

Georgia Department of Public Safety Policy Manual

SUBJECT MOTOR UNIT	POLICY NUMBER 25.04
DISTRIBUTION ALL EMPLOYEES	REVISED DATE 10/31/2023
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25.04.1 Purpose

The Georgia State Patrol (GSP) Motor Unit is a valuable element of the Georgia Department of Public Safety (DPS), created to enhance traffic enforcement, motorist safety, and public relations. The purpose of this policy is to establish the mission and duties of the Georgia State Patrol Motor Unit.

25.04.2 Policy

It is the policy of DPS to maintain the highest level of integrity in the selection, training, and operation of the Motor Unit. This policy serves to provide procedures, guidelines and requirements that regulate the operation of the GSP Motor Unit.

25.04.3 Procedures

A. Objectives

1. To preserve the safety of the motoring public.
2. To complement and enhance the patrol function of GSP.
3. To reduce the number of traffic crashes on Georgia's roads through increased presence and visibility.
4. To decrease emergency response time by utilizing the maneuverability of the motorcycle.

B. Authority to Operate

Only the following sworn members are permitted to operate GSP motorcycles:

Those sworn members selected for motorcycle duty who possess a valid Class M endorsement to the Class C license and are either enrolled in or have successfully completed the Departmental/P.O.S.T. approved Basic Police Motorcycle Operator's Course.

C. Training

1. Upon assignment to the Motor Unit, all sworn members shall successfully complete a Departmental/P.O.S.T. approved Basic Police Motorcycle Operator's Course.

2. If a sworn member fails to successfully complete the basic course after remedial training, the Sworn Work Unit Commander shall notify the GSP North Adjutant through the chain of command.
 - a. For the purpose of this policy, remedial training shall consist of attending the entire Basic Operator's Course a second time.
3. In order to preserve the credibility and integrity of the Motor Unit's Training program, any sworn member who fails to successfully complete the remedial training shall be reassigned to another post/unit as deemed necessary by the GSP North Adjutant.
4. Annual Re-Certification
 - a. All sworn members must successfully complete an annual proficiency course of training in order to remain an active member of the Motor Unit.
 - b. Any sworn member who fails to successfully complete the re-certification training shall be subject to the same actions as stated in paragraph three above.

D. Equipment

1. All equipment for sworn members of the Motor Unit, including uniforms, shall be authorized by the GSP North Adjutant. Any exceptions shall be authorized in writing.
2. Motorcycles and all accompanying equipment shall be distinctly marked as determined by the GSP North Adjutant.
3. Unauthorized equipment and personal modifications shall not be permitted on motorcycles. This includes decals, stickers and tags.
4. Small first aid kits and fire extinguishers may be carried if space is available.
5. Inspections of motorcycles and equipment shall occur in accordance with Policy #9.01 - Inspections.

E. Uniforms

1. Class A and Class B Uniforms shall be as described in Policy #6.01 - Uniform and Appearance, with the following exceptions:
 - a. Helmet;
 - b. Britches;
 - c. Riding boots;
 - d. Black leather motorcycle jacket, and
 - e. Black leather gloves.
2. When patrolling in a patrol vehicle, the class uniform of the day shall be worn, instead of the Motor Unit uniform.

3. No exceptions shall be made to the uniform policy.

F. Patrol Procedures

1. When performing traffic stops, the motorcycle engine shall be turned off.
2. Sworn members who make an arrest which requires prisoner transport shall request that a trooper in a patrol car responds to the scene for that purpose.
3. In a pursuit, if the primary unit is a GSP motorcycle, it will yield primary position to a marked GSP patrol car. The patrol motorcycle will discontinue pursuit when a secondary GSP patrol car becomes involved but will proceed to the termination point of the pursuit to provide guidance and information required for arrest. Further instructions on pursuits can be found in Policy #17.02 - Pursuits.
4. During periods of inclement weather, when the operation of a motorcycle is unsafe or impractical, sworn members shall perform duties in their assigned patrol car. If inclement weather develops after the commencement of a sworn member's shift, they may await the passage of the inclement weather, not to exceed 30 minutes. If the inclement weather passes and the supervisor deems the roadway safe, motorcycle patrol may resume.

G. Maintenance

1. Motorcycles shall be maintained properly at all times. Maintenance/services will be conducted in accordance with manufacture's specifications.
2. All warranty and non-warranty repair work will be completed by Harley Davidson or the DPS Harley Davidson certified mechanic. Sworn members shall utilize the closest Harley Davidson location that accepts the Department's Fleet Management Program.
3. A pre-ride inspection will be conducted by the operator prior to each shift. It shall include a check of: oil level, tire wear/pressure, drive belt, range of motion of handlebars, headlights, taillights, turn signals and emergency equipment.
4. Motorcycles shall be kept in a clean condition and shall be checked for cleanliness by supervisors as appropriate.

H. Security

1. The sworn member assigned the motorcycle shall ensure that, when it is not in use, it is housed in a secure location that provides shelter from the elements.
2. The motorcycle's steering lock mechanism shall be utilized to ensure its security. The key shall be removed from the ignition and stored in a separate safe location.

I. Escorts

1. On-duty escorts from the Motor Unit may be provided under the following circumstances:
 - a. When required to do so by statute;
 - b. When public safety will be enhanced by such presence;

- c. When requested for the security of dignitaries such as the President of the United States, Governor of the State of Georgia, etc. with approval from Troop Command.
 - d. At funerals of police officers killed in the line of duty, or other funerals of dignitaries upon request, with approval from Troop Command.
2. Off-duty escorts are permitted, if approved and shall adhere to guidelines outlined in Policy #5.03 – Outside Employment.

25.04.4 Field Motorcycle Operator Program

- A. DPS recognizes the benefits of patrol motorcycles operational from GSP Posts in addition to the Motor Unit operations of Post 49.
 - 1. The determination of the need for and number of patrol motorcycles to be utilized at GSP Posts is within the discretion of the Deputy Commissioner, consistent with appropriate funding.
 - 2. Sworn members assigned to Posts other than Post 49 may qualify to become field motorcycle operators for the use and assignment of a GSP patrol motorcycle as set forth in this section and shall further adhere to all consistent terms and conditions of this Policy.
- B. Request to Attend Basic Motor School
 - 1. A GSP sworn member who is interested in becoming a field motorcycle operator for assignment of a GSP patrol motorcycle must send a memo through the chain of command to the appropriate appointing authority for approval to attend Basic Motor School.
 - 2. The sworn member shall possess a Class M Endorsement on his/her license.
- C. Application for GSP Patrol Motorcycle
 - 1. Application for a GSP patrol motorcycle may be made only after the sworn member has successfully completed Basic Motor School.
 - 2. Application for a GSP patrol motorcycle shall be made through the chain of command for decision by the appropriate appointing authority.
- D. Required Motor Unit Training of Field Motorcycle Operators:
 - 1. Following patrol motorcycle assignment and prior to operational use (including but not limited to escorts or special details), the sworn member shall seek and complete a one-week, on-duty, Motor Unit training with Post 49.
 - a. The Motor Unit initial training shall include a full week of ride-partnering with a Post 49 Trooper, exclusive of any full unit formation rides.
 - b. Techniques utilized shall include:
 - 1) Proper placement of the patrol motorcycle while on traffic stops and crashes.
 - 2) Tandem riding and safety.

2. Field motorcycle operators shall also train once a quarter with the Post 49, Motor Unit. Missing two consecutive training dates requires the field motorcycle operator park his/her patrol motorcycle until the training is complete.

E. Field Motorcycle Operators are expected to comply with the following:

1. Be available to assist Post 49, Motor Unit when Special Details arise in their respective Troops.
2. Be available for Special Details/Escorts in and around the Atlanta Metro area when Post 49 needs assistance.
3. Recertify with Post 49 sworn members annually.
4. Adhere to all guidelines set forth in this policy.

F. Uniforms

1. The Supply Unit will handle the ordering and issuing of equipment for field motorcycle operators.
2. All guidelines outlined in this policy and Policy #6.01 – Uniform and Appearance shall be followed.