

*Maryland-National Capital Park Police
Prince George's County Division*

DIVISION DIRECTIVE

TITLE USE OF RADAR EQUIPMENT		PROCEDURE NUMBER PG1716.0	
SECTION Uniforms and Equipment	DISTRIBUTION A	EFFECTIVE DATE 07/01/04	REVIEW DATE 07/01/06
REPLACES PG1716.0 "Use of Radar Equipment", issued 05/01/02			
RELATED DIRECTIVES	REFERENCES CALEA 17, 61	AUTHORITY Commander Larry M. Brownlee, Sr.- Division Chief	

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to establish uniform procedures and responsibilities for the Division officer in the use of radar units.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of this Division to assure the proper use and maintenance of all Division radar equipment as outlined in this directive.

III. SELECTION AND TRAINING

- A. Potential radar operators must have a minimum of one (1) year police experience, excluding training time, with his/her Field Training Officer.
- B. Potential radar operators shall be selected on the basis of an interest in radar, a demonstrated ability to exercise sound judgment, and with the recommendation of their immediate supervisor.
- C. Potential radar operators shall successfully complete a 24-hour basic Radar Instruction Course and an eye examination, as approved by the Division. The training shall consist of:
 - 1. Sixteen (16) hours of classroom instruction; an overall score of 70% is needed to pass the course.
 - 2. Eight (8) hours of on the road, hands-on training performed under the direct supervision and guidance of the radar instructor.

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3. Upon successful completion of both phases of training, candidates shall be issued a "Radar Operator" certificate and pocket card.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

A. Radar Operators

1. Radar units are to be assigned to each field operations squad and issued out to radar operators by their immediate supervisor.
2. Radar units are to be carried and/or stored in their approved cases when not in use.
3. Operators shall be responsible for the proper handling of radar units.
4. Operators shall complete the "Radar Log" form (attached), and place the original copy in the "Master Radar Log" book by the end of their next regular tour of duty.
5. Operators shall keep a copy of their "Radar Log" forms and all other pertinent records for court purposes. The "Master Radar Log" book shall not be removed from the district station where it is stored.
6. When a radar unit is found to be malfunctioning, it shall be placed out-of-service immediately. Written notification of the problem with the radar unit shall be forwarded to the Property Specialist.
7. Operators are required to test the accuracy of the radar unit, prior to the enforcement effort, and at the end of the shift. The accuracy is tested by using the internal calibration check in the unit and by the use of the tuning fork(s) supplied by the manufacturer.

B. Property Specialist

1. Shall maintain the general condition of all radar units owned by the Division and semi-annually have the radar units calibrated.

V. RADAR OPERATING PROCEDURES

A. Radar units shall be used in such a manner as to ensure the safety of the officers and citizens.

1. Speed enforcement shall be set up in such a manner so as not to impede the normal flow of vehicular traffic.
2. Officers shall position their vehicles and themselves to enable them to enter traffic safely to effect pursuit.
3. Officers shall ensure that there is a safe location for stopping violators.

B. Radar units shall be used in police vehicles, marked and unmarked, only.

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- C. Radar units may be used either during the day or night at the discretion and approval of the shift supervisor.
- D. Radar units shall not be used during periods of heavy rain, or any other type of inclement weather, i.e., snow, high winds, fog.
- E. Members of the “stop team” shall be in sight of the radar operator for violator identification purposes. “Stop teams” shall only be used during daylight hours.
- F. Radar units will be used on roads under the jurisdiction of the Commission, including those immediately adjacent to Commission properties. It shall be understood, by all radar operators and supervisors, that radar is to be utilized for the purpose of controlling vehicular traffic in or affecting Commission properties.
- G. During nighttime operations, violators will be stopped by a chase car or by a one-man operation pursuit method.
- H. It is suggested that radar operators allow a minimum of 12 miles per hour over the speed limit tolerance, unless an unusual circumstance is observed or required by the radar operator, and a citation for a lower speed would be justified.

VI. RADAR FORMS

- A. The “Radar Log Form” shall be used to record all radar operations.
- B. Completed “Radar Log Forms” shall be maintained in the “Master Radar Log Book”, with the most recent data in the front.

VII. CALIBRATION AND REPAIRS

- A. All Division radar units shall be calibrated semi-annually. The Property Specialist shall be responsible for scheduling units for required calibration. Upon completion of the calibration, the Property Specialist shall make the “Radar Speed Calibration Record” form available to all operators.
- B. Radar operators shall not make any repairs or modifications to any radar units. If a unit is found to be defective or malfunctioning, the operator shall immediately place the unit out-of-service, and make written notification to the Property Specialist.

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