



TRAINING BULLETIN

Los Angeles Police Department

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MOBILE FIELD FORCE CONCEPT – PART I ORGANIZATION AND ASSEMBLY

Whenever a peaceful assembly becomes unlawful or disorderly, or there is some other type of unusual occurrence within the City, the Department must respond to protect the constitutional rights and safety of all members of the public while at the same time reestablishing order and minimizing the damage to the community. This is best accomplished by the use of a Mobile Field Force, which provides an effective method to assemble and deploy a platoon-size force from on-duty personnel.

The purpose of this Training Bulletin is to describe the Mobile Field Force Concept and the procedures needed to assemble the force. It is important that all Department personnel, regardless of rank or assignment, understand and are prepared to implement Mobile Field Force (MFF) operations by referencing the LAPD Emergency Operations Guide, Volume 2 "Supervisor's Field Operations Guide."

THE MISSION CONCEPT

The Mobile Field Force Concept was developed to provide a rapid response of Department personnel and resources to civil disturbances or unusual occurrences. It is adaptable to both planned and spontaneous events that require assembly of large numbers of officers. During planned events, the MFF may be assembled from the involved bureau and staged near the Incident Command Post (ICP) for immediate response. Depending on the type of incident, the MFF can also be deployed to the ICP as a reserve component, organized into squads, and assigned missions. The MFF may be demobilized after its initial mission and reorganized into reserve elements or returned to regular duties.

The Mobile Field Force, under the direct supervision of the MFF Leader, is a tactical resource available to the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander is responsible for determining objectives, strategies, and directing a tactical response to the incident.

Mobile Field Force Missions

- Conventional crowd control operations
- High-profile patrol (including bicycle and/or foot beat) in defined areas
- Support for Immediate Action/Rapid Deployment operations
- Searches or evacuations
- Perimeter containment
- Security for critical facilities
- Response to calls for service requiring multiple officers
- Mass arrests and bookings

ORGANIZATION AND ASSEMBLY

When an event occurs that has the potential to deplete existing resources of the affected Area, the Incident Commander or Watch Commander, Communications Division, should immediately declare a Tactical Alert. Additional on-duty resources may be required to maintain public safety.

Once a Tactical Alert is declared, the Incident Commander will notify the Communications Division Watch Commander that a Mobile Field Force is required. Personnel should be identified, assigned and available at the staging area **within 45 minutes** from the time of the request. The Incident Commander can direct responding units to the Code ALPHA location, or to the ICP as a reserve element.

Mobile Field Force Configuration

A Mobile Field Force is a platoon-sized unit commanded by a lieutenant as the MFF Leader and a sergeant as an Assistant MFF Leader:

- MFF Leader vehicle: MFF Leader and Assistant MFF Leader

The MFF platoon configuration consists of four, 15-person squads plus a squad leader (sergeant). Squads should consist of four vehicles:

- Vehicle 1: squad leader and three officers
- Vehicle 2: four officers
- Vehicle 3: four officers
- Vehicle 4: four officers

NOTE: When officers deploy from the vehicles to form a skirmish line, drivers should remain with their vehicles as the skirmish line proceeds forward.

The senior sergeant shall act as the MFF Leader if a lieutenant is not available. Personnel are supported by a jail van for an arrestee transport component, if available, for mass arrests.

Within half an hour after the start of watch, Communications Division is notified of Mobile Field Force qualified supervisors and deployed equipment. Modifications to the MFF supervision may occur dependent upon the availability of on-duty personnel. For example, if a MFF is requested from a bureau where no lieutenant is available, a Sergeant II may be assigned to staff the position of MFF Leader. When the required number of sergeants are unavailable, senior officers will be substituted as squad leaders.

When designated, the MFF Leader will immediately contact the Incident Commander via a tactical frequency or cellular telephone to determine the nature, location and extent of the mission. The MFF Leader has the responsibility to command the force in the field as well as develop strategies to accomplish any assigned missions. The Mobile Field Force Leader will assign an Assistant Mobile Field Force Leader, preferably a supervisor, to respond to the designated Code ALPHA location.

During planned events, dedicated bureau Mobile Field Forces may be enhanced to create larger platoons. The enhanced staffing of bureau MFF must be approved in advance by the concerned bureau commanding officer with concurrence of the Department Mobile Field Force Coordinator.

Dependent upon the tactical situation, a MFF squad may be configured utilizing bicycle equipped officers to be available for deployment. Under these circumstances, the MFF Leader must specifically request Bicycle Unit personnel from the Communications Division Watch Commander.

Unit Designations

A bureau's MFF designations consist of five identifying characters: the appropriate bureau identifier followed by the letter "P," the MFF number, squad number, and unit number. For example a complete designator from the OSB MFF, first squad Unit 23 is "3P123." In this case, the Mobile Field Force Leader would be designated as "3P110."

Selection of Code ALPHA Staging Locations

The MFF Leader is responsible for determining the Code ALPHA staging location based upon the situation. The geographic area station is not a desirable location for assembly as it may be involved in the unusual occurrence. Area Standing Plans should identify several suitable locations within the affected area for MFF assembly. The location should be strategically located within the area of occurrence, provide access for assembling personnel, and security for vehicles/equipment. Wide streets are highly desirable staging locations as they provide effective ingress and egress as opposed to parking lots with only one entrance or exit.

Assembly Guidelines

Area watch commanders are responsible for notifying MFF qualified personnel in the station and the appropriate notifications to their respective commanding officers of the existence of the Tactical Alert. The Unusual Occurrence Personnel Status Report, Form 14.03, is used to list qualified personnel, who can be deployed as an element of a MFF.

- When the MFF is deployed to an unusual occurrence, personnel are listed in the "Assigned U.O. Task Force" section of the form.
- When Area Mobile Field Forces are assembled in a MFF configuration, but not assigned to the unusual occurrence, personnel are listed in the "Ready Reserve" section of the form.

Staging Guidelines

The first supervisor to arrive at the Code ALPHA location (other than the MFF Leader) is designated as the Staging Area Manager (SAM). The SAM is responsible for assembling the MFF platoon parking formation by squads in columns. When practicable, units will park in columns of four, three rows deep as directed by the SAM.

Non-partitioned marked black and white supervisor's vehicles with roof mounted light bars are the preferred vehicles for use during a MFF response. Hybrid black and white vehicles as well as unmarked detective vehicles may also be utilized.

Mobile Field Force Kits

In order to maintain the integrity of the MFF, equipment caches have been placed throughout the City, which will be deployed when the MFF is activated. Commands that have been assigned a Mobile Field Force Kit are responsible to ensure it is serviceable and available on a 24-hour basis.

The use of any less-lethal munitions (including the number of rounds used) shall be documented on the Incident Command System (ICS) form 214 upon de-mobilization of a mobile field force squad. When equipment is expended or becomes unusable, it must be repaired or replaced as soon as possible.

The munitions replacement or re-supply requests fall into two time periods:

- When the **DOC is not activated** most replacement items in the kit are available through the normal requisition process from Supply Section, Training Division or Emergency Operation Section.

- During the period that the **DOC is in operation** contact the DOC Logistics Officer for needed MFF equipment. The DOC Logistics Officer will direct the supply request to Mobile II; Supply Section or Training Division as appropriate.

CONCLUSION

A focused and directed approach will contribute to resolving the problem in the most expedient manner possible. The Mobile Field Force provides a mobile response force capable of fulfilling a variety of tactical missions. Flexibility and adaptability must exist to maintain an effective response to any unusual occurrence or civil disturbance.

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