

CITY OF ANDERSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Anderson, South Carolina

DIRECTIVE TYPE General Order	EFFECTIVE DATE March 5, 2010	NUMBER 1703
SUBJECT SWAT		
REVISED		
REFERENCE SCLEA 22.15 & 22.16	AMENDS/SUPERSEDES All Others	
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I. Purpose and Mission

In order to enhance the effectiveness of field operations, the Police Department has established policies for handling unusual operational activities to include:

- Hostage incidents
- Armed barricaded suspects
- Service of high risk warrants (arrest & search)
- Manhunt operations
- Personal protection
- Tactical CBRNE operations
- Any operations deemed necessary by the Chief or his/her designee

The SWAT team shall handle high-risk operations in a manner that reduces the chance of violence, injury or death.

II. Policy

This policy is a framework to guide officers, however the Police Department recognizes it is impossible to develop standardized procedures for every contingency. In all tactical problems, the burden of responsibility rests with the field officers to exercise sound judgment in dealing with unusual hazards to human life

A special response team, known as the Special Weapons and Tactics team, shall be

maintained to ensure the Police Department's capability to respond to high-risk tactical problems. This team shall be comprised of full time sworn officers (class 1) on an "on call" basis. This team will be augmented with tactical medics, which are dually certified as Police Department Reserve Officers, and Emergency Medical Technicians (or the equivalent).

III. Organization

The Chief of Police will appoint the SWAT Commander.

The SWAT Commander will be responsible for staffing, training, equipping and maintaining the team in a state of readiness.

The SWAT team shall be organized into two components. One will handle operations and the other will handle negotiations.

1. **Operational Component:**

The operational component will be further divided by function. One organizational unit will be designated as the Designated Marksman element; one unit will be designated as the Assault element.

- A. The Designated Marksmen component will be responsible for providing, from concealed positions, long range cover, observation, reporting and other duties as needed.
- B. The Assault component will be responsible for inner perimeter security (patrol personnel may be utilized as manpower dictates), evacuation, recovery of wounded, entry, breaching, hostage control and evacuation, use of chemical munitions, arrest and control of suspects and other duties as needed.

The SWAT Commander will appoint a team leader to supervise the operational component and the SWAT Commander or his/her designee will manage the negotiations component.

Unit integrity of teams during tactical operations is desirable, but operational necessity may require that teams be mixed.

The team may require services of other tactical units (SLED, ACSO, etc) electronic surveillance technicians, investigators, canine handlers and communication officers. The SWAT Commander will identify personnel qualified in these roles and provide orientation and training necessary to integrate them into tactical operations as needed.

IV. Qualifications and Selection (SCLEA 22.15 A & 22.16 A)

SWAT team membership is voluntary, extra duty assignment and members may resign at any time without penalty. Members found unsuitable or unfit for SWAT duty may be removed at any time.

Officers assigned to the operations component of the SWAT team shall be carefully selected using

the following criteria:

1. Experience in civilian law enforcement.
2. Ability to exercise good decision making skills guided by sound judgment.
3. Satisfactory performance appraisal in regular duty assignment.
4. Strong communication skills and problem solving abilities.
5. Demonstrated high degree of personal commitment, initiative and motivation.
6. Satisfactorily completing all tasks at try-out/indoctrination.
7. Must possess level of fitness and health that does not impede or compromise the mission of the team.
8. Must be available on constant "on-call" status.

Officers assigned to the negotiations component of the SWAT team shall be carefully selected using the following criteria:

1. Experience in civilian law enforcement.
2. Ability to exercise good decision making skills guided by sound judgment.
3. Satisfactory performance appraisal in regular duty assignment.
4. Strong communication skills and problem solving abilities.
5. Demonstrated high degree of personal commitment, initiative and motivation.
6. Must be available on constant "on-call" status.

V. In- Service Training (SCLEA 22.16 B)

In-service training shall be conducted on a regular basis, at a minimum of three days (30 hours) per quarter. This training will cover all aspects of the two components of operations and negotiations.

Members of the operations component will demonstrate proficiency with their sidearm and primary shoulder weapons at least once each quarter. This is in addition to the agency wide qualifications. Designated Marksman will qualify one time each month with counter sniper rifles. Operators who have two initial failures in firearms qualifications within six months will be subject to suspension from active duty for SWAT operations for thirty days and required to receive remedial training.

VI. Medical Conditions

Any Operations member unable to demonstrate an acceptable level of physical fitness will be removed from active duty with the team until an acceptable level of fitness is achieved.

A temporary medical condition that prevents an operator from demonstrating an acceptable level of proficiency in firearms or fitness ability or in any way compromises the operator's ability to perform SWAT duties in an acceptable manner is cause for medical leave from the team without penalty. Upon certification from a physician that the temporary medical condition is relieved sufficiently to return to SWAT duty, the operator will be reinstated upon successful completion of proficiency testing in firearms.

A permanent medical condition that prevents an operator from demonstrating an acceptable level of

proficiency in firearms or fitness ability or in any way compromises the operator's ability to perform SWAT duties in an acceptable manner is cause for dismissal from the team.

VII. Equipment and Inspections

SWAT team members will be supplied with the special equipment and weapons necessary to fulfill their mission. The SWAT commander will keep an inventory of all weapons and equipment assigned to the team.

A secure vehicle shall be maintained for the storage and transportation of SWAT supplies and specialized equipment not normally kept as a part of a member's individual issue. The SWAT commander will designate the type of equipment stored in this manner. An inspection of the vehicle and equipment will be completed and recorded quarterly.

Team members issued weapons and equipment will be maintained in a readily available condition in the members' vehicle. An inspection for cleanliness and good repair shall be completed and recorded quarterly.

Readiness drills will be conducted periodically as a part of regular inspection.

VIII. Use of Special Weapons and Equipment (SCLEA 22.15 B)

Qualified persons who have been trained in their use will employ specialized weapons such as submachine guns, rifles, noise/flash distraction devices and chemical munitions. Ammunition will be in accordance with General Orders 170, 170A and 171.1.

Chemical Munitions:

Chemicals authorized for use by the SWAT team are CN (tear gas), CS, OC (pepper gas), and HC (smoke).

The decision to use chemical munitions against a barricaded position will be decided by the SWAT Commander. If chemical munitions are to be used, ample warning will be given to team members and surrounding officers.

A fire plan will be developed and briefed before use of any heat producing chemical munitions.

Noise/Flash Distraction Devices:

Due to the fire hazard and the small chance of injury associated with NFDDs, their use will be restricted to high-risk operations. The use of NFDDs is justified when the benefits of their use outweigh the relatively small risk of damage or injury that may be caused by properly used NFDDs.

If NFDDs are used, the following precautions will be taken:

1. Gloves and eye protection.
2. Fire extinguishers will be kept on hand and a fire plan made and briefed.

3. A Through inspection for fire will be made after the location is secure
4. Burn marks and other damage will ne photographed
5. Names, addresses and other identifying information will be documented on all occupants present at the time of use.

Kinetic Energy Projectiles

Kinetic Energy Projectiles will be used as needed to control armed suspects. Projectiles will generally be targeted for less-lethal areas of the body, such as the arms, legs and lower abdominal area. The head, throat, chest or groin will not be targeted unless use of deadly force is justified.

Kinetic Energy Projectiles authorized for use are rubber or plastic 40mm projectiles and flexible Baton "bean bag" projectiles for 40mm launcher and 12-guage shotgun.

IX. Operations (SCLEA 22.15 C & 22.16 C)

The SWAT team may be activated by any supervisor of the Police Department or may be activated under an existing mutual aid agreement to assist another jurisdiction with the approval of the Chief or SWAT Commander.

Upon Activation, the SWAT Commander will coordinate the notification of team members. Information provided to those notified may be brief, but will include at the minimum:

1. Type of incident.
2. Assembly point.
3. Safe approach route.

The SWAT Commander and Incident Commander will make every effort to ensure that EMS and fire service units are near the scene (if necessary), before initiating any activity beyond containment negotiation.

For ongoing critical incidents, the SWAT Commander shall choose a suitable area near the incident location to be designated the Tactical Operations Center. National incident Management Systems guidelines will be utilized when staffing and manning the TOC.

X. Operational Objectives (SCLEA 22.15 D & 22.16 D)

The basic operation objectives for hostage incidents, barricaded suspects, sniper attacks and fugitive manhunts are containment, isolation and apprehension. This involves locating the suspect, containing his movement, isolating him from outside contact and utilizing special tactics to affect apprehension in a manner that affords minimum peril to all persons involved.

The priority of SWAT activities in an on-going critical incident will always be:

1. Contain- the threat
2. Assess- the situation
3. Prepare- for response
4. Evacuate- victims/innocents

In considering or implementing a solution for a tactical problem, mission priorities for ensuring the safety of persons involved will be the following:

1. Innocent citizens- no solution should endanger innocent lives in order to preserve the safety of officers or suspects.
2. Law Enforcement Officers- no solution should endanger officers lives in order to preserve the safety of a suspect.
3. Suspects- Solutions that seek to prevent the serious injury or death of suspects are desirable, but will be undertaken only so long as they do not endanger the lives of innocent citizens or law enforcement officers.
4. Property- No solution will place people at risk in order to protect property.

Use of Force in Tactical Solutions

Use of force by SWAT team members will be governed by Police Department use of Force policy. In a defensive situation, force will be used swiftly and decisively, including deadly force if necessary to protect hostages, other innocent citizens and law enforcement officers.

Negotiations

The SWAT Commander shall make every reasonable effort to see that contact is established with the suspect. This activity will be the primary responsibility of SWAT Negotiators.

Communication is to be established by whatever means available, including telephone, cellular phone, throw phone, PA system, bullhorn, unassisted voice or any other means that may be available. Face to face meetings with armed suspects are prohibited. If any officer has been able to establish a dialogue with suspects prior to the arrival of negotiators, it may be advisable to allow the officer to continue with the negotiator acting in a coaching role. The SWAT Commander or his designee will coordinate the negotiation function with on going tactical activity while ensuring that all negotiations functions are conducted from the safest possible location. Negotiators will work in teams of two or more for a large scale operation. One will work as primary negotiator, with the second acting as scribe, coach and back up. A liaison officer will be assigned to go between the negotiation center and the SWAT Commander. In a large operation, the primary negotiator will be coached and assisted by the backup negotiator, with a third acting as a scribe, a fourth updating status charts and a fifth as liaison to the SWAT Commander. All communications between negotiator and suspects will be tape recorded when time and capability permit.

Deception or withholding of information may be employed, with caution, in order to gain a tactical advantage or in the interest of preserving life. Negotiators must also recognize that suspects may have access to outside information by radio, television or telephone. A suspect may demand access to reporters or desire to speak to friends, relatives, ministers, lawyers or others. While this is generally inadvisable each situation must be evaluated and decided separately under existing circumstances.

A. *Hostage Incidents*

Critical information for the assessment process is accurate answers to three questions

1. Is the suspect holding someone against their will and using them as a hostage?
2. Is the suspect threatening death or serious injury to the hostage either by his actions

or his statements?

3. Does the suspect have the means to carry out the threat?

If the answers to these questions are yes, then you must recognize the suspect has the ability and opportunity to cause death or serious injury and is placing the hostage in jeopardy. These facts classify this as a deadly force situation under Police Department policy

The first priority is to protect the safety of innocent citizens. If an opportunity exists for the decisive use of deadly force against the suspect, without further endangering the hostage, this is the most certain means to protect the safety of the hostage. If no clear opportunity exists to use deadly force in a tactical solution and the situation remains relatively stable, attempts will be made to negotiate.

When containment and negotiation is chosen as the course of action, every effort will be made to identify contingencies and develop a plan for each. In a hostage incident these contingencies will include at a minimum:

1. Emergency rescue plan.
2. Deliberate hostage rescue plan.
3. Walkout/breakout/surrender plan.

B. *Barricaded Suspects*

Barricaded situations like many hostage incidents often follow no rational thought process. The barricader has little to gain and much to lose by continued resistance. Mental Instability, emotional disturbance, drug or alcohol abuse and simple fear are common factors among many suspects. Tactical solution options should be prepared for immediate implementation in the event the suspect begins wild firing endangers others or otherwise forces the issue. Negotiators should be alert for signs of a death ritual or other subtle indicators that the situation is deteriorating. Less lethal force options should be kept ready at all times.

Circumstances may affect the length of time allowed for a negotiated solution. If a suspect's location has forced the closing of a major traffic artery, his line of fire includes areas that can not be evacuated, extremes in weather conditions or other circumstances that diminish law enforcements ability to maintain prolonged siege status consideration should be given to a suitable tactical solution.

Contingency planning should provide for the following:

1. Suspect remains inside
2. Walkout/breakout/surrender
3. Suicide appears imminent
4. Suspect begins shooting or otherwise forces action
5. Suspect commits suicide

C. *Suspect Commits Suicide*

If the suspect commits suicide inside the barricade position and there is good visual confirmation that he his dead or incapacitated, S&D entry will be appropriate. In the absence of visual confirmation, chemical munitions can be introduced before S&D entry. Experience has

shown that suspects may feign incapacitating wounds to lure officers into a trap. If there is any indication the suspect may have faked suicide to draw in clearing elements, use a full course of chemicals and wait a sufficient length of time before attempting entry.

D. *Manhunt Operations*

Operational objectives for manhunt operations are as for other types of critical incidents to contain the suspects' movement, isolate him from outside contact and affect his apprehension.

Tactical operators in a search for an armed fugitive should be divided into three elements of roughly equal size. One element is assigned to cover trackers while the other two elements cover the flanks. If attacked from ambush the trackers cover element goes to cover and engages the suspect. The nearest flanking element should support the cover element. The remaining element disengages and flanks the suspect moving to a position of advantage. Teams will frequently encounter vacant buildings, sheds houses, vehicles or other structures that must be cleared before movement can continue. These should be handled with S&D clearing techniques using one or more elements while one or more elements maintain security and cover. If a suspect is located in a building or other structure, barricade procedures apply.

E. *High Risk Warrants*

Tactical teams are often used for service of high risk search or arrest warrants. The first step in planning for this activity is to clearly identify the mission objective. Planning for an arrest is considerably different from planning a search for contraband.

The three primary options for the service of high risk warrants are:

1. Dynamic entry and clearing
2. Surround and call out
3. Surveillance and arrest

The method chosen will be the safest acceptable option given the mission objective, the degree of risk known and the resources available.

F. *Personal Protection*

Personal protection assignments may require SWAT personnel to wear plain clothes suitable to the environment they will be working in. The operations will be conducted in conjunction with any law enforcement agency which is tasked with the protection of specifically identified individuals (United States Secret Service, SLED, Department of State, etc).

Team leaders shall serve as detail commanders and unmarked vehicles may be utilized as opposed to marked vehicles. Every effort will be made to adequately reconnoiter all possible travel routes.

XI. Review and Analysis

All action taken under the provisions of this policy are subject to review. Any use of force will be documented and reviewed as required by Police Department policy. If the SWAT team employs deadly force in the resolution of a tactical incident the proper personnel will be notified to respond and all team members present will complete a supplemental report. If the incident is to be

investigated for internal administrative purposes by the Anderson Police Department Officer of Internal Affairs team members are to cooperate in all aspects of the investigation as required by Police Department policy. If the incident is to be investigated by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division or other agency outside the Police Department as a criminal incident, team members may provide that agency with a statement or any additional information requested at the team members discretion.

Whenever possible an initial debriefing will be conducted immediately following the conclusion of a SWAT incident and if necessary a more involved debriefing will follow on the next training day.

XII. Tactical Medic Response Team

The Swat Commander will assign certified medics approved by the Chief to the SWAT team as deemed appropriate. Their mission is to provide emergency rescue and medical support to the SWAT team during high risk operations. Support is primarily medical in nature under non routine circumstances when it is not feasible or safe for routine EMS personnel.

Initial screening for the Tactical Medic Response Team will be done through a process and by qualifications determined by the Chief and the SWAT Commander.

Tactical medics will receive initial training in which they will be issued their basic equipment oriented on team operations and trained in basic SWAT operator skills. The medics will train with SWAT team during their monthly team training dates. Tactical medics will be required to qualify with their sidearm and maintain an acceptable level of fitness.

The tactical medic's primary role in SWAT operations is to provide emergency rescue and medical support. They will provide medical care to victims, officers and suspects consistent with EMS policy and procedure. Other support duties may include but are not limited to exterior security within the inner perimeter, transfer of equipment to operators and other support duties as needed. Although the tactical medic is a certified law enforcement officer, they will only assume the role of SWAT operator in exigent circumstances or when there are not other operators available for the task.

By order of:



Martin D. Brown, Chief of Police

3-11-2010
Date