

# POLICE PATROL OPERATIONS

## History

The history of police patrol is as old as organized society. Man needed protection, first from animals, and then from his own kind. His first attempt to protect himself and his family involved barricading the cave.

Throughout the history of civilization, societies have sought protection for their members and possessions. In early civilizations, members of one's family provided this protection. Richard Lundman has suggested that the development of formal policing resulted from a process of three developmental stages.

1. Informal Policing – Provides all members of a society share equally in the responsibility for providing protection and keeping order.
2. Transitional Policing – The police functions are informally assigned to particular members of the society.
3. Formal Policing - Specific members of the community assume formal responsibility for protection and social control.

Lundman suggests that the history of police involved a shift from informal to formal policing. Indeed, as societies have evolved from *mechanical* (members share similar beliefs and values but meet their basic needs independently) to *organic* (members are dependent upon one another as a result of specialization) societies, social control became more complex. Whereas there was little need for formal, specialized policing in mechanical societies, organic societies require more specialization to ensure public order.

## THE WORD “COP” BEARS SO MANY MEANING

- It is so commonly used to describe a Police Officer.
- England – they used the word **“Copper”**.
- COP – Constable on Patrol or some sources traced the word to copper badge that early policemen wore in New York.
- It is more likely that it originated from the European word **“Cop”** meaning to seize.
- Patrol is from French word **“Patrouiller”** meaning to do a patrol.

## Concept of Police Patrol:

The oldest and most basic function in law enforcement is the patrol function. The purpose of patrol is strictly to protect and preserve life and property in communities. Along with protecting citizens, patrol officers deter crime by becoming a visible presence preventing potential crime. Their accessibility to people in the community maintains order and allows a trust to develop between the people and the department. The process of developing a patrol officer demands preparing an officer for patrol, and to put these duties and responsibilities into the hands of an officer of the law.

Patrol is the only form of police service which directly attempts to eliminate the desire/opportunity of an individual to commit misconduct.

### It reveals the three elements:

- It is the only form of police service.
- It is directly concerned with the elimination of desire/ an opportunity for individual to commit misconduct.
- It is considered as the single largest element in a police organization and the nature of their service bring them in the direct and constant contact with the public.

These can be summarized into the following:

- ✓ Police patrol of whatever nature performed basic law enforcement function.
- ✓ Careful patrol by intelligent officers is the first line of defense against crime.
- ✓ Many officers will find duty monotonous. This is the fault of the officer rather than fault of duty.
- ✓ If the patrol officer on duty attempts to analyze his area, the people in the area and their problems, he will find that the time goes faster and he is doing a better job. No matter how dead a beat may seem, there is a great deal to be observed if the officer is looking for it.
- ✓ Much of the monotony often associated with patrol work will disappear where the officer makes an intelligent effort to discover and solve problem.

## THE PURPOSE OF POLICE PATROL

### Patrol Is The Backbone Of The Police Department

- The statement is often made that Patrol Division is the **“Backbone of every Police Department”**, and this statement is very true for the following reasons;
  1. It is the only division that cannot be eliminated.
  2. If a police department is too small, the police can perform different police functions, such as;

- a. Traffic officer
- b. Crime Investigator
- c. Juvenile and Specialized areas of jurisdiction

- Even those police department having specialized divisions, the **Patrol Division** is often the only one who work on a twenty-four hour basis.

### Basic Duties Of Police Patrol

1. **Protection**
2. **Service**

- Many times these two are combined such as in traffic enforcement and investigation.

### FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES OF PATROL DIVISION

#### Preventive Enforcement

- Falls under heading protection, and involves the prevention of crime through the noticeable presence of the police vehicle and personnel. It is a statistical fact that where the police have purposely made their presence known by parking their patrol vehicles at or near hazardous intersections, or by heavily patrolling critical area, that reduction in offenses occurs.

- Sir Robert Peel – first presented the criminological philosophy just prior to 1829, when he suggested the formation of the Metropolitan Police to parliament.
- Peel's and his associates had little real understanding of the true and basic causes of crime and they believed that all criminals were created solely by choice.
- Prevention of crime is the soundest of all criminological theories; it cannot completely cover all of the area or beat assigned to its patrol units. The only logical solution to the problem is the **Selective Enforcement.**

#### Patrol Function and Activities:

- Non-essential Police Functions
  - ✓ Request in intervention of conflict between husband and wife
  - ✓ Conflict between landlord and tenant
  - ✓ Conflict between customers and businessman
  - ✓ Conflict between neighbors
  - ✓ Dispersal of unlawful assembly
  - ✓ And among others
- Basic Patrol functions
  - ✓ Prevention of crime
  - ✓ Suppression of criminal activity
  - ✓ Apprehension of criminals
  - ✓ Protection of life and property
  - ✓ Regulation of non-criminal conduct
  - ✓ Preservation of peace and order
- Basic Patrol Activities
  - ✓ Patrol and observation
  - ✓ Call for services
  - ✓ Inspectional services
  - ✓ Control for public gatherings
  - ✓ Responding to emergencies
  - ✓ Attending to complaints
  - ✓ Conducting initial investigations
  - ✓ Preservation of crime scene
  - ✓ Criminal apprehension
  - ✓ Writings reports

#### Three Basic Police Functions:

- ✓ Crime prevention
- ✓ Crime investigation
- ✓ Traffic control

#### Concept of Police Discretion:

Police discretion is the wise use of one's judgment, personal experience and common sense to decide a particular situation. Police discretion is part of police function special during crisis or emergency.

#### Patrol Operation:

The operational heart of police organization is the patrol force, to which other bureaus, divisions, sections, units relate or participate in a supportive capacity. It incorporates all objectives inherent in the police organization. Crime

problem is the primary concern of the government and crime prevention is the basic responsibility of the police, enforcement of laws through effective patrol work is its motivating ingredient to achieve peace and order. Undeniably, the progress of the community is inseparably linked with peace and order. Without peace, without order, society is doomed politically, socially, economically, and culturally.

A police department is organized first and foremost for crime prevent. In a newly created community a prime concern of local government officials and citizens is peace and order. Hence, priority is the establishment of a police department entrusted with the basic responsibility of crime prevention. They are aware of the police role to safeguard the community's progress and stability. Operationally this task is the sole responsibility of the patrol force of any police organization.

### **The Primary Importance of Patrol:**

It can perform all police functions.

- Patrol is the essence of the police function.
- Patrol force is the single largest element in the police organization and the actions taken by the patrol officers have a direct impact on the citizen satisfaction and well-being and on the accomplishment of police goals and objectives.
- The patrol function is also the most visible form of police activity, furthering the community's well-being and perception of the level of local government services.
- The individual patrol officer represents the police department in its contact with the community. The actions of the patrol officer have far reaching consequences for police agency, for the citizenry, and for the quality of justice in contemporary society.
- Police administrators must recognize and emphasize that the patrol office is the most important member of the police organization and that all other police activities must be supportive of the patrol mission.

### **Crime Prevention and Crime Control:**

Both are the primary concern of all police units. Whenever a police unit is organized in a newly created community its and foremost responsibility is peace and order through crime prevention and control. The operational scheme of a police department the patrol force is basically responsible for the prevention of the commission of misconduct. An effective crime prevention program of the department but a weak implementing strategy by the patrol force will obviously open a full opportunity for the commission of criminal activities. Thus, crime prevention gives way to crime control. Whatever the patrol officer fails to prevent will naturally go unabated. Consequently, the ultimate course of action is to control before the crime escalates into serious proportions. Therefore, the concept of prevention and control is basically to prevent and ultimately to control.

The combination or joint implementation of both programs will undeniably serve as a means of reducing crime occurrence in our society.

Note: among the three basic police functions, the most common is crime prevention, these can be done by a patrol officer who walks the streets and dark alleys, always in contact with the public, always observant of persons and things. Visibility and omnipresence is their psychological tool to make their presence felt, so as to give the feeling of security to the law abiding citizen but feeling of fear to the would be criminal. Thus, the desire/opportunity to commit misconduct is dissipated.

- ✓ Desire means wishes, craving, aspiration or wants.
- ✓ Opportunity means occasion, chance or possibility.

These two factors must exist before a crime can be committed. First, there must be a desire in the mind of the person to commit a crime; and second, there must a presence of the opportunity to commit crime.

In performing patrol work, the objective is to prevent the commission of the crime by destroying the opportunity through constant and alert patrolling.

- Line function – their task is direct to the accomplishment of police objective. Either primary and secondary
- Staff/ Non-line function – task that supplement to its primary objective.

### **Organization and Staffing:**

Organization consists of arranging personnel and functions in a systematic manner designed to accommodate stated goals and objectives in the most efficient manner possible.

The act of organizing is indispensable to proper management, and without some form of organizational structure, most police operations could not be carried out effectively if organizational concepts are poorly understood or applied, the efficiency of the department will be severely affected.

- Patrol staffing is the allocation of appropriate number of patrol officer (work load)
- Span control is the ability of one person to supervise the affairs of subordinates.
- Unity of command is only one person is responsible for the command.

### **Theories:**

- Police omnipresence- principle of overt operation or high police visibility.
- Low profile – principle of covert operation
  - ✓ Blending (civilian clothes) and decoy (provide opportunity to the criminal)
  - ✓ Stakeout (officer is hiding in an area while waiting for criminal)
  - ✓ Sting operation (officer will assume as buyer for stolen property).

## TYPES OF PATROL:

Patrol officers are assigned in a particular area called “beat”, and they referred to as beat patrol. The size is determined by

- ✓ Type of area
- ✓ Type of criminal activity and
- ✓ Frequency of crime in that area

To cover the beat, patrols are assigned in shifts which are usually determined by the number of personnel available and the frequency for calls for service.

**FOOT**– the common and the best known form of police patrol. It is considered as the most expensive type but high community relations.

Advantages:

- ✓ Provide closer observation and things.
- ✓ Can enter in small alleys and street.
- ✓ Provide immediate traffic control when it is needed.
- ✓ Promote good public relations.
- ✓ Established familiarity to the area

Procedures and Techniques:

- ✓ Don't establish set of pattern
- ✓ In checking doors during nighttime for force entry, use flashlight on the area around the lock to see if there are fresh noticeable jimmy marks.
- ✓ In building with an open door, never enter alone.
- ✓ Patrol officer should never smoke while in uniform on his beat.
- ✓ During winter, officer must walk his beat during all types of whether conditions.
- ✓ Use all five senses

## FOOT PATROL PROCEDURES AND TECHNIQUES

1. Don't establish set patterns of patrol.
2. When checking doors for forced entry, use the flashlight on the area around the lock to see if there are fresh or noticeable Jimmy marks.
3. When an open door is found, NEVER ENTER ALONE.
4. AT least once a night use fire escapes to check the roofs in the downtown area for possible cut-through burglaries or “Roof jobs”.
5. Since burglars need some device to assist them in gaining entry, the patrol officer should be very alert for boxes that are piled up behind a building.
6. At night, the foot patrol officer should occasionally step into an alley or store entrance, and get out of the light as much as possible.
7. Foot care is a prime consideration.
8. During the winter, the foot patrol officer must walk his beat during all types of weather.
9. A foot patrolman should never smoke while in uniform on the street, nor should he chew gum.
10. The foot patrolman should make a conscious effort to make friends on the beat, not only for good public relations, but to develop informants and also to have friends in case he is jumped by a group of hoodlums.
11. Use all five senses while walking the beat.
12. When things are slow, the officer should plan strategies.

## AUTOMOBILE

The automobile as a means of patrol is already a century old. There are cases of the use of automobiles by police departments as early as 1904, but they were not used for patrol.

The Indianapolis Police Department started to replace horse drawn “Paddy Wagons” (used to respond to emergency calls) with automobiles in 1904.

In 1917, the Detroit Police Department began using automobiles with two men in a car. But they did not go out on patrol. They were stationed in “Police Booth”.

The police booth contained a desk, a telephone, a pot-bellied stove and a coal bin.

It was not until the advent of the workable mobile radio receiver, that police vehicles became patrol vehicles as we knew today.

The automobile is the most economical type of patrol, and offers the greatest tactical ability when used in numbers.

Advantages:

- ✓ Covers a wider area
- ✓ Constant availability to public calls.
- ✓ Speed and mobility
- ✓ Best means of preventive enforcement
- ✓ Offer great protection
- ✓ Permits to carry extra-equipments
- ✓ It can be used as vehicle in emergency situation.
- ✓ It can be used as road blockade

#### Procedures and Techniques:

- ✓ Check the vehicle before leaving
- ✓ Do not drive too fast
- ✓ Observe the rules and regulations of the road.
- ✓ Be alert at all the times
  - One man patrol car
  - Two man patrol car

**BICYCLE** – it is the economical and advisable in urban area in certain condition.

#### Advantages:

- ✓ Covers an area which cannot be covered by car patrol.
- ✓ It can quietly operate in the area without attracting attention.
- ✓ Not expensive to operate

**MOTORCYCLE** – it is quite adaptable to traffic enforcement, parades and escort duty.

- The use of the motorcycle as a means of police transportation is almost as old as that of the automobile.
- It was in 1909 that the first motorcycle began to be used. The wide use of the side-car motorcycle in World War I set the stage for its wide use in police work.
- The two-wheel motorcycle is quite adaptable to traffic enforcement, parades and escort duty.

**AIRCRAFT** – as early as 1929, New York Police Department started uses this type of patrol. In LA the called their helicopter patrols as “project sky knight”. It services is advisable only in large cities or state that could afford.

**BOAT PATROL** – is used to control smuggling or to enforce the tariffs and customs duties.

- Since man has usually founded and built his cities next to some river or body of water, it is conceivable that the use of boats in the enforcement of the law has been a type of patrol since the dawn of history.
- The recorded history of our earliest civilizations indicates the use of tariffs. Where there are tariffs there is smuggling, and the control of smuggling in any community near water necessitates the use of a water patrol.
- The duties of the boat patrol usually referred to as the harbor patrol.
- Those officers assigned to this duty should be as familiar with the seagoing “Rules of the road” and the Harbor and Navigation Code.

**CANINE(Dog) Patrol** - History shows us that dogs have been used as a means of personal protection throughout recorded history.

- Actually the biggest development and use of dogs after the war was in Europe. Today they have become common commonplace.
- The key to the successful use of police dogs in patrol is based first of all on an understanding and willing master. Secondly, on the proper selection and training of the dogs, and finally on preparing the general public for their use.

**HORSE** – Next to walking, the horse patrol is one of the oldest types of patrol. At present time there is still a need for the horse patrol where the terrain is steep and rough, but there are also special occasions when a horse patrol is very useful. The following are some of the more common uses of horse patrol today:

- a. Park Patrol
- b. Beach Patrol
- c. Posse and Search Duty
- d. Parade and Crowd Control

**TELEVISION Patrol** – Television patrol was first used in police work on a practical basis in West Germany. Its use was basically for purposes of traffic control.

- In the field, at key points, television cameras were mounted in weatherproof housings. They were equipped with Zoo mar lenses and were remotely controlled by the operator at the control board.
- Low Light Level TV Surveillance camera was developed for the military. The first city to experiment with this system was Mount Versailles, New York, in 1971.

#### **Patrol Methods and Strategies:**

##### a. Contemporary Trend:

The police organization continue to fulfill their basic responsibilities to detect and deter crimes and to apprehend criminals which are the primary objectives of patrol activities, they must continue to search for new and more effective patrol activities. However, there is no ideal patrol strategy will work well in all cases or in every police jurisdiction. The selection of particular patrol strategy or combination of strategies, to be used will depend upon:

- Resources of the organization
- Condition of the community

##### b. Psychological Omni-Presence

Its objectives are the following:

- A feeling of security on the part of law abiding citizen
- A felling of fear on the part of the would-be criminal
- A feeling of confidence that the police are constantly available to respond in any situation.

c. Walking on Beat: the Traditional Patrol Pattern

- Clockwise patrol pattern
- Zig-zag or Free-Wheeling patrol pattern
- Counter-clockwise patrol pattern
- Straightway and Criss-cross patrol pattern

**DEFINITION OF TERMS**

1. Line patrol – Conducts observation either in moving or stationary observation at a certain route or point of a major street in a city.
2. Area patrol – Conduct observation either by moving patrol or stationary observation in a certain area which included a number of streets roads or sections of a highway.

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