

**SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURE**

**DATE:** JUNE 20, 2019

**NUMBER:** 2.02 - COMMUNICATIONS

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNICATIONS UNIT DESIGNATOR SYSTEM

**RELATED POLICY:** [2.02](#)

**ORIGINATING DIVISION:** COMMUNICATIONS

**NEW PROCEDURE:**

**PROCEDURAL CHANGE:**

**SUPERSEDES:** DP 2.02 – 01/15/2016

---

**I. PURPOSE**

This Department procedure establishes guidelines for the development and implementation of the Communications Division unit designator system.

**II. SCOPE**

This procedure applies to all members of the Department.

**III. PROCEDURES**

A. Radio unit designators are designed to:

1. Allow area command/geographic identification of units;
2. Identify assignment;
3. Identify investigative units;
4. Identify supervisors;
5. Allow watch identification during shift change; and,
6. Accommodate future growth.

B. Alpha Codes

1. Ranks

C - Captain (for example, 100C, 200C, 300C, etc.).

L - Lieutenant (pattern follows service area identification, not watch - for example, 230L, 510L, 820L).

S - Patrol sergeants will follow this pattern:

1st Watch:	431S1/432S1	441S1/442S1	
2nd Watch:	813S2/814S2	823S2/824S2	833S2/834S2
3rd Watch:	315S3/316S3	325S3/326S3	

If additional sergeants are working in the area, they will be identified as follows:

1st Watch:	237S1	247S1	
2nd Watch:	818S2	828S2	838S2
3rd Watch:	719S3	729S3	

D - Detective

2. Unit Designators

- A - Alpha (Overtime officers, will handle all calls for service, this includes 11-10's, not considered 11-86) For example: 524A, 121A
- B - One officer extra unit - first and third watch
- BK - Bike unit
- E - Juvenile Services Team or Traffic Grant Detail enforcement unit
- F - Special Events Traffic Controller
- G - Officer with trainee - first and third watch
- GS - Gang Suppression Team
- H - Patrol Trainee (Observation Phase) For example: 524H2, 121H1
- I - Impound/Abatement unit
- J - One officer unit - first and third watch
- K - Two officer unit - first and third watch
- M - Traffic Motor unit
- N - Canine unit
- O - Indochinese Service Officer (ISO)
- P - Parking Enforcement unit
- PG - PISO Trainee – first and third watch
- PU - PISO Trainee – second watch
- PT - PERT officer with clinician
- Q - Special detail unit

- RO - PISO – Police Investigative Service Officer
- RS - Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol Traffic unit
- RSV - Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol
- T - Traffic unit
- U - Officer with trainee, second watch
- V - One officer extra unit, second watch
- W - Two officer extra unit, second watch
- WK - Walking unit
- X - Two officer extra unit, first and third watch
- Y - One officer unit, second watch
- Z - Two-officer unit, second watch

C. Chief Officers and Department Operations

<u>Unit Designator</u>	<u>Division/Unit</u>
1	Chief of Police
2 - 19	Chief's Executive Committee Member
20 - 89	Chief's Services
91 - 98	Special Services
1310 – 1329	Special Investigations Unit
1901L	Criminal Intelligence Lieutenant
1902 - 1940	Criminal Intelligence Unit
2230 - 2245	Equal Employment Office
2270L	Internal Affairs Lieutenant
2271 - 2289	Internal Affairs Unit
2290 – 2298	(Reserved)
2520 – 2529	Facilities Management and Development
2651L	Public Information Office Lieutenant
2650 - 2651	Public Information
3001 - 3004	Legal Advisors

D. Patrol Operations

In most cases, each command is allotted a block of 100 consecutive numbers. **Designators ending in "99" or "88" shall never be used. These numbers, misheard, could cause unnecessary emergency responses.**

1. Patrol unit designators - for example, Unit 831J1
  - "8" - Mid-City area command
  - "3" - Service area
  - "1" - Primary officer assigned to beat 831
  - "J" - One officer unit
  - "1" - First watch

2. Each command will use a number series denoting service area number through the first 40 of their allotted numbers. Northern Division will use the 40 series for their "C" squad. After that, the series are to be used as follows:

50s - Juvenile services teams, power squads, "C" squads, or established special details - often available for radio calls  
60s - Special details  
70s - Special details, for example 173S, 178J  
80s - Special details, for example 681S, 883Q  
90s - Area command narcotic units

3. Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol units will use RSV\_\_\_\_, indicating the beat number, as with patrol. For example:

RSV234, RSVP unit, Northeastern Division, 230 Service Area  
RSV812, RSVP unit, Mid-City Division, 810 Service Area

4. Investigations

Area command investigators will identify using the specific assigned beat. For example:

110S: 111D, 112D, 113D, 114D, etc.  
820S: 821D, 822D, 823D, 824D, etc.  
230S: 231D, 232D, 233D, 234D, etc.

5. Community Relations Officers will be identified by the last number in their designator. For example:

101: University City/Clairemont, 110 service area  
602: Uptown, 620 service area

6. Specialty Units

1A2 (or similar format) - Mobile Field Force (MFF)

CRT51 - will be used by off-duty officers going to court in police equipment. The first number will identify the area station. Each command will have nine unit numbers available.

1450S	R A T T
4100S	MTS Task Force (SDPD Sergeant)
4101 – 4105	MTS Task Force (SDPD Officers)

7. Watch Commander

L1 - L5                      Field Lieutenants

8. Reserve officers' area of responsibility is denoted by the fourth number in their call sign. For example:

2111J: One officer reserve unit working Northern Division 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Watch  
2115K: Two officer reserve unit working Central Division 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Watch  
2118Z: Two officer reserve unit working Mid-City Division 2<sup>nd</sup> Watch

E. Traffic, Youth, and Event Services

1. Traffic Division

<u>Unit Designator</u>	<u>Division/Unit</u>
3900C	Traffic Captain
3901L	Traffic Motor Lieutenant
3900S	Special Enforcement Sergeant
3901Q - 3909Q	Special Enforcement Officers
3910L	Traffic Operations Lieutenant
3910S - 3919S	Collision Investigation Bureau Sergeants
3910T-3939T	Collision Investigation Bureau Officers
3920S	Beach Team Motor Sergeant
3921M - 3929M	Beach Team Motor Officers
3921S - 3929S	Motor Sergeants
3940S-3949S	Traffic Grant Detail Sergeant
3941E - 3959E	Traffic Grant Detail Officers
RS3941 - RS3969	Traffic RSVP
3950S - 3960S	Traffic Investigation Unit Sergeants
3951D - 3969D	Traffic Investigation Unit Detectives
3970S	Vehicle Abatement Sergeant
3971I - 3979I	Vehicle Abatement Officers
3971X - 3979X	Movie Detail Officers
3990S	Fleet Safety Sergeant

Motor officers will use beat numbers as identifiers; for example, 111M and 712M.

<u>Unit Designator</u>	<u>Division/Unit</u>
2600C	Special Event Operations Captain
2601L	Special Event Operations Lieutenant
2601S - 2603S	Special Event Operations Sergeant
2604 - 2619	Special Event Operations Unit
3201PC	Parking Management Program Manager
3201PL	Senior Parking Enforcement Supervisor

3202PS - 3209PS      Parking Enforcement Supervisor  
3220P - 3298P        Parking Enforcement Officer

2.      Juvenile Administration

<u>Unit Designator</u>	<u>Division/Unit</u>
1270 – 1275	Juvenile Administration
2640 – 2644	STAR/PAL

F.      Support Operations

1.      Operational Support

<u>Unit Designator</u>	<u>Division/Unit</u>
2000C	Operational Support Captain
2001L	Operational Support Lieutenant
2001S	Operational Support Sergeant
2003 - 2009	Operational Support Administration
2045L	Air Support Lieutenant
2045S – 2046S	Air Support Sergeant
2045 - 2059	Air Support Unit
2060L	SWAT Lieutenant/Air Support Lieutenant
2060 - 2098	SWAT/SRT
2261L	Research, Analysis, and Planning Lieutenant
2260S – 2261S	Research, Analysis, and Planning Sergeant
2260 - 2269	Research, Analysis, and Planning Unit
2540S	Critical Incident Management Sergeant
2541 - 2545	Critical Incident Management Unit
2901L	Canine Lieutenant
2910S-2980S	Canine Sergeant
2901N– 2970N	Canine Unit
2990-2998	Court Liaison Unit

2.      Communications

<u>Unit Designator</u>	<u>Division/Unit</u>
2500C	Communications Captain
2501L – 2503L	Communications Dispatch Administrator
2504S – 2519S	Communications Dispatch Supervisor

3. Information Services

<u>Unit Designator</u>	<u>Division/Unit</u>
2421 – 2429	New Technologies/NetRMS

G. Centralized Investigations - In most cases, the following numerical reference guide applies:

- ##00 - Captain
- ##01 - Lieutenant
- ##10, ##20, ##30, etc. - Sergeant
- ##11-##19, ##21-##29, ##31-##39, etc. - Officer, Detective, Non-sworn

1. Investigations I

<u>Unit Designator</u>	<u>Division/Unit</u>
1200C	Investigations I Captain
1201L	Domestic Violence Lieutenant
1230S	Domestic Violence Sergeant
1231 - 1269	Domestic Violence Unit
1210L	Sex Crimes Lieutenant
1570S	Sex Crimes Sergeant
1550 - 1569	Sex Crimes Unit
1580S	290 Sergeant
1581-1587, 1589	290 Unit
1210S	Child Abuse Sergeant
1202 - 1229	Child Abuse Unit
1590SS	Internet Crimes Against Children Sergeant
1591 - 1598	Internet Crimes Against Children
1401L	Vice Administration Lieutenant
1410S	Vice Sergeant
1411 - 1429	Vice Operations - Police Permits and Licensing
1430 - 1439	Vice Administration - Code Compliance
1801L	Vice Operations Lieutenant
1810S	Vice Operations Sergeant
1811 – 1819	Vice Permits & Licensing
1820 - 1869	Vice Operations

2701L	Narcotics Task Force Lieutenant
2710S	Narcotics Task Force Sergeant
2702 - 2789	Narcotics Task Force
2790 - 2798	Operation Alliance
2801L	Narcotics Lieutenant
2810S	Narcotics Sergeants
2802 - 2878	Narcotics Unit, DART and Drug Court
2880 – 2889	Narcotics Unit, Anti Money Laundering Task Force

2. Investigations II

<u>Unit Designator</u>	<u>Division/Unit</u>
1500C	Investigations II Captain
1301L	Street Gang Unit Lieutenant
1330S - 1390S	Street Gang Unit Investigations Sergeants
1301S, 1301D-1303D	FBI – Violent Crimes Task Force (Gangs)
1331D – 1379D	Street Gangs Unit Investigations
1390 - 1398	Graffiti Strike Force
OPS1L	Special Operations Unit Lieutenant
OPS1S-OPS2S	Gang Intervention Unit Sergeant
OPS2-OPS5	Gang Intervention Unit Officers
OPS10S – OPS40S	Special Operations Unit Sergeant
OPS11 – OPS49	Special Operations Unit Officers
DA1760 - DA1779	DA Gang Unit
1501L	Robbery Lieutenant
1510S – 1540S	Robbery Sergeants
1502 - 1540	Robbery Unit
1601L - 1602L	Homicide Lieutenant
1610S – 1650S	Homicide Sergeants
1603 - 1659	Homicide Unit
1680	Adult Missing Persons
1701L	Economic Crimes Lieutenant
1740S	Economic Crimes Sergeant
1741 - 1749	Economic Crimes Unit/CATCH Team
1720S	Identity Theft Sergeant
1721 - 1729	Identity Theft Unit
1730S	Regional Fraud Task Force Sergeant
1731 - 1739	Regional Fraud Task Force
1750S	Elder Abuse Sergeant
1751 - 1759	Elder Abuse



1710S	Metro Arson Strike Team
1702 - 1709	Metro Arson Strike Team
1780 - 1798	City Attorney Investigators

3. Crime Laboratory

<u>Unit Designator</u>	<u>Division/Unit</u>
1711 - 1719	Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory

H. Training/Employee Development

1. Training

<u>Unit Designator</u>	<u>Division/Unit</u>
2400C	Training and Development/Academy Captain
2401L	In-Service Training Lieutenant
2430 – 2449	In-Service Training/Core Instructors
2401S – 2404S	Training and Development/Academy Sergeant
2402 – 2409	Training and Development/Academy
2450L	Leadership Development Lieutenant
2441S – 2453S	Leadership Development Sergeant
2460S	Range Master
2465 – 2479	Range
2480S	Field Training Administration Sergeant
2481 – 2489	Field Training Office

2. Backgrounds/Recruiting

<u>Unit Designator</u>	<u>Division/Unit</u>
2100 – 2120	Reserve Unit
2301L	Backgrounds Lieutenant
2302 – 2349	Backgrounds Investigations Unit
2350 – 2359	Recruiting
2490 – 2498	Volunteer Services

3. Human Resources

<u>Unit Designator</u>	<u>Division/Unit</u>
2380 - 2398	Medical Assistance Unit

4. Wellness Administration

<u>Unit Designator</u>	<u>Division/Unit</u>
2360 – 2389	Department Chaplains
4000 - 4010	Wellness Unit

I. Neighborhood Policing

<u>Unit Designator</u>	<u>Division/Unit</u>
4200C	Neighborhood Policing Captain
4201L	Neighborhood Policing Lieutenant
4203S-4204S	Neighborhood Policing Staff/Investigative Sergeant
4210S-4290S	Neighborhood Policing Sergeant
4203 – 4398	Neighborhood Policing Unit
2010L	Homeless Outreach Team Lieutenant
2011 – 2044	Homeless Outreach Team

J. Distribution

1. Each commanding officer is responsible for the development and appropriate distribution of detailed lists of unit designator assignments following these guidelines:
  - a. Distribution must include Communications Division and the Watch Commander's Office.
  - b. Unit designator lists should be incorporated in the call-back plans.
2. Significant personnel changes that occur mid-shift may warrant updating and redistributing the call-back plan, at the discretion of the commanding officer.