

CHAPTER 122
NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT TEAM

DISCUSSION: The Neighborhood Enhancement Team, referred to as NET, is responsible for Community policing. Flexibility allows NET to perform Community policing duties, yet maintain all of the duties and responsibilities of traditional police officers. NET is based on a philosophy which recognizes the interdependence and shared responsibility of the police and the community in making communities safer and more livable. Target areas are established in which community policing strategies should have a positive effect. The strategy of the Hattiesburg Police Department in its implementation of community policing will place primary emphasis on juveniles, gang activity, drugs and their related crimes.

122.1.1 Vehicles

- A. NET vehicles shall be marked with red, three (3) inch letters which will read "NET".
- B. Placement of NET shall be above each front wheel and on the left rear of the vehicle.
- C. The NET Commander shall assign partners and vehicles.
- D. NET officers shall ride as partners unless otherwise approved by the NET Commander or his designee.

122.1.2 Work Schedules

- A. Due to the nature of Community Policing, NET officers shall work a flexible schedule.
- B. NET shall work ten (10) hours per day, four days per week, normally Tuesday - Friday.
- C. The days and hours of NET operation may be varied to accommodate Community needs determined by:
 - 1. Information supplied from individual residents.
 - 2. Information developed by investigation.
 - 3. Request made by community leaders.
 - 4. Request made from within the Department.
 - 5. Concerns expressed at community meetings.

122.1.3 Gang Tracking

- A. NET will develop and maintain files on gang members and gang activity.
- B. Upon contact with a gang member as much information as possible will be obtained in order to fill out a Gang Member Identification Criteria Form.

- C. The Gang Member Identification Criteria Form shall be forwarded as follows:
 - 1. White copy - NET
 - 2. Pink copy - Patrol/Detectives
 - 3. Canary Copy - Crime Analysis
- D. After this information is obtained, a file shall be opened on each gang set and updated upon receipt of new or additional information. The gang files shall be reviewed bimonthly by the gang tracking officer. A file is purged or deleted only when it can be determined that the identified subject is no longer affiliated with any gang or organization.
- E. A moniker or street name file shall also be opened as a part of the gang file system in order to assist in locating persons whose street name is all that is known or used as a cross reference.
- F. These files shall be secured in a locked file cabinet at the NET South Side Office. Only NET team members have access to these files with the information to be used for Law Enforcement purposes only.

122.1.5 Community Meetings

- A. Community meetings will be scheduled within the team area on a quarterly basis, but may be organized by the NET Commander or at public request any time a concern of the community arises.
- B. NET will be available to any group or organization that wishes to discuss community problems.
- C. NET shall form a partnership with the community and city departments (i.e., Code Enforcement, Housing Authority, and Neighborhood Improvement Program) in order to determine and assist in correcting community problems.

122.1.6 Community Involvement

- A. NET shall become involved in the community to assist in correcting community problems.
- B. NET shall provide education, direction, guidance and serve as an advocate for established organizations or other interested groups in the community.
- C. While assisting these various groups or organizations, NET will abide by their established rules and regulations so long as these guidelines do not conflict with the Hattiesburg Police Department AOM.
- D. Examples of the various groups NET shall cooperate with are as follows:

1. Adolescent Offender Program
 2. University of Southern Mississippi School of Social Work
 3. Pinebelt Boys and Girls Club
 4. Ministers and Police Alliance
 5. Forrest County Youth Court - SHO-TRACK
 6. Aldersgate Mission
 7. Hattiesburg Recreation Department
- E. NET shall associate and interact with juveniles in order to promote relationships of a positive nature.

122.1.7 Surveillance Details

Members of the community are encouraged to work with the police to improve living conditions in their neighborhoods. Often the result is information on neighborhood activities/problems coming from the public to the community police officers. This "intelligence", although highly valuable, is often different in form or content than information used to present a case in court. The NET Team utilizes the data to develop specific solutions for specific problems. Surveillance may be needed to determine the type and extent of the problem in order to formulate a working solution. Due to the problem solving mission of community policing, surveillance takes on a different meaning and function than when it is used strictly for criminal case development.

- A. Surveillance details will be performed by a minimum of two officers.
- B. All observed activities will be noted by the officers performing the surveillance.
- C. An information relay officer, if utilized, will be an officer that is not directly involved in the observation aspect of the surveillance, but is in radio contact with the surveillance officers. Radio procedures are conducted IAW AOM Chapter 81.
- D. All information will be accurately transcribed to the NET Intelligence Report.
- E. A file will be created on the location and/or individual that is under surveillance. Information contained in a surveillance file shall include the following when applicable:
 1. Dates
 2. Times
 3. Locations
 4. Vehicle descriptors including tag numbers
 5. Suspect descriptors

6. Observed activities

- F. Surveillance files are maintained in a locked cabinet at the NET office.
- G. Covert or undercover operations are not part of surveillance as it relates to community policing activities. Expense funds or equipment such as false identification, disguises or credentials are not provided for these details. This does not prohibit officers from using concealment or unmarked units to make observations.
- H. Surveillance shall not be performed without the knowledge and approval of the unit commander.
- I. Surveillance when used as a community policing tool is generally a fact finding or information gathering detail. However, officers may observe a criminal act take place during observation. The primary deciding factor as to making the arrest on view or waiting to serve a warrant at a later date is based on the best solution to solve the overall problem and the nature of the observed crime.
- J. The perimeters of the surveillance such as duration, time, frequency and etc. shall be determined by the type, amount, reliability and source of the information.