DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE PATROL STRATEGY AS A PANACEA FOR RTC REDUCTION

PRESENTED BY

DCM Adei A Abu

Deputy Corps Marshal (Operations)

PREAMBLE

- In line with provision of the FRSC Establishment Act 2007, the main mandate of the Corps is RTC reduction. One of the ways of achieving this mandate is through the conduct of patrol operations.
- It is however important to state that patrol operations cannot achieve the desired objective of RTC reduction unless it is carried out effectively.
- This presentation therefore seeks to suggest ways in which patrol operation could be carried out effectively towards reduction of RTC

WHAT IS PATROL?

- Based on FRSC Operations Guidelines and procedures, patrol is a Preventive Enforcement Technique which has the following aspects:
 - Control
 - Surveillance
 - Punishment

TYPES OF PATROL

- Mobile speed control patrol;
- Static speed control patrol;
- Surveillance patrol;
- Rescue mission;
- Night patrol;
- Special patrol;
- Foot team patrol;
- Metropolitan bike patrol;
- Traffic Control.

STRATEGIES IN CARRYING OUT PATROL OPERATIONS

The strategies used in carrying out the aforementioned patrol operations include:

- Stoppage of the offender on sighting primary offence(s)
- Interaction with offender to inform him/her of offences committed/confiscation of relevant documents or impoundment as the case may be.
- Issuance of ticket in the event that offences are identified.
- Enlightenment where and when necessary.

STRATEGIES IN CARRYING OUT PATROL OPERATIONS (Cont.)

- Rescue including, administration of first aid in the event of RTC
- Clearing of obstruction to enhance free and safe flow of traffic.
- Traffic diversions and channeling.

CHALLENGES

The conduct of patrol operations in FRSC has not been without challenges, these include:

- Issue of primary and secondary offences.
- Offenders refusal to stop.
- Incessant staff knockdown.
- Expensive in terms of fuelling, maintenance etc.
- Extortion and bribery due to substantial physical interaction between operatives and offenders.
- Rejection of RTC victims by Hospitals

CHALLENGES (Cont.)

- Consistent breakdown of e-tablets
- Inadequate operational coverage
- Inadequate logistics (patrol vehicles, ambulances, tow trucks)
- Inadequate personnel
- Lack of full deployment of provided gadgets such as radar guns and breathalyzers
- Inadequate maintenance of available patrol vehicles and equipment
- Hostilities by host communities and other road users

SOME STEPS TAKEN BY THE CORPS TO TACKLE CHALLENGES

- Introduction of e-ticketing.
- Ongoing review of Ops guidelines to meet current operational realities.
- Injection of additional patrol vehicles and ambulances
- Creation of additional Unit Commands and outposts to extend coverage

STEPS TAKEN BY THE CORPS TO TACKLE CHALLENGES (Cont.)

- Conduct of surveillance activities.
- Orientation of staff on operations through:
 - In-house lectures
 - Pre-patrol brief

EFFECTIVE PATROL STRATEGY

Despite the efforts made by Management towards tackling these challenges, there is still a lot more work to be done, in order to ensure that patrol operations are effective. Consequently, the following are to be considered:

Need to discard patrol procedure which allows for vehicles to be stopped <u>only if</u> primary offences are sighted.

- Reinvigoration of pre-patrol briefings and the checking of compliance.
- Development maintenance of a robust drivers' data base;
- Development of maintenance of a robust vehicle registration data base;
- Sustenance of e-ticketing; Provision of additional tablets and repairs of faulty ones;
- Reactivating and sustenance of flying tickets; completion of portal
- Utilization of speed cameras;

- Vibrant interfacing with the judiciary for effective prosecution;
- Deployment of cameras in patrol vehicles to monitor staff and offenders during arrest process.
- Increased surveillance activities
- Increased supervision by Commanding/other Supervising
 Officers
- Consistent Intervention Patrol operations
- Increased collaboration with stakeholders, host communities and other law enforcement Agencies

- Constant maintenance of vehicles and equipment
- Tracking of wanted offenders and those evading arrest
- Continuous creation of additional Commands and outposts to cover critical routes.
- Increased staff education on patrol operations using Ops Manual as pedestal

- Provision of adequate communication gadgets e.g use of walkie-talkies for synergy and coordination
- Provision of additional emergency vehicles and equipment.
- Provision of additional patrol vehicles and tow trucks
- Provision of additional manpower for the Corps

- Education of motoring public while on patrol operations
- Proper administration of first aid by all field operatives
- Prompt clearance of obstructions
- Bearing of arms
- Sustenance of mobile courts
- Adequate financing of Commands

Technology-driven patrol operations is proven to be the most potent strategy in RTC reduction strategy for RTC reduction. FRSC is embracing this strategy via introduction of measures such as e-ticketing, evidence based radar gun/speed cameras, motor vehicle database and ICT/on-line reporting. However there is need to step up effort in this direction towards

- achieving full deployment of technology in the enforcementpatrol processes of detection of offences, tracking of offenders, bookings, monitoring of staff on operations detection of obstructions and RTC, bearing in mind that it presents advantages that include the following:
- Efficiency.
- Cost effectiveness in the long run.
- Credibility.

Safer in terms of human and material losses

CONCLUSION

Management is requested to renew its drive by pursuing full implementation of a technological driven patrol operations as well as the aforementioned strategies if it is to achieve and sustain significant reduction in RTC.

Thank you for listening.