



GENERAL ORDER



SERIES

201

NUMBER

25

EFFECTIVE DATE

June 20, 1980

SUBJECT:

Motorcycle Officers

DISTRIBUTION

A

ORIGINATING UNIT

PDD

The purpose of this order is to establish the policies and procedures and fix responsibilities for the duties of motorcycle officers. This order consists of the following parts:

PART I Responsibilities and Procedures for Special Assignment Personnel

- A. Duties of Motorcycle Officers.
- B. Operational Procedures.

PART II Responsibilities and Procedures for Supervisory and Command Personnel

- A. Supervisory Personnel.
- B. Commanding Officers.
- C. Night Supervisors.

PART I

A. Duties of Motorcycle Officers.

1. Motorcycle officers shall be used for escort service only for the purpose of providing security for the President and Vice President of the United States, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, Heads of State or their representatives who may require extraordinary protective measures because of the political conditions which exist at that time. In emergencies (requests at late and unusual hours or under unusual circumstances), the Night Supervisor will be notified and shall determine if escort service may be provided, and shall designate which vehicles shall be utilized.
2. Motorcycle officers shall give their entire duty time to the department, giving particular attention to police activities and programs so assigned. However, nothing in these regulations shall be construed as relieving motorcycle officers from the responsibility of taking proper and efficient police action when necessary.
3. Insofar as applicable, the rules for patrolmen shall apply to members of the force mounted on motorcycles.

B. Operational Procedures.

1. Requirements.

- a. Members of the force assigned to duty on motorcycles shall use such machines only in the actual performance of duty and, at the expiration of a tour of duty, shall leave their motorcycles in the police garage unless otherwise directed by their commanding officer. If, through accident or other exigency, members of the force so assigned are compelled to leave their motorcycles at a place other than the police garage, they shall report that fact, with the circumstances surrounding same, to the officer then in command; but the machine shall not be left for a longer period than is absolutely necessary.
- b. They shall keep the machines assigned to them in a cleanly condition, and shall, prior to each tour of duty, examine them thoroughly for mechanical defects. Should any defects be found of such a nature as to render the machine unfit for service, they shall report that fact to the official then in command; and if the necessary repairs cannot be made by the officer, the machine will be conveyed to the department repair shop.
- c. Members of the force assigned to duty on motorcycles shall be held pecuniarily responsible for any damage to the machines assigned to them, except damage resulting from ordinary wear and tear, unless they can show conclusively that such damage is not the result of negligence or carelessness on their part.
- d. They shall make an immediate detailed report to the officer then in command, of any accident resulting in damage to the machine assigned to them.
- e. They shall observe the rules of the road as far as is consistent with the proper performance of police duty and the apprehension of law violators.

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- f. Motorcycle officers shall report for duty with their uniforms in neat condition. Their motorcycles will be clean and in the best mechanical condition possible, with sufficient gas and oil, so as to be ready for any assignment.
- g. When not detailed to escort service or other details they shall perform the duties so assigned by superior officials in conjunction with the Special Events Unit program.
- h. Motorcycle officers shall lock and secure their motorcycles whenever dismounting. The motorcycles shall be parked in compliance with traffic regulations, so as not to interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic, and the engines shall be turned off whenever leaving same.
- i. When operating motorcycles, members shall wear a motorcycle helmet with the chin strap securely fastened.
- j. Motorcycles shall be operated with transparent windshields.

2. Prohibitions.

Operators shall not:

- a. Operate their motorcycle at a speed that is excessive for the prevailing traffic and weather conditions.
- b. Allow any other non-motorcycle officer to ride the motorcycle assigned to them, and in no case shall a person, not a member of the force, be permitted to ride a department motorcycle.
- c. Interchange any parts of motorcycles.
- d. Operate a department motorcycle unless they are in possession of a currently valid vehicle operator's license to operate a motorcycle issued by the jurisdiction in which they reside.
- e. Smoke while operating or refueling their motorcycles.

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- f. Wear sunglasses during hours of darkness or reduced visibility, except that eyeglasses with clear or amber lenses may be worn at any time.
- g. Transport a second rider unless the motorcycle is equipped with a sidecar.
- h. Operate a motorcycle during inclement weather unless a sidecar is attached upon the direction of the Watch Commander, Special Operations and Traffic Division.

3. Portable Radios.

When issued a portable radio, motorcycle officers shall:

- a. Carry radios assigned to them in a departmentally issued carrying case which may be worn attached to the Sam Brown belt, but shall always be worn with a shoulder strap, unless a receptacle is provided on the motorcycle. Radios shall not be attached to the motorcycle only by means of a carrying case.
- b. At all times keep the radios assigned to them under their personal control. When utilizing the provided portable radio receptacle and leaving the motorcycle for any reason, members shall remove their radios and carry them on their person.
- c. Exercise caution when operating portable radios while the motorcycle is in motion, but, if possible, bring the motorcycle to a halt, out of the flow of traffic when using the radio.

PART II

A. Supervisory Officials.

- 1. Supervisors who operate motorcycles shall be guided by the provisions of this order to the extent consistent with the performance of their responsibilities.

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- g. When not detailed to escort service or other details they shall perform the duties so assigned by superior officials in conjunction with the Special Events Unit program.
- h. Motorcycle officers shall lock and secure their motorcycles whenever dismounting. The motorcycles shall be parked in compliance with traffic regulations, so as not to interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic, and the engines shall be turned off whenever leaving same.
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- c. Interchange any parts of motorcycles.
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PART II

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- 1. Supervisors who operate motorcycles shall be guided by the provisions of this order to the extent consistent with the performance of their responsibilities.

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2. Supervisors shall comply with General Order 301.8 (Departmental Vehicular Safety Program) when they observe any unsafe driving actions by motorcycle officers.

B. Commanding Officers.

The commanding officer or official then in charge of motorcycle officers, shall determine whether motorcycles should or should not be utilized during any period of inclement weather.

C. Night Supervisors.

The Night Supervisor shall determine if, and the manner in which escort service may be provided when receiving requests at late and unusual hours or under unusual circumstances.


Burtell M. Jefferson
Chief of Police

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SPECIAL ORDER



	SERIES	NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE
SUBJECT: Medical Certification of Operators of Two-Wheeled Vehicles	85	38	October 10, 1985
	DISTRIBUTION		
	A		
	ORIGINATING UNIT		
PDD			
EXPIRATION DATE			
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The purpose of this Special Order is to apprise members of the additional requirements for selecting and re-certifying officers as operators of two-wheeled vehicles. Until now there have been no set provisions for medical re-certification of a member who operates a two-wheeled vehicle once he/she returns to duty from a back or knee injury.

The following requirements shall be satisfied prior to the selection and training of personnel to operate two-wheeled vehicles.

A. Selection

1. The member must volunteer for duty as an operator of a two-wheeled vehicle.
2. The commanding officer, or his/her designated official, of the member's assigned element, shall review the member's medical and sick leave records for any past history of illness or injury which may be aggravated by operating a two-wheeled vehicle, especially back or knee injury.
 - a. If the member's medical and sick leave records reflect a history of back or knee injuries, the official shall request that a member of the Board of Surgeons, Police and Fire Clinic, certify that the member is physically fit to operate a two-wheeled vehicle, and
 - b. Whether or not there is a possibility that the previous injury will be aggravated by operating such a vehicle.
3. The medical and sick leave records of members applying for assignments as motorcycle operators shall be reviewed by an official of the Special Operations Division.
4. Vehicular accident records from the Department, District of Columbia and the jurisdiction of residence shall be reviewed noting particular attention to any information that pertains to the operation of a two-wheeled vehicle.
5. If the member's driving records reflect a pattern of two-wheeled vehicle accidents, the official shall submit the information to the commanding officer, with a recommendation to approve or disapprove the member's request for two-wheeled vehicular training.

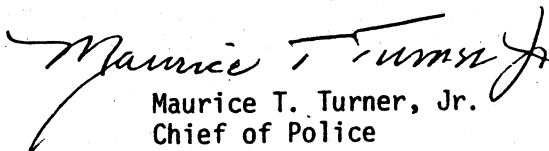
B. Re-Certification

1. Members who sustain a recent injury to their back or knee, aggravate a previous injury, or complain of a back or knee injury after having been trained, shall be re-certified by a member of the Board of Surgeons, before he/she is permitted to continue to operate a two-wheeled vehicle. This request for review shall be submitted by the member's commanding officer or designated official.
2. An official of the member's assigned element shall consult with the Clinic Liaison Office to verify the doctor's certification.
3. The member's immediate supervisor shall monitor the member's effectiveness as an operator of a two-wheeled vehicle and, if in the opinion of the supervisor, the member's performance is unsatisfactory, he/she shall be referred back to the clinic for re-examination, if appropriate, or the supervisor shall recommend that the member's assignment as a two-wheeled vehicle operator be terminated.

C. Operational Requirements and Prohibitions

1. Members who operate motorscooters and mini-motorcycles shall not operate such vehicles until they have been trained and certified by the Vehicle Skills Section, Training Division. Members operating motorcycles however, shall be trained and certified by the Special Events Section, Special Operations Division.
2. Members shall not operate any two-wheeled vehicles unless they have been re-certified by a police surgeon once the member has been on sick leave or limited duty for a back/knee injury or if the member suffers or complains of such an injury.

The provisions of this Special Order shall remain in effect until incorporated into General Order 301.10 (Motorscooters) and General Order 201.25 (Motorcycle Officers).


Maurice T. Turner, Jr.
Chief of Police

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