Crowd Control

PPB Program: Sergeant's Academy
Lesson Plan Created By: Sergeant Craig Dobson
Date Created: October 2013
Date Updated: April 2018

Learning/Performance Objectives

Part 1

- Discuss Social Identity
- Explain Crowd Demeanors and behavior
- Describe the role of a IC during crowd control events
- Explain how to make a plan – National Decision Model
- Describe the need for rules of engagement
- Describe the police priorities during a protest
- Discuss protests the indicators of violence within a crowd

Part 2

- Describe the role of a MFF sergeant
- Explain the importance of knowing the Mission, Objectives and R.O.E.s
- Describe the dangers of independent action when assigned to a MFF
- Thoroughly explain the police report writing requirements for MFF officers

Part 3

- Describe the constitutional right to protest granted to all citizens
- Explain how police powers are used during protests
- Articulate law enforcement's legal authority to disperse a protest based on the Time, Place & Manner principle

CROWD CONTROL

The Portland Police Bureau recognizes that the City of Portland has a tradition of free speech events. It is the policy of the Portland Police Bureau to uphold constitutional rights of free speech and assembly. The Bureau will accomplish this by applying the appropriate level of coordination, direction, guidance and, when necessary, control to protect life and property and to maintain public peace and order.

Actions or behavior involving trespassing, destruction of property, disruption of transportation, unlawful use of amplification devices, assaults and disturbances of the peace are not protected by the First Amendment. It is the intention of the Portland Police Bureau to have a police force trained to respond to all events involving crowds in a thoughtful and professional manner.

CLASSROOM SESSIONS – 3 HOURS

Part 1 – Sergeant Responsibilities as the IC during a civil Disturbance
Planning for a protest

- Understanding the crowd / situation
- Using the Decision making model
- Developing:
    - A plan
    - Objectives
    - End state
    - Rules of engagement
- Managing the event
- Communications

DISCUSSION

Historical Background

- Local incidents
- Crowd Behaviors
- Social identity
- Social factors that affect crowd and police

Crowd Demeanors

- Compliant
- Passive Resistant
- Active Resistant
- Violent
- Lethal

Goals of Organized Civil Disobedience

- Send a message
- Embarrass the police / government
- Create confusion
- Attempt to intimidate
- Gain sympathy
- Gain support
- Incite the police into overreaction

Crowd Precursors to Violence

- Masks
- Clothing
- Packs

- Signs
- Activities

Direct action Devices

- Sleeping dragons
- Tripods
- Shields
- Other

Types of Violence

- Verbal abuse
- Noise
- Attacks on unattended equipment
- Throwing objects
- Attacks on police
- Fire
- Explosives
- Formations

Protester Training

- Camps
- Manuals
- Internet / Social media

Progressive Stages of a Riot

1. Gathering
2. Blocking
3. Refusing
4. Resisting
5. Attacking
6. Breaking
7. Looting
8. Burning

Post event actions

- **Reports**
- **After actions**
- **Injury logs**

DISCUSSION

Part 2 – The Sergeants Role as a MFF supervisor

Sergeants role

- Leading
- Understanding the mission
- Knowing the squad members
- Independent actions

  DISCUSSION

Officer Guidelines

- Squad discipline
- No independent action
- Do not verbally engage
- Remain under control
- Resist baiting tactics
- Minimum force ONLY
- Strikes to positive strike areas ONLY
- ACT AS A TEAM
- Calm and professional demeanor
- Eyes on the crowd at all times
- Face shield down at all times

  DISCUSSION
- Lessons learned / Evolution of crowd control for the Portland Police Bureau

Individual Action

- Is not an option
- Dangers of individual action in crowd control situation
  - Injury to individual officer
  - Injury to fellow MFF officers
  - Increased likelihood of use of force to effect rescue
- Repercussions of individual action taken without squad leader approval
  - Flashpoints

Part 3 -Constitutional Rights

- Free speech – First Amendment
  - Freedom of assembly
  - The police are to protect everyone's constitutional rights
  - Criminal behavior during protests is not constitutionally protected behavior
  - Time, place, manner
- 2nd Amendment

  DISCUSSION

Definitions

- Crowd
  - Shoppers, spectators, audiences, celebratory, strike actions, demonstrations
- Mob
  - Spontaneous, aggressive, acquiring (looters)
- Anarchy
  - Social structure without government or law and order
- Anarchism
  - The theory that all government is undesirable
- Block Blok
  - Street Tactics of anarchists
- Diversity of Tactics
  - Wide range of "non-Violent" tactics that usually include vandalism

VIDEOS and DISCUSSION:

Vancouver BC Stanley Cup riot (June, 1994)
Portland entertainment district (summer 2014)