

GENERAL ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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| Title | | |
| Patrol Special Mission Units | | |
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I. PURPOSE

Patrol special mission units (SMUs) are Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) units that are established within the patrol bureaus to achieve various law enforcement objectives. Patrol SMUs typically engage in significant patrol-related activities including contacts, stops, protective pat downs, and searches. Police Service Area (PSA) members assigned to routine patrol duties and members assigned to administrative positions within police districts are not considered SMU members. SMUs established outside of patrol are governed by the procedures set forth in GO-PER-201.04 (Special Assignment Positions).

The purpose of this general order is to establish the requirements for the operation of patrol SMUs.

II. PROCEDURES

A. Patrol SMU Establishment and Eligibility Criteria

1. Patrol Bureau assistant chiefs may establish SMUs within their patrol districts. SMUs shall have clearly stated objectives documented in a standard operating procedure (SOP) that outlines the unit's scope and purpose. At minimum, the SOP shall also include an organization chart that identifies the SMU commanding official, the rank of lieutenant or above, responsible for overseeing the operations of the SMU, as well as any additional eligibility criteria specific to the SMU. SOPs shall be submitted to the appropriate patrol assistant chief for review.
2. District commanders shall ensure that members selected for patrol SMUs have completed their probationary period and meet and continue to maintain the following eligibility requirements:

| Patrol SMU Member Eligibility Criteria |
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| a. Current pistol and service weapons certification; |
| b. Current annual professional development training (PDT) certification; |
| c. A rating of 3 - "Meets Expectations" or better on their most recent performance management evaluation; |
| d. Has not used force in one or more incidents that has resulted in a finding of "Not Justified, Not Within Department Policy" in the last 12 months; and |
| e. Does not have one or more sustained complaints for excessive force in the last 12 months for which the Department has imposed adverse action. |

3. SMU members, supervisors, or commanding officials who fail to maintain eligibility criteria shall be removed from the unit.
4. Patrol SMUs that are established by district commanders for a period of 14 calendar days or less (i.e., "temporary SMUs") are not subject to the requirements of this order. When a district commander determines that a temporary SMU should be extended beyond 14 calendar days, he or she shall adhere to the procedures set forth in this order.

B. Supervisor Responsibilities

1. Each SMU shall be staffed with a sufficient number of supervisors. A sergeant shall supervise each team within an SMU, and shall report directly to the SMU commanding official, the rank of lieutenant or above.
2. Sergeants and other supervisory members who volunteer, or are temporarily assigned to an SMU, shall maintain their supervisory responsibility while in the unit. When applicable, SMU commanding officials shall provide clear instructions to all SMU sergeants regarding appropriate supervision and coordination when more than one sergeant or supervisor is present.
3. Prior to conducting planned operations, SMU commanding officials shall ensure that a planning session is conducted with the participating SMU members, and the unit's planned activities are approved by an SMU official the rank of lieutenant or above.
4. District commanders shall ensure that the following information is maintained, available for review upon request, and updated, at minimum, on a quarterly basis:
 - a. A roster containing the names of all members who served on a district SMU and their dates of service;
 - b. Training roster documenting training completed pursuant to Part II.C of this order by SMU members, supervisors, and SMU commanding officials.
 - c. Summary statistics for each SMU member that contain, at minimum, enforcement actions, uses of force, commendations, and complaints.

d. A list of members who have been removed from service on the SMU.

C. Training

1. The Metropolitan Police Academy shall develop:

a. Annual training for patrol SMU members, sergeants, and lieutenants that includes discussion of the Fourth Amendment and Equal Protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, contacts, stops, searches, building trust with the community, reducing bias, improving cultural competency, de-escalation, and the use of force.

b. Biennial training for SMU sergeants and lieutenants that addresses planning, risk management, and principles of management and leadership.

2. District commanders shall ensure all members authorized to participate in patrol SMUs, including sergeants and lieutenants, complete SMU training within 90 days of being assigned or detailed into the unit and as required thereafter.



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