

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Audit and Accountability Bureau



**DETENTION OF INDIVIDUALS
AND DATA COLLECTION AUDIT**
PATROL OPERATIONS
NORTH PATROL DIVISION
PALMDALE SHERIFF'S STATION
Project No. 2022-6-A



Alex Villanueva, Sheriff

August 28, 2022

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
Audit and Accountability Bureau

DETENTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS AND DATA COLLECTION AUDIT
PATROL OPERATIONS – NORTH PATROL DIVISION
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PURPOSE

The Audit and Accountability Bureau (AAB) conducted the Detentions of Individuals and Data Collection Audit – Patrol Operations – North Patrol Division – Palmdale Sheriff's Station (Palmdale Station) under the authority of the Sheriff of Los Angeles County. The audit was performed to determine how the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) Palmdale Station adhered to the Manual of Policy and Procedures (MPP), Palmdale Station Unit Orders, Field Operations Support Services (FOSS) Newsletters, and the provisions of the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement (AV Agreement)¹ regarding detentions of individuals and data collection.

The AAB conducted this audit under the guidance of the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards.² The AAB determined the evidence obtained was sufficient and appropriate to provide reasonable assurance for the results based on the audit objectives.

BACKGROUND

In August 2011, the DOJ Civil Rights Division, investigated the Palmdale and Lancaster Sheriff's Stations due to allegations of unconstitutional conduct by deputies in the Antelope Valley area. In June 2013, the DOJ Civil Rights Division issued a Findings Letter³ which indicated that the Palmdale and Lancaster Sheriff's Station personnel engaged in a pattern or practice of discriminatory behavior and otherwise unlawful stops, searches, and seizures. Subsequent to the DOJ Findings Letter, the Department entered into the AV Agreement on April 28, 2015.

PRIOR AUDITS

This is the sixth Detentions of Individuals and Data Collection audit for Palmdale Sheriff's Station conducted by the AAB.

METHODOLOGY

¹ *United States of America v. The County of Los Angeles and The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*, Case Number CV 15-03174, Section III. "STOP, SEIZURES, AND SEARCHES," April 2015.

² United States Government Accountability Office, Government Auditing Standards, July 2018.

³ United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Findings Letter, addressed to then Sheriff Leroy D. Baca, RE: Investigation of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Stations in Antelope Valley, June 28, 2013.

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Scope

This audit encompassed eight main objectives to ensure compliance with the MPP, Palmdale Station Unit Orders, FOSS Newsletters, and the provisions of the AV Agreement regarding detentions of individuals and data collection:

- Objective No.1 – Backseat Detentions (BSD)⁴ – To determine if the deputies documented the reason for the BSD in their Mobile Digital Computer (MDC)⁵ patrol logs.
- Objective No. 2 – MDC Patrol Log Required Information – To determine if the deputies documented required information about the contact with the individual (e.g., physical location address of the stop, race/ethnicity, etc.) in their MDC patrol logs.
- Objective No. 3 – Consent Searches⁶ – To determine if deputies documented the specific facts and circumstances that support the reasonable suspicion for conducting the stops and detentions in the clearance narrative section of their Mobile Digital Computer patrol logs.
- Objective No. 4 – Reasonable Suspicion⁷ – To determine if the deputies documented the specific facts and circumstances that support the reasonable suspicion for conducting stops and detentions in their MDC patrol logs.
- Objective No. 5 – Statistical Clearance Codes⁸ – To determine if the deputies used the appropriate statistical clearance codes for the detentions.

⁴ A backseat detention is when an individual is being securely detained by deputy personnel in the backseat of a patrol vehicle.

⁵ The Mobile Digital Computer is the computer system found in patrol vehicles to provide a complete operating system in a mobile environment.

⁶ A consent search occurs when an individual voluntarily submits to a detention and search by deputy personnel.

⁷ A Reasonable Suspicion detention under (*Terry v. Ohio* 1968) case law occurs when police temporarily detain an individual in a public place without a valid arrest warrant having a "reasonable suspicion" that the individual has been involved in criminal activity.

⁸ The Department's three digit numerical coding system, which is identified in the Statistical Code Guide, used to identify the primary crime category for an incident.

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- Objective No. 6 – Sergeant Weekly Audits of the Deputy Daily Work Sheet (DDWS)⁹ Logs – To determine if the sergeants audited weekly, at least one DDWS log involving stop, search, and seizure activity (if conducted) for each deputy under their supervision.
- Objective No. 7 – DDWS Log Compliance Check Forms¹⁰ – To determine if the sergeants documented any errors identified in the audited DDWS logs and corrective action taken on the DDWS Log Compliance Check Forms.
- Objective No. 8 – Watch Commander/Lieutenant Review of Sergeant DDWS Log Weekly Audits – To determine if the Watch Commander/Lieutenant reviewed the sergeant DDWS log weekly audits to ensure the sergeants accurately audited the logs.

Audit Time Period

The audit time period was from January 1, 2022, through March 31, 2022.

Audit Population

Auditors identified varying populations in order to examine the different aspects of the eight main objectives, which are described in the Audit Objectives and Results section for each objective of this audit.

⁹ The DDWS is a permanent electronic detailed report of a patrol unit's activity during a shift. The report is generated by the Computer-Aided Dispatch system based on incidents assigned to or created by the deputy.

¹⁰ The DDWS Log Compliance Check Form is used by sergeants at Palmdale Sheriff's Station to document their weekly audits of the Deputy Daily Work Sheet logs of the deputies under their supervision.

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AUDIT OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

Objective No. 1 – Backseat Detentions

Objective No. 1(a) – Backseat Detentions: Vehicle, Pedestrian, or Bike Stops

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 44, Item h, p. 8 (April 2015), states:

44. LASD-AV deputies shall document the following information about patrol activity in their MDC patrol logs:

h. where a backseat detention was conducted, a narrative articulating a reason, consistent with LASD policy and the law, as to why each backseat detention was necessary, as well as the reasonable suspicion for the investigation;

Manual of Policy and Procedures, Section 5-09/520.10, Backseat Detentions (July 2018), states:

...Backseat detentions shall not be used except when the deputy has individualized reasonable suspicion that justifies a detention and an articulable reasonable belief that the detained person may pose a threat of physical harm or is an escape risk unless detained in the backseat...

In instances where an individual is provided the option of sitting in the backseat due to weather conditions or the individual's desire for privacy, the deputy will make clear this placement is a courtesy, and that the individual is free to exit the patrol car at any time...

The backseat detention contact type codes shall be used as the primary code in the Contact Type field to document all backseat detentions on the Deputy's Daily Work Sheet...

...The factual justification for the backseat detention "seizure" shall be articulated in the narrative portion of the deputy's log.

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Field Operations Support Services Newsletter, Volume 13, Number 12, New MDC Codes for Logging Field Activity (December 2016), states:

Contact Type:

B = Back Seat Detention: Vehicle, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Stops...

The new back seat detention (BSD) codes shall be used as the primary code in the Contact Type field to document all BSD...

The "B" code shall be used when the BSD is due to a vehicle, pedestrian, or bicycle stop...

Procedures

Auditors identified a population of 304 entries in the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD)¹¹ system with Contact Type "BSD – Vehicle, Pedestrian, or Bike Stop" for observation initiated stops.¹² Auditors evaluated a random statistically valid sample¹³ of 73 entries to determine if the deputies documented the reason for the BSDs in the clearance narrative section of their MDC patrol logs.

Results

Of the 73 entries, 63 (86%) met the criteria for this objective. Ten entries did not meet the criteria for this objective because the entries did not indicate the reason for each BSD or did not provide sufficient justification.

¹¹ The Computer Aided Dispatch system is a multi-faceted computer system used by the Department to log/document patrol-related incidents and maintains electronic records of patrol activity including "Call for Service" and deputy-initiated "Observations."

¹² The Department traditionally refers to an observation initiated stop when deputy personnel independently detain an individual based on reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

¹³ Auditors obtained a random statistically valid sample using a statistical one-tail test with a 95% confidence level and a 4% error rate.

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Objective No. 1(b) – Backseat Detentions: Call for Service¹⁴

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 44, Item h, p. 8 (April 2015), states:

44. LASD-AV deputies shall document the following information about patrol activity in their MDC patrol logs:

- h. where a backseat detention was conducted, a narrative articulating a reason, consistent with LASD policy and the law, as to why each backseat detention was necessary, as well as the reasonable suspicion for the investigation;*

Manual of Policy and Procedures, Section 5-09/520.10, Backseat Detentions (July 2018), states:

...Backseat detentions shall not be used except when the deputy has individualized reasonable suspicion that justifies a detention and an articulable reasonable belief that the detained person may pose a threat of physical harm or is an escape risk unless detained in the backseat...

In instances where an individual is provided the option of sitting in the backseat due to weather conditions or the individual's desire for privacy, the deputy will make clear this placement is a courtesy, and that the individual is free to exit the patrol car at any time...

The backseat detention contact type codes shall be used as the primary code in the Contact Type field to document all backseat detentions on the Deputy's Daily Work Sheet...

...The factual justification for the backseat detention "seizure" shall be articulated in the narrative portion of the deputy's log.

¹⁴ A "Call for Service" is a request for law enforcement services and is sent to the patrol deputy by the station dispatcher.

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Field Operations Support Services Newsletter, Volume 13, Number 12, New MDC Codes for Logging Field Activity (December 2016), states:

Contact Type:

C = Back Seat Detention: Call For Service

The new back seat detention (BSD) codes shall be used as the primary code in the Contact Type field to document all BSD...

The "C" code shall be used when the BSD is due to a call for service.

Procedures

Auditors identified a population of 77 entries in the CAD system with Contact Type "BSD – Call for Service." Auditors evaluated a random statistically valid sample of 43 entries to determine if the deputies documented the reason for the BSDs in the clearance narrative section of their MDC patrol logs.

Results

Of the 43 entries evaluated, 19 (44%) met the criteria for this objective. Twenty-four entries did not meet the criteria for this objective because the entries did not indicate the reason for the BSD.

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Objective No. 2 – Mobile Digital Computer Patrol Log Required Information

Objective No. 2(a) – Physical Location Address of the Stop

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 44, Item c, p. 8 (April 2015), states:

44. LASD-AV deputies shall document the following information about patrol activity in their MDC patrol logs:

c. the location of the stop.

Procedures

For Objectives No. 2(a) through 2(e), auditors applied the same sample used for Objective No. 1(a) "BSD – Vehicle, Pedestrian, or Bike Stops" (73 sample entries) and Objective No. 1(b) "BSD - Call for Service" (43 population entries) for a combined total of 116 entries. Auditors evaluated the 116 entries to determine if the deputies documented the physical location address of the stops in their MDC patrol logs.

Results

All 116 (100%) entries met the criteria for this objective.

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Objective No. 2(b) – Race/Ethnicity

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 44, Item d, p. 8 (April 2015), states:

44. LASD-AV deputies shall document the following information about patrol activity in their MDC patrol logs:

d. the race/ethnicity of each individual stopped, detained, or searched;

Procedures

Auditors evaluated the 116 entries to determine if the deputies documented the race/ethnicity of the stopped, detained, or searched individual in their MDC patrol logs.

Results

All 116 (100%) entries met the criteria for this objective.

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Objective No. 2(c) – Disposition of the Stop

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 44, Item e, p. 8 (April 2015), states:

44. LASD-AV deputies shall document the following information about patrol activity in their MDC patrol logs:

e. the disposition of the stop, including whether a citation was issued, or an arrest made.

Procedures

Auditors evaluated the 116 entries to determine if deputies documented the dispositions of the stops in their MDC patrol logs.

Results

Of the 116 entries, 114 (98%) met the criteria for this objective. Two entries did not meet the criteria for this objective because the entries did not indicate the disposition of the stop.

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Objective No. 2(d) – Probation or Parole Status

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 44, Item g, p. 8 (April 2015), states:

44. LASD-AV deputies shall document the following information about patrol activity in their MDC patrol logs:

g. whether they asked an individual about his/her probation or parole status, and what the answer was;

Procedures

Auditors evaluated the 116 entries to determine if deputies documented whether they asked the detained person about his/her probation or parole status and if they documented the answer in their MDC patrol logs.

Results

All 116 entries (100%) met the criteria for this objective.

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Objective No. 2(e) – Length of Backseat Detentions

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 44, Item i, p. 8 (April 2015), states:

44. LASD-AV deputies shall document the following information about patrol activity in their MDC patrol logs:

i. the length of any backseat detention;

Manual of Policy and Procedures, Section 5-09/520.10, Backseat Detentions (July 2018), states:

...The length of time, in approximate minutes of the backseat detention, shall be documented in the "BSDLEN" field of the Mobile Digital Computer (MDC)...

Procedures

Auditors evaluated 116 entries to determine if the deputies documented the length of time for the backseat detention in their MDC patrol logs.

Results

All 116 entries (100%) met the criteria for this objective.

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Objective No. 2(f) – Vehicle Impoundment

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 44, Item k, p. 8 (April 2015), states:

44. LASD-AV deputies shall document the following information about patrol activity in their MDC patrol logs:

k. whether a vehicle was impounded and the justification for the impoundment.

Procedures

Auditors used the same population for Objective No. 1(a) "BSD – Vehicle, Pedestrian, or Bike Stops" (73 entries) and Objective No. 1(b) "BSD - Call for Service" (43 entries) for a combined total of 116 entries. Of the 116 BSD entries, auditors identified 5 vehicle impounds and evaluated the entries to determine if the deputies documented the justification for each impound.

Results

All 5 (100%) vehicle impound entries met the criteria for this objective.

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Objective No. 3 – Consent Searches

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 44, Item j, p. 8 (April 2015), states:

44. LASD-AV deputies shall document the following information about patrol activity in their MDC patrol logs:

- j. whether a consent search of an individual was conducted, and if so, the reason for seeking consent...*

Palmdale Station Unit Order #68, Supplemental Patrol Procedures (August 2019), states:

MDC PATROL LOG PROCEDURES

In addition to procedures covered under the Department's Constitutional Policing and Stops Policy (5-09/520.00 – 5-09/520.30), Field Operations Directives, Newsletters, and Unit Orders, Palmdale deputies shall document the following additional information about patrol activity in their MDC patrol log narrative:

...When a consent search of an individual or vehicle is conducted and "Authority to Conduct Search" box is cleared with a "C" (consent), the reason for seeking consent shall be documented in the MDC narrative. Example:

- *CONSENT SCH RE: LATE HRS, NERVOUS, HIGH CRIME AREA*

Every stop with a "Consent" search will contain the reason for seeking consent verbiage.

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Procedures

Auditors identified a population of 106 entries in the CAD system with Contact Type "BSD – Vehicle, Pedestrian, or Bike Stop" and "BSD – Call for Service" where the "C – Consent Search" Authority Code was used. Auditors evaluated a random statistically valid sample of 51 entries to determine if the deputies documented the reason for seeking consent to search in the clearance narrative section of their MDC patrol logs.

Results

Of the 51 entries, 39 (76%) met the criteria for this objective. Twelve entries did not meet the criteria for this objective because the entries did not indicate the reason for seeking consent to search.

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Objective No. 4 – Reasonable Suspicion

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 44, Item f, p. 8 (April 2015), states:

44. LASD-AV deputies shall document the following information about patrol activity in their MDC patrol logs:

f. a concise narrative articulating specific facts and circumstances that support reasonable suspicion or probable cause for investigative stops and detentions consistent with the radio clearance code (Noting a radio clearance code, or the code for the resulting citation or other result, will not be deemed sufficient articulation of legal support for the stop or search).

Manual of Policy and Procedures, Section 5-09/520.30, Statistical Codes for Traffic, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Stops (March 2015), states:

The Mobile Digital Computer “Reasonable Suspicion” and “Pat Down” Contact Information Codes require justification for the stop or search and shall be noted in the narrative portion of the deputy’s log.

Field Operations Support Services Newsletter, Volume 13, Number 12, New MDC Codes for Logging Field Activity (December 2016), states:

PC Stop – Reason for Contact:

R= Reasonable Suspicion

...The “PC Stop – Reason for Contact code “R” (previously entitled “Reasonable Cause”) has been changed to “Reasonable Suspicion” to better conform to *Terry v. Ohio* 1968 case law. The “Reasonable Suspicion” justification for the stop shall be noted in the narrative portion of the deputy’s log.

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Palmdale Station Unit Order #14-05, Supplemental Patrol Procedures (August 2019), states:

MDC PATROL LOG PROCEDURES

In addition to procedures covered under the Department's Constitutional Policing and Stops Policy (5-09/520.00 – 5-09/520.30), Field Operations Directives, Newsletters, and Unit Orders, Palmdale deputies shall document the following additional information about patrol activity in their MDC patrol log narrative:

A concise narrative articulating specific facts and circumstances for conducting "reasonable suspicion" or "probable cause for investigative" stops and detentions consistent with the radio clearance code (Noting that a radio clearance code, or the code for the resulting citation or other result will not be deemed sufficient articulation of legal support for the stop or search). Example:

- *A 925 OBS cleared with 841 code: "CONT'D DETAINEE RE: LATE AT NIGHT IN AREA OF RECENT 459'S WEARING DARK CLOTHING, LOOKING INTO VEH'S"*

Every "reasonable suspicion" or "probable cause for investigative" stop will articulate the basis for the stop.

Procedures

Auditors identified a population of 42 entries in the CAD system where the "R – Reasonable Suspicion" "P – Probable Cause" Code was used. Auditors evaluated all 42 entries to determine if deputies documented the specific facts and circumstances that support the reasonable suspicion or the probable cause for conducting the stops and detentions in the clearance narrative section of their MDC patrol logs.

Results

All 42 (100%) entries met the criteria for this objective.

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Objective No. 5 – Statistical Clearance Codes

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Section III, Stops, Seizures, and Searches, p. 7 (April 2015), states:

...LASD shall ensure that investigatory stops and searches are part of an effective overall crime prevention strategy, do not contribute to counter-productive divisions between LASD and the community, and are adequately documented for tracking and supervision purposes...

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Section VI, Data Collection and Analysis, Paragraph 81, p. 18 (April 2015), states:

81. LASD will continue to collect data currently required by the Statistical Code Guide, Radio Code Book, and related policies...

Manual of Policy and Procedures, Section 5-09/520.25, Logging Field Activities (May 2017), states:

The Mobile Digital Computer's DDWS logs shall contain only accurate information including, but not limited to, the race of each individual detained or searched, the result of the stop, and the date, time, and location of the stop...

Manual of Policy and Procedures, Section 5-09/520.30, Statistical Codes for Traffic, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Stops (March 2015), states:

The statistical codes 840 (Traffic Stop), 841 (Pedestrian Stop), and 842 (Bicycle Stop) shall be used when field personnel conduct vehicle, pedestrian, or bicycle stops based on probable cause, reasonable suspicion, or for other investigative purposes or to follow up on leads from prior incidents. The codes shall be used when logging vehicle, pedestrian, or bicycle stops which are associated with:

- *Calls for Service;*
- *Self-initiated activity that results in arrest or citation; and/or*
- *Self-initiated activity which is enforcement or investigative in nature but does not result in arrest or citation...*

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Field Operations Support Services Newsletter, Volume 16, Number 16, New Clearance Requirements for Logging Field Activity (September 2016), states:

Clearance codes 779 (OBS Assist) and 780 (Assigned Assist) have both been reprogrammed to allow entry of information into the Contact Information Fields, which were previously only allowed on 840/841/842 clearance codes...

...When more than two people are detained related to the same incident, additional observation (OBS) tags must be created to capture complete contact information on all remaining detained persons not logged in the original tag by linking them with the new Reference Call (REFCALL) feature. The additional OBS tag will be cleared using the REFCALL field, along with the new stat code 843: Logging Additional Detained Persons on OBS or CALL.

...Stat code 843 cannot be used in conjunction with other clearance/stat codes. If stat code 843 is used, at least one set of contact information for one individual must be entered...

Statistical Code Guide and Radio Code Book, p. 38 (July 2019), states:

Family Abuse Related Incidents

*831: Secondary statistical code and cannot be used alone. When **831** is used you must complete contact fields 01 through 07. When the victim is a child, you must list the child as contact 1 and use code "A" for the contact type.*

Statistical Code Guide and Radio Code Book, p. 40 (July 2019), states:

840, 841, 842 & 843:

***MAY** be used as a supplement to any (all) other statistical codes: (However, you must complete the required contact information).*

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Procedures

Auditors randomly selected 7 dates composing a week (Monday - Sunday) to determine if the statistical clearance codes, below, were used appropriately for the detention-related entries:

- 779 (Assist Station Unit)
- 780 (Assigned Assist)
- 831 (Family Abuse Related Incidents)
- 840 (Traffic Stop)
- 841 (Pedestrian Stop)
- 842 (Bicycle Stop)
- 843 (Logging Additional Detained Persons on OBS or CALL)

Auditors identified a population of 2,205 entries in the CAD system for the seven randomly selected dates (Monday 2-21-22, Tuesday 1-11-22, Wednesday 2-9-22, Thursday 3-17-22, Friday 3-4-22, Saturday 3-19-22, and Sunday 3-13-22) within the audit time period, of which 373 entries containing narratives were determined to be possible detentions. Auditors evaluated a statistically valid sample of 77 entries to determine if the appropriate statistical clearance codes were used for the entries that were determined to be detentions.

Results

Of the 77 entries, 76 (99%) met the criteria for this objective. One entry did not meet the criteria for this objective because the entry did not utilize the 840 (Vehicle Stop) statistical clearance code.

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Objective No. 6 – Sergeant Weekly Audits of Deputy Daily Work Sheet Logs

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 59, p. 12 (April 2015), states:

59. ...Sergeants shall audit at least one CAD log for each deputy under their supervision each week...

Palmdale Station Unit Order #14-06, Supplemental Supervisory Responsibilities (July 2021), states:

DDWS REVIEW

*...Sergeants shall audit at least one DDWS log **involving stop, search, and seizure activity (if any is conducted)** for each deputy under their supervision each week...*

Procedures

Auditors evaluated 17 DDWS Log Compliance Check Forms created by 17 reviewing sergeants for the sample week of January 16, 2022, through January 22, 2022, to determine if the reviewing sergeants conducted an audit of at least one weekly DDWS log involving a stop, search, and seizure activity for each deputy assigned to them. Auditors identified 68 DDWS logs that were required to be audited by the reviewing sergeants.

Results

Of the 68 DDWS logs, 61 (90%) met the criteria for this objective. Two DDWS logs did not meet the criteria for this objective because the reviewing sergeants did not audit the DDWS logs of the assigned deputies for the sample week. Five DDWS logs did not meet the criteria for this objective because the reviewing sergeants audited a DDWS log with no stop, search, and seizure activity, although one was available.

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Objective No. 7 – Deputy Daily Work Sheet Log Compliance Check Forms

Objective No. 7(a) – Stop, Search, and Seizure Documentation Errors

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 59, p. 12 (April 2015), states:

59. *Sergeants assigned as raters shall regularly audit their assigned deputies' stop, search, and seizure documentation in addition to arrest reports and citations for completeness, accuracy, and legal sufficiency...*

Palmdale Station Unit Order #14-06, Supplemental Supervisory Responsibilities (July 2021), states:

DDWS REVIEW

*...Sergeants shall audit at least one DDWS log **involving stop, search and seizure activity (if any is conducted)** for each deputy under their supervision each week...*

If a deputy's stop, search, or seizure documentation (DDWS, arrest report, Probable Cause Declaration) does not provide sufficient detail or articulate sufficient legal and policy justification for the action, or contains abbreviations that are indiscernible, the supervisor shall review the action with the deputy to determine whether there was sufficient legal and LASD policy justification and to take corrective action...

Procedures

Auditors evaluated 68 DDWS logs completed by the deputies for the week of January 16, 2022, through January 22, 2022, to determine if all detention related errors on the corresponding DDWS Log Compliance Check Forms were identified by the reviewing sergeants and documented on the corresponding DDWS Log Compliance Check Forms. Of the 68 DDWS logs, auditors identified 32 DDWS logs containing errors requiring documentation.

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Results

Of the 32 DDWS logs, 16 (50%) met the criteria for this objective. Sixteen DDWS logs did not meet the criteria for this objective because the reviewing sergeants did not identify or document the detention-related errors.

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Objective No. 7(b) – Documentation of Corrective Actions Taken for Deputy Daily Work Sheet Log Errors

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 61, p. 12 (April 2015), states:

61. Antelope Valley supervisors and commanders shall take appropriate action to address all violations or deficiencies in stops, searches, and seizures including non-disciplinary corrective action for the involved deputy, and/or referring the incident for disciplinary action.

Palmdale Station Unit Order #14-06, Supplemental Supervisory Responsibilities (July 2021), states:

DDWS REVIEW

...Supervisors shall take appropriate action to address all violations or deficiencies in stops, searches, and seizures including non-disciplinary corrective action for the involved deputy, and/or referring the incident for disciplinary action...

Procedures

Auditors evaluated 20 DDWS logs with detention related errors which were identified by the reviewing sergeants to determine if the reviewing sergeants documented appropriate corrective action for the errors on the corresponding DDWS Log Compliance Check Forms.

Results

Of the 20 DDWS logs, 16 (80%) met the criteria for this objective. Four DDWS logs did not meet the criteria for this objective because the reviewing sergeants identified errors on the DDWS but did not document any corrective action.

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Project No. 2022-6-A**

Objective No. 8 – Watch Commander/Lieutenant Review of Sergeant Deputy Daily Work Sheet Log Weekly Audits

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 61, p. 12 (April 2015), states:

61. *Antelope Valley supervisors and commanders shall take appropriate action to address all violations or deficiencies in stops, searches, and seizures including non-disciplinary corrective action for the involved deputy, and/or referring the incident for disciplinary action.*

Palmdale Station Unit Order #14-06, Supplemental Supervisory Responsibilities (July 2021), states:

DDWS REVIEW

...Watch Commanders/Lieutenants shall thoroughly review the log audits to ensure the sergeants are accurately auditing the deputy DDWS logs and note any issues in the Watch Commander signature line area on the form...

Procedures

Auditors evaluated 17 DDWS Log Compliance Check Forms to determine if the Watch Commander/Lieutenant thoroughly reviewed the sergeant audits for detention related errors.

Results

Of the 17 DDWS Log Compliance Check Forms, nine (53%) met the criteria for this objective. The remaining eight DDWS Log Compliance Check Forms did not meet the criteria for this objective because the DDWS Log Compliance Check Forms contained errors, noted by the auditors, that should have been identified by the Watch Commander/Lieutenant and reviewing sergeants.

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SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS

Table No. 1 - Summary of Audit Results

Objective No.	Audit Objectives	2022 Results	2021 Results
1	BACKSEAT DETENTIONS		
1(a)	<i>Backseat Detentions: Vehicle, Pedestrian, or Bicycle Stops</i>	86%	86%
1(b)	<i>Backseat Detentions: Call for Service</i>	44%	37%
2	MOBILE DIGITAL COMPUTER PATROL LOG REQUIRED INFORMATION		
2(a)	<i>Physical Location Address of the Stop</i>	100%	100%
2(b)	<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	100%	100%
2(c)	<i>Disposition of the Stop</i>	98%	97%
2(d)	<i>Probation or Parole Status</i>	100%	100%
2(e)	<i>Length of Backseat Detentions</i>	100%	99%
2(f)	<i>Vehicle Impoundment</i>	100%	100%
3	CONSENT SEARCHES		
	<i>Determine if the deputies documented the reason for seeking the consent to search in the clearance narrative section of their Mobile Digital Computer patrol logs.</i>	76%	75%
4	REASONABLE SUSPICION		
	<i>Determine if deputies documented the specific facts and circumstances that support the reasonable suspicion for conducting the stops and detentions in the clearance narrative section of their Mobile Digital Computer patrol logs.</i>	100%	96%
5	STATISTICAL CLEARANCE CODES		
	<i>Determine if the appropriate statistical clearance codes were used.</i>	99%	99%
6	SERGEANT WEEKLY AUDITS OF DEPUTY DAILY WORK SHEET LOGS		
	<i>Determine if the reviewing sergeants conducted an audit of at least one weekly Deputy Daily Work Sheet log involving stop, search, and seizure activity (if any was conducted) for each deputy assigned to them.</i>	90%	97%
7	DEPUTY DAILY WORK SHEET LOG COMPLIANCE CHECK FORMS		
7(a)	<i>Stop, Search, and Seizure Documentation Errors</i>	50%	32%
7(b)	<i>Documentation of Corrective Actions Taken for Deputy Daily Work Sheet Log Errors</i>	80%	100%
8	WATCH COMMANDER/LIEUTENANT REVIEW OF SERGEANT DEPUTY DAILY WORK SHEET LOG WEEKLY AUDITS		
	<i>Determine if the Watch Commander/Lieutenant thoroughly reviewed the sergeant audits of the Deputy Daily Work Sheet logs for each deputy assigned to them.</i>	53%	24%

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OTHER RELATED MATTERS

Other related matters are pertinent issues discovered during the audit but were not objectives which were measurable against Department policies and procedures.

Incorrect Contact Type Entered in the MDC Patrol Log

Twenty-two of the 73 entries reviewed in Objective No. 1 – Backseat Detentions were erroneously coded. The deputies selected the incorrect Contact Types, (A-Suspect-Subject, D-Detained Driver, A-Family Abuse, etc....) Data entered incorrectly into the MDC patrol log will result in inaccurate information and statistics when evaluating data regarding BSDs.

CONCLUSION

Auditors performed analyses and made assessments to identify areas in need of improvement. The evidence presented provides reasonable assurance that Department personnel are not fully adhering to the MPP, Palmdale Station Unit Orders, FOSS Newsletters, and the provisions of the AV Agreement regarding detentions of individuals and data collection.

RECOMMENDATIONS

When Department policies and procedures are not adhered to, it may result in an increased risk to the Department. Failure to gather data related to stops, searches, and seizures, will not allow for proper identification of patterns of unlawful police-civilian contact and personnel may be conducting improper stops from lack of supervision. Department management should disseminate the results of this audit to its personnel. Additionally, as best practice, Department management is encouraged to conduct recurring and ongoing briefing of policies and procedures.

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Views of Responsible Officials

On August 17, 2022, North Patrol Division submitted a formal response to the AAB concurring with the audit results. A copy of the audit report was provided to the Office of Inspector General.

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This audit was submitted on this 28th day of August, by the Audit and Accountability Bureau.

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