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California
highway patrol
and training
program

Preface

This booklet is intended to familiarize you with the California Highway Patrol and the preparation of candidates for a career with the Department.

The California Highway Patrol is a profession. If accepted, a candidate must be dedicated and willing to devote himself both mentally and physically toward the purpose and objectives of the Department.

He will find the position of State Traffic Officer rewarding, but he must consider both the positive and negative aspects of this profession. In the final analysis, he must decide if a career with the California Highway Patrol is what he is seeking.

NCJRS

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ACQUISITIONS



The California Highway Patrol

The California Highway Patrol was created in 1929 in an effort to standardize traffic law enforcement throughout the State.

Since that time the Department has grown to the point where today over 5,000 officers are located throughout the State.

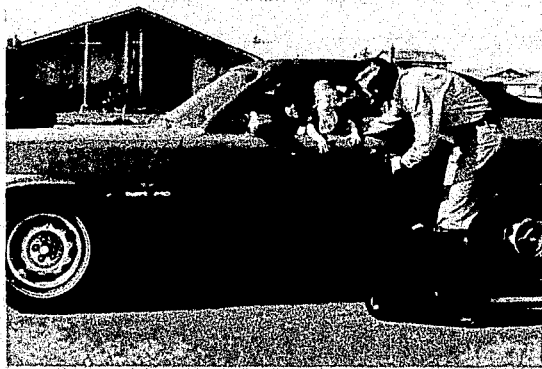
The California Highway Academy

Construction of the first California Highway Patrol Academy was completed in 1954. Located near Sacramento, the Academy conducts a Cadet Training Program which is designed to produce competent, qualified officers who will uphold and enhance the image of the California Highway Patrol.

The Cadet Training Program amplifies the semi-military structure of the Department. It is felt that if a cadet officer cannot cope with the Academy discipline he certainly won't be able to function effectively as an officer after graduation. The Academy attempts to prepare the new officer for the stress conditions he will encounter on the highway.

The Academy uniformed staff consists of State Traffic Sergeants, who serve as instructors, and State Traffic Officers, who serve as Staff Officers. The Staff Officers are responsible for the supervision, counseling, and discipline of cadets. A Staff Officer is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist the cadets.



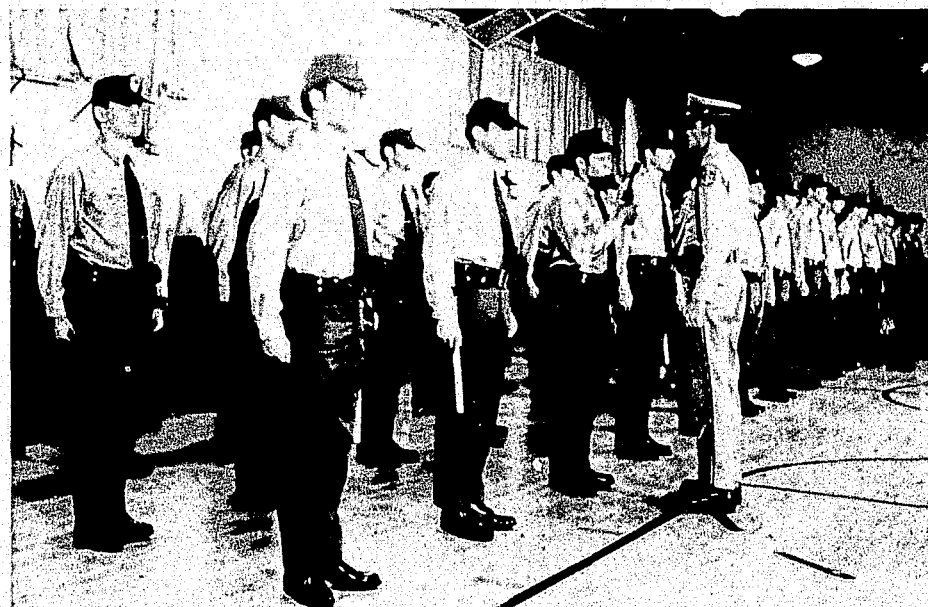
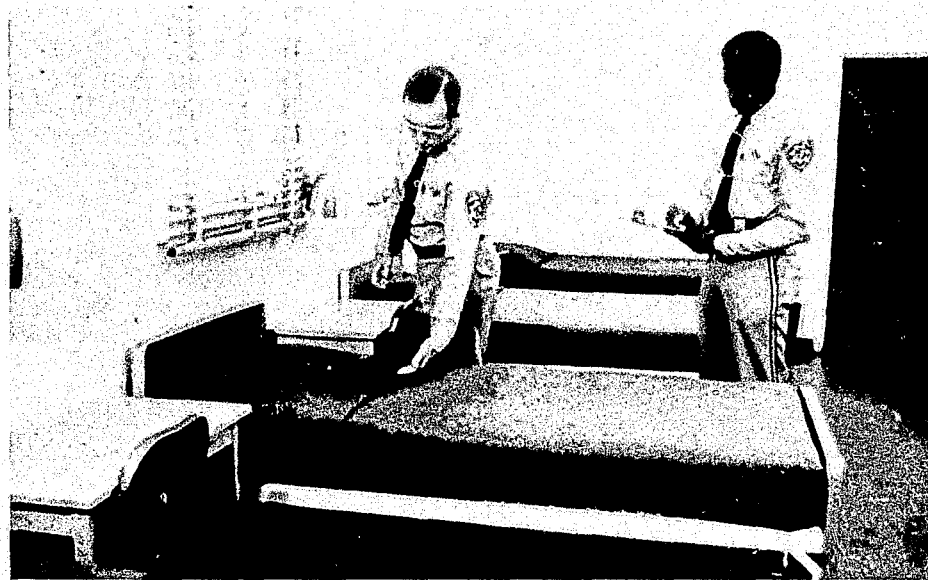


A cadet must be willing to live at the Academy for 16 weeks. He will attend classes 6 days a week, 10 hours per day. He will be restricted to the Academy at all times except on Wednesday evenings and from 5:00 p.m. Saturday until midnight Sunday.

Cadets are required to report to the Academy at 7:30 a.m. on the first day of training. For the next 16 weeks they will see very little of their loved ones.

The first day at the Academy is devoted entirely to orientation and processing. All of the rules and regulations of the Academy are explained in detail and the cadets will be kept busy from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.



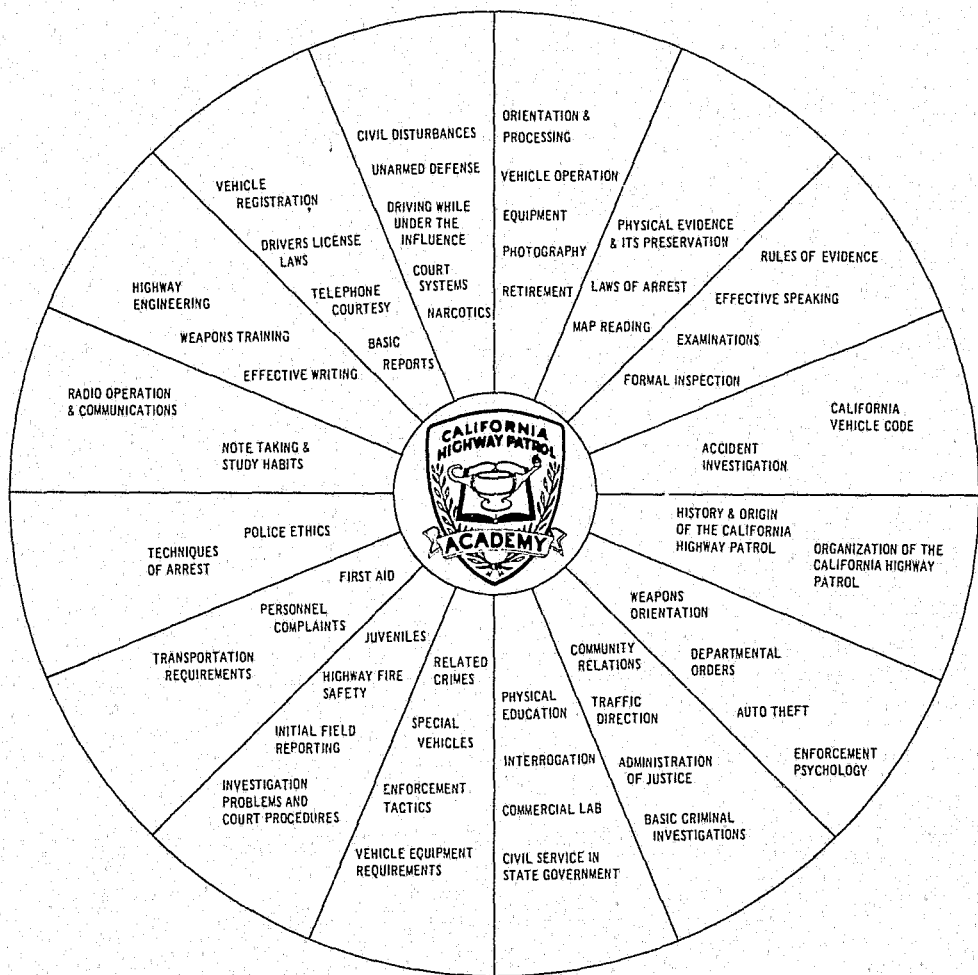


Reveille is at 6:00 a.m. Cadets are expected to rise promptly at that time. The Staff Officer will insure that the cadets are up and preparing for the day's activities. Punctuality is stressed, as a life may depend on the punctuality of a State Traffic Officer.

Between reveille and the first class at 8:00 a.m., cadets must dress, eat breakfast and prepare their room and themselves for inspection. Dormitories are inspected daily by the Staff Officer. Members of the public tour the Academy frequently and are sometimes shown the cadet's rooms.

Cadets are required to wear a uniform from 7:00 a.m. until 10:45 p.m. daily. The uniform must be clean and pressed, brass must be polished, and shoes must be shined to a high gloss. Personnel inspections are conducted by the Staff Officer before the 8:00 a.m. class.

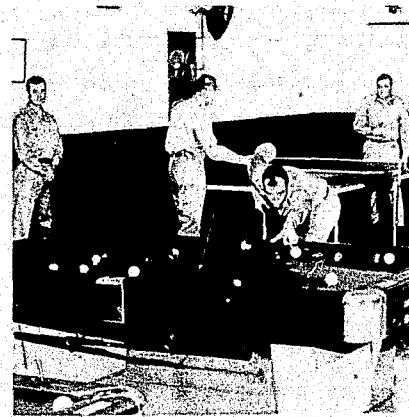
CURRICULUM 16 Weeks of Training



Cadets receive instruction in subjects ranging from the history of the California Highway Patrol to the detailed courses in traffic law enforcement. Classes begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude at 8:30 p.m. each day, Monday through Friday. Upon graduation, the cadet will have completed over 70 subjects totaling approximately 900 hours.

During the training period, cadets will be required to take notes on all subjects of instruction. The notes are hand-printed in ink and corrected for thoroughness, spelling, neatness and permanent value. Upon graduation, each cadet will have submitted two notebooks totaling approximately 500 pages. The purpose of the note taking requirement is that officers are required to handprint all reports when assigned after graduation. The reports are seen by lawyers, insurance companies, judges and many others. The impression they receive reflects on the professionalism of the California Highway Patrol.





Cadets are required to attend Study Period on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. During Study Period, the notes taken during the day are transcribed into finished notes.

After Study Period, the cadets are free for the remainder of the evening. During their leisure time they are encouraged to use the Recreation Room, Gymnasium, Library and putting green.

At 10:45 p.m., all cadets are required to be in their dormitories. At 11:00 p.m., cadets are to be in bed, lights out, and complete silence is demanded. Most cadets are exhausted after the day's activities and a good night's rest is essential.

Much of the training is conducted in the classroom. In addition to the Academy instructional staff, representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Sacramento State College, Department of Motor Vehicles, and many others instruct at the Academy.

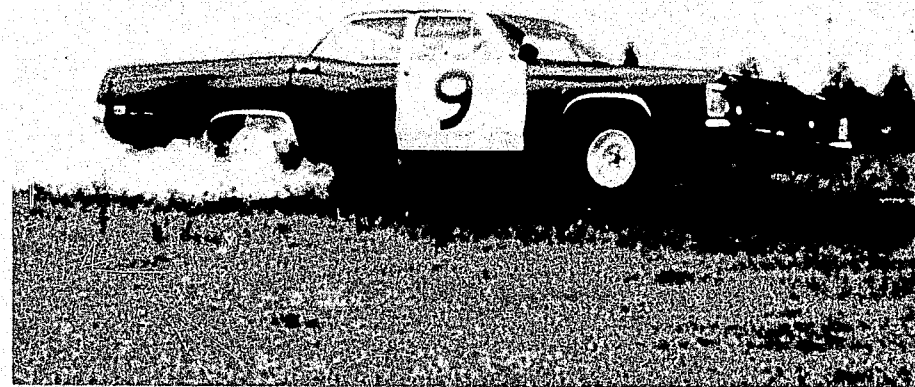


The physical training program at the Academy is designed to condition each cadet to prepare him for possible physical confrontation he may encounter while enforcing the law and protection of life and property. In order to successfully complete the Academy training, each cadet must be able to run a mile in seven minutes, run 220 yards in 33 seconds, and complete the obstacle course in 50 seconds. In addition, cadets are expected to progress satisfactorily in calisthenics administered by the physical training instructors. This training will also assist the graduate in maintaining physical fitness throughout his career.



Simulated enforcement problems are enacted for the cadets. Hopefully, all the mistakes will be made during training. The instructor will not be available during an actual arrest.

Cadets receive instruction in high speed driving, defensive driving and the physical laws pertaining to a body in motion. Cadets are not taught to be race drivers, but are taught to recognize their capabilities and that of their vehicles.





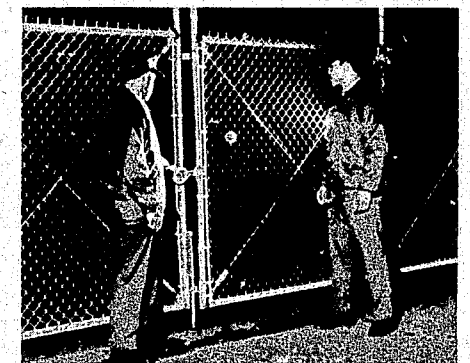
Cadets are instructed in the proper handling of firearms including the shotgun.

Cadets are assigned details such as flag detail, phone watch, and security detail.

The cadet flag detail is responsible for raising and lowering the flags on the Academy grounds.

Cadets are assigned to regular duties such as phone watch and security checks. These added responsibilities are an extension of the training program. The cadets learn how to communicate with the public and improve on their techniques of observation.

Discipline is stressed throughout the 16 week training period. Cadets are expected to obey orders given by superior officers and to follow the rules and regulations of the Academy. If a cadet fails to comply, he may be restricted to the Academy on Wednesday evening or on a weekend.

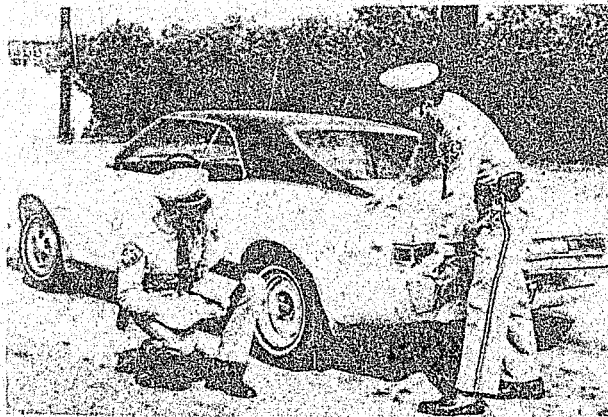




A graduation ceremony is held for those cadets who successfully complete the 16 week training course. These graduates have completed the most comprehensive traffic law enforcement training program in the world. They will be assigned to field offices to begin their initial break-in period with an experienced officer. Cadets are normally assigned to Los Angeles or a desert area.

Upon assignment to the field as a State Traffic Officer, the new officer will be expected to work in all types of weather, and at any time of the day or night.

The new officer will find that working on holidays is a rule rather than an exception. He will probably be taking his vacation during the school year for the first few years, while building up seniority within the Department.



END

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