

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: SOP #36: Military Police Ride Along Program

**1. Purpose.** To outline the guidelines for the Provost Marshal Office Ride Along Program

**2. General.**

a. The ride-along program is a great opportunity to familiarize others with law enforcement and gain rapport with the citizens we protect and serve.

b. An individual may accompany an MP patrol as a ride-along so long as the rider meets the eligibility requirements, has written approval of his commander (or guardian if juvenile) and a completed waiver. Once assigned a rider, the patrol will use this opportunity to acquaint the rider with the full range of MP duties / responsibilities. Yet, we must take every precaution and limit the rider's exposure to hazardous or sensitive situations.

c. The Provost Marshal Office reserves the right to limit or exclude any person or category of individuals from participation in the program.

**3. Responsibilities.**

a. Operations.

(1) Review all paperwork to ensure accuracy. Verify that the emergency POC information is correct and that the phone numbers work.

(2) Schedule ride-alongs as missions permit, briefing D/SGT and MPDO.

b. Desk Sergeant/Assistant Desk Sergeant.

(1) Issue both a protective vest and reflectorized vest to the ride-along. Ensuring to collect equipment when the ride is terminated.

(2) Be aware of the rider's location and know how to contact the rider's POC in case of an emergency drop off.

(3) Consider how the rider's presence will impact the response to and arrival at scene when dispatching the patrol.

c. MPDO & Patrol Supervisor.

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(1) Brief the rider on hazards/dangers involved and that the rider will, at all times be under the direction of the MP with whom they ride.

(2) Brief rider on “Hazards beyond normal risk.” This refers to the likelihood that, even for Military Police, the assignment may be and most often is hazardous. In addition, such a hazard may not be remote: there is a certain chance that a person being questioned, issued a summons, detained or apprehended will resort to violence and that they may become involved.

(3) Review paperwork to ensure all information is accurate. Call contact number to confirm before the rider begins duty. Witness the Statement of Understanding.

(4) Ensure the MP patrol chosen to host the ride along is willing to accept this responsibility and understands drop off procedures.

d. Patrol.

(1) When assigned a rider, the patrol will immediately make known to the MPDO/ Patrol Supervisor any unusual assignment considerations which could present a hazard beyond normal risk. The MPDO/ Patrol Supervisor will then find other means to complete the ride or request that the rider reschedule.

(2) Patrols will refrain from conversing about personal problems, opinions and matters which would tend to place the chain of command/MP Corps in poor standing or bring discredit to the profession.

(3) Riders will not be shielded too carefully from law enforcement activities. However, riders will not participate in enforcing the law, unless requested to do so by the MP.

e. Rider.

(1) Soldiers with an interest in law enforcement, and family members between the ages of 14 –19 are eligible to ride along with MPs.

(2) The rider should have a personal means of communication (e.g. cell phone/calling card) when riding along.

(3) The rider must be physically and mentally capable of riding along with an MP.

(4) The rider must wear neat, conservative, comfortable clothes appropriate for the weather. Soldiers will wear BDUs.

(5) If the rider does not understand the potential for risk, he/she must ask for clarification.

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- (6) Riders may not possess or use cameras or recorders of any type.
- (7) Meals and snacks (or money to purchase them) should be provided by the rider.
- (8) The rider must understand that he or she could be required to write an official statement and/or testify in court.
- (9) The rider must understand that conversations and events are sensitive in nature and should not be discussed freely with non-law enforcement personnel.

**4. Procedures.**

- a. The rider must receive written approval from his/her commander and a signed waiver (Enclosure 1), if less than 18 years of age receive written parental waiver (Enclosure 2) and written parental permission (Enclosure 3) no later than 5 days prior to requested ride-along date.
- b. The ride-along must be scheduled through the PMO Operations Sergeant, and can be denied if mission dictates or the rider appears unsuited for duty.
- c. The rider shall not be permitted to carry a weapon of any nature, but will be issued a protective vest and a reflectorized vest.
- d. The patrol chosen to host a ride along will be an NCO, preferably the same gender as the rider.
- e. Drop off procedures

(1) The MP or rider may discontinue the ride at any time. The MP **must** discontinue the ride if he has a reasonable belief that continuing the ride will place the rider in danger. The rider **must** be dropped off if continuing the ride would threaten either's safety or substantially interfere with the discharge of assigned duties. The final decision on whether to continue or discontinue a ride will be the MP's. In most cases, a pursuit with proper emergency equipment operating is not enough to discontinue, unless the rider wishes to stop. The MP/MPDO/Patrol Supervisor or Desk Sergeant will weigh the law enforcement objective, the danger to the rider and others if he continues, stops, road conditions, etc, and the rider's attitude. When in doubt, the decision will always give maximum protection to the rider.

(2) The MP patrol will then contact the RTO and relay the drop off location. The drop off location should be near a public facility (such as a gas station, school, or store) whenever possible, or at an easily identifiable location (such as roadway intersections).

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(3) The RTO will dispatch another patrol (if available) to pick up the individual and return him/her to the PMO. Once at the PMO the MPDO will either terminate the ride along or assign the rider to another patrol. If no patrols are available to pick up the rider, the MP desk sergeant will call the rider's POC to pick him/her up.

f. Ride-alongs will not be directed to perform housekeeping duties.

- Encl
1. Adult waiver
  2. Juvenile waiver
  3. Parental Permission Statement
  4. Ride Along Statement of Understanding

SUSAN C. DANIELSEN  
LTC, MP  
Provost Marshal

Enclosure 1 (Waiver/Release of Liability - Adult) to SOP #36: Military Police Ride Along Program

**Waiver/Release of Liability (Adult)**

Prescribing Directive: 10 USC 2733, 28 USC 2671-2680, AR 27-20

Authority: Title 10, USC 3012. Principle Purposes: To release the United States Government, Department of the Army, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, and their agents from any and all liability arising from or incident to participation in the Ride Along Program.

Mandatory or Volunteer Disclosure and Effect on Individual Not Providing Information: Voluntary; however, if information is not provided, participation in the Ride Along Program will be denied.

In consideration of the permission extended by the United States, through its agents, to participate in the Ride Along Program, I \_\_\_\_\_ (Print), agree to release and hold harmless the United States Government, Fort Bragg and the agents and employees thereof from any acts of negligence or loss resulting from or arising out of participation in the Ride Along Program.

Participation in the Ride Along Program includes but is not limited to: riding in government vehicles with law enforcement officers on patrol, using government communications equipment, assisting the law enforcement officer in traffic patrol, assisting the law enforcement officer in crime scene security, consumption of meals in the police station, being dropped off at a convenient location for pick-up by another law enforcement unit in the case of a "High-Risk" call and exposure to the unknown risks/hazards faced by law enforcement personnel due to the nature of their job.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the provisions of this release and understand that it is binding upon myself and my assigns, heirs, executors, beneficiaries, family members and derivative claimants. I further acknowledge that I have no medical history or condition that would preclude participation in the Ride Along Program.

I certify that I am the above named and am empowered to execute this release.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signature

Subscribed to and sworn to before me on this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_\_.

My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_ on the day of \_\_, 200\_\_.

Signature of notary public \_\_\_\_\_.

Enclosure 2 (Waiver/Release of Liability- Juveniles) to SOP #36: Military Police Ride Along Program

**Waiver/Release of Liability (Juvenile)**

Prescribing Directive: 10 USC 2733, 28 USC 2671-2680, AR 27-20

Authority: Title 10, USC 3012. Principle Purposes: To release the United States Government, Department of the Army, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, and their agents from any and all liability arising from or incident to participation in the Ride Along Program.

Mandatory or Volunteer Disclosure and Effect on Individual Not Providing Information: Voluntary; however, if information is not provided, participation in the Ride Along Program will be denied.

In consideration of the permission extended to my child by the united States, through its agents, to participate in the Ride Along Program, I \_\_\_\_\_ (Print), the parent or guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (child’s name) agree to release and hold harmless the United States Government, Fort Bragg and the agents and employees thereof from any acts of negligence, or any loss resulting from or arising out of my child’s participation in the Ride Along Program.

Participation in the Ride Along Program includes but is not limited to: riding in government vehicles with law enforcement officers on patrol, using government communications equipment, assisting the law enforcement officer in traffic patrol, assisting the law enforcement officer in crime scene security, consumption of meals in the police station, being dropped off at a convenient location for pick-up by another law enforcement unit in the case of a “High-Risk” call and exposure to the unknown risks/hazards faced by law enforcement personnel due to the nature of their job.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the provisions of this release and understand that it is binding upon myself and my assigns, heirs, executors, beneficiaries, family members and derivative claimants. I further acknowledge that my child has no medical history or condition that would preclude participation in the Ride Along Program.

I certify that I am the parent and or guardian of the above named child and am empowered to execute this release.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Subscribed to and sworn to before me on this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_\_.  
My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_ on the day of \_\_, 200\_\_.

Signature of notary public \_\_\_\_\_.

Printed name and address of notary public

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Enclosure 3 (Parental Permission) to SOP #36: Military Police Ride Along Program

**Parental Permission**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_, has my permission to participate in the Military Police Ride Along Program on: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/200\_\_, from \_\_\_\_\_hrs until \_\_\_\_\_hrs.

I know of no health or fitness restriction(s) that would preclude his/her participation. In the event of illness or injury occurring to my child while involved in this activity, I consent to X-ray examination, anesthesia, medical or surgical diagnostic procedures or treatment that is considered necessary in the best judgment of the attending physician and performed by or under the supervision of a member of the medical staff of the hospital furnishing medical services. (It is understood that in the event of a serious illness or injury, reasonable efforts to contact me will be attempted.

Parents Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact numbers with area code where I may be reached during this activity:

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## **Ride Along Statement of Understanding**

As a rider with the Fort Bragg Military Police, I understand that:

1. I may encounter “hazards beyond normal risk.” This refers to the likelihood that, even for Military Police, the assignment may be and most often is hazardous. In addition, such a hazard may not be remote: there is a certain chance that a person being questioned, issued a summons, detained or apprehended will resort to violence and that I may become involved.

2. I will be under the direction of, and obey the instructions of the MP with whom I ride.

3. I may request to terminate the ride at any time.

4. If the MP deems the situation unsafe, I may be dropped off unexpectedly. Although the Ft Bragg Military Police will make an effort to drop me at a public facility, ultimately I am responsible for arranging transportation back home.

5. I should have a personal cell phone or calling card with me.

6. I may not drive the MP vehicle.

7. Any conversations and events I witness are sensitive in nature and I will respect the dignity of the people involved by not talking about the specifics of what I observe to non law enforcement personnel.

8. I may be required to write an official statement about events I witnessed; and, may be required to testify in court.

9. I cannot carry weapons of any kind.

10. I must provide my own meals and snacks.

11. I will dress in a neat, conservative manner appropriate for the weather.

12. The Provost Marshal Office reserves the right to limit or exclude any person or category of individuals from participation in the program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Rider (date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness (date)