
GENERAL ORDER

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



SUBJECT: POLICE MARINE PATROL OPERATIONS	NUMBER: 530.3
CANCELS ORDER DATED: 8-1-95	DATE: 1-1-97

I. PURPOSE

This General Order is established to ensure effective utilization of the Police Marine Patrol Unit.

II. POLICY

The Fairfax County Police Marine Patrol Unit operates as a component of the Operations Support Bureau. It provides waterborne enforcement of State and County laws and public safety services. The services include investigating boating accidents, conducting searches for lost persons, assisting boaters in distress, and providing boater safety education to the general public. The Marine Patrol Unit supports other entities of the Police Department, in ways such as transporting and providing a diving platform for the Underwater Search and Recovery Unit.

III. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

A. The following persons can deploy the Marine Patrol Unit and its equipment within the County of Fairfax:

1. Chief of Police
2. Deputy Chiefs of Police
3. Operations Support Bureau Commander
4. Special Operations Division Commander
5. Marine Patrol Supervisor
6. Duty Officer

NOTE: All requests for administrative use of the Marine Patrol Unit and/or equipment shall be approved by the Operations Support Bureau commander.

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- B. The boat crew will consist of one boat captain and at least one crew member.
 - 1. The boat captain is the officer assigned to operate the boat. The captain has final authority and responsibility for the overall safety of its operation. Only boat captains who are certified by the Fairfax County Police Department can be authorized to operate the police boat.
 - 2. The boat crew member functions as an observer and safety officer.

IV. EQUIPMENT

- A. The police boat is equipped with a marine VHF radio. This radio allows the police boat to communicate with the United States Coast Guard, other law enforcement agencies, and civilian boats and marinas.
- B. Repairs to the boat and its specialized equipment shall only be performed by a boat captain who has been certified by the Police Department or an authorized repair facility.

V. ASSISTANCE TO OUTSIDE JURISDICTIONS

The Fairfax County Marine Patrol Unit will provide assistance to other jurisdictions. It can be invoked via mutual aid agreement.

- A. All operational requests for marine assistance from other jurisdictions shall be made through the Fairfax County Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC).
- B. PSCC will then notify the Operations Support Bureau commander during regular business hours, or the Staff Duty Officer after 5:00 p.m. and on weekends.

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- C. The commander notified shall confer with the on-duty/on-call crew. After an assessment of the situation and boating conditions, a decision will be made as to whether or not the request will be granted.
- D. The outside jurisdiction shall then be notified by PSCC regarding the status of their request.
- E. Upon completion of an assignment outside Fairfax County, the boat crew shall notify the PSCC supervisor.

VI. ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCE

CALEA
41.1.4

VLEPSC
OPR.
01.08

This General Order became effective May 1, 1990 and rescinded all previous rules and regulations pertaining to the subject.

ISSUED BY:

APPROVED BY:



Chief of Police



County Executive