

NC BLET Patrol Techniques study guide

1. Introduction and Lesson Purpose

- **Purpose:** Familiarize new law enforcement officers with procedures, responsibilities, and tactical responses for routine patrol functions and high-risk incidents.
 - **Overall Goal:** Equip officers with strategies to perform effective patrols, reduce crime opportunities, conduct investigations, and handle calls safely and professionally.
-

2. Preparation for Duty/Patrol

1. Personal Appearance:

- Clean uniform, neatly pressed.
- Adhere to hygiene standards (clean-shaven, clean hair, minimal jewelry).
- Present a professional, approachable image.

2. Equipment Checks:

- Handcuffs, sidearm, flashlight, duty belt/gear (ensure no wear or damage).
- Additional supplies: extra magazines, notepad, pens, forms.
- Body armor: strongly recommended (statistics show a higher survival rate for officers wearing ballistic vests).

3. Mental Awareness:

- Arrive on shift with a positive, alert mindset.
- Practice “what-when” scenarios: mentally rehearse potentially dangerous encounters.
- Use color code awareness (white, yellow, orange, red, black) to stay vigilant while on duty.

4. Briefings or Roll Calls:

- Attending pre-shift briefings to learn about:

- Wanted persons/vehicles
- Recent criminal activity
- Special orders or local ordinances

- Debrief with outgoing shift officers when practical.
- Staying updated on relevant publications and bulletins.

5. **Vehicle Inspections:**

- Inspect thoroughly (tires, lights, interior) before signing for the patrol vehicle.
 - Check for contraband or weapons, especially behind seats.
 - Document deficiencies. You are responsible for the vehicle once you sign it out.
-

3. Types of Patrol

1. **Conspicuous Patrol**

- High visibility with marked vehicles.
- Purpose: deter crime by making police presence obvious.
- Examples: patrolling trouble spots in full uniform, visible field interviews.

2. **Inconspicuous Patrol**

- Low visibility in unmarked cars.
 - Purpose: catch criminals in the act.
 - More about apprehension than direct deterrence.
-

4. Assertive Patrol as a Crime Deterrent

- Emphasizes proactive presence in high-crime areas to convince criminals that the risk of apprehension is too high.

- Methods include frequent business checks, citizen contacts, and field interviews.
 - Though it may generate some complaints of “harassment,” assertive patrol improves overall public safety.
-

5. Approaching/Interacting with Individuals

1. Non-threatening Contacts

- Day-to-day interactions with business owners, residents, etc.
- Maintain situational awareness: reactionary gap and interview stance.

2. Threatening Contacts & Suspicious Activity

- Field interviews and “reasonable suspicion” stops.
- Keep hands free, watch suspect’s hands, maintain a safe distance.
- Avoid complacency; every encounter is potentially dangerous.
- Use Contact/Cover tactics:
 - **Contact Officer:** conducts all questioning, searches, radio transmissions.
 - **Cover Officer:** provides overall scene security, observes suspect(s), discourages escape or assault.

3. Legally Armed Individuals

- Permit holders must typically inform officers of concealed firearms.
 - If removing the firearm for safety, issue calm, clear commands (“I’m going to secure your weapon temporarily…”).
-

6. Handling Specific Situations

1. Delivering Emergency Messages (including Death Notifications)

- Deliver the message in a private, calm, empathetic manner.

- Use clear, direct language (avoid euphemisms).
- Provide referrals for additional support and answer immediate questions.

2. Landlord-Tenant Disputes

- Distinguish civil vs. criminal issues.
- An eviction requires a Summary Ejectment; mere nonpayment is civil, not trespassing.
- Keep the peace, offer referrals to the magistrate or civil court.

3. Loud Party Calls

- Arrive quietly, observe the situation.
- Contact residents, request lowering noise; determine if criminal/statute violations.
- If repeated complaints, you may cite or arrest depending on department policy.

4. Building Inspections/Searches

- **Exterior:** check windows/doors, look for forced entry.
- **Interior:** never search alone (use at least two officers).
- Announce presence and commands if safe.
- Control speed, remain in low-ready with flashlights away from body.
- If finding armed/barricaded suspects, back out and treat as barricaded subject.

5. Attractive Nuisances

- Hazards like unsecured construction sites or abandoned property.
- Notify relevant authorities (public works, property owner).
- Deter trespassing and accidents by quick official response.

6. Patrol Hazards

- Examples: missing street signs, potholes, inoperative traffic signals.
- Report to the appropriate agencies; follow departmental protocol.

7. Police Escorts

- Follow agency guidelines (when to provide funeral escorts or emergency vehicle escorts).

8. Animal Control Incidents

- Document signs of abuse; there is a strong link between animal abuse and domestic violence.
- In violent domestic settings, be alert to harm against pets or livestock.

9. Persons Needing Assistance

- Evaluate safety first; many requests will be benign (e.g., locked keys in car, run out of gas).
 - Follow policy for transporting citizens or offering on-scene help.
-

7. Preliminary & Follow-Up Investigations

1. Key Responsibilities

- Patrol officers often handle the initial investigation.
- Collect evidence, protect scene, interview witnesses.
- Accurate field notes and incident reports are crucial.

2. Examples: Assaults, Disorderly Conduct, Trespassing

- Verify if immediate arrest is warranted.
 - Document victim/suspect info, photos (if needed), and property involved.
 - Follow up with victims, gather any new info, and determine if additional charges or warrants are needed.
-

8. Large-Scale Search & Rescue

- Officers should know how to participate in wide-scale searches (e.g., missing person, disaster scenarios).

- Coordinated effort with multiple agencies.
 - Maintain chain of command, scene integrity, and open communication channels.
-

9. High-Risk Incidents

1. Violent Crimes in Progress

- Examples: shots-fired calls, barricaded subjects, active shooter.
- Rapid response, but maintain officer safety.
- May require perimeter establishment, specialized units (SWAT, negotiators).

2. Robbery in Progress

- Use stealth approach—avoid sirens near the location.
- Communicate with dispatch and arriving units; set up perimeter if possible.
- Wait for backup unless immediate intervention is necessary to save lives.

3. Building Alarm Calls

- Treat as potentially “in-progress” until proven otherwise.
 - Use cover/concealment on approach, coordinate with backup.
-

10. Searching Structures and Executing Search Warrants

- **Warrantless Searches:** Follow lawful guidelines (e.g., exigent circumstances, consent).
- **Search Warrants:**
 - Plan thoroughly (intel gathering, site survey, correct address).
 - Execute swiftly—speed, surprise, simplicity.
 - Use proper identification (body armor, clear “Police” or “Sheriff” labels).

- Always balance mission goals with officer/public safety.
-

11. Signs & Symbols of Street Gang Activity

- Officers should learn to recognize specific graffiti, hand signs, or apparel.
 - Document new intelligence for future investigations.
-

12. Illegal Alien Status & Consular Notification

- Understand the three basic classifications of illegal status (e.g., overstay vs. unlawful entry).
 - Know when/how to contact consular officials if a detained individual is a foreign national, per State Department mandates.
-