

Metropolitan Police Department □ Washington, D.C.



SPECIAL ORDER



Subject:

LOJACK PILOT PROGRAM

Series 96	Number 1	Distribution A
Effective Date January 16, 1996		
Expiration Date *		

The purpose of this Special Order is to inform sworn members of the policy and procedures regarding the LOJACK Pilot Program.

PART I

A. General Information

The Metropolitan Police Department and the LOJACK Corporation have begun a pilot program involving the installation of LOJACK receivers in each of the seven districts. Within each district a certain number of scout cars will be equipped with the tracking device and monitoring screen. This tracking equipment will allow for the swift recovery of stolen automobiles.

Every twenty seconds a car is stolen countrywide. LOJACK, an electronically monitored device designed to aid police in the recovery of stolen vehicles, has successfully been used to recover stolen vehicles in several cities. With the aid of the LOJACK system, police departments have had a 95% recovery rate of stolen vehicles and a 33% arrest rate for suspects caught in the vehicles.

A silent homing signal from the anti-theft device is embedded in the vehicle and is activated by LOJACK when the car is reported stolen. The LOJACK computer operates in tandem with the WALES system. A code unique to a given LOJACK unit is paired with the vehicle identification number (VIN) in WALES/CJIS. When the VIN number of a stolen car equipped with LOJACK is entered in the computer, the computer sends the signal to the tower to activate the LOJACK unit in the stolen car. The police terminal/tracker beeps and the beeps increase as police draw nearer to the stolen vehicle. The LOJACK code number of the stolen car appears on the tracker screen in the police vehicle. The police vehicle, equipped with the tracker, is then able to pinpoint on the monitor attached to the dashboard the location of the stolen vehicle. This signal can be traced by police cruisers in a 12-20 square mile range, depending on the geography.

Citizens now have the option of purchasing LOJACK transmitters from new car dealers, security retailers, or directly from the LOJACK dealers. The dealers install the transmitter in a concealed location within the vehicle.

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B. Procedures

1. Members taking a stolen automobile report shall ask the reporting person if the vehicle is equipped with a LOJACK transmitter. This information shall be recorded in the narrative portion of the PD Form 251 (Offense Report) and provided to the dispatcher as part of the general broadcast.

2. The LOJACK receiver will remain deactivated until a participating car is stolen. Once a car is reported stolen and the LOJACK receiver is activated, members assigned to department vehicles equipped with LOJACK receivers shall:

- a. Provide the dispatcher with the five digit number displayed on the LOJACK monitor screen.
- b. Receive confirmation of the stolen vehicle from the dispatcher.

3. The member operating a vehicle equipped with the LOJACK tracking device within the closest proximity of the stolen vehicle shall:

- a. Remain in a Code Two Status.
- b. Request to be held out-of-service and advise the dispatcher that they are tracking a LOJACK vehicle.
- c. Request permission from their Watch Commander to track the vehicle into another patrol district, if necessary.
- d. Request permission from a field supervisor to continue the search, if the stolen vehicle is not located within thirty (30) minutes.
- e. Terminate the track and request that the dispatcher notify the appropriate jurisdiction if stolen vehicle is tracked to an outside jurisdiction (i.e. Maryland or Virginia). If a fresh pursuit situation develops, members shall strictly follow the guidelines of General Order 301.3 (Operation of Emergency Vehicles, Fresh Pursuit, and Vehicular Pursuit).
- f. Immediately notify the dispatcher when the stolen vehicle is located and take the appropriate action necessary to recover the vehicle and apprehend suspect(s), if any.

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PART II

A. Communications Division

1. Dispatchers

When the Communications Division is notified of a stolen vehicle, dispatchers shall:

- a. Prepare a PD Form 258-A (Lookout Information).
- b. Expeditiously deliver the PD Form 258-A to the Telecommunications Branch.
- c. Obtain from the member the five digit number displayed on the LOJACK receiver.
- d. Obtain the description and confirmation of the stolen vehicle.
- e. Monitor the progress of the member who is tracking the stolen vehicle.

2. Telecommunications Branch

The Telecommunications Branch shall enter the stolen auto information in WALES/NCIC causing an automatic notification to the LOJACK Corporation. The LOJACK Corporation will then activate the LOJACK transmitter.

B. District Watch Commanders

District Watch Commanders shall:

1. Ensure that members operating Department vehicles equipped with "LOJACK" receivers are strictly monitored for their compliance with departmental procedures.
2. Determine whether or not to give members permission to track a vehicle into another patrol district.

C. Commanding Officers


Commanding officers shall ensure that all LOJACK vehicles remain in service on a twenty-four hour basis and only be used for patrol purposes.

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D. Director, Training Division

The Director, Training Division shall provide training and certification for members in the use of "LOJACK" receivers.

*This special order shall remain in effect until revised or rescinded.


Larry D. Soulsby
Chief of Police

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