

GENERAL ORDER



Topic
**Policing for Prevention: Use of High
Visibility Patrol Tactics**

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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I. Background

High visibility patrol tactics contribute to increasing citizen's awareness of police presence and help prevent crime, reduce fear, and is therefore, an essential element of the Department's Policing for Prevention strategy.

High visibility patrol tactics include, but are not limited to:

- establishing foot beat, bicycle, and scooter patrols;
- using street roll call, open-air ministations, and street command posts;
- implementing a traffic plan to ensure the smooth flow of traffic;
- attending community police meetings to develop solutions to crime and disorder problems.

This directive sets forth the responsibilities of members as they relate to the consistent and widespread use of community-oriented, high-visibility, focused patrol tactics.

II. Policy

The policy of the Metropolitan Police Department is to deploy officers and use patrol tactics to establish a highly visible and accessible police force in the neighborhoods to combat crime and disorder problems.

III. Definitions

When used in this directive, the following term shall have the meaning designated:

Redeployed Members – sworn members who have a regular assignment or detail in units other than a police district and are serving one week out of every eight weeks in a police district or Synchronized Operations Command Center (SOCC).

IV. Regulations

- A. All members will work in uniform when deployed to the district or SOCC, unless exceptional circumstances exist.
- B. Street roll calls will be held two (2) times a week per shift.
- C. Each district will establish a plan for permanent and rotating foot beats, bicycle and scooter patrols, and use of open-air ministations.
- D. Each district will establish a traffic control and enforcement plan in high-traffic areas.
- E. The uniform hat will be worn while assigned to foot patrol or traffic intersection control.
- F. Each district will establish a monthly PSA community meeting schedule and conduct outreach in the community.
- G. Each district will establish problem-solving groups and meet regularly with them.
- H. Members will introduce themselves to residents on a daily basis.

IV. Procedural Guidelines

- A. The Regional Operations Assistant Chief shall:
 - 1. Review district plans for street roll call; foot beat, bike, and scooter patrols; ministations; and traffic enforcement, to ensure that they are consistent with district crime and disorder problems.
 - 2. Spot check implementation of street roll calls, high-visibility patrols, PSA community meetings and problem-solving groups.

B. The District Commanders shall:

1. Schedule at least two (2) street roll calls per week, per shift. Street roll calls will be conducted in high-crime areas or in locations that maximize police visibility in the PSA's.
 - a. Ensure that a street command post is established and remains throughout the tour of duty at or near the location where the street roll call is held. This will ensure a continued presence in that area. The command bus, Mobile Community Outreach Police Station (MCOPS) van or an open-air ministration can be used as a command post. Street command post(s) will monitor appropriate radio zones and provide flyers and information to residents.
 - b. Forward the schedule of street roll calls for the coming week to the Executive Assistant Chief, through the chain of command, by close of business each Friday.
2. Establish a plan for permanent and rotating foot beats and use of open-air ministrations, in consultation with PSA lieutenants.
 - a. Permanent foot beats will be established, at a minimum on both the 2nd and 3rd watches. Special attention will be given to businesses, and to open-air drug markets or other hot spots of crime and disorder problems.
 - b. Open-air ministrations will be deployed on a rotating basis to areas affected by crime and disorder problems. Ministrations may also be deployed in locations that experience a high volume of pedestrian traffic in order to bolster police presence in the area.
 - c. Ministrations will be furnished with a cooler and water for officers (and citizens, in a heat emergency), and with official MPD handouts.
 - d. In high crime areas, officers will be assigned to foot beats and open-air ministrations in teams.
3. Establish a plan for permanent and rotating bicycle and scooter patrols, in consultation with PSA lieutenants.
 - a. Bicycle and scooter patrols will be established, at a minimum on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th watches.
 - b. Bicycles and scooters will be deployed in high crime areas and other neighborhoods in a manner that maximizes visibility.

- c. Bicycle racks will be installed on PSA cars used by officers who are mountain bike qualified.
 4. Establish a traffic plan, in consultation with PSA lieutenants and district traffic coordinators.
 - a. Ensure traffic enforcement during morning and evening rush hours on the city's main corridors.
 - b. Establish traffic control posts at critical intersections throughout the day.
 5. Establish log books at schools, libraries, and recreational centers for officers and officials to sign when they stop by these areas.
 6. Establish a monthly PSA community meeting schedule and problem-solving meeting schedule, in consultation with PSA lieutenants, and ensure the community is informed.
 - a. Submit monthly PSA and problem-solving community meeting schedules to the Office of Corporate Communications for posting on the MPD web site, at least ten (10) days in advance.
 - b. Ensure that PSA teams distribute flyers about the police community meetings to citizens and post them in windows of businesses.
 - c. Ensure that permanently assigned PSA team members attend community meetings.
 - d. Stop by PSA and problem-solving community meetings periodically to ensure that PSA teams are holding meetings as scheduled.
- C. The Assistant District Commanders (Captains) shall:
 1. Ensure the implementation of district plans for street roll call; foot beat, bike, and scooter patrols; traffic enforcement; and PSA community meetings during their tour of duty.
 2. Ensure face to face relief with the on-coming Assistant District Commander to relay relevant information.
- D. The Officials assigned to the PSA's shall:
 1. Conduct uniform inspections, ensuring that all members are wearing the proper uniform, except those members who have been granted special approval.
 2. Conduct vehicle inspections in a safe location on the street.

3. Monitor the radio to ensure calls are being handled appropriately and intervene when necessary.
 4. Respond to all felony calls for service with officers.
 5. Ensure that officers return to service without unnecessary delay.
 6. Respond to the location of officers for field reports rather than having officers leave their PSA's.
 7. Ensure that crime scenes are properly secured and monitor the number of members at crime scenes to prevent the accumulation of more members than necessary.
 8. Inspect and sign log books in schools, parks, and recreational centers to ensure members are stopping by these areas.
 9. Monitor establishments to ensure that officers are not congregating for long periods.
 10. Ensure that only members on official business are in the station houses.
 11. Plan, market, and attend PSA community meetings.
 12. Initiate regular contact with community leaders and citizens who have chronic complaints.
 13. Maintain at least one active problem-solving group in the PSA.
 14. Employ strategies to maximize the visibility of officers within the PSA.
 15. Review intelligence and crime analysis data to ensure deployment is consistent with crime and disorder problems.
- E. The Officers assigned, detailed, or redeployed to the PSA's shall:
1. Immediately take assignments after roll call.
 2. Return to service promptly after resolving a call for services.
 3. Patrol with windows open (and air conditioning on, if necessary).
 4. If mountain bike qualified, devote a minimum of one hour each day patrolling their PSA on a bicycle, when possible.
 5. Conduct business checks of open establishments.
 6. Check closed businesses to ensure they are properly secured.

7. Stop by schools, libraries, recreational centers and other popular locations, especially during opening and closing times to sign the log book.
8. Introduce themselves to citizens to discuss the role of the PSA officers and the public safety problems in the neighborhood.
9. Frequently patrol targeted areas in the PSA plan.
10. Use spotlights when patrolling alleys, and dome lights while parked and preparing reports.
11. Review intelligence and crime analysis data for their PSA.

// SIGNED //
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Chief of Police

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