

# **Patrolling & Crime Prevention**

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## **ABSTRACT**

It is widely believed that if the presence of the police is highly visible, criminals and violent mobs will remain off the streets for fear of detection or arrest. When planning patrols that are conducted with the deterrence of criminal activity as their chief aim, ensure that times and routes of the patrol are varied and unpredictable. Police patrols play an important role in public service by responding to incidents, deterring and preventing crimes. It can give a sense of security to people who need protection and discourage those who may commit crimes in the absence of a patrol. Police patrolling is an indispensable component and function of police departments. The goals and objectives of police patrol include crime prevention, criminal apprehension, law enforcement, order maintenance, public services, and traffic enforcement.

**KEYWORDS:** Police, Patrols, Public services, Crime-free, Law and Order.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Police patrols play an important role in public service by responding to incidents, deterring and preventing crimes. It can give a sense of security to people who need protection and discourage those who may commit crimes in the absence of a patrol. Police patrolling is an indispensable component and function of police departments. The goals and objectives of police patrol include crime prevention, criminal apprehension, law enforcement, order

maintenance, public services, and traffic enforcement. However, since police resources are limited, there is an understandable interest in patrol strategies and operations that provide safety at a minimum cost. Police patrol officers are charged with ensuring the safety and well being of specified areas within a police precinct. This area is known as the 'beat' the officer is responsible for patrolling, on foot, on a bike, with a partner or in a solo capacity. By patrolling the same areas regularly, officers get the lay of the land, get to know area residents and business owners, and becomes better able to judge when something is unusual or off. The deployment of the patrol force through designated patrol districts is a standard management method to enhance the deterrent capability of the uniformed patrol force. Better districting plans can lead to lower response times, officer's familiarization with their assigned area, more efficient utilization of personnel, equalized distribution of workload, uniform police visibility, enhanced officer safety, balanced police response to calls and officer accountability. Patrol has three parts: answering calls, maintaining a police presence to deter crime, and probing suspicious circumstances. A presumed advantage of patrol is that police car cruising randomly through city streets supposedly create the feeling that the police are everywhere. The patrol officers detect, deter, and guard against personal attacks, loss of assets, criminal activity and acts of terrorism by their high visibility, observations and inspections.

## **2. IMPORTANCE OF PATROL**

It is widely believed that if the presence of the police is highly visible, criminals and violent mobs will remain off the streets for fear of detection or arrest. When planning patrols that are conducted with the deterrence of criminal activity as their chief aim, ensure that times and routes of the patrol are varied and unpredictable. Particularly in a peacekeeping mission, patrols can be used to determine the position, volume, armament of local military facilities, police or rebel factions. This may be particularly useful intelligence, should violence erupt or in conjunction with agreements made under the peace process by the various factions. Patrols can be used to support an investigation, where a crime has been committed. Patrols can be used to interact with the local population to see if further information can be obtained about the investigation or may be asked by local police to assist with an area search for evidence. The process whereby a patrolling mission is organized and conducted can be defined in four phases; the planning phase, the practical preparation, the conduct of the patrol itself and the debriefing.

### **3. TYPES OF PATROLS**

Patrols can be conducted by many different means, depending on the environment, the existing equipment and requirement of the mission. Of the many different types of patrols; here is a list of the main ones:

- **Foot patrols:** It is perhaps the most effective way of patrolling as the police officers can interact directly with the local population. However, they are restricted to a small area as the police will need to be able to return to their base on completion of the patrol unless it is a long-distance foot patrol, in which case there will be a need for greater planning and preparation. The reliability and range of the radios should be taken into account when considering the distance to conduct foot patrols.
- **Vehicle patrols:** These give the patrol the ability to travel further and cover more ground. However, they will be restricted to what the officers see from their vehicle unless they can stop and patrol for part of the way on foot. A combination of foot and mobile patrol is most effective for outlying towns and villages, where the unit can travel there by vehicle and then patrol the town on foot. The commanding officer needs to put in place a reporting system whereby the patrolling officers indicate where they stopped, who they met and which information/observations they managed together.
- **Air patrols:** They are less common in peacekeeping missions due to the restricted amount of air facilities. However, drones (remote-controlled pilotless aircraft) or helicopters can be used. Helicopters can also be used in conjunction with foot patrols by transporting a unit to a remote location and then dropping them off for a patrol, collecting them either at the same location at a later time, or a different location such as the end of the foot patrol route.

### **4. PURPOSE OF A PATROL**

Police patrols serve a variety of purpose, all with the underlying objective of keeping a particular area safe and crime-free. Patrol activity may include the following activities:

- Monitoring suspicious or unusual activity.
- Responding to calls for assistance or investigation.
- Issuing citations for traffic or parking violations.
- Investigating abandoned vehicles.

- Dispersing unauthorized, non-permitted crowds.
- Gathering information.
- Repression of prevention of criminal activities.
- Support investigations.
- Apprehend or otherwise bring offenders to justice.
- Liaison.
- Community policing.
- Keep contact with isolated detachments.
- Intelligence gathering.
- Planning and operation plan.

## **5. ROLE OF OFFICERS ON PATROL**

- Getting Information: Observing, receiving, and otherwise obtaining information from all relevant sources.
- Resolving Conflicts and Negotiating with Others: Handling complaints, settling disputes, and resolving grievances and conflicts, or otherwise negotiating with others.
- Identifying Objects, Actions, and Events: Identifying information by categorizing, estimating, recognizing differences or similarities, and detecting changes in circumstances or events.
- Making Decisions and Solving Problems: Analyzing information and evaluating results to choose the best solution and solve problems.
- Communicating with Supervisors, Peers, or Subordinates: Providing information to supervisors, co-workers, and subordinates by telephone, in written form, e-mail, or in person.
- Communicating with Persons Outside Organization: Communicating with people outside the organization, representing the organization to customers, the public, government, and other external sources. This information can be exchanged in person, in writing, or by telephone or e-mail.
- Evaluating Information to Determine Compliance with Standards: Using relevant information and individual judgment to determine whether events or processes comply with laws, regulations, or standards.
- Documenting/Recording Information: Entering, transcribing, recording, storing, or maintaining information in written or electronic/magnetic form.

- **Monitor Processes, Materials, or Surroundings:** Monitoring and reviewing information from materials, events, or the environment, to detect or assess problems.
- **Performing General Physical Activities:** Performing physical activities that require considerable use of your arms and legs and moving your whole body, such as climbing, lifting, balancing, walking, stooping, and handling of materials.
- **Establishing and Maintaining Interpersonal Relationships:** Developing constructive and cooperative working relationships with others, and maintaining them over time.
- **Assisting and Caring for Others:** Providing personal assistance, medical attention, emotional support, or other personal care to others such as coworkers, customers, or patients.
- **Updating and Using Relevant Knowledge:** Keeping up-to-date technically and applying new knowledge to your job.
- **Analyzing Data or Information:** Identifying the underlying principles, reasons, or facts of information by breaking down information or data into separate parts.
- **Processing Information:** Compiling, coding, categorizing, calculating, tabulating, auditing, or verifying information or data.
- **Training and Teaching Others:** Identifying the educational needs of others, developing formal educational or training programs or classes, and teaching or instructing others.
- **Interpreting the Meaning of Information for Others:** Translating or explaining what information means and how it can be used.
- **Organizing, Planning, and Prioritizing Work:** Developing specific goals and plans to prioritize, organize, and accomplish your work.
- **Performing Administrative Activities :** Performing day-to-day administrative tasks such as maintaining information files and processing paperwork.
- **Thinking Creatively :** Developing, designing, or creating new applications, ideas, relationships, systems, or products, including artistic contributions.

## **6. SKILLS OF OFFICERS ON PATROL**

- **Judgment and Decision Making:** Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.

- Active Listening: Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- Critical Thinking: Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
- Writing: Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience.
- Speaking: Talking to others to convey information effectively.
- Social Perceptiveness: Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.
- Reading Comprehension: Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work-related documents.
- Negotiation: Bringing others together and trying to reconcile differences.
- Persuasion: Persuading others to change their minds or behaviour.
- Active Learning: Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.
- Coordination: Adjusting actions with other's actions.
- Complex Problem Solving: Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.
- Service Orientation: Actively looking for ways to help people.
- Time Management: Managing one's own time and the time of others.
- Learning Strategies: Selecting and using training/instructional methods and procedures appropriate for the situation when learning or teaching new things.
- Instructing: Teaching others how to do something.
- Monitoring: Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.
- Equipment Selection: Determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job.

## **7. DUTIES OF OFFICERS ON PATROL**

- Provide for public safety by maintaining order, responding to emergencies, protecting people and property, enforcing motor vehicle and criminal laws, and promoting good community relations.

- Identify, pursue, and arrest suspects and perpetrators of criminal acts
- Record facts to prepare reports that document incidents and activities.
- Review facts of incidents to determine if criminal act or statute violations were involved.
- Render aid to accident victims and other persons requiring first aid for physical injuries.
- Testify in court to present evidence or act as a witness in traffic and criminal cases.
- Evaluate complaint and emergency-request information to determine response requirements.
- Patrol specific area on foot, horseback, or motorized conveyance, responding promptly to calls for assistance.
- Monitor, note, report, and investigate suspicious persons and situations, safety hazards, and unusual or illegal activity in patrol area.
- Investigate traffic accidents and other accidents to determine causes and to determine if a crime has been committed.
- Photograph or draw diagrams of crime or accident scenes and interview principals and eyewitnesses.
- Monitor traffic to ensure motorists observe traffic regulations and exhibit safe driving procedures.
- Inform citizens of community services and recommend options to facilitate longer-term problem resolution.
- Process prisoners, and prepare and maintain records of prisoner bookings and prisoner status during the booking and pre-trial process.
- Inspect public establishments to ensure compliance with rules and regulations.
- Act as official escorts, such as when leading funeral processions or firefighters

## **8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF PATROL OFFICERS**

There are myriad goals of a patrol officer which vary according to circumstances and are often different every day. In addition to doing their jobs effectively, police patrol officers must also ensure the safety of their partners and the general public when responding to criminal activity. Some of the key objectives include:

- Professional, lawful approach to law enforcement
- Careful documentation /reporting of alleged criminal activity

- Assisting citizens by responding to emergency calls in a timely fashion or providing a referral to other appropriate agencies
- Ensuring no criminal activity is taking place during a shift
- Arresting offenders without injury or incident
- Logging detailed reports
- Maintain the integrity of crime scenes and aiding in the collection of evidence
- Testifying in court, as required

In short, the over-arching goal of a police patrol officer is to ensure the health and safety of the communities she serves while carrying out the lawful mission of the law enforcement agency the officer represents.

## **9. CONCLUSION**

The purpose of police patrols is to have a constant, vigilant police presence on the town. This accomplishes several things. First and foremost, if there is a crisis or a need for a police presence, such as an accident or criminal activity, patrolling ensures that police are constantly mobilized and ready to respond to emergencies. Beyond that, there is a psychological effect of patrolling. The presence of police officers, or even the knowledge that they can arrive quickly, will deter a lot of criminal activity or help citizens feel safe. By keeping police on patrol, they help improve the safety of the region naturally just by their presence in addition to the obvious benefit of emergency preparedness. This presence helps keep the public safe and feeling secure

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