

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

NOTICE
1.11

March 18, 2015

TO: All Office of Operations Personnel

FROM: Director, Office of Operations

SUBJECT: OFFICER SAFETY DURING VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN STOPS

Recently, tactical concerns involving vehicle and pedestrian stops were identified, which may compromise an officer's ability to quickly react to an inherently dangerous situation. The practice of initiating contact with suspects, while the officers' police vehicle is positioned parallel to the suspect or suspect's vehicle, reduces an officer's ability to effectively employ contact and cover tactics. This is a reminder to officers that overall safety should be an important priority when conducting vehicle and pedestrian stops.

When initiating a vehicle or pedestrian stop, Department basic tactical concepts should be utilized to ensure the safety of the officers, the suspects and the general public. Officers should position their police vehicle to maximize the effectiveness of available cover, including using the police vehicle's engine block. Ballistic armor panels, located in each of the front doors of patrol police vehicles, are also available as additional cover.

While recognizing that all tactical situations are dynamic and fluid, consider the following basic tactical concepts when conducting vehicle and pedestrian stops:

- Select a location that offers a tactical advantage;
- Notify Communications Division of the Code-Six location;
- Position the police vehicle at a safe and effective distance to allow officers time to exit the vehicle and gain a position of advantage;
- When practicable, position the police vehicle with the suspects positioned ahead of the vehicle; and,
- Consider requesting additional resources.


Vehicle and pedestrian stops are inherently dangerous. Officers are reminded to utilize Department basic tactical concepts to ensure overall safety when engaged in these activities. Deviation from these basic concepts sometimes occurs due to the fluid and rapidly evolving nature of law enforcement encounters and the environment in which they occur. Deviations may range from minor, typically procedural or technical, to substantial deviations from Department tactical training. Any deviations are to be explained by the involved officer(s), and justification for substantial deviation from Department tactical training shall be articulated.

All Office of Operations Personnel

Page 2

1.11

Should you have any questions, please contact Lieutenant Daniel Randolph, Evaluation and Administration Section, Office of Operations, at (213) 486-6050.


JORGE A. VILLEGAS, Assistant Chief
Director, Office of Operations

DISTRIBUTION "A"

References:

Training Bulletin Volume XXIX, Issue 9, L-Unit Vehicle Pullover Tactics;
Training Bulletin Volume XXXVI, Issue 3, Personal Searches-Part II High-Risk Kneeling Search;
Training Bulletin XXXIII, Issue 6, Personal Searches-Part III High-Risk Prone Search; and,
California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, Learning Domains 21, 22 and 23.