

MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Bureau of Internal Oversight

Audits and Inspections Unit



Search Inspection: March 2023
Inspection Report # BI2023-0041

The Audits and Inspections Unit (AIU) of the Sheriff's Office Bureau of Internal Oversight (BIO) conducts search inspections on a monthly basis to ensure proper supervision, adherence with MCSO policies, compliance with the Melendres Order and established local and federal law. A total of 35 traffic stops are selected each month for review. To achieve inspection results the inspector will utilize the Vehicle Stop Contact Form, Citation/Warning, Incidental Contact Receipt, CAD printout, JWI Printout (if applicable) AIU-designed Matrix, Inspection Report Template Form, and Body Worn Camera (BWC) footage files.

Inspection BI2023-0041 examines traffic stops with a search documented on the Vehicle Stop Contact Forms contained in the TraCS database, for the time period of 3/1/2023 to 3/31/2023. To accomplish this task TraCS data was examined for those traffic stops with a search documented on the Vehicle Stop Contact Forms for this period. These stops have been uniformly inspected utilizing a matrix developed by the Audits and Inspections Unit in accordance with the procedures outlined in policy and the AIU Operations Manual. In the inspection, a "reasonable person" standard will be utilized by inspectors.

Compliance Objectives:

- Was the search(s) consistently documented on the VSCF, Non-Traffic Contact Form, Incident Report and Consent to Search Form?
- Consent search: Did the deputy verbally inform the individual(s) of their right to refuse or stop the search or provide him/her with a Consent Search Form?
- Was the search(s) conducted within MCSO policies, and in compliance with the Melendres Order and established local and federal law?
- Were any items seized properly documented on the VSCF and applicable forms and impounded into Q-Tel?
- Did the deputy provide the individual(s) with a Property Receipt if property was seized?

Criteria:

- MCSO Policy EA-11, Arrest Procedures
- MCSO Policy EB-1, Traffic Enforcement, Violator Contacts, and Citation Issuance
- MCSO Policy EB-2, Traffic Stop Data Collection
- MCSO Policy GJ-3, Search and Seizure
- MCSO Policy GJ-35, Body-Worn Cameras

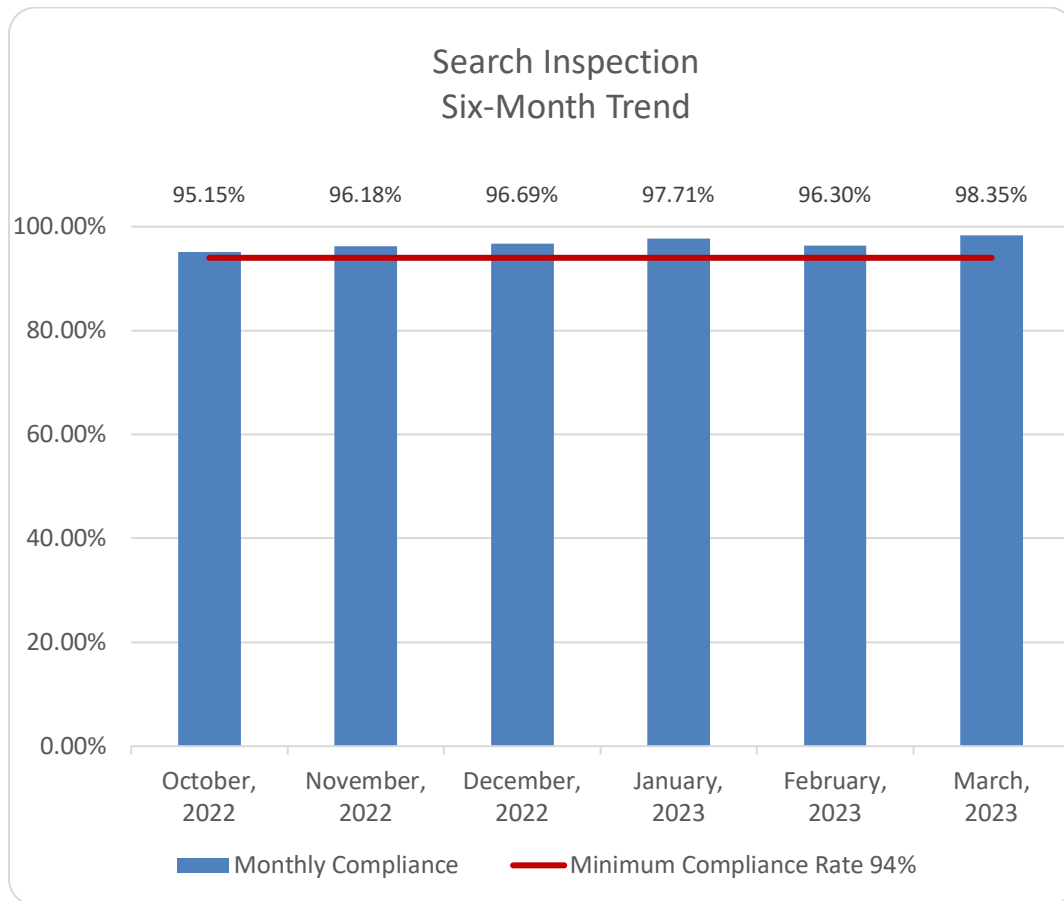
Conditions:

The MCSO is to review 35 randomly selected traffic stops made during the month of March 2023 with a search documented on the Vehicle Stop Contact Forms. There were 48 traffic stops with a search documented on the VSCF during the month of March 2023. Due to rounding during the selection process 36 traffic stops with a search documented on the VSCF were randomly selected for review. One of these traffic stops was also selected for the Traffic Stop Data Inspection and was replaced for this inspection in accordance with the methodology. Additionally, 10 of the traffic stops meeting the criteria are to be selected for Body-Worn Camera review. It should be noted that a total of 10 videos were selected, and four additional videos were selected for clarification purposes, making a total of 14 traffic stops selected for body worn camera review.

Results:

Each traffic stop will be counted as one inspection and all applicable matrix criteria inspection points will factor into an over-all compliance score. In this inspection each traffic stop utilized five matrix criteria inspection points for a total of 180 potential matrix criteria inspection points. Those determined to be Not Applicable (N/A) or Not Verifiable will be removed from the overall compliance percentage. For example, this month there were 56 inspection points determined to be N/A and 3 were determined to be Not Verifiable, resulting in 121 total inspection points.

The compliance rates of the provided traffic stop sample, utilizing the five matrix criteria inspection points, resulted in an overall average compliance rate of **98.35%** for March 2023, as illustrated in the graph below.



Results of the review of traffic stops with a search documented on the Vehicle Stop Contact Form:

Inspection Elements	In Compliance	Not In Compliance	N/A	Not Verifiable	Total Inspected	Compliance Rate
Was the search(s) consistently documented on the VSCF, Non-Traffic Contact Form, Incident Report and Consent to Search Form?	35	1	0	0	36	97.22%
Consent search: Did the deputy verbally inform the individual(s) of their right to refuse or stop the search or provide him/her with a Consent Search Form?	2	1	30	3	3	66.67%
Was the search(s) conducted within MCSO policies, and in compliance with the Melendres Order and established local and federal law?	36	0	0	0	36	100.00%
Were any items seized properly documented on the VSCF and applicable forms and impounded into Q-Tel?	23	0	13	0	23	100.00%
Did the deputy provide the individual(s) with a Property Receipt if property was seized?	23	0	13	0	23	100.00%
Overall Compliance with inspection requirements	119	2	56	3	121	98.35%

Conclusion:

Of the potential 180 matrix criteria inspection points, 121 of which were used in the compliance calculation, there were five deficiencies, resulting in a **98.35%** compliance rate for March 2023.

Action Required:

AIU will provide the inspection report to the affected Divisions to address the following stops and deficiencies via the Bio Action Form Process:

District 1 (1 BIO Action Form):
Compliance Deficiency

District/Division	Incident Number	Responsible Employee	Current Supervisor	Current Commander
District 1	Redacted	Deputy	Sergeant	Captain
Deficiency				
1. The vehicle inventory search is documented inconsistently on the VSCF and the IR. (Policy EB-2.2.B) Note: The VSCF documents a Vehicle Inventory Search but the IR face sheet shows "No" vehicle search. The vehicle was towed.				

District 2 (1 BIO Action Form):
Compliance Deficiency

District/Division	Incident Number	Responsible Employee	Current Supervisor	Current Commander
District 2	Redacted	Deputy	Sergeant	Captain
Deficiency				
1. The search of the vehicle is documented as a consent search, but the person was not affirmatively informed of their right to refuse and to revoke consent at any time. (Policy GJ-3.8.A.2)				

Unless noted above in the deficiency table, there were no prior BIO Action Forms similar in nature for the perceived employee deficiencies. A total of 2 BIO Action Forms are due from the deficiencies detailed above. One BIO form per Employee or deficient Bureau is requested (not per deficiency).

Date Inspection Started: 3/13/2023
Date Completed: 4/17/2023
Timeframe Inspected: 3/1/2023 – 3/31/2023
Assigned Inspector(s): Auditor Dave Paul, B5459

I have reviewed this inspection report.

Lt. Brian Arthur
Lieutenant T. Brian Arthur, S1806
Commander
Audits and Inspections Unit

5/18/2023
Date