



MARYLAND STATE POLICE OPERATIONS DIRECTIVE



Patrol in General

Distribution: All Sworn Employees	Index: OPS 01.01
DLI Reference: N/A	Rescinds: Chapter 21, Sec. II & III
Issued: 06/15/2014	Revised: 07/10/2019

.01 Purpose

To provide troopers with guidance in their duties as they strive to reduce crime and traffic collisions.

.02 Policy

It is the policy of the MSP to effectively deploy patrol resources when enforcing the traffic and criminal laws of Maryland.

.03 CALEA Standards

LE: 40.1.1 45.1.1 61.1.1 TA: N/A CM: N/A

.04 Definitions

DATA-DRIVEN APPROACHES TO CRIME AND TRAFFIC SAFETY (DDACTS) GUIDELINES: a law enforcement operational model advocating highly visible traffic enforcement due to the tendency of criminals to use motor vehicles, the goal being to reduce collisions and crime.

HIGHLY VISIBLE ENFORCEMENT: the use of sustained and focused traffic enforcement strategies to fight crime and reduce collisions and traffic violations.

HOT SPOT: a geographical area, identified through data analysis, that has a concentration of crime, collision and safety problems.

.05 References

[NHTSA, "DDACTS GUIDELINES"](#)

.06 Procedures

A. Background

1. Troopers assigned to patrol are an essential component of the MSP; they are assigned throughout the State and are in continual contact with citizens.
2. Plans developed by commanders as a solution for reducing traffic collisions and crime depend heavily on the information gathered and reported by patrol troopers.
3. Conducting traffic stops is not a goal of patrol; but merely a means used to achieve the goal of enhancing the safety of all who travel on Maryland's roadways.

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B. Goals of Patrol

Troopers on patrol will strive to:

1. support citizens and the communities in which they live through purposed policing actions;
2. enhance the safety of all who travel on Maryland's roadways through sustained and focused traffic enforcement; and
3. prevent crime thorough highly visible presence and when necessary, conduct thorough criminal investigations.

C. Enforcement Discretion

1. Supervisors and commanders cannot assume responsibility for reviewing the judgement of individual troopers in all cases involving the issuance of a traffic citation; differences of opinion on whether or not an offense was committed will be best resolved in court at the time of trial.
2. Supervisors and commanders will make proper inquiries and take appropriate measures in those circumstances where citations are not being issued for specific violations when there is an indication that such level of enforcement should occur.

D. Using "Hot Spots" to Address Collisions and Crime

1. Barrack commanders will:
 - a. compile, review and evaluate available collision, traffic enforcement and crime data in order to determine "Hot Spots" within their area of responsibility (data may be obtained from citizen complaints / concerns, field interviews, the Records Management System (RMS), the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), Delta+, allied law enforcement agencies, the Maryland Coordination Analysis Center and other reliable resources);
 - b. utilize the "DDACTS GUIDELINES" to implement enforcement strategies involving the use of highly visible enforcement in "Hot Spots," when resources allow;
 - c. whenever possible, direct enforcement efforts using both routine patrol and selective enforcement at locations that have been identified as having the highest rates of collisions and / or crime at the times they are most likely to occur;
 - d. consider all funding sources when implementing "Hot Spot" enforcement;
 - e. consider and address other issues which may be contributing factors (e.g., poor road design, etc.);
 - f. collaborate with MSP specialized units (e.g., Criminal Enforcement Division, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division, etc.) and allied agencies when developing enforcement strategies;
 - g. disseminate "Hot Spot" locations and strategies to their personnel;
 - h. brief command staff regularly on significant crime patterns, trends and noteworthy accomplishments;
 - i. when appropriate, share results with community members, government administrators and elected officials; and
 - j. monitor and evaluate outcomes and adjust operations as needed.

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2. Duty officers will:

- a. ensure their personnel are informed of the identified "Hot Spots" and of the commander's strategies to address them;
- b. assign troopers to "Hot Spots" to conduct highly visible traffic enforcement, when resources allow; and
- c. ensure a CAD Incident (48 - RCAC) is opened each time troopers are assigned to conduct enforcement in designated "Hot Spots."

E. Annual Evaluation

1. Each troop commander will prepare a documented evaluation regarding MSP's use of "Hot Spots" and related crime and traffic enforcement activities; the first report will be due on February 1, 2020 and annually thereafter.
2. The report will be forwarded to the FOB Bureau Chief and to the Planning and Research Division.

Approved:

Colonel William M. Pallozzi
Superintendent 07/10/2019