

Audit and Review Unit Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau

DV Patrol Response Audit Report May 2023

Sample Period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Report # DVP052023 Submitted by PSAB: June 6, 2022 Responses from Districts: July 6, 2022 Final Report: July 7, 2022

Audit Team

This audit was managed and conducted by the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau – Audit and Review Unit

Executive Summary

The Auditing and Review Unit (ARU) of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau (PSAB) conducted an audit of Domestic Violence (DV) Patrol Responses in May and June of 2023. The audit encompassed a data sample from July of 2021 to June of 2022. The DV Patrol response audit is completed to ensure the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) responds to and investigates reports of domestic violence professionally, effectively, and in a manner free of genderbias, in accordance with the rights secured or protected by the Constitution and Laws of the United States. The audit shall assess the overall quality of the initial response and investigation, including dispatch response, initial officer response (including entry procedures), and on-scene and follow-up procedures. This response is regulated by Chapter 42.4 "Domestic Violence" of the New Orleans Police Department's Operations Manual and Consent Decree (CD) paragraphs 212-222.

Supervisors should address any noted deficiencies with specific training through Roll Call Training, In-Service Training classes or Daily Training Bulletins (DTBs). This training should then be reinforced by close and effective supervision in addition to Supervisor Feedback Log entries as needed.

This audit was conducted using the Domestic Violence Patrol Response (DV Patrol) Protocol. The audit addresses the **twenty-nine (29)** DV Patrol Audit Checklist questions.

Number of Non-Compliant Checklist Questions (4): Q09: If child witnesses were present, did officer(s) separate them- (76%) Q18: Did officer(s) refer victims to the NOFJC – (93%) Q19: Did officer(s) provide victims with Form #45 and Rights brochure - (91%) Q25: Were signs and symptoms of strangulation noted - (91%)

Number of Incidents Used to Create Sample: (14,149) Number of BWC's reviewed in the audit sample: (557) Final Audit Sample Target Number: (280) The sample target represented approximately 2% of available incidents

Scores of **95%** or higher are considered substantial compliance. Supervisors should address any noted deficiencies with specific training through In-service Training classes or Daily Training Bulletins (DTBs). This training should be reinforced by close and effective supervision in addition to Supervisor Feedback Logs entries.

The overall compliance score of the DV Patrol Audit is as follows: (98%)

More detailed results are embedded in the Scorecards and Conclusion sections.

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Introduction

The Auditing and Review Unit (ARU) of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau (PSAB) conducted an audit of Domestic Violence Patrol Responses for the period of July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. The time span it took for the auditors to conduct the audit was from May 19, 2023, thru June 2, 2023.

Purpose

The Domestic Violence Patrol Response audit was conducted to verify Departmental compliance with the Consent Decree and NOPD Operations Manual, Chapter 42.4 "Domestic Violence" investigations.

Scope

The audit will determine and document whether there was a proper initial response to Domestic Violence scenes by members of the New Orleans Police Department, in compliance with Chapter 42.4. This audit focuses primarily on the initial patrol response. The auditor is responsible for verifying that each overall response was proactive, victim-centered, and professional. Once the review is completed, the audit manager will submit a preliminary report to the District Captains and the Captain of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau, pointing out any deficiencies or confirming a thorough investigation. These audit reports will help to maintain thorough and complete Domestic Violence Patrol Responses in the future. A report will also be sent to the appropriate OCDM monitor.

Methodology

Population size – Department CAD data only.

Sample size – Two hundred and eighty **(280)** Patrol Responses were selected via randomizer system; from the **14,149** cases taken in by the New Orleans Police Department from the 2nd half of the 2021 calendar year to the 1st half of 2022 calendar year.

- Documentation to be reviewed All CAD Reports for each call cleared with a "D" designation, in addition to EPR Reports and BWC videos for the randomly selected item numbers contained within each investigation.
- Testing Instrument(s) New Orleans Police Department Operations Manual Chapter 42.4, "Domestic Violence" (Revised: 1/31/2021), and a twenty-nine (29) point DV Patrol Responses Audit Checklist.

Each response will be audited via "single review" auditing process by the assigned auditor of the Auditing and Review Unit (ARU), to give a reliable and thorough review of each patrol response.

Data

The audit range is usually set for every six months (Semi-Annually). For this audit, two six-month ranges were combined to close the gap from activity to audit. An SQL data dump of all item numbers that are classified with a "D" designation is generated internally by PSAB and then given to ARU for the audit time range to be reviewed. The Auditing and Review Unit then takes those item numbers and enters them into the EXCEL's randomizer generator for incident responses to be selected for review. Approximately 2% of those investigations were selected from sample range.

Initiating and Conducting the DV Patrol Response Audit

The PSAB Innovation Manager ran the SQL query data dump on May 23rd, 2023, of all CAD data for incidents of Domestic Violence which were indicated with a "D" in the department's CAD system. Upon retrieving the CAD data information, a computer randomizer was used to select 2% of Domestic Violence Patrol Responses, for a total of two hundred and eighty **(280)** investigations for review.

Each investigation was then reviewed via "single review" audit process by the ARU auditors, based on each response's compliance with the New Orleans Police Department Operations Manual Chapter 42.4, as it relates to "Domestic Violence". To facilitate this process, the auditors used a twenty-nine (**29**) point Domestic Violence Patrol Response audit checklist as a gauge to review and analyze the content of every investigation.

The "single review" audit conducted by the ARU Auditors was completed timely and covered the appropriate policies and Consent Decree areas.

Total: 280 (DV) Patrol Responses

The below listed "Domestic Violence Patrol Response" checklist seen here was the instrument used by the Auditors to review each patrol response:

Item Number:
Auditor:
Date:

NA = Not Applicable
Y = Compliant
N = Not compliant/No
U = Unknown

1.	Is there an incident report? (212)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
2.	Is there body worn camera footage? (Policy)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
3.	How many BWCs were reviewed by PSAB?	Enter Count of BWCs
4.	If the call was Code 2, did two officers and a supervisor respond? (212)	
5.	If there was a single officer response, did the officer request a supervisor's response? (212)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
6.	Generally, did the officer(s) exercise due caution and reasonable care in providing for the safety of any officer(s) and parties involved? (213)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
7.	Did officer(s) attempt to make contact with parties, witnesses and/or residents of the house/business? (213)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
8.	Did the officer(s) separate the parties? (213)	
9.	If child witnesses were present, did the officer(s) separate the child from the parties? (213)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
10.	Did the officer(s) take appropriate action for a violation of a protection order? (214)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
11.	Did the officer(s) assess for injuries (obvious or not readily apparent)? (213)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
12.	Did the officer(s) conduct a Risk Assessment (5 Questions)? (213)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
13.	Did the officer(s) attempt to determine the predominant aggressor? (213,214)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
14.	Did the officer(s) ask follow-up questions to a self-defense statement? (214)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
15.	If a dual arrest was made, was there supervisory approval? (214)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
16.	Did the officer(s) follow policy for a suspect not on the scene? (212)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
17.	Did the officer(s) explain the circumstances when an arrest was not made? (213)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
18.	Did officer(s) refer victims to the NOFJC? (216)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
19.	Did the officer(s) provide victims with Form #45 and Rights of Crime Victims brochures? (213)	NA /Y /N /U
20.	Did the officer(s) avoid making any statements that would discourage the individual from utilizing victim assistance services? (212)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
21.	If the signal was changed, was it approved by a supervisor? (212)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
22.	Were victim/witness statements documented in the report? (213)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
23.	Was a video or audio recording made of all statements? (212,213)	
24.	Were observations of the crime scene noted? (213)	
25.	Were signs and symptoms of strangulation noted? (213)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
26.	Was a photo taken of injuries sustained? (213)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
27.	Did the officer(s) follow policy for documenting risk information specific to felony cases? (212)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
28.	Did the officer(s) collect, preserve and document evidence? (213)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
29.	Was the officer's investigation an overall pro-active, victim-oriented and professional response? (212,213,214)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U

Explain in the narrative below whether there were any exceptional strategies used by the initial officer or investigator or any deficiencies noted in the case investigation by the auditors.

Note: Checklist Question #3 is for information only. There no impact to the overall audit score.

(DV) Patrol Response Audit Bar Chart



(DV) Patrol Response scorecard by Checklist Question and District

Domestic Violence Patrol Check-List Scorecard - (Single Review)

Review Period: May 2023

ARU percentages for Consent Decree requirements for Domestic Violence Patrol. Sample Period: July 2021 - June 2022

Check-List Questions		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Other	Overall Score
1	Is there an incident report	94%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%	100%	-	99%
2	Is there body worn camera footage	96%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	88%	-	99%
3	How many BWCs were reviewed by PSAB (INFO ONLY)	35	42	79	78	96	58	135	34	-	557
4	If call was Code 2, did two officers and a supervisor respond	50%	100%	100%	91%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	98%
5	If only one officer responded, did they request a supervisor	100%	100%	100%	100%	92%	100%	100%	100%	-	97%
6	Did the officer(s) exercise caution and care ensuring saftey	100%	95%	95%	100%	94%	94%	100%	100%	-	97%
7	Did officer(s) attempt to make contact with anyone on scene	100%	95%	83%	94%	97%	100%	100%	100%	-	97%
8	Did the officer(s) separate the parties	100%	100%	89%	100%	94%	100%	100%	100%	-	97%
9	If child witnesses were present, did officer(s) separate them	100%	67%	-	67%	50%	-	100%	-	-	76%
10	Did the officer(s) take appropriate action for a violation of PO	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	100%	-	-	100%
11	Did the officer(s) assess for injuries (obvious or not obvious)	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%	100%	100%	100%	-	99%
12	Did the officer(s) conduct a Risk Assessment (5 Questions)	89%	100%	100%	89%	100%	100%	88%	100%	-	95%
13	Did the officer(s) try to determine the predominant aggressor	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	100%
14	Did officer(s) ask follow-up questions to a self-defense stmts	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	100%	-	100%
15	If a dual arrest was made, was there supervisory approval	-	100%	-	-	-	-	100%	-	-	100%
16	Did the officer(s) follow policy for a suspect not on the scene	100%	100%	100%	100%	92%	100%	100%	100%	-	99%
17	Did the officer(s) explain circumstances when arrest not made	-	100%	86%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	-	97%
18	Did officer(s) refer victims to the NOFJC	100%	92%	55%	94%	100%	89%	100%	100%	-	93%
19	Did officer(s) provide victims with Form #45 and Rights brochure	100%	90%	45%	100%	90%	100%	96%	100%	-	91%
	Did officer avoid making any statements discourage individual from										
20	utilizing victim assistance	93%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	99%
21	If the signal was changed, was it approved by a supervisor	100%	100%	100%	100%	89%	100%	100%	100%	-	99%
22	Were victim/witness statements documented in the report	100%	100%	100%	100%	97%	100%	100%	100%	-	100%
23	Was a video or audio recording made of all statements	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%	100%	-	99.5%
24	Were observations of the crime scene noted	100%	100%	83%	100%	85%	100%	100%		-	95%
25	Were signs and symptoms of strangulation noted	-	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		-	91%
26	Was a photo taken of injuries sustained	100%	88%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	98%
27	Did officer follow policy re documenting felony risk information	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	100%	-	-	-	100%
28	Did the officer(s) collect, preserve and document evidence	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	100%
29	Was investigation pro-active, victim oriented and professional	100%	100%	95%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	99.5%
	Total	98%	97.7%	94%	99%	97%	99%	99%	99%	-	98%

General Comments

ARU audited sampled Domestic Violence Patrol case file items for a defined period, for completeness and accuracy as required by the Consent Decree.

For an explanation of the procedures and scoring system for this review, see the associated "Protocol " document.

For a list of relevant policies, contact PSAB as needed.

For the audit results for each case file, see the accompanying RawData spreadsheets.

Scores below 95% are highlighted in red.

Domestic Violence Patrol Check-List Scorecard - (Single Review) Period: May 2023

ARU percentages for Consent Decree requirements for Domestic Violence Patrol. Sample Period: July 2021 - June 2022

Che	cklist Questions	Score	Y	Ν	NA	U
1	Is there an incident report	99%	216	2	62	0
2	Is there body worn camera footage	99%	268	4	8	0
3	How many BWCs were reviewed by PSAB (informational only)	557				
4	If call was Code 2, did two officers and a supervisor respond	98%	78	2	199	1
5	If only one officer responded, did they request a supervisor	97%	35	1	243	1
6	Did the officer(s) exercise caution and care ensuring saftey	97%	185	5	89	1
7	Did officer(s) attempt to make contact with anyone on scene	97%	205	7	67	1
8	Did the officer(s) separate the parties	97%	76	2	202	0
9	If child witnesses were present, did officer(s) separate them	76%	13	4	262	1
10	Did the officer(s) take appropriate action for a violation of PO	100%	13	0	267	0
11	Did the officer(s) assess for injuries (obvious or not obvious)	99%	79	1	200	0
12	Did the officer(s) conduct a Risk Assessment (5 Questions)	95%	71	4	204	1
13	Did the officer(s) try to determine the predominant aggressor	100%	92	0	188	0
14	Did officer(s) ask follow-up questions to a self-defense stmts	100%	13	0	267	0
15	If a dual arrest was made, was there supervisory approval	100%	2	0	278	0
16	Did the officer(s) follow policy for a suspect not on the scene	99%	78	1	201	0
17	Did the officer(s) explain circumstances when arrest not made	97%	34	1	245	0
18	Did officer(s) refer victims to the NOFJC	93%	101	8	170	1
19	Did officer(s) provide victims with Form #45 and Rights brochure	91%	99	10	170	1
	Did officer avoid making any statements to discourage individual					
20	from utilizing victim assistance	99%	163	1	116	0
21	If the signal was changed, was it approved by a supervisor	99%	67	1	211	1
	Were victim/witness statements documented in the report	100%	206	1	73	0
23	Was a video or audio recording made of all statements	99.5%	199	1	80	0
24	Were observations of the crime scene noted	95%	56	3	221	0
25	Were signs and symptoms of strangulation noted	91%	10	1	269	0
	Was a photo taken of injuries sustained	98%	43	1	236	0
	Did officer follow policy re documenting felony risk information	100%	27	0	253	0
	Did the officer(s) collect, preserve and document evidence	100%	89	0	191	0
	Was investigation pro-active, victim oriented and professional	99.5%	215	1	63	1
	Total	98%	2733	62	5035	10

General Comments

ARU audited sampled Domestic Violence Patrol case file items for a defined period, for completeness and accuracy as required by the Consent Decree.

For an explanation of the procedures and scoring system for this review, see the associated "Protocol" document. For a list of relevant policies, contact PSAB as needed.

For the audit results for each case file, see the accompanying RawData spreadsheets.

Individual DV Patrol Response Results by Checklist Question

The below listed information reveals the outcome of the Audit Team's checklist reviews. Note: A checklist question would receive an "N/A" designation, if that question was not applicable to the specific item being audited. A checklist question would receive a "U" designation if an auditor was unable to make a determination from the data available. (See Raw Data comments)

- 1. Is there an incident report? The overall score for this category was 99%. Of the 280 cases, 216 were audited as positive, 2 were negative, and 62 were N/A (not applicable).
- Is there body worn camera footage? (Policy) The overall score for this category was 99%. Of the 280 cases, 268 were audited as positive, 4 were negative, and 8 were N/A (not applicable).
- 3. How many BWCs were reviewed by PSAB? The overall count for this category was 557. This question was only to document how many BWC videos the monitors viewed and has no impact on the audit scores. Informational only. The number of videos includes in-car camera, and BWC's as needed. Also, when multiple officers are on scene, all video is reviewed.
- **4.** If the call was Code 2, did two officers and a supervisor respond? The overall score for this category was **98%**. Of the 280 cases, 78 were audited as positive, 2 were negative, 199 were N/A, 1 Unknown (not applicable).
- 5. If there was a single officer response, did the officer request a supervisor's response? The overall score for this category was 97%. Of the 280 cases, 35 were audited as positive, 1 was negative, and 243 were N/A (not applicable), 1 was Unknown.
- 6. Generally, did the officer(s) exercise due caution and reasonable care in providing for the safety of any officer(s) and parties involved? The overall score for this category was 97%. Of the 280 cases, 185 were audited as positive, 5 were negative, 89 were N/A (not applicable) and 1 was unknown.
- 7. Did officer(s) attempt to make contact with parties, witnesses and/or residents of the house/business? The overall score for this category was 97%. Of the 280 cases, 205 were audited as positive, 7 were negative, 67 were N/A (not applicable) and 1 were unknown.
- 8. Did the officer(s) separate the parties? The overall score for this category was 97%. Of the 280 cases, 76 were audited as positive, 2 were negative, 202 were N/A (not applicable).
- **9.** If child witnesses were present, did the officer(s) separate the child from the parties? The overall score for this category was **76%**. Of the 280 cases, 13 were audited as positive, 4

were negative, 262 were N/A (not applicable) and 1 was unknown.

- **10.** Did the officer(s) take appropriate action for a violation of a protection order? The overall score for this category was **100%**. Of the 280 cases, 13 were audited as positive, none were negative, and 267 were N/A (not applicable).
- **11.** Did the officer(s) assess for injuries (obvious or not readily apparent)? The overall score for this category was **99%**. Of the 280 cases, 79 were audited as positive, 1 was negative, 200 were N/A (not applicable).
- 12. Did the officer(s) conduct a Risk Assessment (5 Questions)? The overall score for this category was 95%. Of the 280 cases, 71 were audited as positive, 4 were negative, 204 were N/A (not applicable) and 1 was unknown.
- **13.** Did the officer(s) attempt to determine the predominant aggressor? The overall score for this category was **100%**. Of the 280 cases, 92 were audited as positive, none were negative, 188 were N/A (not applicable).
- Did the officer(s) ask follow-up questions to a self-defense statement? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 280 cases, 13 were audited as positive, none were negative, 267 were N/A (not applicable).
- **15.** If a dual arrest was made, was there supervisory approval? The overall score for this category was **100%**. Of the 280 cases, 2 were audited as positive, none were negative and 278 were N/A (not applicable).
- **16.** Did the officer(s) follow policy for a suspect not on the scene? The overall score for this category was **99%**. Of the 280 cases, 78 were audited as positive, 1 was negative, 201 were N/A (not applicable).
- **17.** Did the officer(s) explain the circumstances when an arrest was not made? The overall score for this category was **97%**. Of the 280 cases, 34 were audited as positive, 1 was negative, 245 were N/A (not applicable).
- 18. Did officer(s) refer victims to the NOFJC? The overall score for this category was 93%. Of the 280 cases, 101 were audited as positive, 8 were negative, 170 were N/A (not applicable) and 1 was unknown.
- 19. Did the officer(s) provide victims with Form #45 and Rights of Crime Victims brochures? The overall score for this category was 91%. Of the 280 cases, 99 were audited as positive, 10 were negative, 170 are N/A (not applicable) and 1 was unknown.
- 20. Did the officer(s) avoid making any statements that would discourage the individual from utilizing victim assistance services? The overall score for this category changed to 99%. Of

the 280 cases, 163 were audited as positive, 1 was negative, 116 were N/A (not applicable).

- 21. If the signal was changed, was it approved by a supervisor? The overall score for this category was 99%. Of the 280 cases, 67 were audited as positive, 1 was negative, 211 were N/A (not applicable) and 1 was unknown.
- 22. Were victim/witness statements documented in the report? The overall score for this category was 99.5%. Of the 280 cases, 206 were audited as positive, 1 was negative, and 73 were N/A (not applicable).
- 23. Was a video or audio recording made of all statements? The overall score for this category was 99.5%. Of the 280 cases, 199 were audited as positive, 1 was negative, and 80 were N/A (not applicable).
- 24. Were observations of the crime scene noted? The overall score for this category was 95%. Of the 280 cases, 56 were audited as positive, 3 were negative, 221 were N/A (not applicable).
- 25. Were signs and symptoms of strangulation noted? The overall score for this category was 91%. Of the 280 cases, 10 were audited as positive, 1 was negative, and 269 were N/A (not applicable).
- **26.** Was a photo taken of injuries sustained? The overall score for this category was **98%**. Of the 280 cases, 43 were audited as positive, 1 was negative, and 236 were N/A (not applicable).
- 27. Did the officer(s) follow policy for documenting risk information specific to felony cases? The overall score for this category was **100%**. Of the 280 cases, 27 were audited as positive, none were negative, 253 were N/A (not applicable).
- 28. Did the officer(s) collect, preserve, and document evidence? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 280 cases, 89 were audited as positive, none were negative, 191 were N/A (not applicable).
- 29. Was the officer's investigation an overall pro-active, victim-oriented, and professional response? The overall score for this category was 99.5%. Of the 280 cases, 215 were audited as positive, 1 was negative, 63 were N/A (not applicable) and 1 was unknown.

Conclusion

Overall Combined Compliance Score

Based on the combined total of the checklist items rated, from the sample size of two hundred and eighty **(280)** patrol responses audited; the **"overall score"** of this DV Patrol Response audit conducted by the Performance Standards Section was **98%**.

Final Results

The overall results of the May 2023 Domestic Violence Patrol Response audit revealed compliance threshold scores of *below 95%* in the following checklist questions:

- 09: If child witnesses were present, did officer(s) separate them- (76%)
- 18: Did officer(s) refer victims to the NOFJC (93%)
- 19: Did officer(s) provide victims with Form #45 and Rights brochure (91%)
- 25: Were signs and symptoms of strangulation noted (91%)

Recommendations

 It is recommended by the Auditing and Review Unit, that all District Platoon Lieutenants/DIU Lieutenants and/or immediate supervisors continue to emphasize and prioritize NOPD Operations Manual Chapter 42.4 "Domestic Violence" with all platoon/DIU personnel at Roll Calls and/or mandatory unit meetings. Taking these actions would enhance the probability of correcting all deficiencies and help to ensure that all future DV Patrol Responses are investigated thoroughly per policy.

District Responses & PSAB Notes

The Districts had no responses nor re-evaluation requests regarding the report findings.

Timothy A. Lindsey

Timothy A. Lindsey Innovation Manager, Auditing Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau

Appendix A – Attachments

• Excel Raw Data Spreadsheet

Appendix B – Report Distribution

Deputy Supt. PSAB Bureau

Captain PSAB Bureau

Chief Deputy Supt. FOB Bureau

District Captains

Captain FOB Bureau

Lieutenant FOB Bureau