



BOOK I: General Provisions
TITLE I: General provisions

Article 1 - Definitions

1. **KNP** is described as the Korps Nationale Politie.
2. **KMar** is described as the Koninklijke Marechaussee.
3. The **Royal Family** is described as the members of the House of Orange Nassau.
4. **The Minister** is described as the Minister for Justice and Security.
5. The **First Chief Commissioner** as described in Article 21.
6. A **Unit Chief** is the leader of a specific unit within the KNP.
7. An **Order in Council** is the executive order pertaining to a law, is taken by the Crown (the government) and has general application. An Order in Council has a general effect. Contrary to a formal law, an order in council can be submitted to the court for assessment against the Constitution. It can also be described as a ministerial regulation.
8. **The Police officer** is described in article 2 of this title.
9. **Law Enforcement agencies** are described as the combination of the Koninklijke Marechaussee, Korps Nationale Politie, Brigade Speciale Beveiligings Opdrachten and Dienst Speciale Interventies and any other agency marked as a Law Enforcement agency by the Dutch Government.
10. **The Law Enforcement officer** is described as a public servant employed by a law enforcement agency.
11. A **State Official** is described as a Members of Parliament or a Member of the Dutch Cabinet
12. The **Criminal Code** refers to the Wetboek van Strafrecht and the Wetboek van Strafrecht van de Nederlands Antillen.
13. A **public servant** is defined as all employees of the government, including but not limited to; The Dutch Armed forces, Ambulancezorg, Brandweer and the Korps Nationale Politie.
14. A **Commanding officer** is described as an Inspector or above of the Korps Nationale Politie or an OF-1A or higher of the Koninklijke Marechaussee

Article 2 - Police officers

1. Police officers within the meaning of this Act are:
 - a. officials who have been appointed and sworn in to carry out a police task;
 - b. officials appointed to carry out technical, administrative and other functions of the police;
 - c. voluntary officials appointed to carry out the police task or to perform technical, administrative and other tasks for the police;
 - d. officers of the Rijksrecherche who have been appointed, and sworn in to carry out the police task, or to perform technical, administrative and other duties for the Rijksrecherche.
 - e. persons receiving police education.

Book II: Policing tasks
Title I: Korps Nationale Politie

Article 3 - Tasks of the Police force

1. The task of the police, in subordination to the competent authority and in accordance with the applicable legal rules, is to ensure the effective enforcement of the legal order and to provide assistance to those who need it.
2. The Korps National Politie is charged with the following tasks:
 - a. The implementation of national and specialist police tasks in collaboration with the Koninklijke Marechaussee.
 - b. Collecting, registering, processing, managing, analysing and providing information and performing other supporting activities for the performance of the duties of the bodies and persons referred to under a, and the other bodies involved in the criminal enforcement of the legal order, as well as the international exchange of information and national information to individuals.
 - c. To watch over the safety of members of the royal house and other designated persons.
3. Rules may be laid down by ministerial regulation regarding the activities referred to in the first paragraph.

Title II: Koninklijke Marechaussee

Article 4 - Tasks of the Koninklijke Marechausee

1. The Koninklijke Marechausee’s duties include among others set by the laws and status of the Netherlands include;
 - a. Monitoring and ensuring the safety of the Royal Family and other designated bodies
 - b. The execution of the police and guard tasks for the benefit of Dutch and other allied armed forces.
 - c. the safety and policing of airports and airfields designated by our Minister of Defence as well security of civil aviation in accordance with orders in council.
 - d. Assisting the Korps National Politie within law enforcement and public order tasks within Dutch soil and other designated areas by the Cabinet of the Netherlands.
 - e. The law enforcement tasks within Dutch sea areas
 - f. Enforcing the immigration laws on Dutch soil and sea areas.
2. The Minister of Defence and the Minister of Justice and Security may issue recommendations and instructions regarding the performance of the Koninklijke Marechausee regarding their duties to the Chief of Defence and the Commander of the Koninklijke Marechausee.
3. The Ministers of Justice and Security in cooperation with the Minister of Defence may create regulations regarding the duties described in Article 4.1 of this act.

Title III: Coast Guard

Article 4 - Tasks of the Coast Guard

1. The Coast Guards’ duties include among others set by the laws and status of the Netherlands include;
 - a. The execution of the police tasks on sea areas.
2. The Minister of Defence and the Minister of Justice and Security may issue recommendations and instructions regarding the performance of the Coast Guard regarding their duties to the Chief of Defence and the Commander of the Coast Guard
3. The Ministers of Justice and Security in cooperation with the Minister of Defence may create regulations regarding the duties described in Article 4.1 of the Politiewet.

Title IV: Shared tasks

Article 6 - Country wide policing

1. Any police officer is empowered to perform his duties throughout the country.

Article 7 - Instructions

1. An official instruction for the police and for the Koninklijke Marechaussee shall be established by order in council.
2. If the soldier of any other part of the armed forces provides assistance to the police on the basis of this Act, the official instruction shall apply.
3. The proposal for the order in council, referred to in the first paragraph, will be made by Our Minister in agreement with Our Minister of Defence insofar as it concerns the Koninklijke Marechaussee.

Article 10 - Cooperation

1. All officials entrusted with a police task shall reciprocally provide the necessary assistance to each other and shall continue to cooperate in concert in the performance of that task. They will cooperate as much as possible with each other.

Article 11 - Surveillance

1. Our Minister can designate objects and services for which surveillance or security by the police is necessary in the interest of the security of the State or the relations of the Netherlands with other powers, or in view of compelling interests of society.

Book III: Powers of Law Enforcement Agencies

Title I: The powers of Law enforcement agencies

Article 12 - Right to use force

1. The police officer is authorized to use force in the legitimate performance of his duties, if this is justified by the intended purpose. Having regard to the dangers associated with its use, and that goal cannot be achieved in any other way. The use of force is preceded, if possible, by a warning.
2. The police officer has access to any place, insofar as this is reasonably necessary for providing help to those who need it.
3. The exercise of the powers, referred to in the first paragraph, must be reasonable and moderate in relation to the intended purpose.

Article 13 - Right to detain

1. The police officer is allowed to use restriction of freedom in the legitimate performance of his duties, if this is justified by the intended purpose.
2. Law enforcement officers have the power to detain persons when; searching a person, stopping a person from fleeing, issuing (verbal) warnings, in the interest of public safety.
3. Law enforcement officers do not have the power to detain persons when; obtaining information through interrogation and anything that violates a person’s constitutional rights.

Article 14 - Right to arrest

1. Law enforcement officers reserve the power to arrest and incarcerate a person for committing offences covered by the Criminal Code.
 - a. When an on-duty public servant is arrested, a report should be made to their commander.
2. Law enforcement officers do not reserve the power to detain or arrest and incarcerate other, on duty, law enforcement officers for any reason.
 - a. An exception is made where a law enforcement officer and Dutch Armed Forces Staff may detain any law enforcement officer if absolutely necessary for the safety of the public or other law enforcement officers, Dutch Armed Forces Staff or public service staff.
 - b. Or, a Commanding Officer gives permission for Law Enforcement Officers to detain/arrest a member of the Law Enforcement Agency that they are a Commanding Officer of
 - c. An exception is made for the Koninklijke Marechaussee when they are enforcing the Military Law upon soldiers marked as Law Enforcement Officers.
3. Law Enforcement Officers reserve the authority to arrest State Officials.
 - a. A report must be made on the individual within one week of the arrest being made.
 - b. An automated message posted in the States General Discord counts as submitting a report.

Article 15 - Right to ticket

1. Law enforcement officers reserve the power to issue a ticket for offences committed under the Criminal Code.

Article 16 - Right to Search and confiscate

1. The police officer is authorized to examine the clothing of persons and to examine the objects that persons carry or carry with them in the exercise of a power conferred on them by the Search Act.
2. Law enforcement officers reserve the power to seize and confiscate any possession of a person within the Kingdom of the Netherlands territory if the item is considered illegal.
3. Law enforcement officers reserve the power to seize and confiscate any possession of a person within the Kingdom of the Netherlands territory if consent is given by the owner.
4. Law enforcement officers reserve the power to seize and confiscate any possession of a person within the Kingdom of the Netherlands territory if there is reason to believe a crime has or will be committed.

Article 17 - Right to obtain Identification

1. A police officer who has been appointed to perform the police task is authorized to demand inspection of an identity document as referred to in Article 1 of the identification act , insofar as this is reasonably necessary for the execution of the police task.
2. Equal authority is vested in the soldier of the Koninklijke Marechaussee, insofar as this is reasonably necessary for the performance of his police task, as referred to in Article 4 and to the soldier of any other part of the armed forces that provides assistance by order in council.

Article 18 - Right to enforce traffic rules

1. As per act of parliament a law enforcement officer reserves the power to stop a vehicle on Dutch roads.

Article 19 - Abuse of power

1. Commanding Officers hold the power to remove any law enforcement officer under their respective agencies for abusing powers stated within this book (Book III Powers of Law Enforcement) and can be subject to arrest and incarceration for.
2. Breaking any of these articles in this book (Book III Powers of Law Enforcement) will result can result in being charged with Abuse of power of Law Enforcement under the criminal code (Wetboek van Strafrecht)
3. An exception to provisions 1 and 2 is made when a violation of Article 14.3a is committed, the arresting officer then must pay a fine of *f*1000 instead.

Article 20 - Koninklijke Marechaussee

5. Article 12 until 19 apply mutatis mutandis to the soldier of the Koninklijke Marechaussee, if he acts in the legitimate exercise of his ministry.

Book IV: Police Organization

Title I: Leadership

Article 21 - The First Chief Commissioner

1. The First Chief Commissioner is the most senior police officer within The Korps Nationale Politie, and responsible for the day to day management of the Korps National Politie.
 - a. The First Chief Commissioner is an official of the police as referred to in Article 2
 - b. The First Chief Commissioner is accountable to Our Minister for the performance of his duties and powers.
2. The First Chief Commissioner is appointed, suspended and dismissed by procedures laid down in the [Public Service Act of 2024](#)..
3. The Minister may issue general and special instructions to the First Chief Commissioner with regard to the exercise of his duties and powers

Article 22 - Management

1. The following ranks form the management of the police:
 - a. First Chief Commissioner
 - b. Chief Commissioner
 - c. Commissioner
2. Police officers who are part of the management of the police are appointed by the First Chief Commissioner.
 - a. Excluded is the First Chief Commissioner
 - b. Appointments and dismissals to police management require ministerial approval.

Article 23 - Ministerial Review

1. The First Chief Commissioner provides the Minister with the information that the Minister needs for the performance of his duties.
2. The Minister may demand inspection of data and documents, insofar as this is reasonably necessary for the performance of his duties.

Title II: Legal Position

Article 24 - The appointment and removal of Police officers

1. Insofar as they are not appointed, suspended and dismissed by Royal Decree, the police officer(s), are appointed, suspended and dismissed by the First Chief Commissioner or members of Police Management authorized to do so by the First Chief Commissioner.
2. Suspension or dismissal from the Korps Nationale Politie can be challenged in court.

Article 25 - Limitations

1. A police officer who cannot hold a position in the police force in public law in which he has been appointed or elected, due to the scope of the work involved, will be temporarily released from his duties in that connection, unless the interest of the service opposes exemption.

Article 26 - Awards

1. Rules governing the ranks of the police and signs of special earnings shall be laid down by order in council.

Title III: Complaint Handling

Article 27 - Process of complaint handling

1. The Minister and First Chief Commissioner will lay down further rules regarding the handling of complaints about the conduct of police officers.
2. The rules referred to in the first paragraph provide for the registration of oral and written complaints and, if available, the decisions taken thereon.
3. The Minister of Defence shall determine the rules referred to in the first paragraph, with regard to complaints about the conduct of military personnel of the Koninklijke Marechaussee.
4. The rules referred to in the third paragraph provide for the registration of oral and written complaints and, if available, the decisions taken thereon.

Article 28 - Deadline of complaint handling

1. A complaint is to be handled within a period of seven days.
 - a. This paragraph applies to both the Korps Nationale Politie and Koninklijke Marechaussee.

Title IV: Police Academy

Article 29 - The Academy

1. There is a Police Academy which carries out the following tasks;

- a. Developing and providing police education as defined in Article 30
 - b. Develop knowledge about the police or the police task and to contribute to the development of the police task on which police education is aimed.
2. The Police academy may also carry out the tasks named in the first paragraph for;
 - a. The Koninklijke Marechaussee, insofar as it concerns the execution of the police task;
 - b. Categories of persons, other public services or legal persons designated by The Minister, who perform a public-law task in the field of police, justice or security.

Article 30 - Management of the Academy

1. The director of the Police Academy is responsible for the management of the Police Academy.
 - a. The Director of the Police Academy holds the rank of Chief Inspector or above.
 - b. The Director of the Police Academy and their deputy are appointed, suspended and dismissed by Police Management
 - c. When appointing the director of the Police Academy and his deputy, care is taken to ensure expertise in the fields of police, education and research.
2. The director of the Police Academy establishes administrative regulations.
3. The administrative regulations shall at least lay down:
 - a. A further regulation of the organizational structure of the Police Academy;
 - b. The composition and working method of the management of organizational parts of the Police Academy;

Article 31 - Police Education

1. Police education is aimed at acquiring the knowledge, insight, skills and attitude required for the performance of the police task. Police education also promotes the general education and personal development of students and contributes to their social functioning.
2. Police education is in line with the needs indicated by police management.
3. The Police Academy offers police education in cooperation with the police.
4. The director of the Police Academy ensures that the police training courses are structured in such a way that the students can achieve the qualifications within the determined study duration and that the curriculum is balanced, including sufficient guided teaching hours, and hours of professional training.
5. After completion of the police education, trainees are required to take an oath establishing them as official police officers.

Article 32 - Examination

1. Every police training is concluded with an exam. Other courses provided by the Police Academy can be concluded with an exam.
2. The exam comprises an investigation into the knowledge, insight, skills and professional attitude of the examinee as well as the assessment of the results of that investigation based on the requirements in the qualification file.
3. The director of the Police Academy gives students the opportunity to take an exam.

Article 33 - Recruitment

1. In order to be eligible for recruitment in the Korps Nationale Politie, a person must:
 - a. Be either a Dutch citizen as defined in the Immigration Act of 2021 or a Dutch Antillean Citizen as described in Antillean Law;
 - b. Not have a criminal record for at least fourteen (14) days.
 - c. Not been removed from the police force by the KNP Management for fourteen (14) days.

Title V: The branches of the police

Article 34 - Branches

1. The Korps Nationale Politie consists of the management of the KNP and the at least following components:
 - a. The patrol unit
 - b. The Dienst Koninklijke en Diplomatieke beveiliging;
 - c. The Dienst Speciale Interventies;
2. Police Management can set up additional components with ministerial approval.

Article 35 - The Patrol Unit

1. The patrol unit has in principle the tasks as described in Chapter 2 of this act, unless specified that another unit has said task.

Article 36 - The Dienst Koninklijke en Diplomatieke Beveiliging

1. The Dienst Koninklijke en Diplomatieke Beveiliging is explicitly responsible for the following tasks:
 - a. The protection of the royal family, government officials and other assigned individuals or places, and;
 - b. Other tasks assigned by order in council.
2. Rules and regulation regarding the Dienst Koninklijke en Diplomatieke Beveiliging, will be established by the police management, in consultation with The Minister.

Article 37 - The Dienst Speciale Interventies

1. The Dienst Speciale Interventies is explicitly responsible for the following tasks:
 - a. Combating terrorism;
 - b. Support with securing high risk areas;
 - c. Supporting the Korps Nationale Politie when there are suspects with weapons and support is requested
 - d. Other tasks assigned by order in council.
2. Rules and regulation regarding the deployment of Dienst Speciale Interventies, will be established by the police management, in consultation with the Minister, in cases where this is not established by an act of parliament.

Book V: Assistance

Title I: Providing Assistance

Article 38 - Koninklijke Marechaussee

1. The KMar can assist the police.

2. Regulations regarding assistance to the police, shall be determined by the First Chief Commissioner and the Commander of the Koninklijke Marechaussee.
 - a. Regulations regarding assistance require ministerial approval from both The Minister and The Minister of Defence.

Article 39 - Exceptional situations

1. In special cases, assistance may be provided by other parts of the armed forces.
2. The Minister determines, in agreement with The Minister of Defence, how the assistance will be provided. In addition, further rules or policy rules are given regarding the exercise of powers under this Act
3. There are one or more special assistance units consisting of personnel from the police, the Koninklijke Marechaussee or other parts of the armed forces. These special assistance units are charged with special parts of the police task designated by regulation of The Minister and Our Minister of Defence.
4. Further rules will be laid down by regulation of The Minister and The Minister of Defence with regard to deployment, deployment logs and accountability, as well as the organization of the special assistance units.
5. Rules will be laid down by or pursuant to order in council on the recommendation of The Minister and The Minister of Defence regarding the armaments, equipment and competence of the personnel of the special assistance units.

Article 40 - Assisting the Marechaussee

1. If the Koninklijke Marechaussee requires assistance from the police for the enforcement of public order, The Minister of Defence will submit a request to The Minister.
 - a. The Minister will issue the necessary orders to the First Chief Commissioner and inform the Minister of Defence thereof.