

GENERAL ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Subject Police Mountain Bikes		
Topic	Series	Number
OPS	301	09
Effective Date November 12, 2014		
Replaces: GO-OPS- 301.09 (Police Mountain Bikes), Effective Date March 4, 2013		
Related to: GO-PER-110.11 (Uniforms and Equipment)		

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I. BACKGROUND

The utilization of police mountain bikes has provided a versatile and effective means of deployment of police personnel for daily patrol duties, as well as during civil disturbances. The police mountain bike serves as an essential policing tool while providing members with the ability to operate over multiple surface types enhancing visibility, mobility, and community and police interactions.

The purpose of this General Order is to establish guidelines for the care and operation of Department police mountain bikes.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) that all police mountain bikes be operated in a safe and effective manner consistent with MPD policy and District of Columbia laws and regulations.

III. DEFINITIONS

When used in this directive, the following terms shall have the meaning designated:

1. Mountain Bike Coordinator – member the rank of lieutenant, Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU) Mountain Bike Platoon Leader, designated as the coordinator for police mountain bike related matters including, but not limited to, monthly reporting and inspections, within his/her respective command.
2. Mountain Bike Officer – sworn member who maintains certification by the Metropolitan Police Academy (MPA) to operate a Department-issued police mountain bike.

- a. Daily Rider – sworn member assigned to an individual police mountain bike who rides three (3) or more times per week, weather permitting and who is also assigned to the Fourth (4th) Platoon of the Civil Disturbance Unit within his/her respective command or who is authorized by his/her District Commander.
- b. Part-Time Rider – sworn member who uses a District fleet bicycle and rides a police mountain bike less than three (3) times a week and who is assigned to the Fourth (4th) Platoon of the Civil Disturbance Unit within his/her respective command, placed on the Fourth (4th) Platoon standby list or who is authorized by his/her District Commander.

IV. REGULATIONS

- A. Only members trained and certified by MPA shall operate Department police mountain bikes.
- B. Members assigned to operate police mountain bikes shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations and MPD policies including, but not limited to:
 1. District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, Title 18 (Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 18-12 (Bicycles, Motorized Bicycles, and Personal Mobility Devices);
 2. District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, Title 18 (Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 18-23 (Pedestrians);
 3. General Order 301.01 (Vehicle Operation and Maintenance); and
 4. GO-HSC-805.01 (Civil Disturbance Unit).
- C. All members must be properly attired in mountain bike uniform (Class D Specialty Uniform: Mountain Bikes) and carry required equipment when operating police mountain bikes.
- D. The police mountain bike uniform shall consist of the following:
 1. Issued bike shirt (long or short sleeve);
 2. Issued jacket with badge and nametag displayed on jacket if worn;
 3. Issued trousers/shorts;
 4. Issued bike helmet;
 5. Black footwear; and
 6. Badge and nametag.

NOTE: For examples of approved mountain bike uniforms, see Attachment A. When the mountain bike uniform is unavailable, the Class D BDU Uniform trousers/shorts and Class B Service Uniform long or short sleeve shirt may be worn by mountain bike officers.

V. PROCEDURES

A. Selection and Training Requirements

1. Except for members who have completed physical examinations within 90 days of selection, each member selected for police mountain bike training shall successfully complete a physical examination which includes a review of the member's:
 - a. Medical record for any past history of any injury that may be aggravated by police mountain bike duty (e.g., neck, back, and knee injury); and
 - b. Sick leave record for any past history of neck, back, or knee injury.
2. The Director, Medical Services Division (MSD), shall issue each member who successfully completes the physical examination written approval to participate in police mountain bike training.
3. Each member shall successfully complete all training requirements established by the MPA.

B. Police mountain bike officers shall:

1. Complete the PD Form 775-D (Daily Bicycle Inspection and Activity Report) (Attachment B) for inspecting and reporting daily activities.
2. Immediately report any damage or malfunctioning equipment (to include missing parts) to an official and record the name of official notified, damage, date and time on the PD Form 775-D.
3. Not operate malfunctioning or damaged police mountain bikes.

C. When communicating with the radio dispatcher, police mountain bike officers shall identify themselves as "mountain bike number_____."

D. When responding to calls for service that require an incident or offense report, members shall comply with the provisions of GO-SPT-401.01 (Field Reporting System).

E. Police mountain bike officers may conduct traffic stops when they can do so safely and in a manner consistent with their training.

F. When dismounting, operators shall:

1. Park in compliance with traffic laws and regulations.
 2. Lock and secure the police mountain bike.
- G. When a member is involved in a traffic crash while operating a Department mountain bike:
1. The incident shall be handled as any other Department vehicle.
 2. An official shall immediately be requested to respond to the scene.
 3. An investigation shall be conducted in accordance with Department policy and procedure, including, but not limited to GO-SPT-401.03 (Traffic Crash Reports).
- H. Police mountain bike officers **shall not**:
1. Transport second riders.
 2. Use cell phones while operating police mountain bikes.
 3. Smoke while operating police mountain bikes.
 4. Except in emergency situations or when authorized to do so by an official, and then only when exercising the greatest degree of caution, operate police mountain bikes:
 - a. On access highways and freeways, including, but not limited to the Southeast/Southwest Freeway, Interstate 295, Whitehurst Freeway, and Suitland Parkway;
 - b. In tunnels (e.g., 3rd and 9th Street Tunnels); or
 - c. On roadways where bicycles and pedestrians are prohibited by law or regulation.
 5. Wear sunglasses during period of darkness or reduced visibility. Any exceptions (e.g., eye stigmatism that requires a prescription for specialty tinted lenses) shall require the approval of a MSD physician.
 6. Interchange any parts of a mountain bike, unless authorized to do so by a Mountain Bicycle Coordinator or by Fleet Management Division.
- I. Repairs and Maintenance
1. Preventative maintenance shall be the responsibility of the assigned police mountain bike officer and shall be limited to minor equipment adjustments (e.g., repairing a flat tire, tightening handlebars).

2. Any requests for supplies and repairs beyond a minor equipment adjustment shall be submitted to the element's Mountain Bicycle Coordinator who shall coordinate the completion of repairs with the Fleet Management Division.
3. Under no circumstances should police mountain bicycle officers transport bicycles directly to the vendor without authorization of the Fleet Management Division.

VI. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Mountain Bicycle Coordinators shall:

1. Coordinate all repair, supply and service requests with Fleet Management Division.
2. Maintain and provide to the Patrol Services and School Security Bureau (PSSSB) a current list of certified daily and part-time police mountain bike operators.
3. Conduct monthly inspections of the police mountain bike fleet, storage, or maintenance facility, and bike-related equipment and stock parts.
4. Ensure readiness of the bicycle fleet for an immediate response of a bicycle CDU platoon.
5. Prepare and submit a monthly mountain bike report (Attachment C) via the PSSSB administrative email box.
6. Coordinate requests for bicycle uniforms for newly assigned police mountain bicycle officers through his or her chain of command to PSSSB.

B. Officials shall:

1. Comply with Department policy and procedure, including, but not limited to GO-SPT-401.03, as it relates to handling crashes and damages to MPD property.
2. Ensure that members complete and submit PD Form 775-D (Daily Bicycle Inspection and Activity Report).

C. District Commanders shall:

1. Approve all requests for police mountain bike operator training and submit the names of each selected member to the MSD 30 days prior to the start of the member's training.
2. Manage their district's Police Mountain Bike Program for accountability.

3. Determine which members are selected and trained for mountain bike operation.
4. Ensure that police mountain bike officers are not used in casual clothes operations without approval.
5. Ensure that any damage to a Department mountain bike is properly investigated.
6. Ensure that members are not assigned to patrol on bicycle when temperatures fall to 20 degrees Fahrenheit or below, and that members are assigned to patrol in a vehicle, absent operational needs as determined by the Chief of Police or Field Commander.

NOTE: When temperatures are above 20 degrees Fahrenheit, but below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, members assigned to patrol on bicycle may be assigned to patrol in a vehicle at the discretion of their Watch Commander.

7. Forward reports of crashes involving police mountain bikes to the Crash Review Board in accordance with GO-SPT-401.02 [(Crash Review Board (CRB))].
 8. Establish an area at their facility where Department police bikes can be secured and protected from the weather.
- D. The Director, Fleet Management Division, shall:
1. Receive and maintain an inventory of all Department mountain bikes.
 2. Facilitate and/or coordinate the issuance of new Department mountain bikes to an element's fleet with the PSSSB.
 3. Facilitate and coordinate the maintenance and repair of all Department mountain bikes through the element's Mountain Bicycle Coordinator and outside vendors.
 4. Provide element Mountain Bicycle Coordinators with the necessary equipment and supplies to perform maintenance and minor repairs.
- E. The Assistant Chief, PSSSB, shall:
1. Provide oversight and coordination for the Police Mountain Bike Program.
 2. Serve as a liaison between element Mountain Bicycle Coordinators, Fleet Management Division and Property Division.

3. Approve and coordinate issuance of mountain bike uniforms for newly assigned mountain bike operators through Property Division, Clothing and Equipment Section.

VII. CROSS REFERENCES

- A. District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, Title 18 (Vehicles and Traffic)
- B. General Order 301.01 (Vehicle Operation and Maintenance)
- C. GO-SPT-401.01 (Field Reporting System)
- E. GO-SPT-401.02 [(Crash Review Board (CRB)]
- F. GO-SPT-401.03 (Traffic Crash Reports)
- G. GO-HSC-805.01 (Civil Disturbance Unit)

VIII. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Mountain Bike Uniform

Attachment B: PD Form 775-D (Daily Bicycle Inspection and Activity Report)

Attachment C: Monthly Mountain Bike Report



Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police

Class D Specialty Uniform: Mountain Bikes



Class D
Specialty
Uniform



Class D
Specialty
Uniform



Class D
Specialty
Uniform



Class D
Specialty
Uniform

