



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: *Motorcycle Unit Operations*

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217
217-A Motorcycle Unit Operations

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Approved By:

PURPOSE

To outline procedure for operation of the Department Motorcycle Unit.

DISCUSSION

1. The primary objective of the Motorcycle Unit is to supplement the Myrtle Beach Police Department's efforts in promoting traffic safety and reducing accidents through the fair and impartial enforcement of traffic law, especially in areas not ideally suited for conventional patrol vehicles.
2. Additionally, the Motorcycle Unit will perform special assignments including but not limited to escorts, marathons, parades, festivals.

PROCEDURE

1. MOTORCYCLE OPERATION

- A. Motorcycle enforcement works best when it is highly visible. Without specific prior approval of the Chief of Police or his designee, officers will be assigned during the hours of daylight.
- B. Motorcycles should be used for accident problem areas, citizen complaints, special emphasis patrols or other specific assignments.

2. OPERATORS

- A. Only motor officers who have successfully completed the approved certification course and are up to date on their In-Service training may operate the department's motorcycles in an enforcement capacity. Motor officers awaiting certification training may operate the department motorcycle in a non-enforcement capacity during familiarization training upon approval from the Division Captain. No other personnel (with the exception of dealer representatives for purposes of maintenance) may operate the units.
- B. The motorcycle operator will be in full uniform unless otherwise authorized by the Chief of Police or his designee.
- C. Smoking is prohibited while on a department motorcycle.

3. PASSENGERS

- A. No passengers will be transported on any department motorcycle.

4. STORAGE

- A. When not in use, department motorcycles will be stored at an approved location.

5. TOWING

- A. Department Motorcycles will be towed utilizing the Department's Motorcycle Trailers. If unavailable, the approved wrecker service for the department will be called.

6. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- A. Department motorcycles shall not be operated in inclement weather if determined by the supervisor or operator precludes safe operation of the vehicle.
- B. Inclement weather conditions may include but are not limited to snow, ice, sleet, heavy rain, high wind.
- C. Should a motorcycle operator be confronted with deteriorating weather, the officer shall as soon as practical utilize the issued rain suit and seek shelter to await the passage of the weather. If, after a reasonable amount of time (up to 30 minutes), it is apparent to the officer that the unfavorable weather conditions will not abate, the member shall return

the motorcycle to the place of storage and resume patrol in an assigned patrol vehicle.

- D. When a motor officer anticipates operating the motorcycle at anytime during an assigned shift, it is permissible to operate the patrol vehicle in the motorcycle uniform. It is recommended that motorcycle officers have a standard patrol uniform available to them during the shift.

7. OPERATOR CONDITION

- A. Department motorcycles will not be operated if the operator's physical or mental condition, in the supervisor or operator's opinion, precludes safe operation. In determining the operator's physical and mental condition factors such as illness, fatigue and stress, etc. should be considered.

8. PROFESSIONALISM

- A. Due to the high profile of a police motorcycle, all motor officers will obey all traffic laws unless exempt by statute for enforcement purposes. No horseplay, "hot-dogging", unsafe or other inappropriate actions will be tolerated. The motor officer will take extra precautions to present a positive and professional image. This will be accomplished with proper grooming, uniform appearance and by keeping his/her assigned motorcycle clean.

PURSUIT

1. INITIATING PURSUIT

- A. In addition to vehicle pursuit regulations contained in MBPD Operating Procedure # 207-A, when a motor officer encounters a violator who initiates a pursuit by exhibiting an attempt to avoid arrest by evasion, maintaining or increasing speed, the motor officer shall immediately summon the assistance of a marked patrol vehicle and disengage pursuit upon arrival of the marked patrol vehicle. During the pursuit, the motor officers must take into consideration the increased vulnerability of the motorcycle and allow a proper following distance and speed for his/her own safety.

2. TERMINATING PURSUIT

- A. The pursuit will be terminated under instances required by MBPD Operating Procedure # 207-A or at any other time the operator deems necessary for his/her safety.

EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS

1. Motor Officers must be aware of their increased vulnerability, especially when operating in an emergency response mode. Myrtle Beach Police Department Operating Procedure # 207-A outlines the rules governing emergency response in conjunction with South Carolina State Code Section 56-5-760.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Minimum qualifications and requirements for motor officer selection are as follows:

- A. Prior to training, the officer must have a proper Motorcycle Permit.
- B. Minimum of two years service with the Myrtle Beach Police Department;
- C. At least one year of motorcycle experience;
- D. Physically fit and able to lift any fully equipped Myrtle Beach Police Department motorcycle that is lying on it's side to an upright position without bodily injury. Approximate weight of motorcycle is 800-900 lbs.;
- E. Willing to make a three-year commitment to the unit.
- F. After completion of training, officer must obtain a proper Motorcycle Endorsement.

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Upon the posting of a vacancy for motorcycle officer, interested and qualified officers will submit a written request through their immediate supervisor(s) to the Uniform Captain for consideration.

2. The applicant's written request will contain the following (if none, so note):

- A. An explanation why the officer is applying for the vacancy;
- B. Description of any previous motorcycle experience;
- C. A general statement of physical health and fitness including any previous or existing back injuries or back operations. If no prior or existing injuries, then so note;

- D. An explanation of any contributory accident within the last three years;
 - E. An explanation of any motorcycle accident regardless of fault or date.
3. The following will be obtained by the applicant and submitted with the written request:
- A. A certified copy of the applicant's driving record;
 - B. A copy of any accident report of a contributory accident within the last three years or of any motorcycle accident regardless of fault or date;
4. The Motorcycle Officer Selection Board will conduct an oral interview of each applicant;
- A. Upon reviewing the applicant's letter for consideration, any attachments and oral interview, each board member will submit recommendations for existing position(s) to the Uniform Division Captain for submission to the Chief of Police for review.
 - B. The Motorcycle Officer Selection Board will consist of the following members with the ranking member serving as Chairperson:
 - 1) Uniform Captain;
 - 2) Sergeant (preferred Traffic);
 - 3) Corporal (preferred Traffic);
 - 4) Training Representative.

TRAINING

1. Each motor officer selected will be required to satisfactorily complete an approved Basic Police Motorcycle Operator's Course. Thereafter, motor officers will be required to complete any designated training course a minimum of once every twelve months.

MOTORCYCLE UNIFORMS

1. Summer Uniform – the basic Summer Uniform will consist of:
- A. Helmet;
 - B. Shirt - Short sleeve Myrtle Beach Police Department Shirt;
 - C. Undershirt - Black, crewneck;
 - D. Trousers - Issued motorcycle trousers;
 - E. Footwear - Issued motorcycle boots;

- F. Eyewear - sunglasses, non-reflective lenses, compatible with requirements in Operating Procedure # 203.
- G. Bulletproof Vest

2. Winter Uniform – the basic Winter Uniform will consist of:

- A. Helmet;
- B. Shirt - Long sleeve Myrtle Beach Police Department Shirt;
- C. Black turtleneck. The Myrtle Beach Police tie will not be worn with the winter motorcycle uniform;
- D. Trousers - Issued motorcycle trousers;
- E. Footwear - Issued motorcycle boots;
- F. Eyewear - sunglasses, non-reflective lenses, compatible with requirements in Operating Procedure # 203.
- G. Bulletproof Vest
- H. Any other issued Motor Equipment.

3. Each operator will be issued a pair of motorcycle gloves. Gloves are to be worn at all times while operating the motorcycle.

4. Motor officers may purchase the motorcycle operator badge for wear on the Class A or B uniform.

- A. Any employee who has successfully completed an approved police motorcycle operator's course is authorized to wear this pin. Documentation must be submitted to the Uniform Division Commander for approval.
- B. Refer to Operating Procedure #201-E, Subsection 1 PROCEDURE – UNIFORM AND UNIFORM ACCESSORIES, G, 1 for details on pin placement for uniform wear.

5. No other insignia is authorized for wear on the duty uniform(s).

6. Duty jackets will be worn based on weather conditions.

7. If motor officers are working in conditions where sunglasses are not required (dusk, cloudy day or night duty), clear lens eyewear in a classic style (i.e., aviator) will be worn.