

Highway Police Organization for Public Safety

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The continuing expansion and improvement of the nation's highway system makes the problem of policing it a subject of prime importance. This thesis describes the present organization of the highway police and recommends changes designed to increase their effectiveness.

The highway police were established by Royal Decree in 2503. Presently they are part of the Police Department, but as a result of an arrangement between the Police Department and the Highway Department the highway police are funded through the Highway Department budget. In practice the highway police must obey orders from the Police Department as well as from the Highway Department. This pattern of dual supervision creates predictable problems.

The main interest of the Highway Department is the protection of the highways from damage; the main interest of the Police Department is the maintenance of peace and order. The highway police are expected to have both these goals, but their budget is not sufficient to meet them both. And since the maintenance of peace and order on the highways is not the direct concern of the Highway Department it is difficult to ask that department for a budget increase. Despite this, the Police Department is of the opinion that the budget of the highway police is the sole responsibility of the Highway Department.

It would be advisable for the highway police to be attached to the Provincial Police Command and for the highway police budget to be part of the Police Department budget. This would avoid the problem of dual supervision and clarify the chain of command. If the highway police were reorganized in this way the performance of the highway police would be efficient, effective, and economical.

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