

## CHAPTER 41 PATROL

DISCUSSION: This chapter establishes goals, functions and objectives of patrol shifts. The word "Patrol" is used in its broadest sense. It is considered to be a primary law enforcement function and embraces much more than the act of patrolling. It is defined as the deployment of officers to repress and prevent criminal activities, investigate offenses, apprehend offenders and furnish day to day police services to the community.

### 41.1.1 Functions and Activities

The mission of patrol is to provide a full range of law enforcement services to the community. This includes handling response to emergencies, twenty four (24) hours per day, every day of the year. This is accomplished through a variety of activities which include:

- A. Preventive patrol (including inquiry and inspection activity) oriented toward prevention of crimes and accidents, maintenance of public order, and discovery of hazards to the public safety.
- B. Crime prevention activities.
- C. Response to calls for service.
- D. Investigation of crimes including arresting offenders.
- E. Traffic direction and control.
- F. Regulation of certain business activities as required by law.
- G. Maintenance and public order.
- H. Provision of emergency services.
- I. Community and Public Relations.
- J. Reporting of information to appropriate departmental components or agencies.

### 41.1.2 General Objectives of Patrol

- A. General objectives of the patrol function include, but are not limited to the following:
  - 1. Suppression and prevention of the opportunity for crime.
  - 2. Increase the safety of the motoring public by reducing accidents through traffic enforcement and patrol procedures.
  - 3. Provide for a timely and professional response to calls for service and emergencies.

4. Maintain high levels of citizen satisfaction as measured by a survey of persons receiving service, citizen complaints, use of force analysis or any other information from the department.
  5. Staff and operate specialized teams or assignments to increase investigative effectiveness of serious incidents.
  6. Conduct roll call and training to increase the effectiveness and safety of officers in the working environment.
- B. In addition to these general objectives, specific goals and objectives are developed and submitted in conjunction with the budget request each year as prescribed by AOM Chapter 13.

#### 41.1.3 Coordination and Cooperation

- A. The exchange of information between patrol and other department components is a critical component of the effectiveness of the department.
- B. There are a number of ways of ensuring communication and coordination, which includes the following:
1. The attendance of Investigative Officers or members of other sections at patrol roll call.
  2. Review of written case reports.
  3. Exchange of memos between patrol and other units concerning police information, potential hazards and other pertinent data.
  4. Supervisors of patrol and non-patrol units provide information and coordinate issues or problems at periodic staff meetings.
- C. It is a responsibility of each member of the department to ensure that communication, coordination and cooperation between patrol squads and other specialized areas are achieved.

#### 41.1.4 Roll Call

- A. Officers assigned to the Patrol Division will meet for roll call (muster) at the beginning of their assigned shift.
- B. The maximum time allotted for muster is 30 minutes. Patrol Supervisors will utilize this time to brief their officers on the previous day's activities, discuss new memorandums, general orders, directives, designate directed patrol assignments, conduct personnel and vehicle inspections, roll call training, and etc.

#### 41.1.5 Shift Change

Shift change will take place after each roll call (muster). The actual shift change will be

determined by the on coming shift supervisor. However, the on coming supervisor will not exceed the 30 minute time allotted time period for roll call. During the actual changing of the shifts, on duty Special Operations Division units will augment patrol coverage of the city. The on duty supervisors shall coordinate with the relieving shift supervisors for the orderly replacement of in service units with relief units so as to maintain units in the field to answer calls for service or emergency response.

#### 41.1.6 Shift Assignment and Rotations

- A. Patrol officers will be assigned to one of four (4) Platoons. Assignments and/or transfers may be requested by the patrol officer or supervisor; however, the authority for all assignments/transfers rests with the Patrol Division Commander.
- B. Shift rotation is based upon a twelve (12) hour work day and a 2/2, 2/3 and 3/2, 2/2 work/off rotation during a twenty-eight (28) day cycle. Night and day shifts are rotated every 28 days.

#### 41.1.7 Beat Assignments

- A. The philosophy of the Hattiesburg Police Department is to provide citizens with a sense of individualized service by assigning officers to the same area repetitively and consistently.
- B. The shift supervisor has been delegated the authority to assign officers to specific beats/territories. The frequency/duration of beat rotation or any assignments will be made by the squad supervisor under the direction of the Patrol Division Commander.
- C. Officers are assigned to beats/territories to provide minimal response time to calls and give the citizens a sense of security through uniform presence, thus officers are expected to maintain beat/assignment integrity.

#### 41.3.8 In-Car Audio/Video

- A. The Hattiesburg Police Department has different makes and models of video recorders. Each camera system will be operated in accordance with the manufacture or vendor's guidelines as to general operating features. These features include the mechanics of inserting the tapes and activating/deactivating the recording mode of the system.
- B. Prior to each shift, officers shall determine whether their audio/video equipment is working properly, and immediately report any problems to their supervisor.
- C. Operation
  - 1. The video equipment will automatically activate when the vehicle's emergency lights are in operation. The equipment may be manually deactivated only during non-enforcement activities such as when protecting accident scenes from other vehicular traffic or normal report taking calls.

2. Recordings shall be made of all traffic stops, pursuits and emergency calls to include the response to the emergency call and the transporting of all prisoners.
3. Field interviews are to be recorded in their entirety, if the interview occurs in proximity to the recording device. This will depend on the specifications of the system.
4. Officers shall not be only limited to the above. Discretion can be used under circumstances dictated by the event and the capabilities of the system as the need to record other events.
5. Officers are under no legal obligation to inform persons involved in the event that they are being recorded. This decision is up to the officer.

D. Security

1. Various media are to be used to record events sequentially until end of storage. Date/time functions shall be used on the recording system for documentation.
2. Officers shall not erase or in any manner alter recorded media.
3. Media shall be labeled with the officer's name, beginning date and ending date to aid in retrieval of a particular event.
4. At the beginning of the shift, the officer shall insert their assigned media into the recorder.
5. At the end of the shift the officer shall remove the media from the recorder. Any partially used media shall be kept by the officer, in a secure location until their next tour of duty. Upon returning to duty, the officer shall reinsert the media in the recorder.
6. Upon completion of the media, the officer shall remove the tape from the recorder and write the ending date and time on the label. A chain of custody shall be filled out and turned in with the media at the end of the shift in accordance with Chapter 84 Property and Evidence Control.

E. Media are retained until all cases and processes of the legal system have been exhausted on every event on the media. The evidence technician will accomplish this annually, by checking the status of the incidents by date and officers name through the court system. Any media scheduled for reuse shall be completely erased prior to release to an officer.

F. All media and the images contained on them are the property of the department. Duplicate copies may only be made:

1. Under a Discovery motion filed by the defendant or defending attorney.
2. Permission of the Chief of Police
3. As part of an investigation
4. Training purposes after all legal attachments have been met.

- G. Viewing is limited to Law Enforcement and Court personnel as necessary for the completion of the criminal process with the same exceptions listed above under bullet (F). (N120602)