
	Florida State University Police Department	
MOTOR VEHICLE PURSUITS		
Revision Effective Date: 10/26/18	General Order 706	Attachments: None
Rescinds/Amends: 706 (09/01/17), 11-17F (08/05/11), 04-200-59	Distribution: Department-Wide	CFA Reference: 14.05, 18.10
	Pages: 6	

Policy - MOTOR VEHICLE PURSUITS

It is the explicit policy of the Florida State University Police Department (FSU PD) when motor vehicle pursuits are authorized and will be in accordance with state statutes. It is not the intent of this general order to prohibit all motor vehicle pursuits; however, it is the intent to restrict motor vehicle pursuits to those situations and circumstances in which the immediate apprehension of the violator outweighs the hazards to officers, the public and the occupants(s) of the vehicle being pursued [CFA 17.06 A.].

For the purposes of this general order, a motorized police vehicle is defined as one of the FSU PD's marked and unmarked vehicles that are appropriately-equipped (visible signals and sirens) i.e., SUV, motorcycle or sedan.

Procedure

Motor Vehicle Pursuits

Officers may engage in pursuit in order to apprehend an individual(s) reasonably suspected of committing a **felony** involving **violence** or the threat of violence to another person. Such crimes include, but are not limited to: murder (all degrees), manslaughter, vehicular homicide, aggravated assault, aggravated battery, battery on a law enforcement officer, kidnapping, aggravated child abuse, and robbery. Officers shall not initiate or actively participate in pursuits not meeting the above criteria.

Officers must constantly evaluate the changing circumstances surrounding the initiation or continuation of a pursuit and question whether the seriousness of the violation reasonably warrants pursuit. **Nothing justifies the reckless disregard of the safety of innocent persons** [CFA 14.05 A.].

A. **Initiating Members Responsibility** [CFA 14.05 A and B.].

The unit initiating the pursuit shall be the primary unit.

1. Circumstances that should be considered before engaging in any pursuit and during the pursuit include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Nature and seriousness of the offense;
 - b. Possibility of identification and apprehension at a later time;

- c. Likelihood of successful apprehension;
- d. Danger to the public if the suspect(s) is allowed to escape;
- e. Safety of the public in the area of the pursuit;
- f. Environment of the pursuit (e.g. school zone, commercial or residential);
- g. Geographic location (urban/rural);
- h. Traffic conditions (density, speed, etc.);
- i. Volume of vehicular/pedestrian traffic;
- j. Visibility and illumination (daylight/dark);

The responsibility for initiating a pursuit rests with the individual officer(s), but may be canceled at any time by a supervisor. The officer(s) responsible for initiating a pursuit may also cancel the pursuit at any time he/she deems it to be necessary, taking into consideration such factors and circumstances as are listed above.

2. In initiating a pursuit, the officer(s) shall immediately notify the Communications Center of the pursuit or intention to pursue, and furnish all pertinent details, e.g. description of the vehicle, location and direction of travel, nature of charges or reason for pursuing the vehicle and provide any other information that could aid in the identification, apprehension, or other determination to either continue or terminate the pursuit.
3. Headlights, emergency lights and siren shall be activated.
4. The pursuing unit shall keep Communications fully informed of location, direction of travel, speed, and the need for assistance from other agencies if the pursuit moves into their jurisdiction.
5. The suspect vehicle shall not be pursued utilizing the wrong way on a one-way street or limited access roadway.
6. Police vehicles transporting other than sworn police officers shall not engage in pursuits. Prior to engaging in a pursuit, officers should not disembark civilian passengers other than at a safe location or their destination.
7. No pursuit shall be made with vehicles not equipped with emergency lights and sirens. [CFA 14.05 D]
8. Any unmarked or police motorcycle in pursuit of a vehicle shall relinquish the pursuit to a marked patrol car as soon as possible. The hazards of pursuing in an unmarked unit or motorcycle are greater than in a marked patrol car, and the officer(s) and supervisor should consider this in determining when to terminate the pursuit.

B. Secondary Unit Responsibilities. [CFA 14.05 C].

A secondary unit may be assigned by the shift supervisor or a command officer to assist the primary unit.

1. The secondary unit shall trail the primary unit at a safe distance and be available to assume the primary role or assist if the fleeing vehicle is stopped [CFA 14.05 C].

2. All other on-duty patrol units will closely monitor the pursuit, but no other units shall enter into emergency operation unless specifically directed to do so by the shift supervisor or higher authority [CFA 14.05 C & F].

C. **Termination of the Pursuit.**

The pursuit shall be terminated under the following conditions [CFA 14.05 H.]: In addition, the officer will call in his or her location at the point of termination.

1. When the risk of injury or accident outweighs the necessity of apprehension;
2. When environmental conditions indicate that it would be futile or excessively dangerous to continue the pursuit e.g. road and weather, distance between the pursuer and pursued, time of day and vehicular and pedestrian traffic patterns;
3. When directed to do so by the shift supervisor or other ranking officer [CFA 14.05 F];
4. When the pursuing unit loses sight of the suspect vehicle other than for a momentary period, in which case the shift supervisor shall be immediately notified;
5. When the fleeing vehicle comes under air surveillance at which time the primary and secondary units will return to the posted speed limits and deactivate emergency lights/sirens unless ordered otherwise [CFA 14.05 D.].
6. Except in extreme cases, pursuits will terminate when radio contact with Communications or the shift supervisor is lost.

D. **Communications Responsibilities** [CFA 14.05 E.]

Upon notification that a pursuit is in progress, the Communications Section shall:

1. Initiate emergency radio traffic status and advise all other units that a pursuit is in progress and provide all relevant information. All units shall suspend non-emergency traffic during the duration of the pursuit.
2. Expedite completion of a registration and stolen/wanted check on the license plate if the information is available, and inform affected personnel if the vehicle has been stolen or is wanted in regard to another crime.
3. Receive and record all incoming information on the pursuit and the pursued vehicle.
4. Immediately contact the on-duty shift supervisor who shall personally monitor the pursuit and call it off if necessary.
5. Notify all law enforcement agencies within the area of the pursuit and establish a common radio frequency for the units involved in the pursuit when pursuits have crossed or are likely to cross jurisdictional boundaries [CFA 14.05 I.].

6. Continue to monitor the status of the pursuit until it has been terminated.

E. **Supervisor Responsibilities** [CFA 14.05 F.].

A supervisor may order a pursuit terminated ***at any time***.

1. A supervisor, in making the decision to terminate the pursuit, shall consider the following criteria:
 - a. The potential danger to the public caused by the eluding acts of a fleeing violator;
 - b. Nature of the suspected crime;
 - c. Traffic congestion, time of day, weather conditions, and road conditions;
 - d. The possibility of identifying the driver and/or the vehicle at a later time;
 - e. Type of police vehicle (marked or unmarked sedan or SUV; motorcycle), mechanical condition, and performance capability;
 - f. Any and all circumstances and facts that the supervisor is aware of that are relevant to the pursuit in question.
2. The supervisor shall respond immediately to the termination point of the pursuit. As soon as the completion/delay of other duties permit, the supervisor shall critique the pursuit regarding adherence to this general order and ensure that an incident report is prepared on the facts, including those leading to the decision to continue or terminate the pursuit.
3. Upon completion of the pursuit, the shift supervisor shall direct all involved officer(s) to record all pertinent facts of the pursuit in an Offense/Incident Report [CFA 14.05 J.]. In addition, the Deputy Chief and the Operations Captain shall be notified as soon as practicable.

F. **Inter- and Intra-Jurisdictional Pursuits** [CFA 14.05 I].

Pursuits crossing other jurisdictions shall be coordinated with the affected agencies in order to provide for the protection of the public.

1. Communications Section will notify outside agencies if the pursuit is heading toward their jurisdiction and if the notification is merely a courtesy or a request for assistance. This decision will be made by the shift supervisor.
2. Units shall not engage in pursuits initiated by other jurisdictions unless approved by the shift supervisor, and assistance has been requested by the initiating agency.
3. An agency initiating a pursuit and requesting assistance from the Department shall be required to provide the following:
 - a. Nature of the offense,

- b. Number of suspects,
 - c. Number of units involved,
 - d. Suspect vehicle description and direction.
4. The agency initiating the pursuit has the primary responsibility for continuing or discontinuing the pursuit. Other agencies should assist by protecting innocent motorists (e.g. blocking intersections) and performing as back-up units.

G. Special Tactics and Alternatives. [CFA 14.05 G.]

With due regard to the imperative of public safety, forcible stopping of a pursued vehicle, as discussed subsequently, shall not be permitted.

1. Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) Maneuver. Use of the police vehicle to make deliberate contact with a fleeing vehicle is considered deadly force and is not authorized.
2. Moving Roadblocks. A moving roadblock can be described as when the pursuing vehicle(s) attempt to prevent the unrestricted movement of the suspect vehicle by maneuvering their vehicle(s) in such a manner as to "box in" or "head off" the suspect vehicle [CFA 18.10.]. Moving roadblocks are not practical in a University environment, are inherently dangerous, and shall not be permitted.
3. Fixed Roadblocks. A fixed roadblock is the strategic positioning of marked patrol vehicles on the roadway, itself. The primary purpose of fixed roadblocks is to apprehend a suspect known or believed to be in a specific area [CFA 18.10]. Fixed roadblocks have also been determined to be deadly force and are not authorized.

H. Administrative Review.

After any incident of a motor vehicle pursuit by an officer of this Department, an officer of the rank of Lieutenant or higher shall be designated to review the facts and circumstances of the pursuit. The reviewing officer shall file a report of the pursuit that contains a statement of the facts of the pursuit and whether the officer's actions were in accordance with the provisions of this general order. The report shall be completed within 30 days and forwarded to the Chief [CFA 14.05 J.].

I. Training

All sworn members will receive training on this policy. The training may be combined with regular in-service driving training or through the agency's electronic training module or Power DMS. [CFA 14.05 K]

Glossary.

Supervisor - For the purpose of this general order, a supervisor is a sworn officer, normally, but not necessarily, a Sergeant. The supervisor is charged with first-line supervision of a shift of police officers, police service technicians and, after normal business hours, those personnel assigned to the Patrol Division.

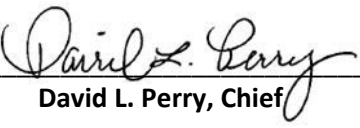
Critique - A critical detailed review of an incident.

Motor Vehicle Pursuit - as an attempt by a motorized police vehicle to apprehend the occupant(s) of a motor vehicle when the driver has been requested or signaled to stop and is resisting apprehension by refusing to stop or otherwise maneuvering their vehicle in such a manner as to elude the officer

Indexing. This general order shall be indexed as:

- Deadly Force
- Jurisdiction
- Motor Vehicle Pursuits
- Reports
- Roadblocks
- Vehicle Operation

Attachments. None

MTC 10/26/18	Filed: General Order 706
Title: MOTOR VEHICLE PURSUITS	
Approved: _____	 David L. Perry, Chief
Date: _____	08/30/17