

POLICE PATROLS

2009

Police patrol is the deployment of police force in highly equipped and marked police vehicles, usually specially armored cars. Depending on the area being patrolled, the mode of patrolling may be changed. Patrols may be conducted variably on bicycles (on large university campuses), horses (unregulated and crowded areas) or on foot (auto regulated and restricted areas).

To improve overall effectiveness, the use of technology cannot be understated. Yet we see that departments, plagued with bureaucracy and processes take time to embrace newer technologies as they come.

It is important to note that the biggest challenge departments face comes in the form of funding. While it may be very helpful to increase the frequency of patrols, it may be impractical to do so. Instead, the perception of patrol could be improved: officers should be trained to increase interaction with the people that reside in the area they patrol. This is pretty much how criminals and gang members maintain their control over territories: a good tactic, that helps build rapport and establish presence. Besides it is a whole lot better than positioning a vacant patrol vehicle with its radio on. Instead of seeing their jobs as miles per shift, the force should instead aim at building a holistic connection with the community they serve.

It would be this connection that would help develop a citizen network. Though not apparently a part of patrol, a citizen network of cooperators could lay a passive police net in the area, a very effective policing technique. Areas where there is a disconnect between the community and the cops, any degree of patrolling would not be effective. Officers should be given a choice of the area they patrol, this way more local cops could utilize any bonds of belonging they have in their communities to the advantage of the police force.