Use of Mobile Data Computers in the Field

407.1 PURPOSE

This section is intended to provide direction for the use of Mobile Data Computers in the field.

407.2 USE OF MOBILE DATA COMPUTERS

All field personnel with access to Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) shall log on at the beginning of their shifts. MDCs are valuable for reducing radio traffic while keeping accurate status, notes, and documentation.

Officers are encouraged to utilize their MDC to:

1. Add persons or vehicles (with the understanding that the dispatcher will not provide returns unless asked).

2. Change their status while assigned to an incident (i.e., on scene, en route, etc.).

3. Show they are out of service (E.g., report writing, and vehicle to yard). For Flex, please continue to follow Policy 1019 Wellness Program-Flex Guidelines for out-of-service. Also, if you will be out of service for an extended period of time, please notify your Sergeant so they are aware.

4. Attach to incidents that have already been assigned.

5.To log on and off duty.

*Officers can also use the MDCs to search prior incidents or person histories. However, officers should be aware that items added by the MDC may not be immediately recognized by dispatch, and they should not use the MDCs to document any notes that could present an officer safety issue.

*Officers are encouraged to write reports on their MDC's in the field unless it is a lengthy case and you will be out of service to type.

*When a case number is not pulled on a call for service, officers must add "CAD" notes (advising what happened on the call for service) using the MDC in the field. Please do not clear a call without some type of notation if you do not pull a case number. These notes and your BWC are the only source of documentation we have to back up what you did on the call and help when we get a repeat call or if a complaint is generated.

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