

MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Bureau of Internal Oversight
Audits and Inspections Unit



Search Inspection: February 2025
Inspection Report # BI2025-0018

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 BI2025-0018 examines traffic stops with a search documented on the Vehicle Stop Contact Forms contained in the TraCS database, for the time period of 2/1/2025 to 2/28/2025. 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

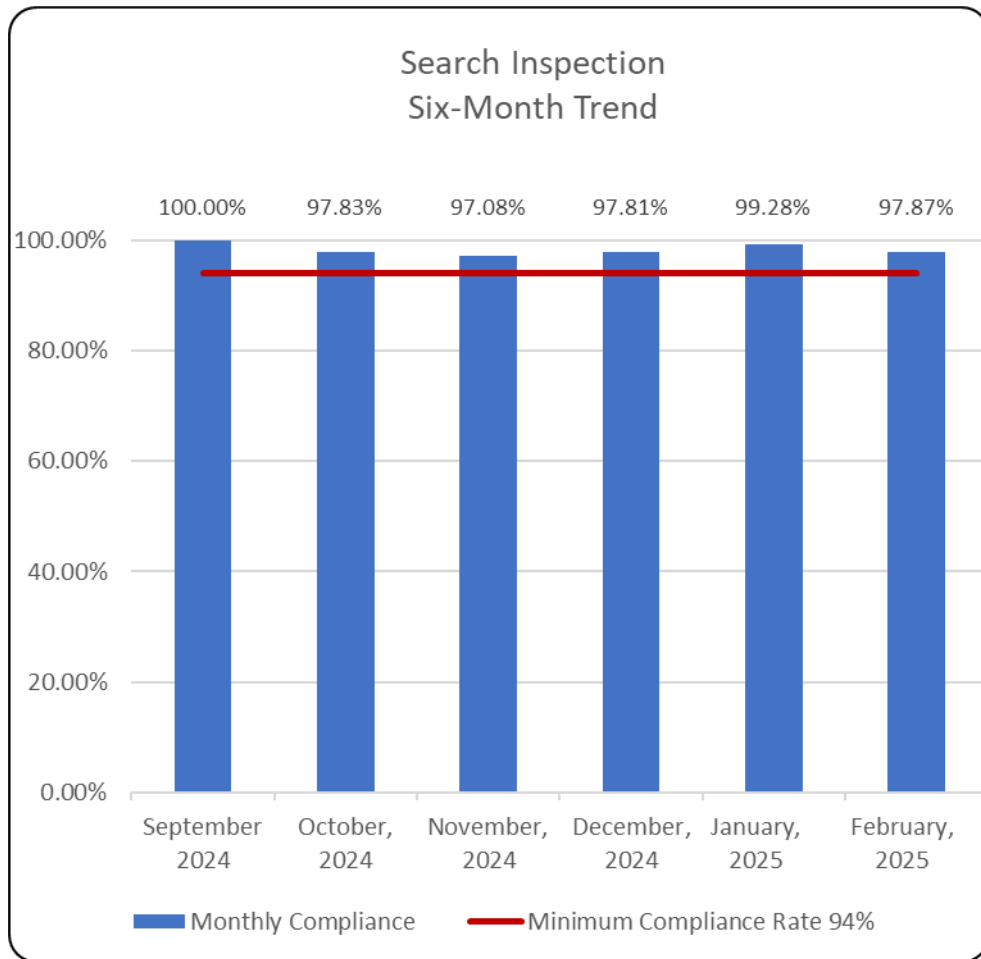
Conditions:

The MCSO is to review 35 randomly selected traffic stops made during the month of February 2025 with a search documented on the Vehicle Stop Contact Forms. There were 38 traffic stops with a search documented on the VSCF during the month of February 2025. Of the 38 traffic stops meeting the criteria, 36 were randomly selected for this inspection due to rounding during the selection process. Additionally, 10 of the traffic stops meeting the criteria are to be selected for Body-Worn Camera review. Two additional videos were added for clarity, making a total of 12 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 overall 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 Verified will be removed from the overall compliance percentage. For example, this month there were **37** inspection points determined to be N/A, and two were determined to be Not Verified, resulting in **141** total inspection points.

The compliance rate of the provided traffic stop sample, utilizing the five matrix criteria inspection points, resulted in an overall average compliance rate of **97.87%** for February 2025, 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 Verified	Total Inspected	Compliance Rate
Was the search(s) consistently documented on the VSCF, Non-Traffic Contact Form, Incident Report and Consent to Search Form?	33	3	0	0	36	91.67%
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?	0	0	34	2	0	100.00%
Was the search(s) conducted within MCSO policies, and in compliance with the Melendres Order and established local and federal law?	35	0	1	0	35	100.00%
Were any items seized properly documented on the VSCF and applicable forms and impounded into Q-Tel?	35	0	1	0	35	100.00%
Did the deputy provide the individual(s) with a Property Receipt if property was seized?	35	0	1	0	35	100.00%
Overall Compliance with inspection requirements	138	3	37	2	141	97.87%

Conclusion:

Of the potential **180** matrix criteria inspection points, **141** of which were used in the compliance calculation, there were **three** compliance deficiencies, resulting in a **97.87%** compliance rate for February 2025.

Action Required:

With the resulting **97.87%** compliance rate for Inspection **BI2025-0018**, a total of **3** BIO Action Forms are required for the deficiencies. (See instructions, below.)

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	Date	Responsible Employee	Current Supervisor	Current Commander
District 1	Redacted	2/16/2025	Deputy	Sergeant	Captain
Deficiency					
1. Required search data is inaccurate. (Policy EB-1.14) Note: The VSCF shows a search incident to arrest and a Terry frisk of the driver. The BWC shows a search incident to arrest, but no Terry frisk. Additionally, the VSCF shows an inventory search of the vehicle, however the BWC shows a search based on probable cause and the automobile exception. The vehicle was not towed. **Employee has one similar previous BAF for Search Inspection (BAF2024-0147)**					

District 7 (2 BIO Action Forms):

Compliance Deficiency

District/Division	Incident Number	Date	Responsible Employee	Current Supervisor	Current Commander
District 7	Redacted	2/8/2025	Deputy	Sergeant	Captain
Deficiency					
1. Required search data is inaccurate. (Policy EB-1.14) Note: A search of the vehicle is documented as a search incident to arrest on the VSCF and an inventory search on the IR. (The deputy was working a DUI Task Force at the time of the traffic stop.) **Employee has one similar previous BAF for Traffic Stop Data Inspection (BAF2024-0132)**					

Compliance Deficiency

District/Division	Incident Number	Date	Responsible Employee	Current Supervisor	Current Commander
District 7	Redacted	2/10/2025	Sergeant	Lieutenant	Captain
Deficiency					
1. Required search data is inaccurate. (Policy EB-1.14) Note: The VSCF shows no search of the vehicle, however the BWC shows a probable cause search of the front passenger seat area. Note: The traffic stop occurred in D-7. The deputy is assigned to Lake Patrol.					

Unless noted above in the deficiency table, there were no prior BIO Action Forms similar in nature for the perceived employee deficiency. A total of 3 BIO Action Forms are due from the deficiencies detailed above. One BIO Action Form per Employee or deficient Bureau is requested (not per deficiency).

Date Inspection Started: 3/17/2025
 Date Completed: 3/31/2025
 Timeframe Inspected: 2/1/2025 – 2/28/2025
 Assigned Inspector(s): Auditor David Paul, B5459

I have reviewed this inspection report.

Lt Andrew Rankin S1839

04/16/2025

Lieutenant A. Rankin, S1839
 Commander
 Audits and Inspections Unit

Date