

**SUBJECT: Demonstrations and Special  
Events - NCR**

**NUMBER: 2301**



## GENERAL ORDER

- .01 PURPOSE
- .02 DEFINITIONS
- .03 GENERAL INFORMATION
- .04 COORDINATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES PARK  
POLICE AND THE METROPOLITAN POLICE OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
- .05 RESPONSIBILITIES
- .06 REFERENCE

2301.01 PURPOSE

This General Order contains guidelines and information that pertain to demonstrations and special events that occur within the National Capital Region.

2301.02 DEFINITIONS

- A. The term "demonstrations" includes demonstrating, picketing, speechmaking, marching, holding of vigils, and all other like forms of conduct that involve the communication or expression of views or grievances engaged in by one or more persons, the conduct of which has the effect, intent, or propensity to draw a crowd or onlookers. This term does not include casual park use by visitors or tourists that does not have an intent or propensity to attract a crowd or onlookers.
- B. The term "special events" includes sports events, pageants, celebrations, historical reenactments, regattas, entertainments, exhibitions, parades, fairs, festivals, and similar events (including such events presented by the National Park Service), which are not demonstrations under 2301.02.A, and which are engaged in by one or more persons, the conduct of which has the effect, intent, or propensity to draw a crowd or onlookers. This term also does not include casual park use by visitors or tourists that does not have an intent or propensity to attract a crowd or onlookers.

02/23/04

**Demonstrations and Special  
Events – NCR (G.O. 2301)**  
Page 1 of 4

2301.03

GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. For the purpose of this General Order, it is not practical to reprint Part 7 (g) of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) that pertains to demonstrations and special events. Therefore, all officers are required to be thoroughly familiar with the provisions contained in 36 CFR Part 7.96 (g).
- B. Demonstrations and special events may be held pursuant to a permit issued in accordance with provisions contained in 36 CFR 7.96 (g). However, demonstrations involving 25 persons or fewer may be held without a permit provided the requirements that are contained in Part 7.96 (g) are met. Further, demonstrations without a permit may be held in specified park areas identified in Part 7.96 (g) (2) (ii) provided that the conduct of such demonstrations is reasonably consistent with the protection and use of the indicated park area and the other requirements contained in part 7.96 (g) (ii) are met.
- C. During the conduct of a demonstration, a permit may be revoked by the ranking U.S. Park Police supervisory official in charge if continuation of the event presents a clear and present danger to the public safety, good order, health, or for any violation of applicable law or regulation. A permit issued for a special event is revocable at any time at the reasonable discretion of the Director or an authorized delegate.
- D. Generally, violators shall be given the opportunity to withdraw peacefully and disperse. An escape route favorable to public safety needs should be made available in such instances. If arrests are necessary, such action should only be taken when sufficient manpower is available to successfully accomplish such encounters.

2301.04

COORDINATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES PARK POLICE AND THE METROPOLITAN POLICE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In an effort to provide more effective and efficient law enforcement services during such gatherings and to provide for close cooperation during periods of public emergency, the following guidelines are established:

- A. Advance Planning
  - I. Prior to any large public gatherings, including but not limited to demonstrations, picketing, speechmaking, holding of vigils, parade ceremonies, meetings, and all other forms of public assembly, representatives of the U.S. Park Police and the Metropolitan Police Department shall meet to coordinate logistics for the event.

**Demonstrations and Special  
Events -- NCR (G.O. 2)  
Page 2 of 4**

02/23/04

2. Such coordination shall include consideration of the assignment of geographical areas of primary responsibility, (b) (7)(E) data, communications, traffic routing, parking, safety measures, emergency assembly areas, and other necessary arrangements.

3. Areas of Primary Responsibility

- a. Specific geographical areas of primary responsibility shall be determined for each major event prior to the scheduled public gathering.
- b. Except as provided in Section 2301.04.C, each Police Force shall have primary responsibility for law enforcement in its predetermined areas of primary responsibility.
- c. In the event that circumstances require additional manpower assistance in an area of either Force's primary responsibility, each Force shall have access to assistance from the other Force as may be required.

- C. Command of Joint Forces

When in connection with a large public gathering or public emergency it becomes necessary for either Force to request additional manpower assistance from the other, police command in the geographical area of concern shall be mutually agreed upon by the Chiefs of the U.S. Park Police and the Metropolitan Police Department.

- D. Liaison Officers

1. Liaison officers for each Force shall be designated by the Chiefs of the United States Park Police and Metropolitan Police Department for every large public gathering or public emergency so that exchange of information may be facilitated.
2. Such officer shall be at least the rank of Lieutenant.

- E. Radio Communication

1. Each Force shall maintain constant radio communication during all large public gatherings and public emergencies so that officers of both Forces may be used to the best advantage.
2. A fixed and predetermined radio frequency shall be employed by both Forces for this purpose.

F. Emergency Assembly Area

1. Prior to any large public gatherings or after a major public emergency an area shall be agreed upon for the purpose of assembly.
2. The selection of the emergency assembly area and the method of policing shall be a command decision by the Chiefs of both the Park Police and Metropolitan Police Forces.

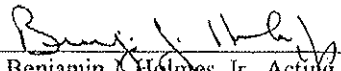
2301.05 RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Special Events Section, Special Forces Branch, shall coordinate all Force preplanning activities in connection with demonstrations and special events and shall initiate all required action to provide police services.
- B. The Commander, Information Technology and Communications, and the Force Property Officer shall be notified of Force meetings concerning large public gatherings. The Commander, Information Technology and Communications, shall establish adequate coverage for the Communications Section and the Force Property Officer shall provide transportation needs during the event.
- C. Supervisory personnel shall familiarize themselves with the content of all applicable special event orders prior to reporting to their assignments. They shall have the responsibility of disseminating such information to officers under their command.
- D. Supervisors shall ensure that officers maintain control of their actions, and special efforts should be extended to provide courteous service. Discretion should be used for making arrests for minor infractions. Harsh actions by the police could precipitate hostile actions by participants in public gatherings.

2301.06 REFERENCE

36 CFR 7.96

Approved

  
Benjamin J. Holmes, Jr., Acting Chief of Police

**Demonstrations and Special  
Events -- NCR (G.O. 2301)**

Page 4 of 4