

**MARIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PATROL SERVICES POLICY AND PROCEDURE ORDER**

**CHAPTER 8 – SPECIALIZED UNITS
PAT-08-05
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**DATE
7/15/10**

SHERIFF'S MOUNTED POSSE UNIT

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Marin County Sheriff's Office to have a group of equestrian specialists who volunteer to provide equine assistance for search and rescue services and public relation through participation in approved community events. This group shall be known as the Marin County Sheriff's Office Mounted Posse Unit, Mounted Posse or Posse. This unit shall be directed in accordance with this General Order and the By-Laws of the Mounted Posse itself.

DEFINITIONS

- **Equestrian** – Relating to horses (any species thereof) or horseback riding.
- **Equestrian Group** - A group of volunteers skilled in riding horses and performing on horseback to carry out the mission of the Marin County Sheriff's Office.
- **Volunteers** – Persons who meet the requirements, are selected and who agree to use their privately owned and maintained horses while in performance of any and all duties under the authority and direction of the Sheriff's Office and in compliance with the Sheriff's Office General Orders and the Mounted Posse By-Laws and who do so without expectation of compensation by the Sheriff's Office or County of Marin for their time or operational expenses.
- **Caisson** – A horse drawn ceremonial cart used for dignitary funeral and memorial services. The caisson is accompanied by a designated platoon of Mounted Posse members and is available for use during memorial services held for the death of sworn public safety personnel and/or other appropriate ceremonial functions.

PROCEDURE

The Marin County Sheriff's Office Mounted Posse Unit's objective shall be:

1. To serve the public welfare in the event of a disaster, catastrophe or emergency.
2. To provide assistance with removal, retrieval or transport of equine and large animals as warranted.
3. To perform search and rescue as required.
4. To be well trained for the services to be provided.
5. To maintain a healthy professional group of well organized volunteers.
6. To encourage a spirit of cooperation and good will.
7. To promote the confidence and respect of the general public.
8. To promote an understanding of the usefulness of horses in public safety.
9. To assist the Sheriff in public relations events as requested.
10. To provide Caisson services for a public safety related funeral as requested and approved by the Sheriff.

ADMINISTRATION

1. The Sheriff shall appoint all members of the Mounted Posse and they shall serve at his pleasure.
2. The Mounted Posse shall fall under the Field Services Bureau of the Sheriff's Office.
3. The Sheriff shall appoint a sworn, regular member of the Sheriff's Office to act as a Liaison Officer to oversee operations of the Posse.
4. The duties of the Liaison Officer shall include:
 - I. To act as the Sheriff's designee in all Posse related matters.
 - II. To coordinate the administration, activities and training of the Posse as needed.
 - III. To assist the Posse in meeting their objectives.
5. Members of the Mounted Posse will be unarmed and shall not engage in general or specialized law enforcement actions otherwise entrusted to regular sworn deputies. Members who may lawfully carry a concealed firearm may do so only as a source of protection and defense, limited to any and all restrictions placed upon their lawful authority to possess a concealed firearm. Any Posse member who may lawfully carry a concealed firearm and who does so while engaged in Posse duties shall maintain the firearm in a concealed fashion at all times and the weapon shall not be openly displayed
6. Members of the Mounted Posse are subject to disciplinary actions as described in the Mounted Posse By-Laws. However, members of Mounted Posse serve at the pleasure of the Sheriff and can be terminated without the right to appeal.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Mounted Posse shall be determined pursuant to the Mounted Posse By-Laws. All applicants are subject to a full background check. No regular, paid member of the Marin County Sheriff's Office may participate as a volunteer Mounted Posse member in compliance with the Ventura Decision.

MOUNTED POSSE OFFICERS

The Mounted Posse shall be governed by the listed elected officers:

- I. Captain
- II. 1st Lieutenant
- III. 2nd Lieutenant
- IV. Treasurer
- V. Secretary

The Captain shall preside over:

- I. Meetings
- II. All operation functions.
- III. Practice and training.
- IV. Planning.
- V. Field services.
- VI. Issue relating to equipment.

The Mounted Posse Captain shall report directly to the Sheriff's Posse Liaison Officer.

The elected Captain shall appoint a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of the above listed officers and 3 additional members and shall be responsible for all administrative issues involving the Mounted Posse Unit.

The election of officers shall be as follows:

- I. Nominations for elected Officers shall take place in October.
- II. Election of Mounted Posse Officers shall take place in November.
- III. Term will begin the first regular meeting in January.
- IV. The terms of office shall be for 2-years.
- V. Election of 1st and 2nd Lieutenants' positions shall alternate every year.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

In order to meet the objectives of the Posse, there will be mandatory requirements for all members as described in the Mounted Posse By-Laws. These requirements may be changed as necessary.

CALLOUT PROCEDURES

Callouts for the Mounted Posse shall be the same procedure as for the Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Unit (SAR). All requests shall be made through the on-duty Watch Commander via Comm Center and with the approval of the Mounted Posse Liaison Officer or his designee. This can be in conjunction with or separate from a SAR callout.

Requests for Mounted Posse callouts shall clearly state the nature of the callout and requirements for response (i.e. search for missing person or large animal rescue).

Requests for the use the Caisson shall be made through the Sheriff and/or his specific designee. All requests for the use of the Caisson and accompanying Mounted Posse platoon must be approved by the Sheriff.

RELATED STANDARDS

GN89-10 R-01-01
832.6 PC
Ventura Decision

AFFECTED DIVISIONS

Patrol

DATE OF REVISIONS:

10-24-1989

By order of:

MICHAEL J RIDGWAY, CAPTAIN
BUREAU OF FIELD SERVICES