

52079

FIELD EXERCISES IN TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT



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FIELD EXERCISES IN TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT

ABSTRACT

This unit provides the student with a description of the procedure(s) that will be used in the field exercises relating to: apprehending/stopping a violator's vehicle, officer/violator contact procedures and taking law enforcement actions (warning, SERO, citation and arrest). Performance checklists on all aspects of these field exercises serve both as study guides and evaluation instruments.

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVES

- Practice appropriate procedures for apprehending a violator in a conventional violation setting.
- Practice appropriate procedures in the violator/contact situation.
- Cite the traffic offense, the elements of the offense and the appropriate law enforcement action required by each practice situation.
- Complete the law enforcement forms required by each practice session.

TRAINING AIDS

The following is a list of training aids to be used in conjunction with this unit.

- Controlled two-lane roadway (basically straight with no sharp curves) or a paved area with a roadway simulated by traffic lanes or painted lines, with no vehicle traffic and located so that it will not attract civilian spectators or disturb the traffic environment. The roadway will be at least 3/4 to one mile in length to assure sufficient distance for the safe apprehension of vehicles at low speeds of from 20 to 25 miles per hour.
- Two police vehicles, one to serve as the "police" or apprehending vehicle and one to serve as the "violation" vehicle to be apprehended.
- Training copies of the following traffic law enforcement forms:
 - Written warnings
 - Safety Equipment Repair Order
 - Maryland Uniform Complaint and Citation
 - Statement of Charges (a District Court form) and any other arrest forms used by the officer's jurisdiction
 - Police officer's notebook, clipboard, and other materials ordinarily used in the field
 - Copies of the Miranda arrest warning statement and waiver forms.

DEMONSTRATION

When all students have arrived at the training site and have been briefed on the objectives and activities of this practice session, a demonstration of the basic exercise will be conducted by the instructors.

- The instructor who is role-playing the "violation" will proceed ahead of the police car (driven by an instructor) at about 20 to 25 miles per hour and will be apprehended for a specified violation; the "violation" will role-play a cooperative yet nervous violator who attempts to rationalize his actions.
- The "violation" will be one that, at the senior instructor's discretion, requires one of the four law enforcement actions to be practiced or which offers the apprehending officer a choice among these actions.
- The instructor role-playing the apprehending officer will follow the violator's car, apprehend the violator in a conventional manner, and demonstrate the violator contact and enforcement action procedures appropriate to the situation.

Actions demonstrated will include:

- Procedures for selecting an appropriate stopping site
- Procedures for signaling the violator to pull over and stop (including the use of dome light and/or flashers; siren, if necessary; positioning of vehicles; arm and hand gestures) while behind or abreast of the violator
- Positioning of police car relative to the violator's vehicle, when both are stopped

PREPARATION

Before the simulated field exercises begin, the following will be accomplished:

- The "police," or apprehending, police car will be set up with the senior instructor in the driver's seat and three to five students as passengers.
- The "violation" car will be set up with the assistant instructor (the "violation") in the driver's seat and from three to five students as passengers.
- Both cars will be located at one end of the roadway, with the "violation" car located immediately in front of the "police" car.
- The instructor will brief the students on the exercise that will be demonstrated by the instructors and practiced by the students:
 - Conventional apprehension and violation contact procedures are used in stopping a motorist for a conventional traffic law violation, where the violator is alert and cooperative, and where the law enforcement action is one of the following:
 - Written warning
 - Safety Equipment Repair Order (SERO)
 - Maryland Uniform Complaint and Citation
 - Traffic arrest.

- Procedures to be conducted before the officer leaves the vehicle, including:
 - Checking the violator's license number against the "wants" list
 - Communicating by radio his location, intended course of action, and the license number and description of the vehicle stopped
 - Collecting the necessary forms
- Approaching the violator's vehicle and the position to assume for violator contact. (If a two-man police car procedure is being demonstrated, an instructor or one of the students will be used to role-play the second officer.)
- Violator contact
 - Officer self-identification
 - Description of offense
 - Request for license and registration
 - Notification of intended law enforcement action
 - Inspection and observation of vehicle and driver
- Verification of driver's license and/or registration, including procedures to be followed if the violator is unable to produce either document (optional)
- Taking the prescribed law enforcement action, including the appropriate completion of necessary forms

• Termination of the violator contact, including:

- Return of license and registration
- Issuance of warning, citation, or repair order
- Delivery of relevant remarks, cautions, and instructions
- Delivery of appropriate instructions in the event of an arrest
- Assisting the driver in resuming his journey.

NOTE: This is a flexible exercise in which the instructor may choose to eliminate some specific procedures or include others. For example, the instructor may want to test the student's judgment with regard to deciding between issuing a warning or a citation, or to test the student's knowledge of the law regarding those violations for which arrest should be made and those for which the officer has the option of making a traffic arrest or issuing a citation. He may also find it desirable to give a student practice in pursuit, in general, or in pursuit of a felony suspect, in particular. A violation simulation may be created that will require a traffic arrest and a determination by the student whether or not the Miranda warning is required. In summary, the student should be prepared to practice any or all of the procedures covered by the Traffic Law Enforcement Procedures units studied thus far.

PRACTICE

Each student will be given the opportunity to practice the exercises in accordance with the simulated conditions described by the instructor. More than one practice apprehension may be conducted at one time, depending upon the number of available vehicles. For each violation exercise, the instructor will cite a different violation and may specify the law enforcement action to be taken, or leave that determination to the student. Opportunities for student questions will be provided as the practice proceeds.

As the violations are role-played, the "violation" may vary his responses, including such actions as

- Handing his billfold to the officer
- Giving false biographical information (address, date of birth, etc.) and a false signature, forcing an "unauthorized use" charge
- Refusing to sign a citation
- Driving in the inside lane (thus requiring the police officer to use the procedures specified for signalling the violator in this position, maneuvering him into the right-hand lane, and directing him to pull over and off the road).

The "violation" may employ these or other variations to test the officer's powers of observation and composure as well as his/her knowledge of correct procedures.

As each student completes a designated exercise, he/she may be asked to take a position as observer in either the violator car or the police car, with students rotating in these positions as they complete an exercise.

During these practice situations, the instructors will use the checklist provided with this unit to mark off whether or not the student has satisfactorily performed the function specified or followed correct procedures. During this practice session, the students will be individually responsible for the following:

- Use of appropriate procedures for apprehending a violator in a conventional violation setting
- Use of appropriate procedures in the violator contact situation
- Knowledge of the traffic law, the traffic offenses and their elements as contained in the law, and the law enforcement action required by each
- Ability to complete the necessary law enforcement forms pertinent to the action taken in a particular situation; that is, a written warning, a repair order, a citation, or a traffic arrest.

In addition, the instructor will ask other students to critique their fellow students' performances and will moderate any discussion generated by the practice session or the individual exercises. The instructor will give a verbal critique as necessary, but will, in general, not interrupt

student performance during an exercise unless the student performs a gross error of commission or omission. The instructor will also inspect the forms completed by the student, evaluate them, and offer a critique as necessary.

PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST

The Performance Checklist is used to evaluate the student officer's ability to perform the practice exercises described in this unit. Each checklist has been designed to provide an objective and complete evaluation of the student's performance across numerous traffic law enforcement situations. Student performance is scored on the checklist by means of a check mark under the column labelled, (✓) PASS for each correct response to a specific activity. The principal purpose of this checklist is to provide a means for evaluating the student's progress, both by the instructor and by the student.

PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST

(✓)PASS

Apprehending Violators

Making the Stop

- Initiate stop as soon as the violation is observed.
- Watch for suspicious actions by driver or passenger(s).
- Select an appropriate stopping site.
- Follow violator until suitable stopping site is found.
- Use rearview mirrors and turn signals when changing lanes.
- Achieve safe stopping distance before signaling for stop.
- Use dome or flasher lights as first signal.
- Use horn or brief sounding of siren, if necessary.
- Come abreast of vehicle, use hand and arm gestures, honk
horn, or briefly actuate siren, if necessary.
- Use full siren as last resort and with great caution.
- Maintain safe distance between vehicles when making stop.
- Motion driver who stops on roadway to safe stopping site.
- Move violator from inside lane to right lane, and off
roadway, following standard procedures.
- Lead oversize vehicles, using warning lights, to stopping site.
- Remain alert for sudden maneuvers by motorist.

Positioning the Vehicles

- Position police vehicle 8-15 feet to rear and 2 feet
to left of violator's vehicle.
- Observe driver and passenger(s) for suspicious behavior.

PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST

Apprehending Violators (Continued)

(✓)PASS

Leaving the Police Vehicle

Note and check license of violator vehicle against "wants" list.

Fix elements of offense and circumstances surrounding it in mind.

Plan course of law enforcement action.

Communicate by radio location, intended course of action, and license number and description of stopped vehicle.

Activate police car warning lights (dome flashers).

Collect necessary forms for law enforcement action.

Check passing traffic and exit police car from left.

Leave police car by right-hand side if traffic conditions warrant.

Approaching Violator's Vehicle

Use extreme caution when approaching.

Remain alert for sudden or suspicious moves by violator.

Visually check rear seat for weapons or other evidence.

Assume position just to rear of driver's window, body parallel to violator's vehicle, clear of front door frame.

Assume position at front edge of driver's door, facing rear, if there are passengers.

Approach vehicle from left if conditions warrant.

Observe normal safety precautions during approach and violator contact.

PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST

Apprehending Violators (Continued)

(✓)PASS

Approach by Backup Officer

Assume alert position outside police vehicle, to right rear of violator's vehicle.

Observe activity inside vehicle closely.

Position for Completing TLE Forms

Assume position at right-hand, front fender of police car.

Observe violator and passenger(s) for suspicious behavior.

Sit in police car during bad weather, if desired, to complete forms.

Felony Suspects

Communicate by radio upon sighting suspect vehicle.

Give location of sighting, description of vehicle and license number, and source of decision to stop (APB, etc.).

Determine if "want" still in effect.

Remain in frequent contact with dispatcher during pursuit.

Follow, if possible, suspect vehicle until help available.

Remain alert for sudden stops, turns, other evasive tactics.

Select appropriate stopping site.

Use warning lights and siren when overtaking suspect.

Pull abreast of suspect's vehicle, aligning front door of police car with rear door of suspect's vehicle.

Allow 8 to 10 feet between vehicles during this maneuver.

Position police vehicle about 10 feet to rear, offset angled towards roadway, when stop effected.

Use alternative position if necessary.

PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST

Apprehending Violators (Continued)

(V) PASS

Felony Suspects (Continued)

Draw weapon and leave vehicle by driver's door.

Assume position next to left-hand front fender of police car.

Keep suspect under constant observation.

Use high-beam headlights to illuminate interior of suspect's vehicle.

Leave warning lights on during apprehension.

Identify self to suspect, giving specified directions.

Order suspect to leave vehicle in proper manner.

Draw but do not cock weapon and point at suspect.

Order suspect to assume arrest position.

Follow proper procedures for passengers.

Search occupant(s) using standard procedures.

Direct activity of backup officers using standard procedures.

Make known to suspect the presence of backup officer(s).

Handcuff prisoner and transport to custody.

Search suspect's vehicle for weapons and/or evidence.

Give Miranda warning to suspect(s).

Secure suspect's vehicle using standard procedures.

PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST

(✓)PASS

Violator Contact Procedures

- Gain control of emotions before contact.
- Use courtesy and tact.
- Assume firm, objective, and impartial manner.
- Allow violator to talk as much as possible.
- Greet and address violator in courteous, businesslike manner.
- Remain alert for the unexpected and prepared to take action.
- Look for violations other than one observed.
- Observe violator's behavior.
- Identify yourself, giving name and agency.
- Tell violator offense for which he has been stopped.
- Ask for driver's license and registration to be handed out window.
- Keep these documents until contact terminated.
- Ask driver for name and address.
- Refuse to accept wallet or billfold.
- Tactfully resist any bribe attempts.
- Verify license and registration information.
- Ask driver questions to compare with information on these forms.
- Ask for driver signature to compare with that on license.
- Note any driving restrictions on license and assess compliance.
- Check expiration dates on license and registration.
- Look for any alterations on documents.
- Check vehicle description against registration.
- Inform motorist of intended law enforcement action.
- Give Miranda warning if necessary.

PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST

Violator Contact Procedures (Continued)

(✓)PASS

Follow proper procedures in case of traffic arrest.

Give motorist his copy of TLE form (citation, warning, SERO).

Secure motorist's signature on citation (promise to appear).

Return driver's license and registration, identifying each.

Terminate contact in cordial manner.

Deliver relevant remarks, cautions, instructions.

Ensure motorist understands nature of enforcement action and
reason for it.

Review action motorist must take in case of citation.

Tell motorist consequences of failure to pay fine or appear.

Avoid legal counseling, predictions on fines, general discussion.

Thank driver for cooperation.

Assist driver in resuming his journey.

Follow correct procedures should motorist fail to produce
driver's license.

Follow correct procedures should motorist fail to produce
registration.

PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST

(✓)PASS

TLE Actions

Written Warning

Complete warning form correctly.

Distribute copies to appropriate recipients.

Safety Equipment Repair Order (SERO)

Make correct determination that vehicle falls into one of the classifications for which repair orders are given.

Issue separate repair order for vehicle combinations (truck-tractor-semitrailer; automobile and boat trailer, etc.)

Write-in, using correct method, any defects not listed on form.

Check each defect observed on the same repair order.

Know defects that may be certified by State Police or participating local police department.

Know defects that must be certified by an Authorized Inspection Station.

Know where, when, and for what vehicles the Truck Weight Enforcement Division, State Police, will certify vehicles.

Know that motorist has 10 days to have vehicle certified and that suspension of registration is automatic after 30 days.

Give motorist Copies 3, 4, and 5 (attached as unit).

Distribute remainder of copies to appropriate recipients.

Complete repair order in correct manner.

PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST

TLE Actions (Continued)

(✓)PASS

Maryland Uniform Complaint and Citation

Know traffic offenses and their elements.

Know traffic offenses where there is the option to issue
citation or to make arrest.

Know traffic offenses for which a citation should be issued.

Issue citation to juveniles as to adults (except as prohibited).

Issue citation to nonresident who is resident of compact state.

Use citation form for parking violations only if they fall
under state motor vehicle laws.

Complete the citation form in the correct manner.

Distribute copies to the appropriate recipients.

Complete citation form when making traffic arrest.

Complete reverse side of Copy 5--the officer's information copy.

Traffic Arrest

Know traffic offenses and their elements.

Complete citation form when making arrest.

Determine if an arrest should be made for certain offenses

Serious offenses

Refusal to sign citation

Nonresidents (not residents of violator compact state)

Juveniles under age 16

Juveniles between 16 and less than 18 for certain offenses.

Determine if the offense permits arrest as an option.

PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST

TLE Actions (Continued)

Traffic Arrest (Continued)

(✓)PASS

Give arrested person Miranda warning if necessary.

Determine if the situation requires Miranda warning.

Use proper procedures for handling person arrested.

Transport person arrested to District Court commissioner or

to his duly authorized representative.

Complete Statement of Charges correctly.

Complete other arrest forms as required.

END