

## **DPSST Patrol Week Field Training Officer Expectations**

Monday - Thursday during the final week of basic police academy training recruits participate in "Patrol Week" exercises. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday there are two shifts per day with one shift beginning at 13:00 and the second shift at 18:00. Recruits are assigned to work each shift on a rotating basis. On Thursdays all recruits work the same shift beginning at 08:00.

Field Training Officers (FTOs) are an integral component in the success of patrol week exercises.

The insights and experiences a FTO brings to the evaluation process adds to the training of the recruit and more importantly, begins the bridging process of moving 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. No shorts, knickers, or capri-style clothing are allowed. No open-toed shoes or flip-flops are allowed.
- FTO's should dress appropriately for the prevailing / predicted 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. Recruit 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 be prepared to participate in the debriefing following each scenario. Exceptions occur when time is a limiting factor and the scenario evaluator needs to move the recruits along quickly to another activity.
- 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 an incident report during the course of patrol week and the FTO may review those reports. The recruit completes the reports using an electronic DPSST format. If the FTO wants to review the report, the FTO will need to ask the recruit to provide a printed version. The reports will not be reviewed by DPSST.
- Students will complete use of force reports for any incident involving the use of deadly physical force. These reports are considered an extension of the debriefing process and are intended to cause the recruit to recall specific events after the incident.
- FTOs traditionally have fun during patrol week, but we remind you that you represent the professional ranks of police officers across the state.

DPSST strives to provide stressful encounters that replicate challenging, real-life situations and environments that will facilitate decision-making skills. Realism provides recruits with patterns and trends that can be associated with contextual factors. Keys to success such as mental preparation, awareness of danger signals, timely reaction and transition times, decisive action, multi-tasking under pressure, and the ability to explain circumstances are derivatives of scenario training.

It is important for FTOs to understand that scenario training will expose officers to novel situations that will enhance the decision-making process. Recruits will have some contextual basis for scenarios but in most cases will not have done something “exactly” like they are experiencing. DPSST scenarios often are based upon incidents that have not been specifically covered in training. For example, recruits are given both informational and experiential training on establishing containment of scenes, but not every situation that may require containment is covered in this training.

Experience indicates that highly competent officers do not always agree on the “best” way to respond to and manage calls. We try to teach a wide array of concepts rather than specific techniques during academy training. It is critical that FTOs participating in the patrol week exercises understand their role during patrol week is primarily to observe and participate in the evaluations as requested.

In the event that a scenario evaluation is conducted in a manner that does not appear to be consistent with currently accepted professional, we ask that FTOs notify the DPSST Tactical Staff coordinating the training. These situations do occasionally occur and we will do our best to immediately correct the errors. We do not want to have situations arise where disagreement between individuals involved in the evaluation of scenarios and those observing the scenarios create distractions from the training experience of the recruit officers.