

DPSST Patrol Week Field Training Officer Expectations – 2008

The “Patrol Week” for Basic Police Recruits occurs Monday - Thursday during the final week of academy training. There are two shifts per day Monday – Wednesday with one shift beginning at 1300 and the second at 1800. Recruits work each shift on a rotating basis. On Thursdays all recruits work the same shift beginning at 0800.

Field Training Officers (FTOs) are an integral component in the success of patrol week exercises. The insights FTOs bring to the evaluation process add to the training of the recruit and perhaps more importantly, start to build the bridge from academy-based training to the real-world of field training.

The following items are important for you to know prior to your arrival and participation:

- FTOs should coordinate their attendance through the DPSST Class Coordinator.
- FTOs should dress in street clothing and not in uniform.
- FTO's should dress appropriately for the prevailing weather conditions.
- DPSST safety protocols prohibit the possession of deadly or dangerous weapons in the training area, so those items must be secured prior to entry to the training venues.
- FTOs are required to wear safety glasses and protective helmets at all times.
- FTOs will be provided with vests indicating they are not involved in the scenarios.
- FTOs will be assigned to a vehicle with one or two officers. Student officers will have FTOs from their sponsoring agency assigned to them.
- FTOs will ride in the back seat of the patrol vehicles and can get out of the vehicles as they deem necessary, however they should not actively participate in the scenario. FTOs should be aware that the scenario evaluator or safety officer may have the FTO change locations depending on the nature of the scenario so as to prevent interference with marking gun exercises or arrest situations.
- FTOs should expect to participate in the debriefings following each scenario. Rare exceptions to this occur when time is a limiting factor and the scenario evaluator needs to move the recruits along quickly.
- The FTO will be able to debrief the scenarios in the vehicle after clearing and at length at the end of the shift.
- At the completion of the first patrol shift a large session debriefing is conducted by DPSST staff. Smaller debriefings are held at the end of subsequent shifts.
- FTOs are allowed time to complete daily observation reports with the student officers after those debriefings.
- Students will be writing at least two reports during the course of patrol week and the FTO may review those reports. The recruit may use DPSST format or the FTO can bring agency forms and have the recruit use them. The reports will not be reviewed by DPSST.
- Students will also be writing any reports on a use of force that occurred in their shift.
- FTOs traditionally have fun, but we remind you that you represent the professional ranks of police officers across the state.

Experience indicates that highly competent officers may not always agree on the “best” way to respond to and manage calls. This is why we try to teach concepts rather than techniques during the academy training. It is critical that FTOs participating in the patrol week exercises understand that their role is primarily to observe and participate in the evaluations when requested. In the event that a scenario evaluation is conducted in a manner that does not appear to be consistent with good professional technique and approach to the situation, we ask that FTOs notify the DPSST Tactical Staff coordinating the training.

We understand there may be circumstances such as this and we will do our best to correct them as necessary. At the same time we do not want to have situations arise where disagreement between individuals involved in the evaluation of scenarios creates distractions from the training experiences the student officers receive in patrol week. DPSST reserves the right to remove any individual creating a disruption from the training venues.