

Study Guide: NC BLET Techniques of Traffic Law Enforcement

Phases of Traffic Enforcement

1. Detection:

Identify improper/illegal behaviors or conditions.

Use Reasonable Suspicion: Based on articulable facts, less than probable cause.

Probable Cause: Totality of circumstances suggests a crime occurred.

2. Apprehension:

Actions include Traffic Citations, Written/Verbal Warnings, or Physical Arrests (for serious offenses).

3. Prosecution:

Gather evidence, prepare reports, and testify in court.

4. Adjudication:

Court determines responsibility (guilty or not guilty).

5. Penalization:

Court sentences or judges the penalty.

Patrol Methods

1. Line Patrol: Specific route with tools like RADAR.
2. Area Patrol: Covers multiple streets or intersections.
3. Directed Patrol: Focused on specific offenses or problem areas.
4. Stationary Observation:

Conspicuous: Fully visible to deter violations.

Visible: Partially hidden but observable with effort.

Concealed: Hidden observer.

Traffic Stops

1. Unknown Risk Stops:

Avoid stopping in dangerous or inappropriate areas (e.g., curves, busy intersections).

Call in stop details: location, vehicle description, license plate, and occupants.

Position patrol car 10-15 feet behind, offset by 3 feet.

2. Approaches:

Driver Side: Offers close contact but exposes the officer to traffic risks.

Passenger Side: Provides better safety and surprise.

Motorcycles: Ensure violator stays seated; remove helmets.

Tractor-Trailers: Watch for suspicious movements and position yourself safely.

Vans: Open rear doors for visibility.

High-Risk Stops

Requires at least two officers.

Position vehicles strategically (primary at a 45° angle, secondary straight).

Primary officer gives commands; secondary handles arrests.

Commands include Hands Up, Engine Off, and Exit Vehicle.

DWI Detection

1. Elements:

Driving under influence with a BAC of 0.08+ or impairing substances.

Illegal alcohol concentration for commercial vehicles: 0.04.

2. Three Phases:

Vehicle in Motion: Initial observation of violations.

Personal Contact: Interactions to assess impairment.

Pre-Arrest Screening: Sobriety tests like Walk and Turn, HGN, and One-Leg Stand.

3. Tests:

Walk and Turn: Two errors indicate BAC > 0.08.

One-Leg Stand: Two out of four errors indicate impairment.

HGN: Detects involuntary eye jerking.

4. Clues:

Visual: Bloodshot eyes, alcohol containers.

Audible: Slurred speech, inconsistent responses.

Odor: Alcohol, cover-up scents.

Vehicle Searches

1. Search Types:

Incident to Arrest: When the arrestee is within reach or evidence is likely present.

Car Frisk: Limited to weapons in the passenger compartment.

Consent Searches: Must not delay the traffic stop.

Inventory Search: Administrative for cataloging items.

2. Principles for Safety:

Always have backup.

Choose safe locations.

Remove occupants before searching.

Traffic Directing

1. Positions:

Intersection Center: Maximum visibility and control.

Corner Position: Safer for heavy pedestrian traffic.

2. Warning Sign Placement:

First sign 4-8 times the speed limit in feet on urban roads.

On rural roads, use 8-12 times the speed limit in feet.