

OBSERVATION AND PATROL

PART 4 SECTION D (4 HOURS)

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Instruction describes different types of patrol, including respective advantages and disadvantages. This segment also includes discussion about preparing for patrol, determining the most effective patrol strategies, handling matters encountered while on patrol and factors which affect perception.

INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS

Instructors in this topic are expected to be those certified by the Municipal Police Training Council. They should be able to document this by producing a current certificate issued by the Council. This certificate should read the person is certified as a general topics instructor. Further, they should possess a background and experience in the topical area, as documented to the school director. This supporting documentation should remain a part of the course file in the academy, available for later inspection or audit.

If a school director believes an individual who is not certified is otherwise qualified for teaching this topic, they may ask in writing for approval for that person to teach. The Office of Public Safety may, if finding the individual possesses a combination of an advanced degree and unique or qualifying experience, find the individual to be qualified and be approved to instruct. Those that are found qualified, are listed as approved instructors, and will have a letter issued to them indicating what they are approved to instruct in. The school director should keep a copy of the letter in the school file.

School directors should understand the Office of Public Safety can only examine complete applications for instructors that are filed in a timely manner. Generally, this instructor approval often requires time that is in addition to the requirements (45 days by the State Regulation and the Municipal Police Training Council) for police training approval. This time allows for proper review of curriculum, instructors, and the needs for training in a zone. Complete applications are those which include a properly completed Instructor Personal History Form, and documents supporting the facts contained therein.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of instruction the student will be able to:

1. Basic preventive patrol methods.
2. The basic components of directed patrol.
3. The advantages and disadvantages of foot, bicycle and motorized patrol.
4. Factors which affect perception.
5. Criteria which should consider when determining a strategy for patrolling an assigned area.
6. The duties an officer must perform in order to properly prepare for patrol.
7. Locations and situations which normally exist and warrant frequent checks.
8. The differences between preventive and apprehension patrol.
9. Vehicle patrol tactics which increase the effectiveness of crime detection.
10. The basic patrol patterns.
11. Variables which must be considered when deciding whether and how to stop a pedestrian.
12. The reasons for approaching a pedestrian suspect on foot.
13. The most effective positions of safety one or two officers can take when conducting a field interview of a suspect.

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

- I Civil liability. Preventive patrol methods.
 - A. Basic duties of patrol can be summed up in two words: Protection and Service.
 - 1. Preventive enforcement.
 - a. Preventive enforcement falls under the heading of protection.
 - (1) It is a statistical fact that in areas where law enforcement has made its presence known continually, there is a reduction in offenses.
 - b. Preventive enforcement was first presented by Sir Robert Peel (1800's) when he suggested the formation of the Metropolitan Police to Parliament.
 - c. Prevention of crime is the soundest of all criminological theories.
 - (1) By being seen, the patrol officer can and does reduce criminal activity.
 - (2) "Experienced" criminals, especially burglars, will often admit that they will avoid an area or community where their observations have indicated frequent and thorough law enforcement patrols.
 - d. Preventive enforcement normally includes the following tactics:
 - (1) Checking business and residential facilities frequently.
 - (2) Looking for and identifying suspicious persons or activity.
 - (3) Varying patrol patterns, utilizing random and unpredictable methods.
 - (4) Generally being highly visible in the area.
 - 2. Service.
 - a. Service includes a wide range of non-enforcement activities.
 - (1) Assisting disabled motorists.

- (2) Providing directions.
- (3) Providing emergency medical services.
- (4) Educational programs (e.g., child safety, D.A.R.E.)
- (5) Others.

II Criteria which an officer should consider in formulating a patrol strategy.

A. Profiling patrol area characteristics.

- 1. Officers should determine patrol area characteristics and devise strategies which respond to demands in the most effective manner possible.
- 2. Considerations may include the following:
 - a. Awareness of area issues and problems; concerns of the population and/or community leaders.
 - (1) Crime.
 - (a) Burglary-prone businesses and residences.
 - (b) Robbery-prone businesses and areas.
 - (c) Areas attractive to auto thieves.
 - (d) Theft and/or mischief prone areas.
 - (e) Areas prone to narcotics activity (use and/or sale).
 - (2) Other issues.
 - (a) High unemployment.
 - (b) Businesses closing.
 - (c) Desired services unavailable or limited.
 - (d) Unsafe conditions (e.g., structures, buildings.)
 - (e) Insufficient law enforcement presence.
 - (f) Disorderly youth/youth gangs.

- (g) Areas of congregation or frequent “party” locations.
 - (h) Bars with a history of problems/disorder.
 - (i) Housing is in disrepair or is cramped.
 - (j) Property which is susceptible to arson/fire.
 - (k) Abandoned/infrequently used buildings.
 - (l) Identified areas known for loitering or frequented by “undesirables.”
 - (m) Others.
- b. Knowledge/understanding of area population.
 - (1) Community characteristics and habits.
 - (a) Work related patterns (e.g., times when population leaves/returns to the area.)
 - (b) Seasonally oriented trends (e.g., demands and population characteristics vary from season to season).
 - (c) Community events.
 - (2) Identify and get to know community leaders and business people.
 - (3) Identify chronic “instigators” and lawbreakers.
- c. Demographic information.
 - (1) Number of people living in the area.
 - (2) Density of the population.
 - (3) Ethnic/racial characteristics and conflicts.
 - (4) General age breakdown (e.g., juvenile, elderly/retired.)
 - (5) General income levels.

- d. Geographic information.
 - (1) Overall size of area.
 - (2) Physical characteristics of area.
 - (3) Inadequate access or egress routes.
 - (4) Hubs of activity.
 - (a) Residential.
 - (b) Traffic.
 - (c) Commercial.
 - (5) Lakes, rivers, streams.
 - (6) Others.
- e. Infrastructure information.
 - (1) Housing.
 - (2) Roadways and highways.
 - (3) High traffic and problem thoroughfares and intersections.
 - (4) Bridges.
 - (5) Undeveloped areas.
 - (6) High security facilities/facilities under construction.
 - (7) Dangerous road conditions/roads under construction.
 - (8) Streets - not properly marked.
 - (9) Inferior/inadequate lights or signs.
 - (10) Areas with limited security.
 - (11) Locations where valuable equipment is located.
- f. Knowledge of community resources.

- (1) Location of emergency services (e.g., Fire Department, EMS.)

III Directed Patrol.

- A. Officers are often unable to cover all assigned areas completely.
- B. The logical solution is to frequently visit areas where incidents occur more frequently.
- C. Thus, directed patrol deals with activity which requires a reactive response.
- D. To be able to respond where criminal incidents are more likely to occur, the patrol officer should be aware of the following:
 1. Knowledge of assigned patrol areas.
 2. Statistical information supplied to patrols.
 3. Directed patrol has proven to be a very effective technique.
 4. Directed patrol, when combined with preventive enforcement and used in accident prevention, has proven itself well.
 5. It is often difficult for an officer working a given shift to formulate the overall picture of criminal trends in the area or community.
 6. Statistical charts and maps can be of great help in this matter because they show trends that occur over substantial periods of time (e.g., days, weeks, months, years.)
 7. By using directed patrol, an agency is able to better utilize its resources. These resources can be used the majority of the time in high crime areas.
 8. Personnel can also be assigned dependent upon the crime that is occurring (e.g., muggings - stakeout with decoy officers.)
 9. Some directed patrol methods (e.g., foot, bicycle, plain clothes) may be determined by geographical considerations.
 - a. Rural versus urban areas may call for different types of patrol assignments; or may require particular types of personnel or equipment.

IV Foot versus motorized patrol.

- A. Types of patrol.

1. Patrols are assigned to a particular area which has been established by agency management. They are generally called patrol beats, sectors or areas.
 - a. The size and boundaries of a patrol area are determined by:
 - (1) Type of patrol technique used (e.g., foot, motorized, bicycle, horse).
 - (2) Type of area covered (e.g., high density residential buildings, buildings or property in rural areas.)
 - (3) The amount and seriousness of criminal activity in the area.
 - (4) Frequency of calls for service.
 - (5) Personnel available.
 - (6) Other factors.
2. Shifts, scheduling practices and required staffing levels are established by agency management and are determined by:
 - a. Number of staff members available.
 - b. Frequency of calls for service.
 - c. Various other factors that impact on the availability of officers.
3. There are numerous types of patrol techniques used today. The type of technique used is dependent upon the area in which it will be needed. The various types of patrol are:
 - a. Foot patrol: While this is the oldest type of patrol, it is still an effective way of combating crime. It is especially useful in densely populated areas and against certain types of offenses (e.g., vandalism, burglary, robbery, muggings).
 - (1) Advantages of foot patrol:
 - (a) Close contact (partnership) and exchange of information (two-way communication) with the community served;
 - (b) More accessible to the community;

- (c) Can move around easily in congested areas with large crowds;
 - (d) Can be more familiar with assigned areas of responsibility;
 - (e) Can know and inspect patrol areas more closely.
- (2) Disadvantages of foot patrol:
- (a) Unable to participate in extensive patrol over a large geographical area due to lack of mobility and reduced response capabilities;
 - (b) Officers can easily be kept under observation;
 - (c) If perpetrators have transportation, it becomes easy for them to escape apprehension;
 - (d) Foot patrol is relatively expensive.
 - i) However, expense may be offset by the fact that the officer is in close contact with the public and is, therefore, more accessible.
 - ii) The long-term value of the on-going contact and communication with the public through foot patrol is frequently underestimated.
- (3) Conducting foot patrol (versus motorized patrol).
- (a) Basic techniques of patrol are much the same whether it is done on foot, bicycle or vehicle. However a much more detailed inspection is possible on foot or bicycle.
 - i) Observations between buildings or in narrow passageways ordinarily cannot be made satisfactorily from a vehicle.
 - ii) Officers on motorized patrol should spend a good deal of time patrolling on foot in high complaint and crime prone areas.

- iii) Officers on motorized patrol can make good use of the patrol vehicle spotlight in lighting areas while making inspections of premises or handling of complaints.
- iv) During the daytime, an officer on foot patrol should be visible.
- v) Because of the disadvantages of foot patrol, it is not used as much as it was in the past. However, it remains very effective when used in conjunction with motorized and/or bicycle patrols.

b. Motorized patrol is the most economical type of patrol.

(1) It provides the highest degree of mobility and flexibility.

- (a) Wider coverage is possible.
- (b) Considerably more incidents can be handled.
- (c) Vehicle serves primarily as a means of communications and transportation.
- (d) Vehicle allows officers to respond in a timely manner.
- (e) Allows officers to carry special equipment with them during a tour of duty.
- (f) Excellent means of preventive patrol because vehicle is more conspicuous over a larger area.
- (g) Officer protection.
 - i) Weather.
 - ii) Traffic.
 - iii) Criminal.
- (h) Increases transportation capability by providing officers with a method of transporting prisoners, evidence, and partners.

(2) Disadvantages of motorized patrol:

- (a) Lack of direct contact with public.
- (b) Equipment expenses (e.g., vehicle purchase/replacement, gasoline, maintenance.)

c. Types of patrol to be used are determined by agency management based upon a variety of factors:

(1) Size of beat, determined by:

- (a) Type of area - The geographical area will be a determining factor of the type of patrol that will be employed. It is more practical to use foot patrol in an area that is made up of large buildings, walkways, and areas that are not accessible by auto.
- (b) Criminal activity may determine the type of patrol employed. If a patrol area has high crime activity, it more than likely would be worked by foot patrol backed up by motorized units.
- (c) Frequency of crimes will determine the amount of time and manpower assigned to a particular area.

(2) Shifts are determined by:

- (a) Staffing in a department will determine the number of officers assigned to a shift. It will also be dependent upon the personnel that are actually available (taking into consideration, injuries, illness, vacations, holidays and special assignments).
- (b) Frequency of calls for service will require proper staffing utilization. Officers assigned to a particular area or shift is dependent upon reported activity. If an increase in activity occurs, shifts may need to be adjusted. Special events will call for increased staffing.

V Activities of the police officer.

A. Basic patrol and observation.

1. Basic patrol is usually referred to as “routine,” although it is preferable to avoid any semblance of routine as much as possible.
 2. Basic patrol generally uses both preventive and directed enforcement techniques.
 3. Once officers have established a predictable patrol pattern, their effectiveness in suppressing crime is greatly reduced.
 - a. Criminals are generally not ignorant; they check patrol patterns.
 - b. Once they know your pattern or “routine,” they can avoid identification and apprehension.
 - c. If you do not have a pattern or “routine,” criminals must take their chances in avoiding apprehension.
 4. All officers should strive to ensure that they avoid developing a “routine” or pattern of patrol.
 5. This varying patrol pattern is reasonably effective in preventive patrol.
 6. This flexibility also increases the visibility of patrol, in that it gives the effect of being seen more often by more people. This is good for public relations as well, as it fosters more contact with the community.
- B. Frequent checks of properties are a preventive patrol or enforcement technique.
1. A necessary function of patrol is to conduct frequent physical checks of properties. The following should be noted:
 - a. Broken windows.
 - b. Open doors.
 - c. Pry marks.
 - d. Suspicious vehicles, persons or activity.
 - e. Property damage.
 - f. Lights off normally on (vice versa).
 - g. Unusual groups.
 - h. Access to roof.

2. Physical checks of buildings within a beat area have a threefold objective:
 - a. Making the officer more knowledgeable about the area (e.g., layout of facilities and properties.)
 - b. May discover unsecure property or a burglary.
 - c. Employing effective crime prevention and community policing tools.
3. When performing building checks, the officer should accomplish the following:
 - a. Cover as much of the identified area as possible.
 - b. Be constantly varied to avoid a pattern known to offenders.
 - c. Be thorough.
 - d. Emphasis in crime prone areas.
 - e. Include foot patrol checks.
 - f. Include proper use of flashlight and spotlight.
 - g. Check suspicious vehicles, persons or activity, in area.
 - h. Include pedestrian areas, streets, cars, unusual conditions.
4. Discovering an open building (forced entry).
 - a. Notify communications center.
 - b. If possibility of suspect still inside; await assistance, maintain surveillance and contain situation.
 - c. Upon handling the situation, search and secure the building.
 - (1) Discovering officer makes reports and notifications.
 - (2) Return to service as soon as possible.
 - d. Discovering an open building (no forced entry).

- (1) Use same precautions as discussed in forced-entry situation.
 - (2) Secure and leave if facility contact person has been notified and premises secured. Note time of discovery and date.
 - (3) If premises cannot be secured, leave a note if facility contact person cannot be notified or does not wish to come to scene.
 - (4) Maintain frequent checks throughout shift. Pass information on to next shift.
- e. Frequent check of suspicious persons is another important part of preventive patrol techniques.
- (1) Generally, this is known as field interview.
 - (2) Problems may arise when officers:
 - (a) Do not have cause or authority to stop (assuming the person did not consent to a discussion).
 - (b) Do not take the time to explain why they questioned an individual.
 - (c) Do not take the time to explain authority for questioning stop.
 - (d) Act officiously when their authority is challenged.
 - (3) Record the following information in notebook:
 - (a) Full name.
 - (b) Race.
 - (c) Date of birth.
 - (d) Sex.
 - (e) Any information needed for further check on subject.
 - (f) Reason for the interaction/stop.

(g) Content of conversations.

VI Perception and observation.

- A. “Perception” is the process of organizing and attaching meaning to sensations, so that the sensations can be interpreted as part of observations. Obviously, people differ in their perception of objects and events.
- B. “Observation” can be defined as the accurate noting of what is presented to the five senses (sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste) through keeping in view; taking notice of; or giving attention to persons, things or circumstances.
- C. The three parts of a complete observation include:
 - 1. Receiving a stimulus.
 - 2. Being aware of a stimulus.
 - 3. Responding to a stimulus.
- D. There are key factors that affect one’s perception. These include:
 - 1. Past experiences.
 - 2. Maturity.
 - 3. Mental condition (e.g., stress, personal problems).
 - 4. Emotional involvement.
 - 5. Physical condition (e.g., fatigue, depth perception, eyesight).
 - 6. Environmental conditions.
 - 7. Knowledge (including education, training, life experiences).
 - 8. Cultural and ethnic background.
 - 9. Attitude.
 - 10. Objectivity.
 - 11. Location (e.g., vantage point).
- E. Examples of how perception can affect observations:

1. A witness who is unfamiliar with firearms often will not recognize the difference between a revolver and a semi-automatic pistol.
 2. An officer who is unfamiliar with common techniques and distractions used by criminals in committing certain crimes may be less likely to notice a crime in progress.
 3. An officer inexperienced in interviewing may be less likely to notice attempts at deception (e.g., inconsistent statements and actions, body language, verbal incongruity) when interviewing a suspect.
 4. An emotionally overwrought victim of a serious crime might be temporarily incapable of giving any useful information due to his or her physical condition.
- F. What to do when observations are made.
1. Decide whether to discard the information gained, commit it to memory, or make some kind of written record.
 2. Make appropriate associated observations (e.g., loiterers may actually be lookouts for a crime in progress.)
 3. Generally, trust what is seen over what is heard when there is an apparent conflict.
- G. Common circumstances that can affect the perceptions/observations or an officer or witness include:
1. Attention will focus on the louder and larger element in a given situation.
 2. Attention will focus on the unusual or out-of-place element in a given situation.
 3. Attention will focus on an object, individual or element that appears more than once.
 4. Attention will focus on movement as opposed to stationary objects or elements.
 5. Attention will focus on persons, objects or elements that are familiar or can be identified.
- H. Means of improving perception and observation include;
1. Practice being alert and perceptive.

2. Practice making observations to improve rapidity.
3. Learn what signs or clues to look for in given situations of public safety interest.
4. Learn what is usual or unusual for a specific patrol area.
5. Establish a “big picture” of a person, event or scene before making more specific analytical observations of details (e.g., the first look should be a complete “once-over” without stopping to study anything.)

I. Reliability of witness perceptions.

1. An officer is constantly faced with the question of evaluating the reliability of witnesses. It is understandable that two witnesses observing an accident can develop different impressions.
 - a. In individual who observes the accident from 150 yards away will not necessarily give the same report as one standing just a few feet away.
 - b. Similarly, a witness who saw the situation developing and who realized that an accident was going to happen will give a different story from that of a witness whose attention was first attracted by the crash.
 - c. Also, a witness who is a close friend of one of the parties in the accident may very well provide an account that is significantly different from that of a neutral witness.
 - d. Yet, each of these witnesses may feel that they are describing the situation in a complete and truthful manner.

- J. In order to maximize overall effectiveness, officers must not only be familiar with of the concepts of perception and observation, but must thoroughly understand them. Officers must continually and consciously use them to their advantage in carrying out responsibilities. The value of strong perception and observation skills cannot be over estimated.

VII Preparing for a patrol shift.

Note: Information outlined in this section is fairly general and is provided for discussion purposes only. Specific requirements associated with preparing for duty are usually outlined in employing agency policies and procedures.

A. Preparation for duty.

1. Proper uniform and equipment (dependent upon organization policy).

a. Full uniform.

- (1) Shirt, pants, shoes, socks.
- (2) Other options - weather or seasonal.

b. Equipment (dependent upon organization).

- (1) Leather gear.
- (2) Gun.
- (3) Aerosol spray.
- (4) Baton.
- (5) Flashlight.
- (6) Badge and name plate.
- (7) Clipboard.
- (8) Notebook.
- (9) Forms.
- (10) Portable radio.
- (11) Others.

2. Gathering information through reports and briefings.

a. Reports.

- (1) Daily incident log.
- (2) Incident reports.
- (3) Computer printouts.
- (4) Arrest reports.

- (5) Investigative units (if applicable).
- b. Briefings (dependent upon organization).
 - (1) Roll call setting.
 - (2) Investigative briefings.
 - (3) In-service training.
 - (4) Inter-department/intra-department information exchange.
- 3. Gathering of required materials.
 - a. Crime report forms.
 - b. Arrest report forms.
 - c. Appearance tickets (including UTT's).
 - d. Incident report forms.
 - e. Lost and found property forms.
 - f. Juvenile contact -arrest and field interview forms.
 - g. Others.
- 4. Obtaining and checking equipment (dependent upon organization policy).
 - a. Vehicle.
 - b. First aid equipment.
 - c. Baton.
 - d. Portable radio.
 - e. Handgun.
 - f. Other.

VIII Preventive and apprehension patrol strategies.

A. Types of patrol.

1. There are two basic types of patrol that can be employed in dealing with problem areas: "Preventive" (objective is to prevent offenses) and "apprehension" (objective is to apprehend offenders). Choosing one or the other will depend on a number of factors, including the type of problem being confronted.
2. Basically, the difference between the two has to do with whether or not law enforcement presence is visible to the public and/or the criminal element.
 - a. In preventive patrol, the aim is to be highly visible in order to discourage the occurrence of the problem being confronted.
 - b. In apprehension patrol, the objective is to apprehend the perpetrator in the act.
3. Preventive patrol.
 - a. Preventive patrol can be very effective in combating certain kinds of problems. Once an officer has identified a problem, he or she may very well plan to be seen as much as possible. Preventive patrol has two distinct advantages:
 - (1) It increases citizen confidence.
 - (2) It reduces the opportunity for crime, thereby reducing perceptions of fear and dissatisfaction, as well as the costs of prosecution.
 - b. Apprehension patrol.
 - (1) Apprehension patrol may be used for the more difficult or serious problems such as burglaries, robberies, and narcotics or sex offenses.
 - c. Preventive or apprehension patrol - a decision.
 - (1) The decision to use preventive or apprehension patrol may be made after an officer consults with supervision, based upon firsthand knowledge of an area's particular needs.
 - (2) The decision may also depend on the seriousness of the crime involved. If the crime is serious, apprehension of the criminal may be preferable to stop him or her from committing similar crimes. If the crime is less serious,

police presence may be enough to discourage or prevent the activity from occurring.

4. In general, parking locations should be selected to accommodate a plan of patrol activity.
 - a. Do you want your vehicle to be visible or do you want to park where it cannot be seen?
 - (1) If the plan is preventive, any legal location within view is desirable.
 - (2) If the plan is apprehension, your selection must be made after considering the legal, as well as the visibility, factors.

IX Basic patrol patterns: Circular, double-back and random.

A. Patrol patterns.

1. There is more to covering a patrol area than simply driving through it in a vehicle and responding to calls.
 - a. In order to achieve the goals of citizen awareness, crime prevention, and apprehension, many different plans should be employed.
 - b. One of these is the pattern of movement an officer uses in driving through an assigned area.
2. The basic reasons for planned movement through an area are to be certain that:
 - a. An officer covers all assigned areas.
 - b. The arrival of an officer at any given point is not predictable.
3. The lack of predictability objective is obviously aimed at keeping potential criminals uncertain about police presence.
4. Parking the patrol vehicle.
 - a. Parking is also an important consideration while on patrol. For one thing, it can influence the citizen's attitude toward the police.
5. Officers should gradually develop a patrol plan which provides complete coverage without predictability. When done, it is likely to be some

combination of three basic patrol patterns - circular, double-back, and random.

- a. Circular - In this pattern the car is driven either from the approximate center of the area in ever-increasing "circles" or from the outside of the area in ever-decreasing circles. Obviously, the pattern is approximately (not literally) circular.
- b. Double Back - This plan is methodical and is also helpful in learning the area. Like the circular plan, lack of predictability can be provided by varying the starting point and occasionally either looping a block or making a double-back run on the same street just covered. Double-back runs are particularly helpful in problem areas or in cases where something is spotted during a regular run that is deserving of a second look. It may be desirable to stake out an area from the opposite side of the street.
- c. Random - There are as many ways of achieving a random pattern as there are areas to be covered and officers to patrol them. For example, an officer may choose to build a random approach around the type of problem identified. In any case, a selected pattern must provide for complete coverage of the area and lack of predictability.

X Factors involved in interacting with a pedestrian.

A. Introduction.

1. Police officers will occasionally experience the need to initiate various contacts with pedestrians (individuals on foot) that they observe in assigned patrol areas.
2. Officers must be mindful of variables to consider in making determinations about whether or not to approach a person who is on foot:
 - a. The subject's appearance.
 - b. The subject's actions.
 - c. Prior personal knowledge of the subject.
 - d. Area of the stop.
 - e. Time of day.
 - f. Purpose of the stop (e.g., suspect, person is disoriented or lost.)

- g. Reliability/completeness of information received (e.g., from communications, a witness.)
 - 3. Without proper knowledge and understanding of the principles behind these determinations, the officer will be unable to conduct proper pedestrian contacts. Improper contacts may result in:
 - a. Unnecessary confrontation.
 - b. Improper detentions.
 - c. Unsuccessful prosecutions.
 - d. Civil litigation.
 - e. Personnel complaints.
 - f. Damage to department/community relations.
 - g. Injury to an officer.
- B. Tactical considerations to evaluate prior to stopping the pedestrian.
 - 1. Officers shall evaluate the following factors before making the approach:
 - a. The person's appearance: Do they generally fit the description of a person wanted for a known offense? Does he/she appear to be suffering from a recent injury or to be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other intoxicants?
 - b. The person's action: Are they running away from an actual or possible crime scene? Is he/she otherwise behaving in a manner indicating possible criminal conduct? If so, in what way?
 - c. Prior knowledge of the person: Do they have an arrest or conviction record, or is he/she otherwise known to have committed a serious offense? If so, is it for offenses similar to the one that has just occurred, or which it is suspected is about to occur?
 - d. Area of the stop: Is the person near the area of a know offense soon after it occurred? Is the area known for criminal activity? If so, is it the kind of activity the person is thought to have committed, be committing, or about to commit?

- e. Time of day: Is it a very late hour? Is it usual for people to be in the area at this time? Is it the time of day during which criminal activity of the kind suspected usually occurs?
- 2. Officers shall carefully evaluate the need for assistance.
- C. Where to stop the pedestrian.
 - 1. The officer must bear in mind that the fact that they have selected a particular subject for contact is indicative that something appeared to be out of the ordinary.
 - 2. Therefore, officers should take care in selecting the proper location at which to stop the subject.
 - 3. The officers must know where they are in order to report their location to communications.
 - 4. Another basic concern is in finding a place that has the least number of:
 - a. Escape routes (avoid intersections; use well lit areas, etc.).
 - b. Number of people that could be injured.
 - c. Number of people that could be used for hostages.
 - d. Locations that produce additional risks to officers:
 - (1) People who may side with the person approached, becoming confrontational on his or her behalf.
- D. What conventional method is to be used in stopping the pedestrian?
 - 1. No single conversational approach is always appropriate.
 - 2. Avoid the "Hey you, come here" or "Yo" approaches.
 - 3. The most important communication aspects for officers must reflect command and courtesy.
- E. Officers should approach the pedestrian on foot.
 - 1. Officer safety demands that they exit from the patrol vehicle. To do otherwise would place the officer at serious tactical disadvantage. Officers should never initiate a suspect contact while seated in the patrol car.

2. Depending on various tactical situations, officers may elect to conduct a stop from the front or the rear. Officers should always be mindful of the following:
 - a. Suspect's hands.
 - b. Furtive movements.
 - c. Bulges in clothing.
 - d. Behavior.

XI Positions for interviewing persons - Generally.

Note: This information is also covered in detail in Part 4-J, "Interpersonal Skills/Arrest Techniques."

A. One officer - one person.

1. The "standard field interview position" requires officers to place their weak foot forward and stand approximately 3 - 4 feet from the suspect with the weapon away from the suspect.
2. The strong hand (gun/baton hand) should remain free.
3. Watch suspect(s) hands.
4. Be mindful of the surroundings generally.

B. One officer - two or more persons.

1. Assume the standard field interview position, directing yourself to the "dominant suspect personality."
2. Strong hand free.
3. Watch suspect(s) hands.
4. Do not allow suspects to move behind or surround you.

C. Two officers - one person.

1. The officer initiating the contact should exercise all previously stated precautions.

2. The second officer should be positioned to form a triangle with the first officer and person being interviewed.
- D. Two officers - two or more persons.
1. The officer initiating the contact should proceed as previously stated.
 2. The second officer assumes a position which allows maximum visibility of the subjects.
 - a. Adopt the standard field interview position.
 - b. Both hands are free.
 - c. Gets involved in no lengthy conversations with the persons which would detract from cover responsibilities.
 - d. Communicate any observations of threat or hazard to the primary officer.
 - e. Beware of gunfire hazards (if applicable).