

# Peoria Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

## Policy 4.32 Mobile Field Force



**“Our Community...  
Our Commitment”**

### I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Peoria Police Department to preserve public peace, prevent crime, arrest offenders, and protect the rights of persons and property in the City of Peoria during civil disorder. It is also the Department’s responsibility to protect the demonstrator’s right to peacefully assemble and exercise free speech as provided within federal and state constitutions. The Department will make every reasonable effort to employ non-arrest methods of civil disorder management, but will take all necessary measures to quickly contain and restore order to prevent an uncontrolled incident from escalating. The Department will deploy a Mobile Field Force (MFF) to address acts of civil disorder that cannot be effectively addressed by the workforce on duty. (46.1.2)

### II. PROCEDURE

A. The Peoria Police Department’s Unusual Occurrences Policy (4.11) and the Peoria Police Department Emergency Operations Plan (PDEOP) were developed to establish guidelines for employees responding to calls for assistance involving major emergencies that would generally overload the Police Department’s normal resources. All employees shall adhere to the guidelines set forth in Policy 4.11 and the PDEOP when dealing with unusual occurrences involving civil disturbances.

1. Should a gathering become a disturbance or manifest violence, the Peoria Police Department must be able to respond as a professional, organized unit in order to restore peace, prevent crime, arrest violators, and protect the rights of the community. Reasonable efforts to employ non-arrest methods of crowd management will be made as the primary means to restore order.

2. If peaceful methods prove to be unsuccessful to the situation, or where violence is directed towards citizens or the police, violators will be arrested and active methods of dispersal, including the arrest of large numbers of violators will be employed. In all cases, reasonable force will be used to accomplish the lawful mission of the Department and officers will act under the direction of supervisors in an organized manner.

3. In any event, the designated Incident Commander will consider a response in accordance with the PDEOP and the City of Peoria’s Emergency Operations Plan. All of these plans must be considered when dealing with a civil disturbance.

#### B. Mobile Field Force Concepts

1. Historically the potential of civil unrest in the City of Peoria has been low. However, reasonable caution indicates that an effective response plan must be maintained. In a major event, it is necessary to quickly reorganize the Department in order to staff an effective response as outlined in Section 8 of the PDEOP.

2. The possibilities of civil unrest leading to riot-type situations necessitates the formulation of a rapid

deployment crowd control plan, known as the Mobile Field Force (MFF) concept. MFF can be utilized to rapidly deploy officers to affected areas of civil disturbance.

3. The MFF can be deployed:

- a. To address several critical issues during a civil unrest situation;
- b. For restoration of law and order, preserving the peace, and protecting life and property.
- c. For crowd dispersal through established line formation tactics.
- d. For evacuation and rescue of innocent citizens and injured victims from affected areas.
- e. For isolation of problem areas through perimeter security control measures to prevent the further spread of civil unrest, and prevent innocent citizens from entering affected areas.

C. Mobile Field Force Organization

1. MFF is a highly mobile unit comprised of squads, grenadiers, sergeants, and a lieutenant. The MFF is also accompanied by a two-person jail van and a videographer with an escort.

2. Each MFF unit will be assigned a separate alpha identifier; Field Force Alpha, Bravo, etc.

3. Each MFF unit patrol vehicle will be assigned a radio designator.

4. MFF unit vehicles will display their unit designator on the rear window in white shoe polish.

5. The MFF sergeants are responsible for maintaining control over the officers under their chain of command, and having their personnel carry out instructions given by the MFF lieutenant.

6. The MFF lieutenant is responsible for:

- a. Directing mobile field force operations,
- b. Coordinating activities with other police personnel, and
- c. Maintaining communication with the command post.

D. Mobile Field Force Equipment

1. It is essential that the MFF unit have all of the necessary equipment at their disposal to accomplish their planned tactical objectives if mobilized. It is the responsibility

of each MFF sergeant to insure that each officer under their span of control has all of the required equipment in their possession prior to deployment.

2. Each MFF officer is required to have the following equipment prior to being deployed:

- a. Riot helmet and face shield.
- b. Ballistic vest.
- c. Flashlight.
- d. Portable radio.
- e. Class C uniform. No shorts are authorized.
- f. Duty belt with issued equipment.
- g. Gas mask and carrier, if issued.
- h. Riot Baton.

3. All non-issued MFF equipment will be stored in the department bunker. The MFF lieutenant is responsible for insuring that the following equipment is available if necessary for deployment: (46.1.6)

- a. Riot shields.
- b. Riot batons.
- c. Hand-held bullhorn.
- d. Disposable flex cuffs and wire cutters for removal.
- e. White shoe polish for unit identification.
- f. Mark-9 and Mark-46 Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) canisters.
- g. Extra gas masks and cartridges.
- h. Chemical agents and smoke.
- i. Impact munitions.

E. Chemical Agents and Less Lethal Munitions

1. Chemical agents and impact munitions are available for use by the MFF team. Only the MFF Lieutenant can authorize the deployment of chemical agents and less lethal munitions when necessary. Under exigent circumstances, MFF personnel can deploy less lethal munitions.

2. Individually issued OC may be used in situations where an officer must use physical force to:

- a. Protect him/herself or other persons from assault,
- b. To overcome resistance to an arrest, or
- c. To restrain a violent person in custody.

3. Chemical agents and less lethal munitions shall be used for the purpose of dispersing illegally assembled crowds or to protect life and property when circumstances indicate that their use would be the most effective manner of accomplishing the objective.

a. Chemical agents and less lethal munitions will be utilized to offer a humane and effective method of reducing resistance and lessening the need for the application of more severe measures.

b. Great care will be used when deploying chemical agents and less lethal munitions.

c. When practical, a verbal warning shall be given before the deployment of chemical agents and less lethal munitions.

4. The MFF grenadier is responsible for:

a. Deploying chemical agents and less lethal munitions at the direction of the MFF Lieutenant.

b. Carrying the appropriate assortment of munitions as well as the delivery system when the MFF unit is mobilized.

5. The Department Rangemaster is ~~also~~ responsible for conducting quarterly inspections on all MFF munitions to insure their integrity for deployment.

a. All MFF munitions will be stored in the Ammunition Storage Room in the Police Station Administration Building (PSAB).

b. The Department Rangemaster and Lieutenants are authorized to enter this room if MFF munitions are needed for deployment. (46.1.6)

6. The MFF Lieutenant is responsible for ordering and maintaining an adequate inventory of all chemical agents and less lethal munitions for mobile field force operations. The MFF Lieutenant is also responsible for maintaining an inventory of all expended chemical agents and less lethal munitions used in training or in an actual engagement. (46.1.6)

#### F. Unlawful Assembly

1. Unlawful assembly deals with the assembling of two or more persons to do an unlawful act such as:

a. Agreeing to trespass on the property of another,

b. Interfering with a business,

c. Disrupting or obstructing the arrest of persons violating the law; or

d. When two or more persons assemble to express their ideas or to picket and do this act in a boisterous, violent, or tumultuous manner.

2. The statutory language that there must be an assembling to do an unlawful act only requires that there be an assembly for an unlawful purpose by those who knowingly participate. Those who assemble must intend to commit an unlawful act or engage in an unlawful purpose. There is no requirement that any overt act be done. If the purpose of the assembly is unlawful, the crowd may be dispersed.

#### G. Dispersal Order

1. An order to disperse must be a specific proclamation directed toward the crowd as a whole using a bullhorn or other public address system. Unless otherwise necessary, the dispersal order will not be given until an adequate number of mobile field force personnel are on scene to safely handle the incident.

2. The dispersal order shall be stated as follows:

“I am (name and rank), a police officer of the City of Peoria. I hereby declare this to be an unlawful assembly and in the name of the people of the State of Arizona, command all those assembled at (give specific location) to immediately disperse. If you do not do so, you will be arrested. Section 13-3808 of the Arizona Revised Statutes prohibits remaining present at an unlawful assembly. The following routes of dispersal are available to you: (give the most convenient route or routes of dispersal). You have (give reasonable amount of time) minutes to disperse.”

H. Those persons who do not disperse after a reasonable amount of time shall be arrested. The circumstances surrounding the incident will dictate the feasibility of arresting those who do not disperse. Officers may use that force which is reasonable to affect an arrest in compliance with the Department’s Use of Force Policy.

#### I. Peaceful Demonstrations

1. The Department’s role during a demonstration is to protect the rights of peaceful demonstrators, and to protect the rights of the public. Any overt police response must conform with a plan to quell violence.

2. If groups of opposing beliefs are demonstrating, both groups should be isolated from each other to avoid confrontation.

a. A reasonable buffer should be left between the two groups where they are unable to hurl objects at each other.

b. The MFF Lieutenant or designee will identify Group leaders and engage them in conversation as to the actions of the demonstrators.

c. It should be emphasized that the group has a right to demonstrate, but the public also has a right to conduct normal business.

3. Officers shall remain neutral and maintain professionalism, not engaging in conversations with the demonstrators. Any questions from protestors will be referred to the scene supervisor. Officers can expect to be taunted, but must remain professional, exercising the greatest of restraint.

4. A peaceful demonstration can evolve and change in nature if it is not managed properly.

a. A peaceful group can be enraged by inappropriate police conduct.

b. Professional agitators are trained to goad officers into overreacting.

c. An arrest may agitate the crowd or enhance public safety by arresting an agitator.

d. It is every supervisor's responsibility to insure that his or her personnel remain calm.

e. Arrest decisions must be pre-approved by the MFF Lieutenant unless exigent circumstances exist.

#### J. Intelligence and Video Taping

1. If time permits, and conditions warrant intelligence gathering, undercover officers will attempt to infiltrate large groups of protestors in an attempt to determine their intentions. Undercover officers will only be permitted to work in pairs, and will not take any enforcement action unless absolutely necessary to do so.

2. Intelligence gathering is to include:

- a. The size of the group,
- b. Their intentions,
- c. Identification of formal and/or informal leaders,
- d. Weapons,

e. Plans, etc.

f. Undercover officers will report their findings to their immediate supervisor who is responsible for disseminating the information to the MFF lieutenant.

3. Video taping demonstrations is essential for prosecution purposes, liability, documenting dispersal orders and identification of suspects.

a. A videographer shall be assigned to the MFF unit for documentation purposes.

b. An escort officer will be assigned to the videographer for safety purposes.

c. The videographer is responsible for video taping demonstrations and impounding the tape as evidence.

#### K. Termination of Civil Disorder Activities

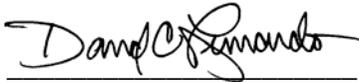
1. The MFF Lieutenant will conduct a critique with the supervisors involved in the operation. The MFF Lieutenant will complete an after action report which will contain a complete and detailed report of the problem areas encountered to include:

- a. Casualty information;
- b. Highlights or significant events;
- c. Chemicals and less lethal munitions used;
- d. Unsatisfactory conditions;
- e. Any recommendations for improvements during future demonstrations.

f. This report will be completed within five calendar days and will be submitted through the chain of command to the Chief of Police.

2. All supervisors involved in the operation will be responsible for ensuring that all equipment issued to their subordinates for use during the incident are returned clean and serviceable before they are relieved from duty. Any equipment that is determined to be unserviceable shall be immediately reported to the MFF Lieutenant.

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**Policy 4.32 Mobile Field Force**  
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