Unit Objectives

- We will analyze reasonable suspicion and Probable Cause for Motor Vehicle Stops by:
  - Applying techniques used to assess risk in vehicle stops
  - Comply with local established policies and procedures
  - Execute a simulated traffic stop using the 7-Step Violator Contact method
- We will use telecommunications equipment to:
  - Conduct simulated radio traffic during a traffic stop
Unit Outcome

- I will be able to conduct a simulated traffic stop with at least 70% accuracy.
Day 1

- **Objective**
  - We will discuss the three primary reasons traffic stops are conducted
  - We will discuss Common Personality Traits encountered by officers on a traffic stop

- **Outcome**
  - I will be able to identify the three primary reasons traffic stops are conducted
  - I will be able to identify Common Personality Traits encountered on traffic stops
Three Primary Reasons

1. Stop a violation of the law for public safety
2. General deterrent to other drivers
3. Change driver’s future behavior
Goal of Traffic Stop

- Voluntary compliance of traffic laws
- Acceptance of laws and enforcement
  - Professionalism is Key
Common Personality Traits
DURING TRAFFIC STOPS
NON-RESPONSIVE/PASSIVE

- Driver appears to not even be listening
- Driver is nonchalant
- Driver is pre-occupied
- Driver is indifferent
- Driver supplies Driver’s License but offers no further information
EMOTIONAL/CRYING

- Immediately becomes emotional/crying when you approach the vehicle
- Calms momentarily but erupts again when asked for information
- Possibilities of becoming verbally or physically abusive
VERBALLY ANGRY / PHYSICALLY ANGRY

- Driver jumps out of the car and starts walking/running towards you as soon as he/she pulls over.
- Driver is calm initially but becomes nervous.
- Driver becomes angry and violent when given a citation.
TOTAL COMPLIANCE

- Driver is calm
- Driver is cooperative
- Driver supplies all information
- Driver complies with all of your requests
Racially Motivated

- Driver immediately verbally assaults you because of your race
- Driver is very defensive because of his/her race
- Driver is uncooperative due to racial accusations as PC for stop
COMBINATION

- Be prepared for any combination of personal reactions
- Control your own emotions
- Remain professional at all times
- Be respectful regardless
- Remember safety first
Day 2

- **Objective**
  - We will learn the proper steps in initiating a traffic stop
  - We will learn the phonetic alphabet and 10 codes related to traffic stops

- **Outcome**
  - I will be able to perform radio communication using the phonetic alphabet and 10 codes appropriately
INITIATING THE TRAFFIC STOP
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Radio Communication to Dispatch

- Run LP and give vehicle description
  - Wait for return before initiating stop if possible
  - Always give description of vehicle when checking 10-28
- Check out with vehicle
The Stop

- Activate Emergency Light
- Wheels towards road
Approaching Suspect Vehicle

1. Before Exiting the police vehicle, either take a look over your left shoulder and use the rear view and side mirrors to check for on-coming traffic.

2. When approaching the violator vehicle, stay close to the police vehicle. When you reach the front bumper of the police vehicle, step to the right using the trunk of the violators vehicle to avoid walking in the “line of sight - line of fire” to the violators drivers door.

3. Observe the violator and the other occupants

4. Physically check the trunk by pressing down on the lid

5. Leave thumbprint on left taillight of violators vehicle
Approaching Suspect Vehicle (Cont’d)

6. Take a quick look over your shoulder before proceeding on the left side of the violators vehicle.

7. Visually check the back seat.

8. Position yourself to the rear of the drivers door of the violators vehicle while observing the driver, his/her hands, and many passenger(s) present.
Day 3-5

- **Objective**
  - We will learn 7-step violator contact

- **Outcome**
  - I will be able to apply the 7 step violator contact during a simulated traffic stop
7 – STEP VIOLATOR CONTACT
7-Step Violator Contact

1. Greeting and Identification of Agency
2. Identify driver and check condition of driver / vehicle
3. Statement of Violation committed
4. Statement of action to be taken
5. Take the action
6. Explain what violator must do
7. Leave / Break Contact
Greeting and Identification of agency

- Objectives
  - Put subject at ease
  - Establish common ground
- Smile & Speak in normal voice
- Most natural way for officer
  - Courteous and professional
- Identify self and agency

- Example
  - “Hello, I am Officer / Deputy _____, with the __________ Department……”
Identification of driver & Check vehicle condition

- Request Driver’s License
  - If no license ask for other identification with identifying information
  - If no identification, write down brief description:
    - Name
    - DOB
    - Eyes
    - Hair
    - Height
    - Weight
    - Address
Identification of driver & Check vehicle condition (cont’d)

- Use subject’s name remainder of the stop
- If identification in wallet or purse have violator remove themselves
- Compare picture on DL to subject
- Example
  - “…my I have your driver’s license and proof of financial responsibility…”
Statement of Violation Committed

- Courtesy owed to violator, and should emphasize seriousness of violation
  - If speeding, determine if there was a reason that a normal, prudent person would determine the speed to be justified
- Refrain from asking questions about the subjects knowledge about the violation, make statements not questions if possible
- Example
  - “…the reason you were stopped today was speeding by doing 75 mph in a 55 mph zone. Is there a reason for your speed?…”
  - “…the reason you were stopped today was failure to signal turn at the intersection…”
Statement of action to be taken

- Clear statement, in a firm calm manner
- Leaves no doubt of the action to be taken
- Example
  - “...you will be issued a citation for speeding today,”
Take that Action

- Issue Citation, take subject into custody, or issue warning
Explain what the violator must do

- Explain exact actions to be taken by the violator
- Explanations should be clear to remove uncertainty
- Example
  
  “…sign the citation here (show where to sign), it is not an admission of guilt. It is a promise to contact ___ Court at this address or phone number (show location and # on citation) within ten business days…”

  “…sign the warning here (show where to sign), no further action other than obeying the traffic law will be required on your part…”
Leave

- Create feeling of friendliness
  - Do not overdue it,
  - Do not give violator sense your are sorry for issuing the citations
- Avoid gloating
- Firm and Impersonal, but business like
- Example
  - “… drive safely.”
  - “… be careful.”
Returning to Patrol Car

DURING & AFTER STOP
Returning to Patrol Car during stop

- Maybe done to use mobile radio, write citation / warning
  - Walk back to your car while keeping occupants in view
  - Be aware of traffic
  - Re-check the trunk
Citations & Warnings
Running Driver’s License Check / Filling out Citation or Warning

- Stand in position of safety
- Primary officer go back to passenger side of patrol car
  - Secondary Officer covers car
- Use radio from passenger side, while standing at door
Occupants Required to Exit Vehicle
Removing Occupants

1. Always be in a position to respond to aggressive act
   ► Avoid positioning where either standing in front of open violators door or where the door can be used as a weapon
2. Walk tactfully, **NEVER** turn back on violator
3. Have enough back up for one on one contact with violators
4. Always stand in a safe place
   ► Position the violator at the right rear of the violator vehicle but not between the vehicle
   ► If part of a two-person patrol unit, the officer should place him/herself so that his/her position in respect to the location of the passenger officer, triangulates the violators position
5. Never stand between violator and traffic
Arrest

MISDEMEANOR
Arresting Violator

- Confirm warrants before making arrest
- Use stand arrest practice
  - Do not over react
- Make sure arrest takes place in a safe location