



GREENVILLE COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 231

## GENERAL ORDERS

## WATCH COMMANDER

### **PURPOSE:**

In order to provide unity and consistency in command, better utilization of resources, and improved coordination of field operations activity, the Sheriff's Office has a Watch Commander system. This order establishes procedures for Watch Commanders.

### **ON-DUTY WATCH COMMANDER:**

Uniform Patrol lieutenants work a schedule to provide 24-hour, 7-day-a-week coverage, either on-duty or on-call. The on-duty Watch Commander:

1. Monitors all Sheriff's Office operations and remains aware of all ongoing major activities.
2. Oversees major crime scenes, coordinates response of specialized investigative units, and assists with or coordinates notifications.
3. Responds to incidents involving serious injury to members of this Office, any use of deadly force by a deputy, and any serious traffic collision involving Sheriff's Office vehicles.
4. Responds to any incident requiring call-out of special teams (Dive, Bomb, Bloodhounds, SWAT, and Air Support).
5. Authorizes redeployment of personnel to handle shifting workloads, and/or call-out of off-duty personnel to handle unusual or emergency situations.
6. Handles news media release at major incidents in the absence of the PIO, and may handle routine media inquiries in coordination with the PIO (per General Order 115).
7. Coordinates investigation of minor complaints of misconduct against Sheriff's Office personnel.
8. Notifies Division Commanders of action taken involving their operations or personnel.
9. Attends Roll Calls during their shift to brief oncoming units on items of interest, and otherwise ensure information is distributed to other units within the Sheriff's Office for safe and effective coordination of efforts.
10. Briefs oncoming Watch Commander concerning previous shift activities.

During hours not covered by an on-duty Watch Commander, the last on-duty Commander remains on-call and available until the next Commander reports to duty (unless arrangements are made to switch call).

To assist the Watch Commander in fulfilling his/her duties, other supervisors are to notify the Watch Commander of:

1. All major incidents or crimes.
2. Search warrant service.
3. Stakeout operations.
4. Serious collisions or injuries involving employees.
5. Use of deadly force.
6. Other situations that may raise claims of civil liability, require coordination between divisions, or be of public interest or concern.
7. Any internal disciplinary situations requiring attention.



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Hobart Lewis, Sheriff