
Honor Guard

345.1 POLICY

Police officers specifically trained and equipped to formally represent the department at various ceremonies and functions bring credit to the department and the community. The Urbana Police Department supports the establishment of an Honor Guard unit for those reasons.

345.2 PURPOSE

The Urbana Police Department has established an Honor Guard detail to render the proper farewell with respect and honor to police officers and other public servants who make the ultimate sacrifice in service to the community. The Honor Guard detail will offer these honors to the family of any fatally wounded officer in the area. Fortunately, the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty does not occur frequently. The Honor Guard detail will predominantly function as a color guard to present the national colors at the commencement of numerous community functions that the department may be invited to participate. The Honor Guard will be an important opportunity to be viewed by the citizens of Urbana, demonstrating the discipline and precision that they should expect from each sworn officer in their daily interactions while performing their duties. The Honor Guard, in the same respect, can be an effective recruiting tool.

345.3 MEMBERSHIP

Any sworn officer who has completed the field training program and has successfully completed the term of probation may volunteer to be a member of the Honor Guard detail. No previous military affiliation or similar training is required as a prerequisite. Members will be responsible for maintaining their fitness level to withstand the rigors of performances. These performance challenges can consist of standing at attention for a considerable amount of time and carrying/holding rifles and flags for a considerable amount of time. Performances can occur outdoors during inclement weather or on extremely hot and cold temperature days. Members will be asked to perform uniform maintenance at a much higher level of detail and scrutiny. Members will be required to purchase and set aside one long sleeve shirt and trousers for performances only.

The detail will consist of a unit commander and any number of officers on a voluntary basis. The unit commander will be responsible for training, equipping and scheduling the detail. The Honor Guard Commander is an interim title that can be conferred upon any officer who is competent in small unit drill and is able to lead a detail through the movements required for any particular performance. The title of Honor Guard Commander will rotate to give any competent member the opportunity to lead and improve leadership authority and command presence.

345.4 TRAINING

The training schedule will consist of the appropriate amount of time as deemed necessary by the Honor Guard commander and a Patrol Division Commander. Continued Honor Guard members may be asked to practice troublesome movements on their personal time.

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345.5 UNIFORMS

The performance uniform will be the department's Class 'A' uniform, regardless of weather. The Honor Guard has special accoutrements that will be authorized for wear during performances. At present, these special uniform items consist of a gold name tag, gold braided epaulet cord and white gloves.