



# PATROL FUNCTION

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## **I. POLICY**

The Anne Arundel County Police Department provides 24-hour, seven days a week law enforcement response to emergencies and routine calls for service within its service area. This service is provided by the Patrol Division, a component of the *Patrol Services* Bureau.

## **II. PATROL FUNCTION**

A clear definition of the patrol function enables officers to know what actions are in concert with agency policy and thus facilitates the delivery of services to the community. The Patrol Division is responsible for the following major job tasks:

- A. Preventive patrol (including inquiry and inspectional activity) oriented toward prevention of crimes and accidents, maintenance of public order, and the discovery of hazards and delinquency-causing situations;
- B. Crime prevention activities;
- C. Response to called-for services;
- D. Investigation of crimes, offenses, incidents, and conditions, including arresting offenders;
- E. Traffic direction and control;
- F. Regulation of certain businesses or activities as required by law;
- G. Maintenance of public order;
- H. Provision of emergency services;
- I. Development of relationships between citizens and the department; and
- J. Reporting of information to appropriate organizational components.

## **III. PATROL DIVISION**

The Patrol Division is a component of the *Patrol Services* Bureau and is responsible for the patrol function. The Patrol Division is subdivided geographically as follows:

- a. Northern District
- b. Eastern District
- c. Western District
- d. Southern District

Each patrol district is commanded by a Police Captain, who reports to the Bureau commander. The patrol districts provide the capabilities for initial response, investigation, and resolution of public safety and law enforcement issues. District personnel initiate daily contact with the communities in their conduct of patrol operations, incident and traffic accident investigations, and response to public safety problems.

In addition to uniformed officers, each patrol district is staffed with specialized personnel who perform community-based follow up investigation and resolution of recurring problems, including street-level drug abuse and crimes against property.

**IV. PATROL SERVICES BUREAU COMMANDER**

The *Patrol Services* Bureau commander is responsible for the patrol function; major responsibilities include:

- A. Planning and directing Patrol Division activities;
- B. Direct control, coordination, and allocation of departmental resources during any emergency or unusual occurrence.
- C. Assisting in the development of department tactics, strategies, and long range plans.
- D. Inspecting all division components for readiness, operation, and conformity with written directive. Where required, initiating corrective actions and ensuring that such actions are executed.
- E. Distributing personnel to components in accordance with documented workload assessments and changes in the patterns and frequency of calls for service.

**V. COORDINATION WITH OTHER COMPONENTS**

The bureau and district commanders will facilitate the exchange of information between the patrol division and other components of the department by the following methods/procedures:

- A. Periodic command staff meetings;
- B. Periodic Bureau command group meetings;
- C. Labor-management meetings;
- D. Attendance by detectives at patrol roll calls and vice versa;
- E. Dissemination of information via memoranda;
- F. Mid-level management seminars;
- G. The daily activity summary and the hotsheet;
- H. Staffing of new department and division directives by allowing review by supervisors in other functions.

**VI. PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES**

In the interest of the safety and rights of the citizenry, officers will adopt the following general performance objectives as a guide:

- A. To reduce personal injury and property damage accidents through the use of directed patrol and aggressive traffic law enforcement.
- B. To reduce the overall crime rate by increasing the efficiency in preventive patrol, investigative efforts, and reporting.
- C. To reduce crime and disorder by improving the quality of life in the community. Officers will be concerned with citizens' problems and concerns and will perceive the community as a partner in promoting security

**VII. PROPONENT UNIT: *Patrol Services* Bureau.**

**VIII. CANCELLATION:** This directive cancels Index Code 1610, dated 07-01-07.