

Fredericksburg Police Department

POLICE CYCLISTS OPERATIONAL GUIDE

Purpose

The purpose of the Fredericksburg Police Bike Team is to supplement standard uniform patrol in a unique manner that combines stealth and covert operation with high visibility, community-based policing. This is to better serve the community by targeting problem areas, assisting in special operations or maintaining a presence at special events. While on duty, bicycle policing is supervised by the watch commander and/or the duty section sergeant. Supervisors may require or restrict riding time due to call volume or department need.

Policy

It is the policy of the Fredericksburg Police Department that all personnel will be held accountable for, and shall follow, the procedures listed in this operational guide.

Organization

Bicycle officers shall report to shift supervisors.

Eligibility

Any officer currently serving the Fredericksburg Police Department who is released from the FTEP program and currently holds a certification for bike patrol from either FPD, DCJS, IPMBA (International Police Mountain Bike Association) or any other approved criminal justice academy is eligible for appointment. Fredericksburg Police Department Bike Team members should be experienced, fluid, fit and adaptable to any situation.

Selection

Bike Team Coordinator: The Bike Team Coordinator will be appointed by the Patrol Division Commander. Responsibilities of the Bike Team Coordinator include:

- Scheduling/ Performing maintenance
- Bicycle Inspections
- Ordering equipment
- Bike Team budget submittal

Bike Team Member: Officers requesting to be considered for appointment to the FPDBT should send an email or letter of intent outlining their tenure, certifications and any applicable experience to the Patrol Division Commander through their chain of command. Each bike team officer will be selected for appointment by the Patrol Division Commander with input from the Bike Team Coordinator and the officer's chain of command. The Patrol Division Commander will notify the applying officer of appointment or denial (with specific reasoning for denial). Denial could be based on

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factors including: valid training / certification, past performance from the officer's two prior annual performance appraisals, recent performance concerns as noted by the officer's chain of command, attendance records and/or sustained command inquiry incidents within past two years.

Appointment

Once a candidate has appointed, he/she shall be issued all applicable bike equipment and uniforms as outlined in the uniform guide. He/she will then be issued a bike (if available). The officer shall be responsible for all equipment, uniforms and the bike issued to them.

All FPDBT members will be required to pass the "Lawfit" standard physical fitness assessment required by the FPD physical fitness policy on an annual basis for continued appointment.

Expectations/Goals of an FPD Bike Team member

It will be the expectation of every FPDBT member to make a reasonable effort to ride when practical. Minimum riding requirements will be set by the Patrol Division Commander after consultation with the Bike Team Coordinator and may change annually based on factors such as current staffing FPDBT members may also be required to work any special bike overtime event as designated by the Patrol Division Commander.

It will be noted that the availability of FPDBT members to ride is contingent upon shift staffing, weather and call volume.

The FPDBT member will ensure that all hours ridden are logged by notifying COMSEC via MDT or phone that they are on duty and should be logged as "BIKE."

Any FPDBT member who has not met his/her hours without just cause may be removed from the bike team by the Patrol Division Commander.

Bike Team Operations

All FPDBT members will operate under the Code of Virginia, FPD Directives, IPMBA guidelines and all state and local ordinances. Officers will obey all traffic laws in compliance with state law (*except where certain exemptions apply*)

Rear mounted tail lights (red LED) and front mounted headlights (clear LED) mounted on the front of the bike will be activated while on all city streets during low light or dark conditions. The only exemption would be in situations that operating such lights would compromise covert operations or specific tactical situations.

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FPDBT members are permitted to wear their bike uniform on a daily basis so long as they are making an attempt to ride, and their hours are up to standard. *(This does not include special events, unless otherwise noted)* Watch Commanders may override this with just cause.

On occasion, plain clothes bike details may be approved by the Division commander. In these instances, the uniform requirement is waived, however the officer is still required to wear his/her vest, firearm, radio and other police issued gear as noted in the uniform guide and directive.

Helmets are required at all times while riding, no exceptions.

Bicycles

Each department bicycle shall be of high quality and able to withstand harsh riding conditions. Bicycles will be a muted color, black being preferred based on availability. Bicycles will have the required equipment listed in this guide. Each department bicycle is numbered. Serial number and inventory will be listed, signed for by the officer the bike is assigned to, and maintained by services and the Bike Team coordinator.

Bicycle Tools

Before taking a bicycle for use the officer is responsible for checking over the bicycle to ensure that it is in proper working order. Any problems found during this check are to be documented on a department vehicle inspection sheet. The officer signing out the bicycle is responsible for all items assigned to the bicycle.

Before returning a bicycle to the storage area, the officer should ensure that the bicycle is clean and in good working order, just as it was when it was checked out.

Bicycle Equipment (other than stock)

- Side-mount kick stand
- Water bottle holder
- Headlight
- Flashing tail-light
- Cyclo-computer (optional)
- Blue/Red emergency light kit
- storage bag
- Battery and charger (for bicycles equipped with the integrated light system)

Issued Equipment (for certified bicycle officers)

Certified bicycle officers are issued uniforms and equipment based on the FPD Uniform Guide. The Support Services Division maintains the inventory.

Bike Team members will be issued their own bike providing inventory allows.

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Tools Issued to Each Bike

- 1 Multi-tool (Park Tools MTB-3)
- 1 Tire lever (Quick Stick)
- CO2-style Pump
- 2 CO2 Canisters
- 2 Inner Tubes

Bicycle Storage

Each bicycle will have a designated storage stand, which will assist in prevention of unnecessary repairs. Each Bike will be stored in the designated bike storage room, this room will be secured after leaving. Bikes will not be stored in the Sally Port of headquarters without prior approval of the Watch commander, Division Commander or Bike Team Coordinator.

Bicycle Repairs

Documented problems with bicycles will be looked at first by the bicycle coordinator. If the problem is beyond the ability of the coordinator to repair, it will be sent to a local bicycle shop. The following items will be kept at Police HQ for repairs:

- Repair Stand
- Advanced Tool Kit
- Extra Parts (tires, inner tubes, quick links, CO2 cartridges, brakes)