
PATROL

USE OF RADAR

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish Departmental policy regarding the use, operation, installation and certification of RADAR units.

Policy Statement: The officers of the North Little Rock Police Department will concentrate and give priority to areas where written or oral complaints of speeding have been received, as well as high accident locations, school zones and other areas identified by the RADAR operator.

Summary of Changes: Removes certification and re-certification course length specifics (sec. 1.4). New format.

1 Procedure:

Only Department tested and approved RADAR devices will be authorized for use. These devices will be used per the manufacturer's instructions. Officers will sign out a RADAR unit from the appropriate supervisor on a daily basis unless they have a moving RADAR unit installed in their vehicle. RADAR speed measuring units will be utilized in compliance with A.C.A. 12-9-401. [CALEA 61.1.9a, b]

1.1 All RADAR units in use by the Department will be inspected at least annually by a certified RADAR technician to ensure factory specifications and performance. Records of inspections, calibrations and repairs made will be kept in the Patrol Administration office. [CALEA 61.1.9a, d]

1.2 Officers will visually inspect the RADAR unit, when signed out, to ensure there are no obvious signs of damage that may adversely affect the functional capabilities of the unit. [CALEA 61.1.9c]

1.2.1 If the unit appears to be damaged in such a manner that may affect its use, supervisors will forward the unit to Patrol Administration detailing the reason it does not work properly and the need for repair.

1.3 Officers will utilize the unit's internal test function each time the unit is turned on. Officers will then check the calibration of the unit with the supplied tuning forks. [CALEA 61.1.9b, d]

1.3.1 Officers will maintain a separate RADAR log for each unit that is used, whether hand-held or an installed moving unit.

1.3.2 The RADAR log will note the date, time, RADAR serial number, tuning fork(s) serial number, and the location where the unit was tested.

1.3.3 When verifying the calibration of the RADAR unit, officers should be mindful of the location to ensure there are no environmental factors that may interfere with its operation. Officers should document calibration results on their RADAR log. [CALEA 61.1.9d]

1.3.4 Officers will also note on the RADAR log all citations written where the RADAR unit was used as probable cause for the traffic stop.

1.3.5 Officers will periodically re-check the calibration of the unit during its use and each time the unit is turned off and back on.

1.4 Only officers who have attended a RADAR certification course, either through ALETA or through the North Little Rock Police Department's Training Division, or a refresher course, may use a RADAR unit. [CALEA 61.1.9e]

1.4.1 Under no circumstance are officers authorized to use RADAR as probable cause for a traffic stop if they are not certified to use the equipment.

1.5 The installation of all moving RADAR units will be approved through the Patrol Division Commander's office.

1.5.1 The Patrol Division Commander will appoint a person(s) to install or remove moving RADAR units from Department vehicles.

1.5.2 Officers will not use RADAR in personally owned vehicles or unmarked vehicles without permission from the Patrol Division Commander.

2 RADAR Certificates

2.1 All RADAR certificates will be maintained in the Patrol Division's Administration offices. [CALEA 61.1.9e]

2.2 Each RADAR unit will have its own folder which will contain the most current certification certificates for the RADAR unit and the unit's tuning forks.

2.2.1 Officers are responsible for ensuring the unit being used has current certification. Officers may consider obtaining copies of those certificates for units they regularly use.

2.3 An officer designated by the Patrol Division Commander will be responsible for maintaining all records that pertain to each RADAR unit's certification.

- 2.4 An officer designated by the Patrol Division Commander will be responsible for the annual or semi-annual certification of all RADAR equipment in the inventory of the North Little Rock Police Department. [CALEA 61.1.9d]
- 2.5 Officers who have moving RADAR in their assigned vehicles, whether a take-home vehicle or assigned daily, will be responsible for ensuring the moving units are certified either annually or semi-annually.
- 2.5.1 Officers who have take-home cars will be responsible for ensuring their vehicles are available on dates when certification is scheduled.

3 LCD Readouts

- 3.1 Violators stopped for speeding based upon the use of a RADAR unit will be allowed to view the readout displayed on the LCD if requested.
- 3.2 In the event the violator must exit their vehicle to view the officer's LCD readout, officers should be mindful of the violator's safety.
- 3.3 Although it is not the preferred practice of this Department, a citation may still be issued if the violator's speed is not locked in on the RADAR unit.

4 Speed Enforcement [CALEA 61.1.5c]

- 4.1 Speed violations will be enforced by citation, verbal warning and, on occasion, by physical arrest as stated in Policy Directive 25-19, *Traffic Law Violations*.
- 4.2 Officers should give consideration to the locations in which speed enforcement should be conducted. Officers should give priority to frequent accident locations in which speed is a factor, no tolerance zones, residential streets, school bus routes/zones, and locations of citizen complaints.
- 4.3 Officers have the following tools available to them when enforcing the speed limits; RADAR units and vehicle pacing.
- 4.3.1 Officers should consider using the pacing option only when speeds are excessively above the posted speed limit.
- 4.4 In areas defined above in 4.2, a tolerance of five (5) mph will be established. In all other areas where speed enforcement is randomly worked, a tolerance of nine (9) mph will be established. [CALEA 61.1.5.c]

Mike Davis
Chief of Police