

SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

NUMBER: 6.23 - PATROL

SUBJECT: FIELD TRAINING PROCEDURE

RELATED POLICY: [5.07, 5.03](#)

ORIGINATING DIVISION: TRAINING/EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

NEW PROCEDURE:

PROCEDURAL CHANGE: **MINOR CHANGES**

SUPERCEDES: DP 6.23 – 10/01/2019

I. PURPOSE

This Department procedure establishes guidelines for participation in the Field Training Program.

II. SCOPE

This procedure applies to all sworn members of the Department.

III. BACKGROUND

The nature of the relationship between the Field Training Officer (FTO) and the trainee is a critical one. It includes full-time instruction, coaching, observation, evaluation and immediate feedback, resulting in the most intensive and productive learning environment new officers are likely to experience.

The primary objective of the Field Training Program is to develop competent, independently functioning police officers who provide police services to all citizens in a fair and impartial manner. This is accomplished by a cooperative, comprehensive and consistent delivery of training.

IV. **DEFINITIONS**

- A. Field Training Administration Office - a unit of the Training Division. This office oversees and governs all business, as it relates to the Field Training Program.
- B. Program Directors - a captain and a lieutenant who oversee the entire operation and manage the program. The Program Directors work closely with the area commands.
- C. Program Administrator - a sergeant who oversees the day-to-day operations of the Field Training Administration Office. The sergeant must attend the POST-certified Field Training Supervisors/Administrators/Coordinators course prior to, or within, twelve months of appointment.
- D. Assistant Administrators - a police officers who maintain the day-to-day operations of the Field Training Administration.
- E. Field Training Lieutenants - area command lieutenants who work in cooperation with the Field Training Administration Office to coordinate and manage the Field Training personnel at their command. Field Training Lieutenants review all daily and bi-weekly evaluations prior to submission to the Field Training Administration Office.
- F. Field Training Sergeants - area command sergeants who coordinate and manage the Field Training personnel assigned to their watch and service area. Field Training Sergeants ensure that training and evaluation processes are correctly accomplished daily by the Field Training Officers. Field Training Sergeants review and approve all FTO staff work prior to its submission to the Field Training Lieutenant and the FTO Administration Office.
- G. Field Training Officers (FTOs) - area command police officers who provide training and guidance on a daily basis to Trainees. Field Training Officers are responsible for training and evaluating Trainee performance based on the performance anchor standards set forth in the Field Training Guide.

V. **TRAINING PROGRAM STRUCTURE**

NEW

Upon completion of the Academy, trainee officers enter the field training program. The field training program is designed to be a progressive training process. The program consists of four evaluated phases of field training. Each phase is designed to be 4 weeks in duration. The phase training process may be extended if the trainee officer performance is not progressing through the training process at an acceptable rate.

The trainee's level of performance is expected to increase with each phase. To attain independent acceptable performance by the trainee, the Field Training Officer designs the phases to progress from discussion and demonstration, to application.

After completing the field training program, the trainee should possess all academic, physical and practical qualifications required to be a competent and independently functioning police officer. Officer safety and public interactions are the first and foremost priorities throughout the program.

NEW

- A. Phase 1 – The first two days of Phase 1 will be Observation Days only. The trainee will observe the FTO and begin to be immersed into police work during the course of their day. The FTO will demonstrate how to manage the daily activities of a police officer to include time management, public interaction and officer safety. The FTO will also discuss each standard for all performance anchors listed in their Field Training Manuals.

Trainees will be in full police uniform and have full police powers but will not be evaluated during the observation days. FTOs will make sure trainees have all required safety equipment, all necessary forms, manuals, code books and their Field Training Guide. Trainees will not take any type of enforcement action during the Observation Days (i.e. Traffic Cites, pedestrian stops, arrests, and/or field interviews).

Trainees will not take any reports or parallel reports of any type. Trainees will only be required to complete and submit Arjis-9 reports relating to homicide scenes and use of force incidents. They are also required to submit Blue Team entries for use of force incidents.

All trainees are required to activate their BWCs per Department Procedure 1.49. During the observation days, the unit designator will be 'H'. (Example: 521H1) 'H' Units will be considered a single officer unit and not a training unit. After the completion of the two observation days, trainees will continue in phase 1 training as a training unit using the unit designators 'G' and 'U' (Example 831G1) depending on their assigned shift.

Days 3-16 of phase 1, the trainee is required to participate in all daily activities and will be evaluated on all of the performance anchors. The FTO will discuss, demonstrate and/or accomplish each standard for all performance anchors. The trainee's performance will be evaluated daily using those standards.

NEW

- B. Phases 2 - The Trainee is required to participate in all daily activities and will be evaluated on all of the performance anchors. The FTO will discuss, demonstrate and/or accomplish each standard for all performance anchors. The trainee's performance will be evaluated daily using those standards.

NEW

- C. Phases 3 - The Trainee is required to participate in all daily activities and will be evaluated on all of the performance anchors. The FTO will discuss, demonstrate and/or accomplish each standard for all performance anchors. The trainee's

performance will be evaluated daily using those standards. Phase 3 is the first phase a trainee can repeat (i.e., be re-phased) if the trainee is not progressing at an acceptable rate toward being an independently functioning officer. It is the responsibility of the phase 3 FTO, in consultation with the FTO Administration, to determine if the trainee is ready to proceed to Phase 4.

- D. Phase 4 - the final four-week period in which the trainee is expected to demonstrate proficiency and/or knowledge of all performance anchors independent of the FTO. The FTO will critically evaluate the trainee's ability to function independently at an acceptable level in all performance anchors. The phase 4 FTO will determine if the trainee is a competent, independently-functioning police officer. Trainees who are not competent and cannot function independent of the FTO can be re-phased prior to being released from the Field Training Program.
- E. Phases 3R and 3B (re-phases) – these training phases are provided to trainees, who after assessment by the FTO Administration, need additional training and work environment exposure to bring them to the level of an independently functioning and competent officer. Re-phase training occurs when the Trainee's weak points are so numerous and/or their performance is so deficient that the trainee would not be able to correct their weak points or deficiencies while assuming the additional requirements of phase 4 or independent performance. FTO Administration personnel reserves the authority to determine if additional phase training will improve the performance of a trainee (i.e., bring the trainee to a competent level of performance).

NEW

VI. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS - FTO

Applicants desiring to become Field Training Officers will follow the guidelines set forth in Department Procedure 5.07, Transfers within the Department. All approved applicants will be interviewed and selections will be based upon the needs of the program. Applicants must meet the following criteria to be a FTO:

- A. Non-probationary POII status possessing a POST Basic Certificate;
- B. Minimum of three years patrol experience as a sworn officer with the San Diego Police Department. For the purpose of this procedure, the time will start upon Academy graduation;
- C. Lateral officers possessing a California POST Certificate with 2 years, 6 months law enforcement experience in California are eligible to apply after 1 year, 4 months of patrol experience as a sworn police officer with the San Diego Police Department;
- D. Out of state lateral officers with 2 years, 6 months law enforcement experience are eligible to apply after 2 years, 4 months of patrol experience as a sworn police

officer with the San Diego Police Department;

- E. Currently assigned to a uniform patrol function, performing patrol duties. Patrol officers assigned to a specialized unit may apply for a FTO position, during the selection period. These officers, if selected for a FTO position, must return to a uniform patrol position and relinquish their specialized assignment;
- F. Positive role model possessing the desire and ability to train, evaluate, counsel, and supervise a new officer;
- G. Meets employee performance standards on the last two years of Employee Performance Evaluations;
- H. Recommendation by their Commanding Officer; and,
- I. If selected, the ability to attend and successfully complete the 40-hour POST-approved FTO course and the San Diego Police Department's agency-specific course. Officers assigned to a specialized unit will not be scheduled for the POST FTO Course until their return to a patrol assignment.

VII. QUALIFICATIONS FOR REINSTATEMENT

Reinstatement to the Field Training Officer position guidelines:

- A. Police Officer IIs who were Field Training Officers can request to be reinstated to the FTO candidate pool. To request reinstatement, the officer must submit a memorandum through their chain of command detailing his/her experience and reason for being removed from the FTO program and meet the following criteria:
 - 1. Have voluntarily left the program and had no negative comments in their performance evaluations during their tenure as an FTO;
 - 2. Meets employee performance standards on the last two years of employee performance evaluations;
 - 3. Have the approval and recommendation of their current command; and,
 - 4. Have been inactive as an FTO for three years or less.
- B. Upon approval by the command, the reinstatement request should be forwarded to the Field Training Administration Office at MS 733. The FTO Administration Sergeant will verify eligibility and forward the request to the FTO Administration Lieutenant.

- C. Upon final approval by the FTO Administration Lieutenant, the officer's name will be added as a reinstatement to the current candidate pool.
- D. Officers reinstated to, and those already in the current pool, will receive equal consideration for any FTO vacancies that occur.
- E. FTOs will be removed from the program according to the criteria set forth in this procedure.

VIII. PROCEDURES

- A. Trainee Assignments
 - 1. Once FTOs have successfully completed the POST Field Training Officer course, they will be placed on their Division FTO list and will be considered available to accept trainee assignments.
 - 2. The Field Training Administration Office will send out notifications of trainee assignments. Field Training Officers will confirm their shift, days off and availability on the form and notify the Field Training Administration staff if there is any type of scheduling conflict.
- B. FTO Availability
 - 1. Leaves of Absence
 - a. FTOs are in a full-time paid status. Consistency of training delivery is a requirement of the FTO program. All forms of leave for FTOs while a trainee is assigned to them are highly discouraged. FTOs are expected to accept trainee assignments when requested by the Field Training Administration unless prior approval to decline an assignment has been authorized and/or pre-approved scheduled leave has been granted.
 - b. FTOs taking three or more days leave in addition to their normal days off during a trainee assignment period, shall consider themselves "unavailable" for a trainee assignment and decline the assignment; this includes compensatory time off.
 - c. FTOs who decline to take a trainee assignment must have pre-approval from their area Field Training Sergeant or Lieutenant. If leave is granted, the officer must immediately notify the Field Training Administration so reassignments can be completed.
 - d. FTOs should not accept a trainee assignment if they plan on

requesting compensatory time off at any time during the trainee assignment period. Consistency in training is a priority for the trainee and is a requirement of the Field Training Administration. Compensatory leave may be denied if granting the request will be unduly disruptive to the Department's operations. Area Field Training Sergeants or Lieutenants may consider the following factors when reviewing leave requests:

- 1) The phase of the trainee's training;
 - 2) The performance level of the trainee;
 - 3) Amount of leave previously requested within the phase of training;
 - 4) Duration of leave requested, including number of consecutive days;
 - 5) Subject matter to be covered during the period of requested leave; and,
 - 6) Whether another FTO can be assigned to cover for the requested period of leave and not disrupt the training of the trainee.
- e. FTOs who are sick or need emergency leave and exceed the two-day rule must send a copy of their signed Request for Leave of Absence form (CS-14-25A) indicating sick leave was taken to the Field Training Administration Office.
- f. Unscheduled assignments occasionally occur. FTOs contacted for such assignments are expected to accept them unless they have pre-approved leave of three or more days during the training dates.

2. Temporary Assignments

Field Training Officers who are in a paid status without an assigned trainee can accept temporary special assignments until they are required to take a trainee. If the FTO is required to take a trainee, they must make themselves available, even if it requires leaving the special assignment.

3. Specialized Assignments Over 30 Days

Officers who accept a specialized assignment must transfer out of the FTO program and will be required to reapply when FTO positions become available. This does not include Out-of-Class assignments (OCA) as an

Acting Sergeant (see Exceptions in Section IX).

C. FTO Refresher Training

The Field Training Administration will schedule on-going quarterly refresher training for all FTO personnel, including Field Training Officers, FTO Sergeants, and FTO Lieutenants. All FTOs, FTO Sergeants and FTO Lieutenants must attend each refresher training session. Excused absences, such as prolonged illness or extended military leave, will be reviewed by the Field Training Administration on a case-by-case basis for approval. Unexcused absences may result in discipline or release from the FTO Program.

D. Reserve Trainees

FTOs will submit reserve trainee evaluations to be reviewed and approved by a FTO Sergeant. The FTO Sergeant will forward the signed evaluations to the Reserve Administration for storage.

E. Selection and Transfer Process - Officers

Once attrition or removal causes the number of FTOs at a command to be less than the authorized number of eligible positions for that command, FTOs can be selected according to the following criteria:

1. FTOs at other commands may transfer into the command needing replacements, with the approval of the receiving command via Transfer Request (PD-599).
2. If no FTOs are willing to transfer, FTOs can be selected from the current list of eligible candidates, or the selection process will be initiated by the FTO Administration Office.
3. The FTO Administration will publish a Department Announcement outlining the eligibility requirements for FTO and identify the command(s) with vacancies.
4. The Human Resource Unit will coordinate the selection process. All candidates and their commands will be advised of the results and provided an opportunity for feedback.
5. Officers assigned to specialized units within the command are eligible to apply for FTO; however, these officers will not attend an FTO Academy or receive FTO pay until they return to a patrol function.
6. Each command will be responsible for scheduling successful FTO candidates into a FTO Academy, as space becomes available.

7. The transfer process should generally be voluntary. Officers who are selected and have successfully completed the FTO Academy may be required to adjust days off, shifts, or transfer to another area command in order to accommodate FTO staffing requirements.
8. Command clerical staff will make FTO Administration and Payroll notifications.
9. Commands may not exceed their allotted FTO positions.

F. Selection and Transfer Process for FTO Sergeants

1. Selection will be conducted by each command to fill vacancies as needed according to the listed criteria. FTO Sergeants must meet the following requirements:
 - a. Be non-probationary;
 - b. Be assigned to uniform patrol;
 - c. Meets employee performance standards on the last two years of employee performance evaluations;
 - d. Be recommended by their command;
 - e. Ability to attend and successfully complete a 40-hour POST-approved FTO Academy and a four-hour agency specific course; and,
 - f. Ability to attend all required FTO refresher courses.
2. Desirable qualifications for FTO Sergeants are:
 - a. Possess investigative and/or administrative experience;
 - b. Have teaching and/or training experience;
 - c. Demonstrated coaching and/or mentoring experience; and,
 - d. Have former FTO experience.
3. Sergeants assigned to specialized units within the command are eligible to apply for FTO Sergeant; however, these sergeants will not attend an FTO Academy or receive FTO Sergeant pay until they return to a patrol function. A list of eligible FTO Sergeants will be provided to the FTO

Administration Office and Payroll each shift change.

4. The selection process will consist of the Captain and Lieutenant reviewing the following criteria for each candidate:
 - a. Evaluations on file in the command, ensuring that candidates meet employee performance standards on the last two years of employee performance evaluations;
 - b. Length of service as an FTO, if applicable (to be supplied by FTO Administration);
 - c. Tenure as a Sergeant;
 - d. No specific weight is to be given to any individual criterion, but each must be reviewed.
5. Area commands may reassign the selected FTO Sergeants to achieve one per service area per watch coverage. Thereafter, coverage will be adjusted as necessary at regular shift changes or achieved via transfer.
6. FTO Sergeants may transfer to another command and retain their FTO Sergeant status, if a vacancy at the receiving command exists and only with the approval of the receiving command via a Transfer Request (PD-599). Transfers may also be achieved via a “swap” between FTO Sergeants after approval by each involved command.
7. Should a vacancy for FTO Sergeant exist at a command, the Commanding Officer where the vacancy exists will:
 - a. Conduct a selection process and select a qualified applicant according to the criteria set forth above; or,
 - b. The Commanding Officer may select an eligible FTO Sergeant from another command. The FTO Administration will furnish the names of eligible candidates at other commands. The command will make a selection from that group.
8. Transfer of FTO Sergeants will generally be voluntary. Candidates may be required to transfer between commands to achieve one per service area per watch coverage.
9. Commands may not exceed their allotted FTO Sergeant positions.

G. FTO Insignia

1. Field Training Officers and Sergeants shall wear the FTO pin on the outermost garment and center the pin under the nametag on the flap of the right

breast pocket.

2. Field Training Officers and Sergeants may wear the 5-year pin after five years overall service as an FTO/FTO Sergeant.

NEW

Supervisors and officers who have resigned or removed from the program may not wear the FTO pin.

H. Fraternalization

1. Field Training Officers and supervisors are required to fairly and impartially train and evaluate new officers. Personal off-duty relationships between Trainees and FTOs or supervisors is strictly prohibited. This fraternization restriction applies to all recruits in the Regional Academy and trainees in field training for the length of their assignment to the Field Training Program. This restriction will no longer apply after trainees complete their field training and are permanently assigned to a command as officers. However, at all times, personnel must comply with Department Procedure 5.03, Equal Employment Opportunity.
2. Exceptions to the Fraternalization Policy:
 - a. Trainees who are members of the San Diego Police Officers Association (SDPOA) may attend SDPOA-sponsored events, such as the Holiday party and the summer picnic. FTOs or supervisors at these events should limit their contact with any trainees attending.
 - b. FTOs or supervisors who have a prior existing relationship with a trainee may maintain that relationship. Examples of such relationships include a spouse, other relative or close friend of a trainee. FTOs or supervisors who have a relationship with a trainee must contact the Field Training Administration to advise of the relationship prior to the trainee beginning phase training to avoid any conflict of interest or perception of favoritism.
 - c. Trainees are permitted to participate in organized police athletic events at the discretion of the Chief of Police. FTOs or supervisors and trainees attending these events will conduct themselves in a professional manner and will not have unnecessary contact with each other away from the competition.

IX. PERMANENT REMOVAL

Field Training Officers or Sergeants who violate provisions of this procedure may be permanently removed from the FTO program. Permanent removal will require the officer or sergeant to re-apply through the formal process.

A. The following are grounds for permanent removal and/or discipline from the FTO Program:

1. Permanent transfer to a non-patrol position, (e.g., investigations, preferred assignments);
2. Specialized assignments lasting over 30 days within a fiscal year that interferes with active FTO status (i.e., beach teams, bike or walking teams, or other non-FTO units that do not accommodate trainees);
3. FTOs or FTO sergeants engagement in misconduct which subjects the officer or sergeant to disciplinary action;
4. Absence without authorization from any single training cycle of FTO Refresher Training. Authorized absences include:
 - a. Assigned annual vacation;
 - b. Industrial, Long Term Disability, or military leave;
 - c. Hardship circumstances; or
 - d. Department or POST required training;
5. FTOs or sergeants who fail to meet employee performance standards on their evaluation;
6. FTOs or sergeants who fail to meet employee performance standards on employee performance evaluations (i.e., on a supplemental performance report) on any FTO performance anchors on their evaluation;
7. FTOs who refuse trainees without proper cause;
8. FTOs or sergeants who fail to complete the POST required FTO Update Training as required to maintain their certification; and
9. Actions that are detrimental to the goals and mission of the FTO program, as determined by the Chief of Police.

NEW

B. Exceptions:

1. It is recognized that long-term acting sergeant OCAs benefit the Department and officer alike to a degree overriding FTO program concerns. Officers assigned to acting sergeant OCAs will not be removed from the FTO program. Acting Sergeants will be placed in the “unpaid” category for that shift, if the term is for more than 30 days, up to the balance of the shift.
2. The “on-deck” sergeant in Internal Affairs (IA) benefits the Department and sergeant alike to a degree overriding FTO program concerns. Sergeants assigned to the “on-deck” IA position will not be removed from the FTO program. OCA sergeants in this capacity will be placed in the “unpaid” category for that shift, if the term is for more than 30 days, up to the balance of the shift.

C. Disciplinary action arising from misconduct or performance deficiencies by FTOs or FTO Sergeants shall be initiated by the FTO Sergeant or FTO Sergeant’s assigned area command.

1. The FTO Administration staff will provide the affected area commanding officer with any necessary information regarding the performance of their assigned FTOs or FTO Sergeants.
2. The FTO Commanding Officer and the area commanding officer shall consult regarding whether permanent removal from the FTO Program is appropriate, in addition to any disciplinary action involving an FTO or FTO Sergeant.
3. FTO Officers and FTO Sergeants may appeal their removal from the FTO Program. The appeal will be processed in accordance with the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Discipline Manual, and treated as if it were a “reduction in compensation,” unless more specific language is agreed upon in future updated MOUs. If the removal is in conjunction with other discipline stemming from the same incident, the matters will be combined. The matter which affords the highest level of administrative scrutiny will govern the proceedings.

X. **INVESTIGATION-TRAINEES**

A. Misconduct

In most cases, violations related to misconduct shall be investigated by Internal Affairs, the related specialized investigative unit, or the area command to which the trainee is currently assigned, according to established guidelines. For

example, if a trainee is involved in a domestic violence incident, the Domestic Violence Unit would assume responsibility for investigation into the matter.

- B. Any disciplinary action resulting from an investigation into misconduct by a trainee assigned to the Field Training Program will be handled by the FTO Administration.
- C. If the disciplinary action is not determined until after the trainee has completed the Field Training Program, the discipline will be handled by the appropriate area command to which the officer is assigned.

D. Performance

All performance-related issues will be handled by the FTO Administration staff, with input from the following:

- 1. The assigned Field Training Officer(s);
 - 2. The FTO Sergeant of the command to which the trainee is currently assigned; and/or
 - 3. Other command staff of the command to which the trainee is currently assigned.
- E. In instances when the performance of a trainee is so deficient that removal from the Field Training Program is necessary, FTO Administration staff will:
- 1. Meet with the trainee to discuss the reason for their removal from the Field Training Program;
 - 2. Obtain all field equipment from the trainee; and
 - 3. Prepare the Failure of Probation documents.
- F. The FTO Administration will be responsible for processing the Failure of Probation until the trainee is either released or reinstated.