

Chapter 14

Armed Police & Commando Units

1. Introduction

There are times when law & order problems or situations arising out of natural calamities assume serious proportions and the local police is unable to cope with them. To meet those situations armed police battalions have been raised in all states including Sikkim to support the executive police force in the districts. The State has in 2011 a sanctioned strength of one battalion of SAP and 3 India Reserve Battalion. The Armed Police Battalions are a State level reserve to be deployed under specific orders of the DGP or any officer authorized by him, who is generally the ADGP/IGP, Law & Order. A complement of the State Armed Police may also be stationed in the districts for deployment by the district superintendent of police for the maintenance of law and order and regulatory duties as per prescribed norms and standards. The battalions are in nature of reserve at the disposal of the Director General of Police, who may himself or through delegation to the ADGP/IGP, Law & Order direct them into action either on a requisition of the district SP/DIGP Range or on his own appreciation of a particular situation. They help the district police when the resources of district police are found inadequate to deal with difficult situations. They can be called out to deal with anti-militant operations, serious civil commotions, crowd control (at the time of visits of VIPs, large fairs or festivals) and any other law and order situation or disaster management functions. They also provide guards and escorts. They can be deputed for duty ex-state with the approval of the State Governments.

2. Organisational Structure of the Battalions

(1) A Commandant (CO) of the rank of Superintendent of Police heads each battalion. The Commandant shall be assisted by a Deputy Commandant equivalent in rank to Addl. Superintendent of Police. A battalion has 6 companies, each of 100 (SAP) to 120 (IRBn) men. A company consists of 3 platoons each of which consists of 3

sections. In each battalions there are one or more Assistant Commandants of the rank of DSP assisted by an Inspector commands a company. Platoon Commander is of the rank of SI. A Head Constable (HC) commands a section. The battalions also have special units like commandos, Anti Terrorist Squad, Disaster Management Group, BDDS etc.

(2) The Armed Police Battalions set-up of the whole state is headed by an officer of the rank of ADGP/IGP and is responsible for the administration, training, operations preparedness and welfare of personnel of all the Armed Police units in the State, under the overall guidance and supervision of the Director General of Police.

3. Officers of the State Armed Police

(i) An officer of the rank of SP/Addl.SP, who is designated as the Commandant, commands an armed battalion or the reserved battalion. The Commandant is assisted by various Gazetted and non-Gazetted officers. The Gos are designated as Deputy Commandant, Assistant Commandant, Adjutant, Quarter Master etc. Other officers are designated as RIs, RSIs, Head Constables and Constables, who perform various functions in different branches and sections of the battalion.

(ii) The Reserved Inspector is an important rank in the organisation set up of any armed battalion. There are more than one RI in a battalion, who work as overall in charge of the various sections and branches of the concerned battalion. The status of Reserve Inspector is equivalent to that of an Inspector of the civil police. The Reserve Inspector in charge of active Company shall check the platoon-wise duty rosters of his company daily and on that basis prepare the daily morning statement and submit it to the concerned Addl.SP through the DSP recording his own arrival and departure at Company Headquarters. He shall personally maintain all records of the Company. He shall hand over his sealed duplicate keys to the Reserve Sub-Inspector when he leaves headquarters. He shall assign, by specific written orders every week, for the checking of all Reserve Police guards of his Company. A consolidated statement of deployment shall be submitted daily to the SP/ Commandant.

(iii) Reserve Inspector-Operations will be in charge of Armed Police Control Room, if any, and will be responsible for dispatch and receipt of Armed Police Contingents and would depute personnel for guards, escorts, bandobust duties, inspection of personnel being deputed on duty and on their return, checking arms and equipment and other material and stores issued to them or brought by them, and making entries accordingly in the General Diary. He would also ensure preparation of day-to-day schedule of duty and deployment, custody of all working keys and of all the duplicate keys in sealed covers. He should be available at Headquarters and not leave his residence without prior permission of his superior officer under intimation to the commandant. In addition to the above two important RIs in a battalion, there are other RIs, who look after important branches like motor transport, training, welfare etc. These RIs are assisted by requisite number of RSIs, HCs and Constables in the discharge of their various functions. The Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and HCs when they work in the active and operational contingents, they are called as Company Commanders (CCs), Platoon Commanders (PCs) and Section Commanders respectively.

4. Recruitment

(1) Direct recruitment to the Armed Police Battalions, other than in the ministerial and technical cadres, shall be limited to the rank of Constable only, and should as far as possible reflect adequate representation of all sections of society. Sub-Inspector and above rank in the Armed Police shall form a common cadre with the Civil Police.

(2) The educational qualifications, age limit and procedure for recruitment to the rank of Constable shall be as may be prescribed, and the recruitment shall be done by a Police Recruitment Committee. Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Director General of Police shall cause an annual recruitment to be conducted to fill all vacancies in the Battalions required to be filled by direct recruitment.

5. Training

(1) Besides the initial training of recruits at the Police Training centre or the State Armed Police Headquarters as may be determined by the State Government, it shall also be ensured that all ranks in these units undergo an annual refresher training programme by rotation, over and above specialized training in different skills as needed by different categories. To achieve this, each Battalion will have one full company earmarked as the 'Training Reserve' to provide for rotational training to all personnel.

(2) The annual refresher training course shall be mandatory, and ordinarily the personnel undergoing such training shall not be withdrawn for deployment on law and order or any other duty.

(3) The curricula for the initial as well as annual refresher training courses, besides physical skills and fitness, shall lay due emphasis on the knowledge of Constitutional and legal rights of the citizens as well skills relating to individual and collective interaction with the public, with special emphasis on courteous and impartial behavior.

(4) The content and methodology of the annual refresher training courses as well as the other specialized courses for the personnel of the Armed Police Battalions shall be reviewed and revised from time to time by the officer heading the State Armed Police Battalion set-up, in consultation with the Training Wing of the State Police, and under the overall guidance of the Director General of Police.

6. Conduct and discipline

Every Armed Police Officer on duty shall ensure the maintenance of peace and tranquility to the best of his ability and in addition to the rules/instructions contained in the chapter on Conduct & Discipline in this manual, shall :-

- (i) obey without delay, all lawful orders of his official superiors;
- (ii) not exercise his discretion to use disproportionate or excessive force;
- (iii) not exercise his discretion to refrain from using appropriate force to maintain the public peace, on extraneous considerations or in pursuance to orders or suggestions from a person other than his official superior;
- (iv) not use his position, uniform or arms to intimidate any person other than when required in the proper discharge of his duties.

7. District Reserve Police

(i) District Armed Police Reserve may be a complement of the State Armed Police placed at the disposal of the district SP on a long term basis or may be a separately organized unit on the administrative pattern of a Battalion. The State Armed Police may have more than one battalion. The District Armed Police Reserve may have one or more platoons.

(ii) When separately constituted the District Armed Police Reserve will consist of General, Special operations, Security and Logistics groups. The commanding officer shall keep the district SP informed on all aspects of the district reserve force and seek his orders on a daily basis. The District Armed Police Reserve will maintain following records and registers:

- i. Long Leave Register
- ii. Casual Leave Register
- iii. Duty Roster
- iv. Family Quarters Register
- v. Transfer Seniority List
- vi. Seniority lists (also showing eligibility to promotion)
- vii. Counseling Orderly Room
- viii. Pay Disbursement Register

8. Functions of Armed Police Force/Reserve Force

Some of the functions of the Armed Police Force are following:

1. Supplement the local strength where it is not adequate to deal with law and order disturbances.
2. Provide specially trained personnel to deal with terrorist and other organized gangs.
3. Provide security to authorized persons or places.
4. Guard vital installations, arms and ammunition and other important places.
5. Escort of prisoners.

6. Participate in ceremonial parades and guards on honour.
7. Help in rescue operations in the event of natural calamities and other disasters.
8. To man armed outposts and conduct armed patrolling where called for.
9. Training of its personnel.
10. To provide striking forces or mobile squads for special bandobusts including elections.
11. Management of arms and ammunition in the district

9. Ordinary duties of the Armed Police

(i) The duties to be performed by each battalion will be classified as "fixed", "special" and "general" duties. "Fixed" duties are those where the personnel performing those duties cannot be withdrawn in times of emergency, e.g., armoury and motor transport staff. Personnel for "fixed" duties will be provided from the headquarters company. "General" duties consist of guards, escorts and other miscellaneous duties. The personnel for "general" duties are provided from the active companies. The company or platoons employed at any given time on general duties are called Duty Company or platoons. The duty platoons will be employed as such for 2 to 3 months at a time in rotation, the others being mobilized and exclusively engaged in training when not called out for any definite or emergent duty.

(ii) Emergency strength of one COY for the SAP and as laid down for each India Reserve Battalion must always be available and should be in readiness for immediate action. The emergency strength once fixed shall not be changed without the prior sanction of the Director General of Police in writing. The emergency strength shall be deputed in complete sub-formations, i.e., platoons, sections or half sections, as the situation requires. The purpose and duties to be performed should be specifically spelt, out briefed and understood by each person on each occasion.

10. Deployment of the Armed Police Contingents

(1) The deployment of units and sub-units of the State Armed Police Battalions shall be restricted to only those situations where such deployment is considered absolutely necessary.

(2) The operational deployment of the State Armed Police, including IRBn shall be on the specific orders of Director General of Police or the Addl. DGP/Inspector General of Police, Law & Order.

(3) The District Superintendent of Police shall carefully scrutinize each request for deployment of District Armed Reserve received from the field officers. Similarly, the Director General of Police shall closely scrutinize each request for the deployment of any force from the State Armed Police Battalions received from any District Superintendent of Police, Deputy Inspector General of Police of a Range, ADGP/IGP, Law and Order or any other field officer, before ordering such deployment. The scrutiny will include a realistic determination of the quantum of force required as also the duration for which the deployment is required.

(4) The deployment shall be made for a fixed period, as specified in the order, and unless the same is extended by a specific order, the force shall return to its headquarters on the expiry of the initial period.

(5) When called out, the Armed Police will function under the operational control of the district Superintendent of Police, or the Senior Officer under whom they are assigned, but for all matters of administration, discipline and the actual tactical handling of the force, they will be under their own officers and there should ordinarily be no interference in these matters by local police authorities.

(6) The Armed Police shall normally be deputed to assist the local police to meet the exigencies for bandobust, to preserving order at festivals, large public assemblies and when disturbance to peace is anticipated. The deployment of force for this purpose is fully at the discretion of the SP, on the assessment of the situation.

(7) It shall be the duty of the District Superintendent of Police and the head of the Armed Police Battalion set-up in respect of the Battalion personnel, to ensure that that

personnel of these armed units are deployed in a manner that ensures their regular and constant preparedness for their tasks, as also a fair rotation of duty between the various sub-units of the Armed Police Battalions at the State Headquarters and in the districts.

(8) Whenever such reserve is deputed, a thorough briefing should be done by the in charge of the contingent, i.e. section/Platoon Commander concerned with respect to their specific duties, topography, description of the task, reporting mechanism, likely difficulties to be encountered and the way to overcome them. However, the company commander of the armed police is responsible for the performance of the force.

(9) Superintendent of Police of the district in which the force is deployed is responsible to arrange for the basic amenities before the deployment is ordered. These include providing reasonable accommodation with adequate camp security, cooking and water facilities, lighting etc. Notwithstanding above the police commander of the concerned armed police battalion or the armed police officer designated by him for the purpose shall ensure that the force carries required tentage & provisions for cooking etc. in consultation with the district police authorities.

(10) The armed police should normally be deployed in platoon formation as there are neither administrative or logistical facilities available for formation of less than platoon strength nor the force is trained and equipped for the deployment in twos and threes. In emergency circumstances where it is inevitable to deploy in strength less than a platoon, the arrangements should be worked out by the Superintendent of Police of the district where the force is deployed in consultation with the Commandant of the Battalion concerned and that too for a short period keeping in view the logistic requirements. In any circumstances the armed police force should not be deployed in less than one section strength, as it conflicts with the basic charter of duties and training imparted to the force. Specific approval of the DGP or ADGP/IGP, Law & Order shall be taken if the deployment is to be in half sections.

(11) The Hqrs. of each armed police company should be located in such a manner that communication facilities are available with the Company/Commander so that he will be in a position to exercise effective control over the platoons deployed away from company Hqrs. At least one platoon should be available where the Head Quarters is located. The location of Coy Head Quarters should be done by the Asst. Commandant concerned in consultation with a senior officer of the Civil Police of the area where the force is deployed.

(12) In case where a combined force consisting of elements of the state armed police and the Civil Police embark on an operation, the senior most Officer will be in-charge irrespective of whether he is from the armed police or the civil police.

(13) In deploying the state armed police forces for operational functions or in assigning them a particular task, clear indication of the objective, terrain, communication and other relevant particulars should be given to the Commander of the force and there should be no room for doubt or ambiguity. It should be clearly settled between the armed police Commander and the Local Civil Police, as to what is required to be done by the armed police so that there is no scope for any ambiguity or misunderstanding on this score. While assigning the task to the armed police the civil police should also give the armed police officers benefit of their knowledge of local conditions and make what ever suggestions they think would be helpful. However, it has to be clearly understood that the armed police's role is not to be regarded as replacement for Civil Police role. Once they are given a specific task by the Civil Police the latter should refrain from interfering with the armed operations and leave decisions as to the strength, composition and equipment of the force and the method of carrying out the operations entirely to the armed police officers and men.

(14) A civil police officer of or above the rank of a Head constable will invariably be attached to the armed police platoons and this civil police officer will accompany the armed police force when moved for raids and combing operations in the field area and also for controlling the unruly mobs.

(15) While ordering deployment of any armed police unit, due care shall also be taken to ensure as far as possible, that the personnel are able to take due rest and also avail a weekly off.

11. When the State Armed Police is deployed outside the State

(1) The Armed Police on deputation should proceed to the borrowing State with its full complements of Officers and men, transport, equipments, stores, tents and Arms and Ammunition etc. as per the scale

(2) The borrowing State should provide suitable accommodation for the borrowed force in proper police lines or other suitable place away from congested public localities, whereby close contact with the public can be avoided. It will be the responsibility of the borrowing state to ensure that the borrowed forces are provided good facilities for water, messing arrangements at the place of stay, and facilities for the procuring of rations and other essential provisions etc.

(3) The borrowed force is responsible for the security of their camp including the mounting of guards, posting of sentries and preventing the un-authorized persons from entering the camp area. To enable the borrowed force to enforce proper security measures in their camp, the intelligence input by the local police and the co-operation and assistance of the local authorities of the borrowing state will be sought for.

(4) State Armed Police Forces should have a separate manual giving detailed instructions and standing orders.

12. Armed Police/Reserve Police on Detachment Duty

(i) A General Diary shall be maintained by the officer in charge of detachment, in which the movements of the officer in charge and of all personnel, the duties for which they are employed, any incident and all particulars such as discipline, presence or

absence of any personnel, sickness, injuries, use of fire arms or other events shall be entered. A copy of the General Diary should be sent to RI of the Company and to the SP of the district.

(ii) The officer in charge of the detachment should equip himself with the briefing documents and instructions on the task to be performed and brief the personnel thoroughly before proceeding and after arrival. The requisitioning officer is responsible for making available all material in advance and any additional material on arrival.

13. Off duty and relief

(i) All Head Constables and Constables in the Reserve should ordinarily have a weekly off, preferably Sunday. The stand-to, motor transport and guards who are on duty on a Sunday should be given "off duty" on another day.

(ii) The personnel of mobilized platoon or platoons will have Sundays free, but they shall not leave their places without permission. Whenever permission is given the platoon Commander shall see that 50% of the forces are available on Sundays. Normally, it must be seen that policemen avail their weekly holiday undisturbed but they can be deprived in exceptional circumstances and unavoidable circumstances.

14. Scale, Care, Maintenance and Inspection of Arms and Ammunition

(i) The BPR&D has worked out scale of arms for various units of police department. The Armed Police and District Reserve should as far as possible maintain weapons, arms and ammunitions according to that scale.

(ii) Distribution of arms to Battalion and District Armed Reserves will be fixed on the order of the Director General of Police, who by means of Standing Order shall lay down the procedure to be followed for custody and care of arms, ammunition, stock of material for the repairs and maintenance, and the manner in which damaged and unserviceable weapons are to be disposed off, and the procedure in case of loss of any weapon or ammunition.

(iii) The adequacy of arms, equipment, mobility, communication etc. for each Battalion as well as the District Armed Reserve shall be assessed regularly on an annual basis by the IGP, Armed Police in consultation with the Commandants and the District Superintendent of Police concerned.

(iv) All designated Officers of the Units to which arms and ammunition have been issued shall maintain histories of the firearms and weapons supplied to them in the prescribed Form. The Quarter master/RI shall also maintain a similar register for all weapons on the charge of the district/city. He shall scrutinize this register and ensure that each firearm is rebrowned in due time and are produced for AIA's inspection in accordance with the orders on the subject.

(v) During the course of the year, the armourer of the Reserve shall inspect the arms. He shall inspect every weapon borne on the strength of each unit and point out the defects, if any, to the concerned Platoon Commanders. He shall also attend to the yearly lubrication of arms.

(vi) When weapons are taken out, the policemen shall dry clean them and before returning them to the armoury, they shall apply oil to all the metallic portions. All RSIs shall inspect weapons of their respective platoons after every parade and see whether any parts are missing and whether they are cleaned properly. Any neglect in the care of arms shall not be permitted and such instances should be promptly brought to the notice of the senior officers concerned for suitable action.

(vii) If any musket or rifle is found rusty or any barrel bulged or neglected, the PC or HC to whom the weapon has been issued shall be dealt with in a disciplinary case. All RSIs shall maintain a book wherein details of inspection done and action taken against any Constable or Head Constable for missing parts or causing damages to his weapon should be entered. The RI/RSI, Quarter Master should effectively supervise the work of armourers and more so, the work of the Platoon Commanders in this regard. Reports of

the armourer, after his inspection of arms, regarding losses of and damages to arms due to neglect shall be promptly attended to by the concerned.

(viii) Thorough inspection of each and every arm including bayonets and scabbards should be done. The armourer on the spot shall carry out all minor repairs to weapons and maintain a separate general diary indicating the work done by him on each day. He shall send a copy of his general diary to the Quarter Master, Headquarters. Those arms that need attention in the armourer's shop shall be marked separately and brought to the battalion armoury.

(ix) It is not the duty of the armourer to clean weapons but only to repair them. Commanding Officers of the unit shall, therefore, ensure that all arms are cleaned thoroughly before the armourer inspects them. The armourer shall on his return to headquarters, submit a report to the Commandant through the RI Headquarters on the work turned out by him and the condition of the arms in the armed police unit.

(x) When called out for law & order duties and maintenance of peace, the RIs, RSIs and ARSIs shall be armed with pistols/ revolvers and the HCs and PCs besides lathies with rifles with 10 rounds of ammunition unless ordered otherwise. Other weapons like SLR, AK 47 and Carbines are also issued to the authorized ranks as per the situational and professional needs. In case of SLRs and Ak 47, 60 rounds of ammunition may be carried. The tear-gas squad will be armed with its equipment. When detailed for other duties connected with anti-terrorist or anti-criminal gang operations or special tasks requiring superior fire power, they should be armed with SLR, AK 47 and carbines and other weapons with sufficient ammunition provided the personnel detailed for the duty are trained in the handling of the weapons.

(xi) The riot control squads of the armed and reserve force should be properly trained, briefed and equipped including with banners, megaphones etc. The riot control contingent should consist of tear gas party, lathi party and rifle party. The sequence of the

use of force of these parties should be maintained and efforts must be made to use minimum and adequate force to control the unlawful assembly

15. Annual Mobilisation

All personnel of State Armed Police and the District Armed Police Reserve have to be mobilized for training once a year. It is important that officers should not permit themselves to become so rusty in their drill and out-door work as to be unable to efficiently command the Armed/Reserve Police when necessary. The Reserve Inspectors and DSP of Armed Police whose company Units are mobilized must attend on all days the different sessions of training by rotation throughout the period of training. Addl. SP should also be present weekly at one or the other sessions throughout mobilization.

(ii) The Commandant should personally supervise the organization of the mobilized Reserve and should also keep himself in touch with the progress of training and attend parades regularly during the mobilization unless he is away from Headquarters.

(iii) During the annual Mobilisation, Sundays should be totally free and the full Mobilisation routine will be carried out during the other days. The Commandant should so schedule mobilization of each company for training that there is about 12 or 13 of training days in a fortnight. The training programme should also take into account the specific requirement of the district. Stress should be more on practical demonstration and actual field situation and specific standards to be achieved in various spells. During the annual Mobilisation, the personnel in training shall ordinarily not be deputed for other duties.

(iv) In addition to annual mobilisation, which in a way is in the nature of annual fitness training, the personnel of the armed police forces should be subjected to regular training in order to maintain their physical, professional and operational fitness. Regular fitness and training activities with regard to PT, drill, mob operation, search and combing operations, picket duty, patrolling duties, road bandobust, election duties, disaster and natural calamities duties, anti-terrorist and bomb disposal duties, first aid and life saving

duties, camp and tent pitching duties, firing and musketry duties, weapon maintenance duties and the like should be conducted in a systematic and regular manner at the unit headquarter. One company of the battalion should be earmarked on rotational basis as training company for conducting regular training activities. In addition to the above in house local training at the unit headquarter level, members of the armed units should be sent for specific and specialized training courses to other training schools from time to time.

16. Motor Vehicle Maintenance and Duties of Personnel

Rules and instructions in this regard are stated under chapter 'Motor Transport Section' in this manual.

COMMANDO UNITS/ATS

17. Introduction

The Commando unit/ATS is an elite force headed by an officer of appreciate rank. It shall be located in the specified armed police units and will work directly under the DGP. The commando units/ATS will be under the day today command & control of respective commandant but in respect of operations shall be under the direct command of the DGP. This force has been raised as it has been found necessary to keep a specially trained force for handling:

- A. emergency situations arising out of unlawful activities of certain groups of lawless persons, terrorists and desperadoes and
- B. to deal with emergencies arising in the wake of natural calamities.

18. Organisational Structure

The force discharges its functions through Operational units and Hqrs units the no. of which will be determined to from time. The following ranks of police constitute each operational unit:

- Commander
(Dy.SP/Inspector)
- Dy. Commander (SI)

Senior Commandos (HC) which one would also be the communication man.
Junior Commandos (PC)

The Headquarters Unit consists of Sniffer/Tracker Dog Squad, Intelligence group, Motor Transport and Quarter Master Wings.

19. Induction & Training

The Commandant of the concerned Armed Police battalion shall be responsible for their operational readiness, Administration & Training. The executive force will be drawn on deputation from all the cadres of police services in the state with approval of the DGP. The selection will be made by the concerned commandant from the eligible members of the various police units in the State. On selection to the force, every member will undergo such training as per the programme determined by the DGP from time to time. The Commandant will have the powers to recommend repatriation of any member to his parent unit if he considers him unsuitable for continuation in the force at any time. The Commando Units/ATS may be deputed to undertake specialize training of directly recruited SIs/Dy. Ss.P./ ASPs. as decided from time to time.

20. Weaponry and Equipment

The Force shall be provided with such modern weaponry, equipment, transport, communications and other facilities as are necessary for the efficient and expert handling of the tasks for which it is intended.

21. Dress Regulations

The Commando units/ATS shall use dungaree of prescribed colour as working dress and Jungle Patch (JP) / Overall dress as operational dress with out badges of ranks. DGP will decide details of other dress for different occasions from time to time.

22. Service and Working Conditions

- (i) The service conditions, Conduct Rules etc. and other connected matters applicable to the State Police Force are also equally applicable to the personnel working in commando units/ATS except to the extent specifically provided.
- (ii) There shall be rotation of the members of the Force in all ranks to maintain the youthfulness and effectiveness of the Force. The Commandant concerned should take all steps that may be necessary to ensure this.
- (iii) The Commandant concerned may, with the approval of DGP, allow any member beyond the normal tenure, if in his opinion he is suitable and fit enough to continue.
- (iv) All the police officers working in this force are eligible for special pay, allowances and other incentives as determined by the government from time to time.
- (v) A detailed manual of instructions containing the training for the tasks prescribed, specific duties, responsibilities of various ranks, working of the force and other connected matters should be drawn up by the commando units/ATS and issued after approval by the Director General of Police.
- (vi) The movement and operation of the force shall be task oriented under specific orders of the ADGP/IGP, L&O with the approval of DGP. The force deployed shall return to the Hqs. as soon as the task is completed or with the approval of the ADGP/IGP, L&O or DGP when it appears to the Commander that the deployment is no longer desirable. Under no circumstances the force will stay once the operation or purpose for which it is sent is completed.

23. Mounted police

The Police, by tradition and for professional exigencies maintain horses in their unit. The mounted Police comprises of the horses and police personnel who maintain the horses and stables. In Sikkim the horses would be purchased and maintained in the Check Posts Branch though these may be located at the State Armed Police, camp Pangthang.

24. Utility of Mounted Police

Mounted police are useful for the department in a number of ways. Besides being part of Police training the horses are used for gust and “patrolling including border patrolling as also for regulating various law and order situations. The mounted police are also used for ceremonial purposes and are a part of police sports and horse shows. The personnel in the unit are subject to the same rules as are applicable to district police as regards pay, leave, pension and other service conditions.

25. Mounted Training

The Mounted police should be trained:

- a. to ride and handle, the horse in a proper manner,
- b. to learn sword exercise both on horseback and on foot,
- c. to mount, form in line, form files, wheel, form on a front, and salute with and without swords,
- d. to saddle, unsaddle and groom a horse thoroughly,
- e. to keep the horse in a good condition, well-groomed and smar, and to maintain the uniform, arms and accoutrements clean and serviceable,
- f. to learn the skills to use the horse during riot drill and in border area patrols.

26. Remounts

Remounts are purchased when the horses become unserviceable due to as or illness or any other unfit conditions. If a horse becomes unserviceable or deteriorates or dies due to negligence of a mounted police men the concerned person may be held responsible for this and suitable departmental proceeding can be initiated against him or compensation for the loss may be recovered from him. The horses which have become

unserviceable due to age or illness or any other cause will be cast and sold and the proceeds will be credited to the Government fund.

27. Casting

Before a horse is cast, a committee consisting of the SP, a GO and a Veterinary Officer will be constituted to examine the unfitness of the concerned horse for further service. The report by the committee should be submitted to the competent authority for necessary action in the matter.

28. Care of the horses

Horses must be properly fed and kept in good condition. They should be regularly shod, at least once in a month. They should be groomed in the morning and in the evening. The instructions issued for the maintenance and upkeep of the horses from time to time should be seriously followed for keeping the horses in healthy and fit condition. If a sawar neglects a horse, he should be departmentally dealt with and even compensation of the loss can be made from him. The scale of feed and timing for daily feeding should be seriously observed as per the norms and instructions issued in this regard.

29. Hiring of Horses

The sawar and horses, when not required for duty may with the permission of the ADGP/IGP Armed Police may be deputed for other duties on the basis of prescribed scale of fees and charges. The revenue so collected can be utilized for the welfare of mounted police and maintenance of the horses and facilities thereof.