview to allow the undercover officer to relay any information to the officer without being "burned" as a peace officer.

## X. PEDESTRIAN STOPS

### A. Introduction

1. Law enforcement officers will often need to initiate various contacts with pedestrians observed on their beat.
2. Law enforcement officers must be mindful of variables to consider when making their determination on how to confront a person on foot.
  - a. When to stop the person
  - b. Where to stop the person
  - c. Method to use in stopping the person
3. Without proper knowledge and understanding of the principles behind these determinations, the officer will be **unable** to conduct lawful and safe pedestrian contacts.
  - a. Improper contacts will result in improper arrests or detention.
  - b. Improper contacts will lead to unsuccessful court prosecutions.
  - c. Unsafe contacts will lead to the possibility of injury to the officer(s) or subject(s).

### B. Tactical considerations for initiating pedestrian stops

1. Factors which should be evaluated before making the approach.
  - a. **The person's appearance:**
    - (1) Does the person generally fit the description of a person wanted for a known offense?
    - (2) Does the person appear to be suffering from a recent injury or to be under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other intoxicants?
  - b. **The person's action(s):**
    - (1) Is the person running away from an actual or possible crime?
    - (2) Is the person otherwise behaving in a manner indicating aggressive behavior (posturing or "staring down") or possible criminal conduct? If so, in what way?
  - c. **Prior knowledge of the person:**
    - (1) Does the person have an arrest record or conviction record, or is the person otherwise known to have committed a serious offense?

- (2) If so, is it for offenses similar to the one that has just occurred, or which it is suspected is about to occur?

d. **Area of the stop:**

- (1) Is the person near the area of a known offense shortly after it occurred?
- (2) Is the area known for criminal activity (a high crime area)?
- (3) If so, is it the kind of activity the person is thought to have committed, be committing, or about to commit?

e. **Time of day:**

- (1) Is it a very late hour?
- (2) Is it usual for people to be in the area at this time?
- (3) Is it the time of day during which criminal activity of the kind suspected usually occurs?

f. **Backup:**

- (1) Is there a need for backup units?
- (2) If so, should the stop be delayed until backup officer(s) arrive?

2. **Where to stop**

- a. Knowledge of the area in order to broadcast officers' location to communications.
- b. Finding a place that has the least number of:
  - (1) escape routes for the person to be stopped. (Avoid intersections, use well lit areas, etc.)
  - (2) bystanders that could be injured or used as hostages.
- c. Avoiding places and locations that produce additional risks to officers (e.g. known trouble spots, bars, etc.)

C. **Pedestrian stops and approach tactics**

1. **When making a pedestrian stop the officer should:**

- a. position the patrol vehicle to maximize officer safety.
- b. position patrol vehicle to maximize the tactical advantage to the officer while keeping the person(s) in view at all times.

2. Pedestrian stops should be conducted on foot because
  - a. officers who are driving the patrol vehicle must divide their attention between operating the vehicle and observing the pedestrian(s).
  - b. officers seated in a patrol vehicle do not have easy access to their weapons or a clear line of fire.
  - c. officers seated in a patrol vehicle may have their view of the pedestrian(s) partially blocked by parts of the vehicle.
  - d. officers seated in a patrol vehicle have no readily available cover and no ability to maneuver becoming trapped in the vehicle.
  - e. officers seated in a patrol vehicle are not able to physically detain and search persons.
  - f. collectively, proper officer safety tactics **demand** that the officer exit the patrol vehicle.
  
3. When making a front or rear pedestrian approach, officers should
  - a. keep the person's hands in sight at all times.
  - b. watch for suspicious movements to avoid unexpected attacks.
  - c. conduct a search for weapons if bulges are observed in the clothing or there are other observations made which would suggest that the person(s) is/are carrying a weapon.
  - d. be aware of any unusual behavior which could suggest that the person is attempting to conceal weapons, contraband, or evidence.
  
4. Tactics for conducting contact/consensual pedestrian stops
  - a. A "consensual encounter" means that a person is free to leave at any time and is not required to talk to the officer.
  - b. The officer's demeanor and form of questioning is often fundamental to the amount of cooperation they will receive.
  - c. The officer should attempt to establish cooperation, not demand it.
    - (1) Avoid the "Hey you, come here" approach.
    - (2) Communication should reflect respect and courtesy.

D. Positions of safety for one or two officers

NOTE: The instructor may wish to refer to Basic Course Instructor Unit Guide #33 (Person Searches/Baton), for additional information regarding stance, distance, etc.

1. When a lone officer initiates a pedestrian stop of one person, the officer should
  - a. use the standard field interview position which requires officers to place the weak foot forward and stand at a distance of at least one arm's length with their gun side away from the person.
  - b. keep the strong hand (gun hand) free.
  - c. watch the person's hands.
  - d. be mindful of surroundings and not become so focused on writing the field interview or citation that they lose sight of the person and/or the surroundings ("tunnel vision").
  
2. When a lone officer initiates a pedestrian stop of two or more persons, the officer should
  - a. use the standard field interview position which requires officers to place the weak foot forward and stand at a distance of at least one arm's length with their gun side away from the persons.
  - b. keep the gun hand free.
  - c. watch the hands of all persons stopped.
  - d. be mindful of their surroundings and not become so focused on writing the field interview or citation that they lose sight of the persons and/or surroundings ("tunnel vision").
  - e. not allow persons to get too close or have the ability to surround the officer.
  
3. When two officers initiate a pedestrian stop of one person they should:
  - a. use the standard field interview position which requires officers to place the weak foot forward and stand at a distance of at least one arm's length with their gun side away from the subject.
  - b. keep their gun hands free.
  - c. watch the hands of all person stopped.
  - d. be mindful of their surroundings and not become so focused on writing the field interview or citation that they lose sight of the persons and/or surroundings ("tunnel vision").
  - e. utilize a triangular or "L" shaped configuration while conducting the interview.
  - f. apply contact and cover tactics.
  
4. When two officers initiate a pedestrian stop of two or more persons, they should:

- a. use the standard field interview position which requires officers to place their weak foot forward and stand at a distance of at least one arm's length with their gun side away from the subjects.
- b. keep their gun hands free.
- c. watch the hands of all persons stopped.
- d. be mindful of their surroundings and not become so focused on writing the field interview or citation that they lose sight of the persons stopped and/or surroundings ("tunnel vision").
- e. apply contact and cover tactics.



## XI. CONTACT AND COVER

### A. Contact officers

1. The contact officer will usually initiate the action.
2. The contact officer is responsible for conducting the "business of the contact". This officer records necessary suspect or incident information, performs searches, recovers evidence, writes traffic or misdemeanor citations, and handles radio communications.

### B. Cover officers

1. The "cover officer" is responsible for surveillance and control of all subject(s), both to neutralize the possibility of assault, escape or destruction of evidence and to free the "contact officer" to perform a more thorough investigation.
2. While the "contact officer" does not rely solely on the "cover officer" for protection or suspect security, that is the "cover officer's" primary function.

### C. Designation

1. In some instances, officers may agree to switch roles.
  - a. If, for example, a complicated evidence-retrieval situation exists, and one officer is a Field Evidence Technician, the two may decide to reverse roles.
  - b. Another example might be where the possession or use of narcotics is suspected and one officer has developed specialized expertise in the field.
2. In such exchanges, the officer assuming the role of cover officer should be in position and fully prepared to respond to any sudden action by the suspect(s) before the original cover officer relinquishes that duty.
3. Some major crime scenes, or disturbances involving several subject(s) may require multiple contact or cover officers.
  - a. This is particularly true when two or more subject(s) must be separated and other witnesses individually questioned, or when a potentially hostile crowd may interfere.
  - b. In such cases, contact and cover duties should be assigned as appropriate by either the primary contact officer or a supervisor.
  - c. In any case, those assignments should be absolutely clear, and as specific as the situation permits.

### D. Communication

1. Officers requesting a cover unit and those responding to cover calls should each assure that the other is briefed as thoroughly as possible.
2. Use of hand signals
  - a. Hand signals may be a valuable for communication techniques during a contact and cover situation. Although specific signals may be agency specific, generally they are used to signify one of the following:
    - (1) No further assistance is needed (e.g., "Code 4")
    - (2) Standby (The assisting officer would generally exit their vehicle and remain in the area, but would not participate directly in the contact)
    - (3) Assistance is needed
      - (a) This could be used to signify danger (e.g., a weapon is observed by the contact officer)
      - (b) Another example would be where the contact officer determines that an arrest is imminent (e.g., the suspect is a known wanted person)
3. Upon arrival, the contact officer should advise the cover officer of
  - a. the reason for the contact and suspected criminal activity.
  - b. observations made or evidence obtained.
  - c. the contact officer's immediate plans.
  - d. any previous knowledge of the suspect(s) and/or an appraisal of their potential for violence.
  - e. whether or not a search for weapons has been conducted.
  - f. any other suspicious persons or activity in the area.
4. The cover officer should receive this information and then brief the contact officer on
  - a. previous knowledge of suspect(s).
  - b. observations made while approaching the scene.
  - c. any significant radio traffic the contact officer may have missed since calling for cover.
  - d. acknowledgement of their role as cover officer.
5. Two-officer units

- a. Personnel assigned to two-officer units should agree upon their roles in advance of each contact whenever possible.
- b. Whether agreement is reached that one will function as contact officer, the other as cover officer for an entire shift, or whether such assignment is made on a contact-by-contact basis, the agreement should be clearly understood and verbally acknowledged.
- c. Any additional officers responding will be assigned their contact or cover duties by the primary contact officer.

6. One-officer units

- a. For personnel assigned to single officer units, the contact officer will normally be the one who initiated the activity.
- b. Additional personnel, whether responding to a call for cover, or simply stopping at the scene, should automatically assume the role of cover officer unless otherwise instructed.

7. "Assistance only" contacts

- a. If the officer initiating the contact believes there is no need for a cover officer, but does need help with the business of the contact, he or she should inform any responding officer(s) that they need assistance, but not "cover".
- b. If the situation changes, then the contact officer needs only to ask the other officer(s) to assume the role of "cover".

E. Responsibilities

1. Although the contact officer conducts the essential business required, the cover officer's two-fold role is paramount.
  - a. First, the cover officer discourages hostile acts, assaults or escape by devoting complete attention to security.
  - b. Second, the cover officer, in certain circumstances, may be required to intervene with appropriate force to protect the contact officer if a suspect reacts violently.
2. The cover officer should not be distracted by the business of the contact
  - a. The cover officer should not be required to recover evidence, patdown subject(s), or engage in unnecessary conversation with either subject(s) or bystanders.
  - b. If, for example, the cover officer observes anything of possible evidentiary value, such as an object dropped by a suspect, the cover officer should not retrieve it, but simply advise the contact officer.

F. Positioning

1. The ideal position for a cover officer provides a clear and unobstructed view of the suspect(s) as well as the best peripheral view of the surrounding areas; the safest possible background behind both the suspect(s) and officer in the event of gunfire; and a position controlling the likeliest route of escape.
2. The cover officer assures control of the suspect(s), and when necessary, directs their movements. The contact officer should avoid moving between the cover officer and suspect(s) or into a position of vulnerability, but it is the cover officer's responsibility to warn him or her if their actions might place them in jeopardy.
3. The most hazardous moment of the majority of contacts occurs during a search for weapons or handcuffing.
  - a. Definition of roles is most important at this point. Adjusting their positions accordingly, the contact officer conducts the search or cuffing while the cover officer acts as security.
  - b. If physical resistance to this process occurs in a situation with multiple subject(s), the cover officer retains responsibility for preventing the others from joining the fight.
  - c. Only if the contact officer requests help should the cover officer reintervene in a one-on-one struggle when other subject(s) are present.
4. Should the contact officer be unable to control a suspect's physical resistance in this situation, he or she may elect to jump back and break contact.
  - a. Both officers will then be in a position to deal with any threat, particularly if the suspect(s) pull weapons.
  - b. Once additional "cover" has arrived, two officers can confront and control the suspect, leaving a cover officer free to deal with the other subject(s).
5. In a one-on-one struggle between the contact officer and a suspect when no other subject(s) or bystanders are present, the cover officer's role remains essentially unchanged.
  - a. Unless requested to join in the struggle by the contact officer, the cover officer maintains a position of observation.
  - b. Should the suspect gain control of the contact officer's weapon, the contact officer should shout a warning and if appropriate, **GET OUT OF THE COVER OFFICER'S LINE OF FIRE**. The cover officer will then be in the most advantageous position to deal with the now-armed suspect.

G. Release of the cover officer

1. In most instances, a cover officer can be released to go back into service or to assist with any remaining business once subject(s) have been handcuffed and secured in the back of a police vehicle.
2. Circumstances such as hostile bystanders, however, or the continued presence of the suspect(s) companions, may dictate that the cover officer maintain a posture of vigilance until all of the business of the contact is completed.
3. The determination of when the cover officer is released from his or her responsibility rests with the contact officer.



## XII. EFFECTIVE USE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIO EQUIPMENT

### A. Radio operations

1. Effective radio operation is vital.
  - a. The radio is an officer's lifeline.
  - b. A knowledge of system capabilities is important for correct operation.
    - (1) Range of transmission/reception
      - (a) Mobile radios
      - (b) Handheld radios
    - (2) Radio equipment
      - (a) Transmitters/receivers/voters
      - (b) Duplex/simplex systems
2. ABC's of radio demeanor
  - a. Accuracy
    - (1) Use common terminology.
    - (2) Make specific requests.
  - b. Brevity
    - (1) Conserve air time.
    - (2) Plan transmissions.
    - (3) Initiate necessary transmissions only.
  - c. Courtesy
    - (1) Phonetically spell difficult or uncommon names
    - (2) Maintain effective working relationships
    - (3) Avoid cutting off or overstepping other radio traffic
3. Considerations for transmitting
  - a. Monitor frequency before transmitting
  - b. Wait until the air is clear.

- c. Press the transmit button firmly.
  - (1) Wait one to two seconds before transmitting.
  - (2) Position the microphone properly.
- d. Speak clearly into the microphone.
  - (1) Speak slowly.
  - (2) Use a calm voice
  - (3) Use normal voice inflection.
  - (4) Use a normal speaking volume unless background noise dictates otherwise
  - (5) Enunciate clearly.
- e. Limit transmission length.
  - (1) Allow appropriate breaks for emergency traffic.
  - (2) Be aware of radio repeater capabilities.

4. Types of radio traffic

- a. Emergency traffic
  - (1) Officer-involved shootings
  - (2) Officer needs help
  - (3) In-progress felonies
  - (4) Pursuits/failures to yield
  - (5) Other situations as identified by agency policies
- b. Routine traffic
  - (1) Status changes (e.g. back in service, routine change of location, etc.)
  - (2) All Points Bulletins (APBs) not related to an emergency
  - (3) Nonurgent calls for service

NOTE: Routine transmissions should be held until the termination of emergency traffic.

5. The purpose of call signs, their assignments and beat locations.

- a. The entire call sign should be used to avoid misidentification and to comply with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirements.
- b. Officers should be aware of who they are talking to or listening to
- c. Unit functions
  - (1) Watch
  - (2) Assignment
  - (3) Rank
- d. Beat, zone, district and sector designations

NOTE: These will generally depend upon individual agency organization.

- 6. Application of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations
  - a. Noncompliance can result in fines and/or loss of frequencies.
  - b. Profanity is prohibited
  - c. Humor, slang and familiar comments, including please and thank you, should be avoided as FCC regulations prohibit unnecessary transmissions.
  - d. No malicious interference
  - e. No unidentified transmissions (full identifiers should be used)
- 7. Message acknowledgement
  - a. Officer should listen for acknowledgement of unit transmissions.
  - b. Dispatch transmissions should be acknowledged.
  - c. A radio "click" is not an identifiable or acceptable acknowledgement of transmission.
- 8. Radio codes
  - a. 9, 10 and 11 codes, etc.
  - b. Clear text (talk) or brevity speech
  - c. Agency-specific codes
  - d. Use of legal code sections
    - (1) Penal Code
    - (2) Vehicle Code

- (3) Health and Safety Code
- (4) Welfare and Institution Code
- (5) County and municipal codes
- (6) Other applicable codes

9. Elements of a crime broadcast

- a. Type of incident
- b. Location/time of occurrence
- c. Number of suspects and complete description(s)
  - (1) One complete suspect/vehicle description should be provided before proceeding to the next one.
    - (a) More clearly understandable
    - (b) Easier to rebroadcast
  - (2) Physical description(s)
    - (a) Race/complexion
    - (b) Sex
    - (c) Age/age of appearance
    - (d) Height
    - (e) Weight/build
    - (f) Hair color/style
    - (g) Eye color
    - (h) Facial hair
  - (3) Clothing description(s)
    - (a) Head-to-toe/inside to outside
    - (b) Head gear
    - (c) Glasses
    - (d) Shirt/blouse
    - (e) Coat/sweater

- (f) Pants/skirt
- (g) Shoes
- (4) Distinguishing characteristics
  - (a) Tattoos
  - (b) Scars/marks
  - (c) Speech impediments
  - (d) Physical impairments
- c. Vehicle description(s)
  - (1) Color
  - (2) Year
  - (3) Make
  - (4) Body style
  - (5) License/state
  - (6) Additional descriptors
    - (a) Body damage
    - (b) Camper shell/additional equipment
    - (c) Loud muffler
- d. Weapon descriptions
  - (1) Guns
    - (a) Type
      - 1) Handgun (including type, if available - e.g. semiautomatic v. revolver)
      - 2) Shotgun (including type, if available)
      - 3) Rifle (including type, if available)
    - (b) Caliber
    - (c) Barrel length/color
  - (2) Knives

- (a) Type
  - (b) Size
- (3) Other
  - (a) Type
  - (b) Specific description
- e. Direction/mode of flight
- f. Description of loss
- g. Action to be taken if located
  - (1) Observe only
  - (2) Stop and arrest
  - (3) Field interview
  - (4) Impound property

**SUPPORTING MATERIAL**

**AND**

**REFERENCES**

This section is set up as reference information for use by training institutions. These materials can be used for instruction, remediation, additional reading, viewing, or for planning local blocks of instruction. This list is not an endorsement of any author, publisher, producer, or presentation. Each training institution should establish its own list of reference materials.

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCES**

POST Video Catalog.