

CHAPTER 4
MOUNTED PATROL UNIT PROGRAM
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CHAPTER 4

MOUNTED PATROL UNIT PROGRAM

1. POLICY.

a. All members of the Mounted Patrol Unit (MPU) shall successfully complete a 30-day mounted patrol ride-along with a MPU instructor and a Basic Assessment Test (BAT).

b. All members of the MPU shall be certified through a Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) course "Mounted Patrol-Basic 40-Hour" on mounted patrol enforcement.

(1) The Mounted Patrol-Basic 40-Hour training/testing is comprised of the following:

- (a) Basic equestrian skills.
- (b) Horse sensory skills.
- (c) Horse obstacle maneuvers.
- (d) Mounted patrol procedure.

c. For the purpose of this chapter, an officer participating in the California Highway Patrol (CHP) MPU training program shall be referred to as a trainee.

2. APPLICATION.

a. Applicants to be considered for the MPU shall fill out a memorandum of interest and submit to the MPU supervisor. All uniformed members of the MPU shall be assigned to the Capitol Protection Section (CPS).

b. Mounted Patrol Unit Officer Selection Guidelines.

(1) Riders are the most important influencing factor of the horse. The MPU officer has a direct impact on the success or failure of an MPU horse. Effective training and handling of the horse requires the MPU officer to properly utilize the abilities of their horse. Therefore, it is imperative to utilize a stringent and uniform selection process. The following guidelines shall be observed in the selection process for an MPU officer:

- (a) Applicants shall be selected on ability, not seniority (except as noted in paragraph 2.b.[d] below).

- (b) Commitment to serve as an MPU officer for a minimum of three years.
 - (c) Possess a clear understanding of the expectations for the assignment. Interested officers shall attend a ride-along with an MPU officer. This will afford the applicant the opportunity to observe firsthand the requirements of the position.
 - (d) Have a minimum of two years of experience as a uniformed employee of this Department.
 - (e) All censurable actions, documented history of good judgment, and professional demeanor associated with the applicant, and occurring in the last three years should be reviewed and considered.
 - (f) All adverse actions, sustained citizen complaints, documented disciplinary actions, use of force incidents, and incidents relating to potential civil liability associated with the applicant, and occurring in the last three years should be reviewed and considered.
- (2) The applicant must also possess the following personal qualities:
- (a) Focused with good judgment and a responsible attitude.
 - (b) Upstanding maturity and emotional stability.
 - (c) Knowledge of horses.
 - (d) Patience and flexibility.
 - (e) Self-motivation, initiative, and enthusiasm.
 - (f) Dedication and dependability.
 - (g) Possess and maintain a professional personal appearance.
 - (h) Must not be fearful of horses.
 - (i) Ability to perform tasks with limited supervision.
 - (j) Foundation of outstanding public interaction.

3. MOUNTED PATROL UNIT TRAINING AND BASIC ASSESSMENT TEST.

- a. The applicant(s) selected as trainees are required to successfully complete a 30 working-day mounted patrol ride-along with a certified CHP MPU training instructor.
- b. The applicant must successfully pass the BAT, with concurrence of the MPU supervisor and CPS commander.
- c. Only those employees who successfully pass the BAT shall be eligible to go on to complete the 30-day ride-along.
- d. An applicant who fails to meet an acceptable level of performance shall be removed from the MPU training process.
- e. The 30 working-day mounted patrol ride a long shall be comprised of the following:
 - (1) Basic horsemanship.
 - (2) Control of the horse in catastrophic conditions.
 - (3) Sensory/obstacle conditioning.
 - (4) General horse care and first aid.
 - (5) Equipment familiarization.
 - (6) Crowd control formations.
 - (7) Mounted enforcement procedures.
 - (8) Horse transportation (trailer).
- f. The BAT shall be comprised of the following, at a minimum:
 - (1) Basic horsemanship and equitation.
 - (2) Backing.
 - (3) Side passing.
 - (4) Sensory/obstacle maneuvering.
 - (5) Catastrophic control drill.

- (6) Loud noise distractions (firecrackers, flares).
- (7) The ability of the horse and rider to stay calm within a crowd.
- (8) The ability to ride in close proximity of other horses.

4. MONTHLY TRAINING PROGRAM.

a. Personnel in the MPU shall engage in continuous training programs to enhance and maintain the skills of both the horse and the officer. The training programs shall be instructed by the MPU training officer or “out-service” instructor and shall include:

- (1) Basic horsemanship.
- (2) Horse sensory/obstacle training.
- (3) Crowd control conditioning.
- (4) Drills to enhance the mental and physical control of the horse.

5. MOUNTED PATROL UNIT TRAINING OFFICER.

a. The MPU training officers shall be selected by the MPU supervisor. At a minimum, there shall be one training officer for the MPU.

b. The MPU Training officer shall be responsible for developing and instructing the monthly training program.

c. The following should be considered when selecting an MPU training officer.

- (1) Two years of experience with the MPU.
- (2) Successful completion of a POST-certified Mounted Patrol Instructor course.

d. The following roles and responsibilities shall also be adhered to during the training program:

- (1) Demonstrate effective enforcement techniques specific to the MPU.
- (2) Emphasize the development and maintenance of riding skills and safety consciousness.

(3) Instruct proper horse care and recordkeeping methods specific to the MPU.

e. Only designated MPU training officers or an approved "out-service" instructor should provide instruction during the monthly training programs. All training shall be approved by the MPU supervisor.

6. SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE MOUNTED PATROL UNIT TRAINING PROGRAM. Upon completion of all the phases of the MPU training program, the employee will be eligible for assignment to a vacant position with the MPU.

7. MOUNTED PATROL UNIT OFFICER REMOVAL.

a. Voluntary Removal. Officers assigned to the MPU may voluntarily remove themselves from the MPU by submitting a memorandum to the command, with the concurrence of the CPS commander.

b. Involuntary Removal. The following situations shall be sufficient cause to remove an officer from a MPU assignment:

(1) The CPS commander's discretion.

(2) Continued failure to maintain effective control of their assigned departmental horse.

(3) Continued failure to maintain departmental training standards for themselves and/or their horse.

(4) Continued failure to utilize and maintain their departmental horse in a manner consistent with departmental policy.

(5) Under other circumstances wherein the removal of the MPU officer is in the best interest of the Department.

c. Temporary Removal. The CPS commander may temporarily remove an MPU officer from assignment when the MPU officer is unable to perform their required duties. Situations warranting temporary removal include, but are not limited to, disability or other extended leave which would prevent the MPU officer from providing appropriate care and training of their departmental horse.

8. UNIFORM. Mounted Patrol Unit officers may wear only departmentally approved uniforms. The approved mounted patrol uniform shall comply with policy contained in Highway Patrol Guide 73.5, Uniform/Grooming and Equipment Standards. The

approved uniform consists of the mounted helmet, optional campaign cover, mounted boots, formal breeches, long-sleeved shirt, short-sleeved shirt, patrol jacket, and optional blue utility uniform.