



City of Manassas Police Department General Duty Manual



Effective Date: 06-13-2000	GENERAL ORDER		Number: 08-03
Subject: Police Motorcycles			
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Accreditation Standards: 41.1.3/	By Authority Of: The signature of Douglas W. Keen, Chief of Police. Douglas W. Keen, Chief of Police		Total Pages: 2

PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines for the operation of police motorcycles.

POLICY:

Police Motorcycle Officers are an integral part of the Traffic Services Unit of Special Operations, and the Patrol Services Division. These units are used for primary response to traffic related incidents including motor vehicle accidents, selected enforcement, disabled or abandoned vehicles, parking violations, escorts, special events, and traffic direction and control. Motorcycle Officers also patrol City parks, jogging paths and other areas where the mobility of the standard patrol vehicle is adversely affected.

DISCUSSION:

The operation of police motorcycles is subject to the provisions of General Order 6-22.

PROCEDURE:

I. Selection and Training

- A. Officers are selected for motorcycle officer positions based on the necessary qualifications, knowledge, skills and abilities (KSA's), and the selection procedure specified in the job description for Motorcycle Officer. See General Order 3-17.
- B. The Chief of Police appoints Motorcycle Officers. See General Order 3-17.
- C. If selected, all motorcycle officers must complete an approved 80-hour Basic Motor Officer Certification course within a specified period after being selected as a motorcycle officer. The officer must also agree to serve as a motorcycle officer, at the direction of the Chief of Police, for a minimum period of three years.
- D. The Traffic Services Sergeant manages motorcycle operations, and coordinates with the Training Officer to ensure that officers meet minimum training standards. Ongoing in-service training specific to Motorcycle Officers is conducted periodically through the law enforcement academy. Motorcycle officers will train as a unit at least one calendar day per quarter on basic skills and are required to document all training to be reviewed and approved by the Traffic Services Sergeant or designee.

II. Care and Maintenance

- A. Motorcycles are normally individually assigned. Officers are responsible for the routine care and for ensuring that normal maintenance of the motorcycle is conducted in accordance with the Departmental policies regarding care and maintenance.
- B. Routine maintenance is coordinated through the City Maintenance Garage. Maintenance is conducted by both certified personnel and from outside vendors.
- C. No modifications will be made to the police motorcycle without prior authorization from the Chief of Police or designee. Only authorized equipment shall be allowed on the police motorcycle.
- D. Motorcycle officers are required to complete a pre-operational inspection of their assigned motorcycle and equipment at the beginning of each shift and before operation of the unit.

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- E. The police motorcycle must be stored in an enclosed facility should the officer meet the criteria for the Call-back vehicle program.

III. Operational Guidelines

- A. Motorcycle officers are assigned to the Traffic Services Section under the supervision of the Traffic Services Sergeant
- B. Motorcycle Officers are assigned primarily to traffic duty that includes such activities as routine and selective traffic enforcement, crash investigations, special traffic assignments, special events, escorts and motor-carrier safety inspections.
- C. Motorcycle Officers are trained and certified in Motor Carrier Safety procedures, and perform safety inspections and enforcement duties concerning commercial vehicles and common carriers.
- D. Motorcycle officers may be assigned to specific traffic enforcement in areas with high incidents of traffic collisions, and in areas that receive citizen traffic complaints.
- E. The Traffic Services Section may accept requests for motorcycle escorts for special events such as parades, dignitary escorts, vehicle escorts, or any situation when the use of the motorcycle would promote public safety. The sergeant of the Traffic Services supervisor is responsible for the approval of all requests for escorts.
- F. Motorcycle Officers may also be used to supplement the Patrol function. During periods of heavy calls for service, the Duty Supervisor should consider the deployment of motorcycle officers to any situation where manpower considerations or the increased mobility of a motorcycle unit will assist in police operations. Requests for motorcycle unit assistance should be directed through the Traffic Service Supervisor, when on duty. If traffic services assignments and staffing allow, motorcycle officers may be used for patrol staffing mandate.
- G. Officers should not operate police motorcycles in severe storm conditions or weather conditions that are unsafe as determined by the Traffic Services supervisor.
- H. Only officers approved by the Chief of Police may operate a police motorcycle. Operators are prohibited from riding passengers on a police motorcycle.

Attachments: N/A

Index as: Police Motorcycles.
Motorcycles.
Traffic Services Unit.

References: N/A.