Since the early 1930's the United States Park Police have used horses as a means of police patrol. Our first use of horses followed the general trial and error methods that prevailed throughout much of police work in those days. Rock Creek Park, a 1900 acre tract of heavily wooded terrain lying in the heart of a metropolitan area was interspersed with equestrian trails that required special policing methods. The horse was ideally suited to this purpose. Other park areas with open spaces, picnic areas, ball and play fields and other kindred activities were soon found to be places where horses could patrol more effectively than footmen or motorized patrols and stables were erected and new horse mounted beats were established.

The Nation's Capital hosts many civic functions each year, some of them local affairs and others that have a National and International flavor to them such as; the National Cherry Blossom Festival, the President's Cup Regatta, the Christmas Pageant of Peace and the Presidential Inaugural Activities. During the 1940's and 1950's the horses, in addition to being an attractive unit for display in parades, were found to be highly effective in crowd and traffic control at these functions. The horses had to be properly trained and conditioned to maneuver in crowds of people and through heavily traveled roadways so as not to be a danger to the public, themselves, and the men who rode them. Complete confidence and trust had to be established between horse and rider.
In the 1960's an era of demonstrations emerged in Washington, D.C. People have traditionally petitioned their government for grievances, either real or imagined, and the institutions of government became the target for political activists who had a cause to foster. The National Shrines such as the White House, the Washington Monument, Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the Capitol, Department of Justice and other Federal offices lie on or adjacent to park land. While most of the demonstrations were of a peaceful nature, the movement of crowds numbering upwards to a quarter-million people placed new demands on both horse and man. A new dimension of police concern arose out of the demonstrations when violence on a large scale grew out of those persons who openly destroyed property and attacked other persons with opposing viewpoints. The men and their horses were put to new tests. After each demonstration, critiques were held, new methods of training were developed, new equipment was tried, and new ways of dispersing crowds were born.

By being actively engaged in virtually all of the major demonstrations in the Washington Metropolitan Area the U.S. Park Police Horse Mounted Unit has gained valuable knowledge and expertise in controlling crowds and quelling disturbances with little or no serious injuries to the horse, rider or demonstrator.
UNITED STATES PARK POLICE
HORSE MOUNTED UNIT

This manual consists of the following numbered sections:

I. Purpose
II. Evaluation of Horse Mounted Needs
III. Selection of the Horse
IV. Training of the Horse
V. Selection of the Horse Mounted Patrol (HMP) Personnel
VI. Training of the HMP Personnel
VII. Horse Mounted Patrol
VIII. Demonstrations and Civil Disturbances
IX. Equipment
X. Stables Management
XI. Transportation of Horses

I. PURPOSE

The manual has been prepared to provide information concerning the use of horses for police patrols and for crowd and traffic control at special events and demonstrations.

II. EVALUATION OF HORSE MOUNTED NEEDS

The first order of business in establishing a horse mounted patrol or unit is to determine the need for it. Things requiring consideration are the type of areas to be patrolled, the location of the area and its primary use, the activities it serves, the location of facilities and available equipment. Terrain, accessibility, trails, wooded areas, isolated areas, urban environments, including heavy vehicular and pedestrian traffic, street alleys, stadiums, armories, large civic and public events and demonstrations, extremes in temperatures and other exposure to the elements are important considerations.

If stables are not available, or can not be constructed close to the area of patrol, trailers or vans may have to be used to transport the horse from the stable to the patrol area. Paddocks and corrals, training areas, tack, stable equipment, hay, grain and other feed, veterinary services and shoeing are things that have to be reckoned with.
III. SELECTION OF THE HORSE

When selecting a horse for police purposes, the following must be considered:

1. Size - The patrol horse must be a minimum of 15' 3" hands, preferably 16' hands or taller, and weigh from 1,000 to 1,250 pounds. This height is important because a big man presents a poor appearance on a small horse and a mount of this size enables the officer to better observe a large parking lot or large crowds. He can also be seen more easily. This serves as a deterrent to the would be violators.

2. Conformation - This is the most critical consideration in selecting a police mount. Soundness in the horse is extremely important since the efficiency of performance is dependent upon his ability to move. Any abnormal deviation in the structure or function of a horse constitutes an unsoundness. Horses with faulty conformation are always subject to be unsound and should not be selected. (See illustration) Blemishes should be looked for, but usually do not interfere with the serviceability of the horse. Examples of blemishes are unsightly scars, rope burns, brands, etc.

3. Bone structure - type of breed - The type of horse to be used is dependent upon the nature of the area where it will be used. A horse should be well balanced (one that is light and smooth in his gaits and agile in his changes of direction), muscular, long legged, have good stamina, have good carriage and a straight well-muscled back and good feet. This all provides for a well rounded police mount.

4. Age - The average life span of a horse is about 20 to 25 years. The average service for police work should be 10 to 15 years depending on the horses conditioning at early age. Horses should be selected between the ages of three to seven years. This provides for maximum use of the horse during his prime years. Exceptions may be made on this age range provided the horse is above average in conformation and conditioning. The age can be estimated by the appearance of the front teeth by a veterinarian or an experienced horseman.

5. Color - This varies with the individual unit and has no effect on the use. It is best to determine a single color to provide uniformity in the appearance of the unit. The U.S. Park Police select horses that are black or near black for uniformity in parades, shows and public events. However, when quality is concerned, color should be a secondary factor.
6.Disposition - Police horses must be gentle, free of vicious habits such as biting, kicking, or striking with front feet. They must not object to harnessing, saddling or grooming nor should they balk, rear, shy, or be hard to catch when turned out. They must be quiet and not object to being rubbed or petted by children or adults. The police mount with a good disposition will be a great asset to any unit in the field of public relations. Horses with stable vices such as cribbing, halter pulling, tail rubbing, weaving, bolting, etc., must be carefully evaluated because these habits may lead to more serious problems. The way a horse hauls in a van or trailer should also be considered when selecting a horse.

7. Gender - Through many years of experience, it has been found that the gender of the police mount reflects upon its performance. Gelded horses are used primarily because of their use around other horses and the frequency of special details where horses are side by side for long periods of time. Mares are not used because of the seasonal problems encountered. Stallions are rarely selected.

8. Broke - Horses should be at least green broke under saddle and bridle. This affords a better opportunity to evaluate the horse when the initial contact is made. Advanced schooling is desirable provided this schooling was not for the show ring where extreme gaits are evident. This causes problems when training for police maneuvers or crowd control in that many times it is necessary to de-train before retraining.

9. Trial Period - It is important that a trial period be given before the final purchase is consumated. A contract stipulating a 30-day trial period should be required. This trial period enables the unit to evaluate the nature and potential of the horse and expose him to the various elements that are likely to effect him as a police mount. All horses should be certified as sound by a veterinarian before being accepted.
POINTS OF GOOD CONFORMATION

BALANCE AND SYMMETRY - ALL PARTS BLEND TOGETHER, INCORRECT PROPORTIONS
SUBSTANCE - RUGGEDNESS
QUALITY - REFINEMENT

Cannon Bone in Vertical Line with point of Buttock
Prominent Stifle
Long Line from Hip to Hock
Short Coupled
Long, Well Muscled Croup
Well Muscled Loin
Clean, Moderate withers, set well back
Long, Arched Neck
Small Ears
Large Eyes Wide Stifle
Fine Throttle
Wide Jaw
Gaskin Well Muscled Inside and Out
Deep Through the Heart
Wide Quarters
Well Sprung Ribs
Deep Chest
Short Arm
Long Sloping Shoulder
Long Forearm, Well Muscled Wide Forehead
Short Cannon
Sloping Pastern
Hoof in Proportion to Size of Leg & Body
Foreleg Set Squarely Under Shoulder
Front Legs Set Squared Under Point of Shoulder
Wide Jaw Tapers to Small muzzle
Well Rounded Croup
Hind legs set straight and parallel, not too wide
Deep, Moderately wide chest
Well muscled Forearm
Forelegs Straight and Parallel
Conformation Defects

- Long-Coupled
- Low-Weak
- Low-Long back-weak
- Steep Quadrants
- Narrow Quarters
- Lack Power
- Sickle Hocks
- Puffy Hocks
- Sickle Hocks-Prone to Injury
- Long Cannons

- Ewe-Neck
- Will throw
- Head Up
- Angle of Head and neck too acute
- Heavy Head, Roman nose
- Thick Throttle cannot flex
- Short Straight Shoulder-Short Rough Gaits
- Lack of Balance
- Substance Quality and Symmetry
- Long Arm - Short Stride
- Short Forearm - Short Stride
- Long Cannons - Weak
- Small, Round Joints - Weak

- Poor Hindquarters
- Lack of Muscle
- Fat, Not Muscled
- Rafter Hips
- Cow Hocks
- Base Wide

- Poor Front View
- Drafty
- Weedy
- Loaded Shoulder
- Short Bunchy Muscles
- Bull Neck
- Too Wide
- Body too heavy for Underpinning
- Toes Out

- Too Heavy for Underpinning
- Base Narrow
- Bowed Hocks

- Upper Teeth Extend out over lower teeth
- Parrot Mouth

- Narrow Jaws
- Narrow Jaw & Thick Throttle Horse cannot Flex
- Lop Ears
- Long, Narrow Face
- Roman Nose
- Small Nostrils
- May interfere with eating
Correctly Set Forelegs

CONFORMATION OF THE LEGS

Correctly Set Hind Legs

INCORRECT ALIGNMENT OF FORELEGS

Incorrectly Set Foreleg

Bench Knees-Cannon Bones off-center - Leads to Splints & Knee Unsoundness

Base Narrow

Base Wide

Pastern Defects

Over at the Knee or Buck Knee - Likely to Stumble

Tied in Below Knee Weak attachment of Tendons

Back at the Knee or calf knee rough gait, prone to injury

Hind Leg "Camped Out" Lack of power, sprawling gait prone to injury

Hind Leg too straight favors speed but prone to injury

Sickle Hock - cannot be fully extended prone to injury

Incorrectly Set Hind Leg

Toe In – Horse will Paddle or Wing Out when Moving

Toe Out – Horse will Wing-In and may interfere while moving
BASIC ANATOMY OF THE FOOT

Parts of the Foot and Leg and Their Function

Bone - Part of Skeleton

Tendon - Connects muscle to bone

Ligament -

Connects bones to bones

Cartilage -

Flexible, cushions bones, smooth joint surface

Laminae -
1. Sensitive - Grows from corium, covers coffin bone & contains blood & nerve supply

2. Insensitive - Grows from corium, forms wall of foot, intermeshed with sensitive laminae

Periople - Shiny outer covering of foot - keeps moisture

Bursa - Pad or Sac which cushions and protects a bone or joint
The horse has a specialized retina which is "Banked," or not perfectly round. In order to focus his vision, he must change the angle of his head thus changing the angle of the light rays on the retina. The retina is nearer the lens in some points.

A grazing horse can see behind him by looking between his legs.

A horse cannot see directly below his head.

A "Star Gazer" can be dangerous!
IV. TRAINING OF THE HORSE

The trained horse is one that understands the rider's intentions from the slightest indications and immediately responds to them with lightness and exactness. He must be sensitive to the rider's leg and the lightness of the hand.

In order to master the horse, his mental as well as physical aptitudes must be taken into account. His memory is the controlling factor in his aptitude for training. He remembers or recognizes the indications given him by the reward or punishment given to a particular response. The trainer must develop confidence and lack of fear in the horse throughout the training period.

There are several fundamental principles in training that concern themselves with the development of a calm, forward moving, light and manageable horse. These principles must be considered when training a new police mount.

1. The ability of the Trainer - He must possess a profound knowledge of horses and of the theoretical and practical science of equitation. He must have a thorough understanding of the methods of training and must be able to demonstrate, in a skillful manner, that he can surface those qualities which have to be brought out in a horse.

2. The environment - The trainer must maintain the proper proportion between the training ring and the beat. Training the horse in the ring distills discipline, obedience, balance, control, temperament and proper gaits without distraction, while training on the beat conditions the mount and exposes him to conditions and situations of patrol areas.

Indoor Ring - Once the horse is taught to obey the commands of his rider, he then must be advanced to trust the rider in any situation. He will gradually be exposed to noise, objects, vehicles, other animals and crowds. The use of a tape recorder can provide such noises as sirens, horns, drums, gunshots, firecrackers, applause and other various sounds. This should be amplified over the entire ring and used suddenly as the horse approaches a speaker. Once he has entrusted the rider, he will approach these sounds without fear. As the horse advances, he should be exposed to the actual sounds of gunfire, firecrackers, motorcycles, etc. Once he has gained that confidence, he will then be exposed to objects that most horses have a natural fear of, such as paper, flags, objects
around their feet, head, sides and back, plastic sheets along the ring and other articles in the ring. They must be advanced to the point where they will permit soft objects to strike them and still stand quietly. These objects may be rags, sponges, balloons, hats, etc.

**Trails** - On the trail, the horse should be exposed to every day situations which a patrol horse must eventually encounter. Here a horse will be exposed to traffic beginning with lightly traveled streets and later taken along heavily traveled streets. This gradually accustoms them to the noise of buses, trucks, and other vehicles. On the trail, he should be exposed to creeks, streams, downed timber and various other obstacles. He must be trained in elementary jumping to enable him to successfully patrol partially blocked areas.

Once the mount has been thoroughly exposed to the environmental elements, he must be advanced to the schooling of unnatural movements. He should be taught to neck rein, side step (crossing both front and hind legs while moving either to the left or right), pass (moving forward and at the same time moving to the left or right), and backing.

The trainer must know and study each individual horse to decide the means of training which best suits each particular horse and regulate the training accordingly. It is not possible to bring all horses to the same degree of perfection but each should be developed to his full capabilities without demanding more than the animal has the ability to give. No scheme of training can hasten the natural growth and development of the horse. Patience and gradual increase of effort are the most effective means of training. To go slowly, in this case, is to advance efficiently.

A retraining program must be established in order to periodically evaluate the horse's needs and refresh his schooling. This enables the trainer to compare the effectiveness of the prior training and govern any future training accordingly. All horses are in need of training several minutes each day to keep them agile and to ensure the officer that his horse will respond properly if he has to be used in potential tense crowd control maneuvers.
V. SELECTION OF THE HORSE MOUNTED PATROL (HMP) PERSONNEL

Announcements should be made to all Force members whenever horse mounted positions are to be filled. A minimum of 2-years of patrol experience is recommended so that the policeman will have a basic law enforcement experience prior to being horse mounted. It is preferred that applicants have prior experience of working with horses, however, this is not a pre-requisite. Applicants should be selected on their past performance, experience, health, attitude and basic knowledge of horses. This will include bone structure, parts of horse and the parts of the bridle and saddle.

By requiring this basic knowledge, it illustrates the interest an applicant has in the assignment. A review board should be established, comprised of at least three members of higher rank than the applicant, to evaluate the applicant’s potential for training in horsemanship. An understanding should be made that although an applicant is selected for training, he cannot fill a position on the unit until he successfully completes a training period. It is advantageous to train additional men because changes in assignments and retirements create vacancies periodically. This provides trained personnel to fill vacancies as they occur.
HORSE TALK' - Names and Places on the horse and his Equipment
VI. TRAINING OF THE HMP PERSONNEL

Instructor - As the ability of the trainer determines the success or failure of a properly trained horse, the ability of the instructor also determines the ultimate success of all riding instructions. He must possess a profound knowledge of the theoretical and practical science of equitation and impart that knowledge to others by explanation and demonstration. He must be alert to recognize and correct any faults in his students. He must lead his students to the proper understanding of, and the ability to apply, the correct principles of equitation.

The instructor should establish a logical progression of instructions and ensure a regular sequence of steps in the training course. His main concern is to:

1. Give confidence to the rider
2. Give the rider the proper mounted position
3. Lead the rider to acquire independence in the use of his aids

Program - The student should be trained to such a proficiency that he will possess the ability to properly and professionally handle his mount in any given situation. He must possess equestrian knowledge greater than that of the average rider.

This training should consist of such principles of riding as:

1. The seat - that quality which permits the rider to remain master, whatever may be the actions of his horse.

2. The position - the body must be positioned so that the center of gravity is balanced to compensate for the movement of the horse. This balance is maintained through suppleness and muscular control.

3. The hands - lightness on the reins is required to eliminate constant pressure but complete control of the horse still must be maintained.

The student should be trained in stable management, grooming, first aid, ability to recognize illnesses, feed rationing and other duties associated with the horses. He should be familiar with the need to contact a veterinarian when the horse becomes sick or injured.

The student should be trained to ride at a walk, trot, canter, side-step, pass, and back with a saddle and on bareback. Aside from the basic gaits, the student should be able to take his horse over jumps and obstacles.
Once the training period is completed, the student should be an accomplished horseman before being assigned to permanent horse mounted duties.
HOW TO HOLD THE REINS

Some bridles have "Double Reins," in this case, the wider reins go to the snaffle, or upper bit ring; the narrow curb reins go to the curb ring.

Snaffle Reins

Curb reins

The snaffle reins pull the bit straight back in the mouth.

Curb

The curb reins pull the curb chain tight and squeeze the lower jaw.

HOW TO PICK UP THE REINS FOR MOUNTING

1. Take up all four reins near the buckle, in the right hand, separate curb and snaffle reins.

2. Grasp all four reins with the left hand and slide it down to the horse's neck.

3. Rest the left hand on the horse's neck, keeping a light, even tension on all four reins. Throw the bight, or loop of the reins over to the right side.

HOW TO PICK UP DOUBLE REINS

1. Pick up both reins in the left hand - snaffle rein on the outside.

2. Put the right hand inside the reins, palm out.

3. Separate the curb & snaffle with the little finger, snaffle on the outside.

Right curb
Right Snaffle
Left curb
Left snaffle

Keep your thumbs on the ends of the reins to prevent slipping.

A single rein is held like this ....

Not like this!
GOOD HANDS

METHODS OF HANDLING THE REINS

OFF CONTACT

Quiet hacking at ordinary gaits

ON THE BUCKLE

For cooling out or relaxation there should be a straight line from the bit to the rider's elbow—this makes the bit act at the proper angle.

CONTACT

The rider maintains a light 'feel' on the bit at all times.

In order to keep contact, the rider's hands and arms must follow the motions on the horse's head and neck.

AVOID:

Elbows out and "Broken Wrists"

Flat or "Piano Hands"

"High-Low pulley rein"

Tight Clenched fists

Open Fingers

Severe—used to stop in an emergency.
LEG AIDS

3 Leg Aid Positions

1. Normal position on Girth
2. Slightly Behind Girth
3. Several Inches Behind Girth

3 Degrees of Leg Aids

A. Passive
   Leg Maintains Contact but does not act as an aid

B. Active
   Leg Squeezes or Kicks - Actively Signals Horse

C. Driving
   Leg Strongly Squeezes or Kicks, Demanding Immediate Effort From Horse

Shaded area indicates area of pressure for leg signals

SPECIFIC LEGS AIDS

1. Both Legs Active at Girth; left leg passive behind girth.
   Result - Horse Moves Forward or Increases Pace

2. Right Leg Active at Girth; left leg passive behind girth. Result - Horse Bends to Right

3. Left Leg Active Behind Girth; Right Leg Passive or Girth. Result - Horse Swings Quarters to Right

Correct Application of Leg Aid

Incorrect

Legs Can Be Reinforced by Spurs or Whip

Thighs Roll in So That They Lie Flat Against Saddle

Knee Turned Straight Ahead

Inside of Calf Used to Contact & Signal Horse

Toes Point Ahead

Ankles Relaxed

Heels Down

17.
VII. HORSE MOUNTED PATROL

DO'S

- Know your horse and his actions.
- Talk to him in a quiet voice before entering his stall or coming up behind him.
- Look your horse over carefully for cuts or sores before and after riding.
- Tie with the halter and not the bridle.
- Cross tie when cleaning.
- Check horse's stall for loose boards, nails, or other dangers.
- Allow sufficient room between horses when working around them.
- Clean horse's back, legs, feet, and head before tacking up.
- Make sure saddle pad is evenly placed under the saddle.
- Check tack for proper adjustment.
- Walk horse first ten minutes out and last ten minutes coming back.
- Make sure your horse knows what you want him to do.
- Water your horse frequently.
- Make sure his droppings are normal.
- Give your horse a little clean sod occasionally.
- Walk him back to the stable.
- Dismount before entering the stable or a building.
- Dry a wet horse before putting him in the stall.
- Rub his back to ensure proper circulation after taking saddle off.
- Check his feet for cuts and stones.
- Bed him down adequately.

Take Care of the Horse's Needs First, Your's Afterwards

DON'TS

- Place an ice cold bit in horse's mouth.
- Punish a horse in anger.
- Punish a horse except at time he does not respond properly.
- Trot or canter on ice, snow, concrete or cobblestones.
- Irritate a horse by constant spurring or constant pulling on the bit.
- Expose him to extreme heat or cold after being ridden.
- Allow a hot horse to drink water or eat grain.
- Put a wet horse up without thoroughly drying.
- Enter the stable area while smoking.
- Allow a horse to receive tid-bits from strangers.
- Permit a horse to graze other than in a pasture, because of insecticides or other harmful chemicals.
DON'TS CONT

- Grain if over-heated and not completely cooled down.
- Leave horse unattended while on a beat.
- Tie to loose objects or vehicles.

VIII. DEMONSTRATIONS AND CIVIL DISTURBANCES

Whenever the occasion arises where the Horse Mounted Unit is called to assist in crowd control, this unit should work under the direction of the horse mounted supervisor. All men should be equipped with helmets and riot sticks. The horses should be used in formation when moving a crowd and at no time should the horses be cantered into the crowd. The movement of the crowd should be at a walk to allow for the movement of the aged, children and physically handicapped. If the need arises to move the crowd more hurriedly, then those not physically able to move should be permitted to fall behind the lines and be escorted by the footmen following the unit. The riot stick and mace should not be used to disperse the crowd. The riot stick and mace should only be used to effect an arrest or for self protection. When the riot stick or mace is used, the officer should submit a report, as required, concerning the use of defensive equipment. Whenever possible, physical contact will be avoided when moving a crowd.

IX. EQUIPMENT

Saddle - The forward seat or the English saddle is used by the U.S. Park Police. It provides for the maximum freedom of the horse and takes the weight from directly over the back to a forward position just behind the withers. This saddle is lightweight and provides comfort to the horse and rider. It is adapted to all kinds of riding, requiring only an appropriate adjustment of the stirrups.

Bridle - The English bridle with a caveson is used by the U.S. Park Police. It is used with a pelham bit. This bit serves a dual purpose in that it combines the snaffle bit and the curb bit into a single bit. Not only does this eliminate the use of two bits, but it provides for double reins which permits greater control. With double reins, one can be used as an emergency brake in case the other breaks or fails. When used in controlling disorderly crowds, one rein can be substituted with a light chain to prevent demonstrators from cutting the reins.
IX. EQUIPMENT CONT'T

Martingale - The martingale is used to prevent a horse from raising his head beyond the angle of control. This develops a more desirable head carriage. All members of the Horse Mounted Unit should use the martingale for uniformity.
ENGLISH SADDLES

Forward Seat or Jumping Saddle
Deep Seat

Knee Roll

Leather Girth

Hunting Knee Jumping Roll Pleasure and Cross-Country Riding

No Back

Web Girth

Dressage Saddle Deep Seat

Dressage or Pleasure Riding

Modified Knee Roll

Extra Long Billets Short Girth

Trees Old Saddle Tree

Stirrup Bar Spring Tree Point Head

Spring Recessed Stirrup Bar

Girths Folded Edge Goes Towards Horse Elbow Folded Leather Balding Shaped Leather

Prevents Girth Sores Prevents Girth Sores

Cutback Head Park or Pleasure Riding

Humane Web Girth

Wide Flap

Saddle Seat Set Far Back

Flat Seat Set Far Back

Show Saddle

Cut-Back OK Lane For Riding and Showing

Parts of a Saddle

Pommel Seat

Rear Panel

Gullet

Front Panel

Sweat Flap

Knee Roll

Stirrup Leather Stirrup Iron Stirrup Pad

Suede Covered Knee Roll

Stirrup Bar Point Pocket

Billet Guard

Leg Roll

Sweat Flap Billets

String Girth

Humane Web Girth

Equalized Pressure
ENGLISH BRIDLES AND EQUIPMENT

Hunting Snaffle Bridle
- Crown Piece
- Browband (Plain)
- Cavesson (Plain)
- Throat Lash
- Cheekpiece
- Egg Butt
- Laced Reins
- Snaffle Bit
- Prevents Opening of Mouth to Evade Bit

Full, Double or Weymouth Bridle
Saddle Seat Show Type
- Crown Piece
- Throatlatch
- Browband (Patent Leather)
- Cavesson (Stiched)
- Curb Cheek Piece
- Curb Bit
- Curb Chain
- Lip Strap
- Curb Reins
- Hunting Breast Plate
  Keeps Saddle from Slipping Back
- Running Martingale
  Acts on Reins to Lower Horse's Head
- Rein Stop
  Encourages Flexion at the poll

Provides Handhold for Jumping and Beginners - to prevent accidental abuse of horse's mouth. Useful when mane is clipped short
BASIC BITS
and how they work

PARTS UPON WHICH
bits and bridles act

Poll

Nasal bone

Cartilage

Mandible

Maxilla

Mandible

Side of lower jaw

Corner of lip

Premolars

'Bars'

The Lower Jaw

'Tongue'

'Tushes'

Incisors
bars of mouth

Snaffle Bit

The snaffle was probably
developed from a primitive
jaw rope.

Bar Snaffle

Jointed snaffle

A snaffle has 2 rings connected
by a straight, or more often, a
jointed mouth piece.

The snaffle pulls mostly
on the corners of the
lips. It tends to
encourage a horse to
raise its head and
stretch out his head.

It works by direct
pressure

A jointed snaffle
has a nutcracker
action on the tongue
and bars.

Snaffle

When the horse's
head is raised and
he is flexed at the
poll, the snaffle can
act on the bars of the
mouth.

NEVER use both reins
at once!

Curb Rein

pulls on
lower jaw
and bars

Curb pressure tends to
lower the head and make
the horse flex at the
poll.

Snaffle and curb bits
are used together in a
full bridle.

The curb works by
leverage

Mouth piece
presses on
curb and
snaffle
under chin

A pelham bit is an
attempt to combine
curb and snaffle
into one bit.

The Port allows
room for the
tongue and
concentrates
pressure on the
bars.

Bridle Ring

Bridle presses
on poll

Curb Strap or chain

Shank

Port

English Curb

Lip Strap

Western Curb

Rein Ring

Curb Hooks

Chain presses
under chin

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X. STABLE MANAGEMENT

Each individual officer should be responsible for the welfare of his assigned mount. He must care for the horse's feet and back to ensure the well being of the horse. Any injuries or illnesses to the horse should be treated immediately by the officer first observing if the assigned officer is not present. The need for shoeing, inoculations, or other vet attention should be brought to the attention of the OIC, Horse Mounted Unit.

Horses are creatures of habit and thrive best if cared for accordingly to a fairly strict daily routine. It will be necessary to vary from this routine from time to time. The following steps should be taken when an officer is assigned to stable duties:

1. Water - The horses should be provided with a sufficient amount of fresh clean water before feeding.

2. Hay - Feed from 8 to 10 pounds of hay morning and evening. Allow the horse to eat most of his hay before graining.

3. Grain - Feed from 4 to 5 pounds of oats or other grain morning and evening.

4. Salt - Make sure that all horses have free access to salt in their stalls.

5. Muck Out Stalls - Remove the droppings and soiled portions of bedding. Stalls should be allowed to dry out before bedding down. The floor of the stall must be thoroughly swept when cleaning stall.

6. Aisles - Must be swept daily to prevent accumulation of hay, straw and other material.

7. Office and Tack Room - Must be kept in a clean and orderly manner free of any fire or safety hazards.

8. Grooming - The skin of a horse is a vital organ and grooming is as essential to his good health as it is to his appearance. This serves a multiple purpose in that not only does it clean the horse, it promotes good health, maintains condition of skin, prevents disease, and improves the appearance of the horse.
Stable Construction

When planning for stable construction, the following should be considered when deciding on a site:

1. dry foundation - a well aerated soil, which dries out readily after a rain
2. free drainage
3. pure air
4. good light
5. good water supply

The building should be at least 12 feet high to the spring of the roof with damp proof walls. The roof should be sloped at an angle of not more than 45° and constructed of a material which maintains equable temperature in both hot and cold weather. It should be durable, noiseless and non-flammable. The floors should be on a solid foundation and raised above the outside ground level. They should slope from front to rear of stall to allow for sufficient drainage. Ventilation of the building is of great importance. Air should be changed often enough to keep it pure without allowing a draught over the horses. Windows should be hinged along the lower border so they open with an inward slant. The lower edge should be 8 feet from the floor and protected by iron bars on the inside. Sash windows are not suitable for a stable.

The box stall is preferred because it permits the horse freedom to move about. It helps prevent a horse from stocking-up when left in the stall and not being used. Box stalls should be at least 12 by 12 feet.

All fittings, e. g., latches, window fastenings, etc., in a stable must be flush with the walls or woodwork, or at least, must not offer any projections on which a horse could injure himself.

Electric light switches should be placed outside the stalls in a position where the horse could not interfer with them. All electric switches should be of a special "stable" type, designed to prevent electrocution should a shod horse seize them with his teeth.
XI. TRANSPORTATION OF HORSES

Preparation - Horses should be properly prepared for hauling depending on the individual horse. Shipping boots, blankets and tail wrappings should be used for long trips or on short trips if the horse is a bad hauler. All wrappings must be clean and in good repair. If the horse is a bad hauler, he should not be tacked before loading or while transporting.

Loading - Before loading, make certain the aisles and stalls of the van are clear. Know where you are going to place the horse in the van. Horses should be lead quietly up the ramp with a lead line of sufficient length to allow free movement of the horse's head. Whenever possible, have another officer assist in loading by following the horse up the ramp.

Hauling - Before moving the van or trailer, make certain that all equipment is operating safely and properly. Check the safety chains and electrical hook-up on the trailer. Check behind before backing. Adjust mirrors for your use. Know the route you will take. Drive so as to eliminate any swaying or sudden stops which would tend to excite the horse.