5-06/030.30 - Looters

It is Department policy to arrest and detain law violators. This policy should be tempered based on circumstances confronted, competing priorities, and resources available.

Platoon commanders shall exercise judgment when confronted with the problem of looters. It may be physically impossible to apprehend them all. Experience shows that looters usually flee upon arrival of deputies. Most success is achieved by deploying manpower in such a way as to hasten their departure.

Where possible options include mass arrests, consideration shall be given to the tactical mission of the platoon. The situation may require a platoon lieutenant to exercise his option to disperse rather than arrest the looters. Any action must be coordinated with other platoons so one is not dispersing while one is arresting, and with the higher command personnel.