

	Operational General Order	12.03 RADAR Operations	PAGE 1 OF 3
	SUBJECT		EFFECTIVE DATE
	Virginia Beach Police Department General Order Chapter 12 – Traffic Operations		04/01/2011
			ORIGINATOR/REVIEW
DISTRIBUTION		CALEA: 33.6.1, 61.1.8	Special Operations
ALL			
BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:			<i>James A. Coonan</i>

Purpose

To establish the policies and procedures for the use of speed measurement equipment and the requirements of operators to use the RADAR (Radio Detection and Ranging) or LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging).

Policy (CALEA 33.6.1)

Only officers who have successfully completed a departmentally approved police RADAR operator-training course shall operate RADAR. Only officers who have successfully completed a departmentally approved police LIDAR operator-training course shall operate LIDAR. RADAR and LIDAR units shall be set up, tested, operated, and maintained in accordance with the departmental speed measurement training provided during basic RADAR or LIDAR training and recertification classes.

Operational Procedures (CALEA 61.1.8 B, D)

RADAR and LIDAR equipment shall be tested for accuracy in accordance with the Code of Virginia.

When checking RADAR for accuracy officers shall use a calibrated speedometer from a police vehicle or calibrated tuning forks. Vehicle calibration will be facilitated by the City Garage; certified calibration sheets for vehicles will be kept on file at the First Precinct. The speedometer of a police vehicle used to check the accuracy of the RADAR shall be calibrated at the City of Virginia Beach Automotive Services Division every 6 months. RADAR units installed or used by motorcycle units may be checked either by using certified, calibrated tuning forks or a calibrated speedometer from a police unit. Officers assigned to the motorcycle unit will each be responsible for maintaining a certified copy of the tuning forks used to test their RADAR units. To ensure accuracy, tuning forks used to calibrate RADAR units will be calibrated every six months.

When checking the LIDAR, for accuracy, officers shall only use the certified known distance course established by the Department. The known distance course used to verify the accuracy of the LIDAR shall be certified every 6 months. Special Operations will facilitate this certification and maintain the documentation associated with the process.

When a LIDAR or RADAR unit is used for enforcement it must be checked for accuracy at least at the beginning and end of each shift.

For the safety of the officer and the public, speed measurement equipment shall not be operated where hazardous road conditions exist because of inclement weather (rain, sleet, or snow).

Equipment Specifications (CALEA 61.1.8 A)

The Department shall only use speed measurement equipment approved for use by The Commonwealth of Virginia Department of General Services per the code of Virginia.

Proper Care and Maintenance (CALEA 61.1.8 C, D)

The following guidelines shall be adhered to for the proper care and maintenance of the department's speed measurement equipment.

1. RADAR equipment may not be handled or operated by anyone other than RADAR-certified personnel. If a RADAR unit is the only patrol unit available for an operator who is not RADAR certified, then arrangements should be made for an exchange of patrol vehicles with a RADAR-certified officer.
2. LIDAR equipment may not be handled or operated by anyone other than LIDAR-certified personnel.
3. The area surrounding the RADAR console and antennas must be kept clear of obstructions that would impede the operation of the equipment.
4. Officers are not permitted to perform repairs or maintenance to the RADAR or LIDAR equipment. Officers may, however, check and replace defective fuses.
5. If a defect is noted or maintenance is required on any speed measurement equipment, the officer shall notify their immediate supervisor in writing. Included should be the date, time, and the type of defect or malfunction. The notified supervisor shall then notify the precinct maintenance officer.
 - a. Programmed maintenance and repairs will be performed only by a designated certified repair facility.
 - b. All maintenance records for repairs shall be maintained by the command responsible for facilitating the repairs.
 - c. When removing RADAR equipment from a police vehicle, it should be secured within its designated carrying case. This shall be done anytime RADAR equipment is moved.

Operator Training and Certification (CALEA 33.6.1)

To ensure officers selected as speed measurement equipment operators receive the training necessary to establish a high degree of knowledge and proficiency, officers selected as speed measurement equipment operators will be required to meet the training guidelines as set by the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). Officers that are selected as speed measurement equipment operators will be compelled to meet the training requirements conducted by certified instructors and qualified Field RADAR Training Officers, and coordinated and documented by the Office of Professional Development and Training. This training will include a basic RADAR school and 20 hours of RADAR Field Training under the supervision of a Field RADAR Training Officer with 4 of the 20 hours being conducted at night. All 20 hours of Field training must be completed within 3 months of completing the classroom instruction.

Field RADAR Training Officers

To qualify as a field RADAR training officer, an officer must have been a certified RADAR officer for a minimum of 2 years and have successfully completed the RADAR Training Officer Course conducted by the Office of Professional Development and Training. Any currently certified RADAR instructor shall be considered a Field RADAR Training Officer.

Certification (CALEA 61.1.8 E)

Speed Measurement Equipment Operators will be certified for a period of three years after successfully completing all training requirements. Certification will be in effect until the end of the third calendar year after the completion of the training (Ex: An officer certified on 04/02/11 may be recertified any time during 2014, from January through December.) RADAR and LIDAR instructors must have successfully completed an instructor course approved by DCJS.

Speed Measurement Equipment Operators must successfully complete a recertification class prior to the end of the third calendar year in order to remain certified.