After a week off, 21 recruits returned to the Training Academy to begin Week #10 and the second phase of training. Having earned the Week #9 battle streamer, the members of 57 sensed the need to refocus on the upcoming training with aspirations to earn yet another.

We continue to conduct daily Physical Training. Main events for the week included another physical assessment of push-ups, sit-ups, 300 meter sprint and 1.5 mile run and a friendly team competition through the obstacle course. Many of the recruits have shown marked improvement over the initial assessment.

The entire week consisted of EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operator Course) training. The schedule indicated long days and nights with added stressors along the way to help the recruits experience what real situations might occur while operating a Patrol vehicle. Classroom instruction was integrated with practical applications during the week with a typical ratio of one instructor for two recruits. Once demonstrated, recruits had the opportunity to practice the basic skills involving shuffle steering, avoiding obstacles in the roadway, driving a serpentine course, and utilizing the apex in cornering and braking effectively at higher speeds. The emphasis was that development of these skills would influence one's ability to operate a Patrol vehicle more safely at higher speeds.

As the week passed, the recruits were able to repeatedly employ these skills at various speeds in both rural and closed track environments with progress closely monitored by the Instructors. As we moved forward, pursuit driving was added along with TVI (Tactical Vehicle Intervention) techniques. The week culminated in practical's of TVI and a separate pursuit in which additional stressors were incorporated, challenging our ability to focus while employing our new skills and techniques. EVOC week clearly left an impression on 57, with new thoughts toward skills, techniques and a heightened awareness toward the safety of others as we operate a Patrol vehicle.

Overall, it was a great learning experience and proved to be more than a little fun.

We also managed to secure streamer #10 in the process.

For It Is Our Duty