

	Operational General Order	12.04 Alcohol Enforcement Countermeasures	PAGE 1 OF 2
	SUBJECT		EFFECTIVE DATE
	Virginia Beach Police Department General Order Chapter 12 - Traffic Operations		05/22/2017
			ORIGINATOR/REVIEW
DISTRIBUTION		CALEA: 61.1.5, 61.1.9, 61.1.10	Special Operations
ALL			
BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:		<i>James A. Coonan</i>	

Purpose

To establish guidelines for the Departments Driving Under the Influence (DUI) countermeasure program to reduce alcohol related crashes.

Policy

In the interest of traffic safety for the residents and visitors to the City of Virginia Beach, the Virginia Beach Police Department is aggressive in its enforcement of the laws relating to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Coordinated by the Virginia Beach Police Department Special Operations Bureau, with the support of all uniformed Operations Division personnel the Virginia Beach Police Department works aggressively to reduce the incidence of highway deaths, injuries, property damage crashes and alcohol/drug related traffic offenses.

Selective Alcohol Enforcement (CALEA 61.1.9)

DUI countermeasures shall also be included in the Traffic Safety Unit’s Traffic Enforcement Priority Plan described in General Order 12.06 (Traffic Safety Enforcement) and promulgated by the Deputy Chief – Operations. Additionally, the Virginia Beach Police Department Office of Planning and Analysis will provide a quarterly statistical summary to the Commanding Officer of Special Operations for presentation to the various organizational component commanding officers at the monthly COMPSTAT meeting. The summary will contain information regarding the location and numbers of alcohol related crashes and DUI arrests within the City of Virginia Beach, depicted by precinct geographical boundaries. From the information presented, Operations Division commanding officers will direct the efforts of uniformed personnel toward addressing identified areas of need through directed patrols and when appropriate, traffic safety checkpoints.

Role of the Officer (CALEA 61.1.5 A, 61.1.10)

To help officers in the prosecution of the DUI case, the Special Operations Bureau has developed the DUI Procedure Field Guide. The DUI Procedure Field Guide is provided to all sworn officers and provides the members of the Department with guidance on the proper procedures and elements required for the identification and prosecution of a person suspected of DUI, and also guidance on the most current laws that apply to the DUI case. The commanding officer of the Special Operations Bureau will ensure that the DUI Procedure Field Guide will be updated each year prior to the July 1st implementation of the new laws for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The updated guide will be distributed to each member of the Department.

Effective DUI countermeasure programs begin with the patrol officer. Officers receive police academy and subsequent in-service and specialized training to ensure they are knowledgeable on the techniques, procedures, and legislation, which enables them to effectively detect and arrest intoxicated drivers.

Procedures for DUI investigations are delineated in the DUI Procedural Field Guide. Officers should be aware of persons with possible medical conditions. These individuals should be examined by a qualified medical person for this evaluation.

Fatal Crash Team and Traffic Safety Unit

The Special Operations Bureau's Fatal Crash Team and Traffic Safety Unit are dedicated to aggressively enforcing the Driving Under the Influence laws. This includes patrolling in marked and unmarked vehicles in high crash areas and by conducting traffic safety checkpoints. They are also committed to the education of the public through lectures given to community and military groups. Through targeted enforcement actions, increased public awareness of traffic related laws and community intervention, members seek to reduce the number of alcohol related crashes and fatalities. In addition, community involvement is solicited in this effort through the RAID program (Report All Intoxicated Drivers). Citizens are encouraged to report suspected drunk drivers by notifying the E911 Emergency Communications Division.