


FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL POLICY MANUAL

	SUBJECT MOTORCYCLE DUTY	POLICY NUMBER 19.01
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19.01.01 PURPOSE

To establish the mission and general duties of Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) Motorcycle Squads.

19.01.02 POLICY

It is the policy of the Florida Highway Patrol to maintain the highest level of integrity in its selection, training, and operation of motorcycle personnel. This chapter serves to provide procedures, guidelines, and requirements which regulate the operation of FHP motorcycles.

19.01.03 OBJECTIVES

- A. To ensure the safety of the motoring public.
- B. To allow for an orderly and expeditious flow of traffic.
- C. To promote versatile maneuverability through traffic congestion when responding to emergencies.
- D. To reduce crashes.
- E. To obtain compliance with traffic regulations when highway safety education and driver training efforts have failed to accomplish this end.

19.01.04 RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Authority to appoint applicants to motorcycle duty is vested in Director or his designee.
- B. Members assigned to motorcycle duty shall:
 - 1. Report to the designated squad supervisor.
 - 2. Be responsible for law enforcement duties pursuant to Chapter 321, Florida Statutes.
 - 3. Be responsible for all other duties in the position description of Law Enforcement Officer set forth in the Florida Highway Patrol Policy Manual.

4. Be responsible for all other provisions outlined in the Policy Manual, except those which by their nature can have no application.

19.01.05 PROCEDURES

A. SELECTION PROCESS

1. Vacancies shall be advertised statewide out of the Office of Program Planning and Administration.
2. Interested members should review the Minimum Qualifications for Motorcycle Duty (see Addendum 19.01-1) to ensure they meet required qualifications. In addition, any member whose most recent performance appraisal rating was Below Standards shall not be considered for motorcycle duty.
3. Interested members shall submit a copy of their request for Motorcycle Duty (see Addendum 19.01-2) along with required documentation through their chain of command to the Office of Program Planning and Administration.
4. Applicants must be in a physical condition that will allow for the safe operation of FHP motorcycles. Select applicants shall be examined by a physician(s) approved by the Division which shall include a complete series of back x-rays. The cost of these examinations will be paid by the Division.
5. Troop Commanders shall utilize the resources of the Statewide Motorcycle Coordinator and the selection criteria packet to assist in making their final recommendations to the Director or designee. The packet can be obtained from the Chief Training Officer at the FHP Training Academy.
6. The final selection for Motorcycle Duty is at the discretion of the Director or designee.

B. ONLY THE FOLLOWING ARE PERMITTED TO OPERATE FHP MOTORCYCLES

1. Those members selected for motorcycle duty that have successfully completed the prescribed training course as outlined by the Florida Highway Patrol Academy.
2. Those members selected for motorcycle duty while participating in the prescribed training course as outlined by the Florida Highway Patrol Academy.
3. Those members engaged in the selection process for motorcycle duty may operate Division motorcycles when performing the skills test.

- C.** All motorcycle training will be in accordance with FHP Academy Standards of Training for law enforcement motorcycles. Other training institutions, as approved by the Chief Training Officer, may be utilized.

D. EQUIPMENT

1. All equipment for members assigned to motorcycle duty, including uniforms, shall be authorized as provided in the FHP Policy Manual. Any exceptions must be authorized in writing by the Director.
2. Motorcycles and all accompanying equipment shall be distinctly marked and painted as outlined by the Director.
3. No unauthorized equipment or personal modifications shall be permitted on the motorcycles. This includes decals, stickers, tags and lighting.
4. Inspections will be performed as outlined in the Florida Highway Patrol Manual.
5. Daily preventive maintenance and safety checks of the motorcycles shall be performed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
6. Helmets shall be replaced every three years or as required by manufacturer's specifications.

E. UNIFORMS

1. The Class A uniform shall consist of:
 - a. Helmet
 - b. Long sleeve shirt
 - c. Black ascot
 - d. Service firearm
 - e. Gun belt with Division approved holster, shoulder strap, handcuff case, magazine holder, aerosol subject restraint spray (ASR) and case
 - f. Breeches
 - g. Jodhpur boots with puttees
 - h. Black leather police motorcycle jacket or black commando sweater
 - i. Full winter gloves
2. The Class B uniform shall consist of:
 - a. Helmet
 - b. Short sleeve shirt
 - c. Service firearm

- d. Gun belt with Division approved holster, shoulder strap, handcuff case, magazine holder, aerosol subject restraint spray (ASR) and case
 - e. Breeches
 - f. Jodhpur boots with puttees
 - g. Gloves
3. It is permissible to wear the long sleeve shirt without ascot while engaged in routine traffic enforcement.

F. PATROL PROCEDURES

1. When a member has affected a traffic stop and has determined that both vehicles have been positioned in a safe location, the engine shall be turned off to prevent overheating. Upon completion of the traffic stop, the member shall maintain visual contact with the vehicle until it has safely departed the member's immediate presence.
2. Members (assigned motorcycle duty) who make an arrest requiring prisoner transport will request a member assigned patrol car duty to respond to the scene for that purpose.
3. Pursuits, as defined in the Florida Highway Patrol Policy Manual, are prohibited due to the hazards which greatly increase the potential for serious injury to the motorcycle officer.
4. During periods of inclement weather when operation of a motorcycle is impractical, arrangements shall be made by the supervisor to deploy an alternate method of performing assigned duties. Should inclement weather occur during a member's tour of duty, he/she may await the passage of the inclement weather not to exceed 30 minutes.
 - a. If it is apparent such inclement weather will not abate within 30 minutes, the member will secure a patrol car and continue their tour of duty.
 - b. If the inclement weather abates within 30 minutes or less, the supervisor or member must determine if the roadway surface is safe for motorcycle operation prior to returning to patrol duties.

G. SERVICE AND WARRANTY

1. All warranty and non-warranty repair work on motorcycles shall be completed at an authorized dealership approved by the Troop Commander.
2. Towing shall be made by an authorized company that has the capability of towing a motorcycle without causing damage to the motorcycle during the process.

H. PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL ELEMENTS

1. It will be the responsibility of the member to provide security and shelter for his/her motorcycle.
 2. When not in use, Division motorcycles will be covered to avoid unnecessary exposure to the outside elements (i.e., sun, rain).
- I. Members assigned as Florida Highway Patrol Motorcycle Officers may provide police escorts while on-duty under the following conditions:
1. When specifically required to do so by statute.
 2. When public safety will be compromised without such escort.
 3. When requested for security purposes for the following:
 - a. The President of the United States.
 - b. The Vice President of the United States.
 - c. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Florida.
 - d. Other dignitaries at the request of the Governor.
 - e. Other dignitaries when authorized by the Director.
 4. Funerals:
 - a. When escorting a funeral procession of a police officer killed in the line of duty.
 - b. When escorting the funeral procession of a deceased member.
 - c. When attending out of troop funerals involving a deceased member or retired member and the presence of motorcycles would be beneficial.
 - (1) Prior approval must be obtained from the appropriate Deputy Director.
 - (2) In those troops which do not have motorcycle squads, the Troop Commander may request their presence through the Deputy Director.
 - (3) The Troop Commander of the troop in which the motorcycle members are assigned will notify the Troop Commander of the troop in which the funeral will be conducted.

J. MOTORCYCLE USE FOR OFF DUTY POLICE ESCORTS

1. FHP motorcycles shall not be used for off-duty escorts except for escorting oversized vehicles on the highway when such escort is required by the provisions of the special permits issued to the

oversized vehicle; and escorts that are authorized by the Troop Commander, such as escorting collegiate or professional sports teams to or from a sporting event.

2. Off-duty police escorts for funerals are not permitted.
3. Motorcycle members engaged in off-duty police escorts or other off-duty police employment where the motorcycle is being used, shall comply with the Florida Highway Patrol Policy Manual regarding such employment.

FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL

Minimum Qualifications for Motorcycle Duty

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR MOTORCYCLE APPLICANT

- 1. Requires two years sworn experience with the Florida Highway Patrol and satisfactory performance at last rating.
- 2. Must be able to lift a Division issued motorcycle that is lying on the ground back to an upright position from both sides without causing injury to the person.
- 3. Must be in a physical condition that will allow for the safe operation of a motorcycle; free from any condition or injury that would prevent the safe operation of a motorcycle or that could be aggravated by such operation.
- 4. Must be willing to commit to one year of motorcycle assignment, knowing that the program will be conducted for approximately twelve months each year.
- 5. Must not have more than two preventable crashes during the last two years.
- 6. Applicant must submit the following items along with a completed and signed application:
 - Copy of motorcycle driver's license (endorsement)
 - Copy of most recent medical exam (through contract physician)
- 7. Application must be signed by the applicant's immediate supervisor.
- 8. Applicant will be appointed by the Director or designee.

This application will serve as an initial screening instrument. Not all Troopers who apply will be interviewed. Certification will require selected applicants to successfully complete an approved Police Motorcycle Course.

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ADDENDUM 19.01-1



Florida Highway Patrol

Application for Motorcycle Duty

Name:	Rank:	ID:
Date of Employment:	Assigned to:	
Describe any previous motorcycle driving experience.		
Have you ever been involved in a motorcycle crash? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, provide details.		
Describe your general health including problems such as back injuries, skin disorders, etc. Describe any physical fitness programs in which you participate.		
Date of last medical exam:	Vision: 20/30 <input type="checkbox"/> Corrected to 20/30 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
Date of last PFIT:	Results:	
Why are you applying for motorcycle duty?		
I certify that I have no known physical limitation, injury or medical condition which would make the operation of a motorcycle unsafe, or which could be aggravated by the operation of a motorcycle.		
_____		Date
Trooper's Signature		
I have reviewed the application and attachments, and I find them to be accurate and complete.		
_____	Date	_____
Sergeant's Signature		Lieutenant's Signature
_____	Date	_____
Captain's Signature		Troop Commander's Signature
Date		Date

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ADDENDUM 19.01-2