Purpose

To establish guidelines for the traffic enforcement function of the Virginia Beach Police Department.

Policy

The enforcement of traffic laws as established by the Code of Virginia and the Municipal Code of the City of Virginia Beach is the responsibility of all Virginia Beach Police Officers. Officers are vested with the enforcement of traffic codes for the purpose of gaining voluntary compliance in furtherance of enhancing traffic safety in the City of Virginia Beach.

Enforcement Actions (CALEA 61.1.2 C, 61.1.4, 61.1.6 A, B, C)

Officers will take enforcement action upon the detection of an illegal or potentially hazardous act by persons operating vehicles, bicycles or other conveyances, or pedestrians. Enforcement action may consist of a warning, the issuance of a Virginia Uniform Summons, or in certain circumstances, a physical arrest.

Uniformed officers assigned to the operations division are assigned geographic areas in which they are responsible for providing police services to include the enforcement of traffic laws. Uniformed officers assigned to Special Operations are assigned based on both geographic areas and specialized function. Uniformed officers utilize a variety of strategies to promote traffic safety through traffic law enforcement to include overt proactive visible patrols in marked police vehicles and covert methods via the use of stationary concealed positions and unmarked police vehicles.

Warnings

Officers have the discretion to issue a warning when the officer believes that a warning will achieve the objective of voluntary compliance with the law. The Virginia Beach Police Department does not have a written means for issuing or tracking warnings for traffic violations. Officers are encouraged to note that a warning was issued in the comment section of the case assigned to the traffic stop by the Computer Aided Dispatch System (CADS).

Virginia Uniform Summons

At the discretion of the officer who observes the violation, a Virginia Uniform Summons may be issued to a motorist or a pedestrian for a violation of the traffic code when the officer believes that the issuance will achieve the objective of voluntary compliance with the law. Officers who wish to charge a motorist or a pedestrian shall take the name and address of such person as well as the license number of his motor vehicle and issue a Virginia Uniform Summons for the violation. The issuance of the Virginia Uniform Summons will provide information relating to the charge, the scheduled court date, and instructions for appearing in court or prepayment of fines if applicable. The court date for any issued Virginia Uniform

Speeding Violations (CALEA 61.1.5 C)

Accidents resulting from excessive speeds may cause a great deal of property damage, serious injury or death. The enforcement objective of the Virginia Beach Police Department is to establish and charge speeding violations, which are either too fast for road conditions or in excess of posted speed limits.

Occupant Restraint Violations

The major concern in dealing with this class of violation is that drivers and passengers are properly restrained. This will occur through the use of one of the following:

- seatbelts
- child safety seats
- child booster seats

Many injuries and deaths occur each year as a direct result of failing to be properly restrained. As a result of the departments' commitment to traffic safety, we must recognize the importance of these violations and our role in reducing them. The enforcement objectives of the Virginia Beach Police Department is to establish and charge occupant restraint violations which have been set forth in the State Code.

Other Hazardous Violations (CALEA 61.1.5 D)

In addition to DUI and speeding violations the National Safety Council has identified the following as principal accident causing violations:

- Failure to yield right of way
- Following another vehicle too closely
- Improper turning movements
- Driving on the center-line
- Failure to heed stop signs
- Improper passing
- Disregarding signals

Equipment Violations (CALEA 61.1.5 F)

Although equipment violations may not appear to be as important as the moving violations, many accidents are the direct result of faulty vehicular equipment. As a result of the Departments commitment to traffic safety, we must recognize the significance of these violations and our role in reducing them.

Motor Carrier Safety / Commercial Vehicle Violations (CALEA 61.1.5 G)

The major concern in dealing with this class of violation is that drivers are properly licensed and qualified to safely operate the vehicle and that the vehicle is properly registered, equipped and insured to legally operate upon the highways of the City. Special Operations supports the Motor Carrier Safety Unit, which is available to assist the uniformed patrol officer with the enforcement of codes that are specific to these types of vehicles.

	Operational General Order	12.03 RADAR Operations	PAGE 1 OF 3
	SUBJECT **Virginia Beach Police Department General Order** Chapter 12 – Traffic Operations		EFFECTIVE DATE **04/01/2011** ORIGINATOR/REVIEW Special Operations
	DISTRIBUTION ALL	**CALEA: 61.1.9**	
BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:			

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

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 61.1.9 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 61.1.9 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 61.1.9 C, 61.1.9 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 <u>only</u> 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

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 61.1.9 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.

Purpose

To establish selective traffic enforcement policies and practices for the Virginia Beach Police Department.

Policy

The Virginia Beach Police Department is committed to promoting traffic safety to the residents of and visitors to the City of Virginia Beach. This commitment requires the department to work cooperatively with other city, state and federal agencies in promoting traffic safety, and addressing traffic law enforcement needs. In furtherance of this commitment, the Deputy Chief - Operations or his/her designee will formulate and maintain a selective enforcement plan, which will summarize the traffic enforcement priorities of the Virginia Beach Police Department. At a minimum, the Traffic Enforcement Priority Plan will consider or be based on:

- A compilation and review of traffic collisions
- A compilation and review of enforcement activities
- A comparison of collision data and enforcement activities
- Traffic volume and conditions

The plan will be disseminated to the various components of the operations division for action. Such actions should include:

- The implementation of selective enforcement techniques such as:
  - Planned patrols
  - Geographic/temporal assignment of personnel
  - Directed Traffic Patrols both overt and covert
  - Stationary Observation
  - Traffic Safety Checkpoints
- Placement of new or temporary signage
- Use of roadside Dynamic Message Boards

Annually, the Deputy Chief – Operations or his/her designee will evaluate the effectiveness of actions taken in response to the plan. Based on the review of actions, and an annual review of the minimum factors mentioned above, the plan shall be revised and updated annually.

In addition to the Traffic Priority Plan, 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 components commanding officers at the monthly COMPSTAT meeting. The summary will contain information regarding the location and numbers of crashes, alcohol related crashes, and DUI arrests within the City of Virginia Beach, depicted or controlled by precinct geographical boundaries. From the information presented, Operation Division commanding officers will

direct the efforts of uniformed personnel toward addressing identified areas of need in support of the Traffic Enforcement Priority Plan as depicted above.

The Police Department's Office of Planning and Analysis shall be responsible for compiling an annual report for the Traffic Engineering Division that includes the location of all fatal motor vehicle crashes, and the high incident locations for injury crashes, non-injury crashes, DUI arrests, and traffic summonses. The Traffic Engineering Division will receive a copy of all traffic crash reports on a regular basis from the Records Section of the Services Unit.

There are several committees within the City of Virginia Beach and regionally that involve traffic safety that members of the Department participate in. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A member from each precinct, Special Operations, and the Office of Planning and Analysis shall attend periodic meetings with the Traffic Engineering Division to discuss traffic related matters. The purpose of members attending these meetings will be to relate complaints from the community regarding traffic engineering deficiencies, make recommendations for traffic engineering studies, and to share information regarding collision and enforcement data.