Clayton County Police Department

PROCEDURES

Subject		Procedure #
EVENT DECONFLICTION		**A12**

Authorizing Signature	Effective	☐ New ☒ Amended ☐ Rescinds	Total Pages
	06-24-2022		**6**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to enhance officer safety, reduce risk and liability, safeguard the community, strengthen information sharing among law enforcement agencies, ensure case integrity, minimize disruptions to investigations and connect suspects and cases.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Clayton County Police Department that event deconfliction is pursued by sworn personnel of the Special Operations Division using methods and/or resources approved by the Chief of Police. It is the responsibility of concerned supervisors to ensure that event deconfliction has been pursued prior to any further law enforcement action pertaining to the related circumstances and/or investigation.

Though this policy is specifically intended for sworn personnel of the Special Operations Division, it may be utilized by other divisions of the Department, as determined by the concerned chain of command, due to the totality of the circumstances. Consultation with the Special Operations Division Commander, or designee, is recommended.

Failure to adhere to the procedures set forth in this policy will result in disciplinary action.

III. DEFINITIONS

El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC): EPIC houses the different instances of SAFETNet and provides access to SAFETNet via the EPIC portal.

Event: A law enforcement action, including, but not limited to, raids, undercover operations, surveillance, or the execution of arrest and/or search warrants.

Event Deconfliction: An effort by public safety to identify law enforcement events occurring simultaneously and in close proximity, by engaging in inter-agency communication, maximizing efficiency and ensuring officer safety during high-risk activities and investigations of narcotics, vice and organized crime cases.

Event Deconfliction System: A system designed to perform event deconfliction and notify appropriate law enforcement personnel that a conflict may exist.

Qualifying Event: A non-emergency, scheduled event involving the investigation of narcotics activity such as a warrant service, search warrant execution, pick off operation, surveillance and any narcotics purchase (e.g., buy-busts, buy/walk, controlled buys, reverse sting operations, etc.).

Secure Accurate Fast Event Tracking Network (SAFETNet): A comprehensive suite of applications to deconflict events, targets, and data. SAFETNet is a secure internet based application that prevents similar, conflicting events and targets between law enforcement agencies. Officer safety is increased by comparing similar events around the same time and location, pointing to similar targets worked by multiple agencies and notifying affected case agents. Security of case information is maintained because case details are not transmitted, only contact information for involved agencies. Access to SAFETNet is provided through the Atlanta-Carolinas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) and the EPIC portal.

Target: A person, location, thing or specific investigative information in which a criminal investigation is directed or focused.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. General

Case Explorer, RISSafe, and SAFETNet are the three (3) event deconfliction systems currently used by law enforcement agencies across the country. Case Explorer is operated by the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (W/B HIDTA). RISSafe is operated by Regional Information Sharing Systems. SAFETNet is the Secure Automated Fast Event Tracking Network and is supported by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) through the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC). Additionally, all three (3) event deconfliction systems are interfaced through technology called the Partner

Deconfliction Interface. This technology enables the three (3) nationally recognized event deconfliction systems to work as one (1) system so that a submission to one (1) system causes a query of the other two (2) systems.

1. As soon as is practicable prior to the initiation of an event (e.g., raids, undercover operations, surveillance, or the execution of arrest and/or search warrants, etc.), sworn personnel shall submit the event information to an event deconfliction system, when applicable.

2. The Clayton County Police Department shall utilize the Atlanta-Carolinas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (Henceforth referred to as HIDTA) for deconflicting events of a drug related nature.

B. Responsibility

The lead detective or assisting detective will complete event deconfliction, as specified below.

1. At a minimum, event deconfliction shall be conducted through HIDTA. The lead detective or assisting detective may contact HIDTA either through the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) portal, or telephonically at (404) 815-5559, between 0800 and 1700 hours or in urgent situations, to determine if the planned event interferes with an existing investigation. [CALEA 46.2.8 (a)]

2. The lead detective or assisting detective should attempt to contact/notify any local jurisdictions or agencies who may not participate in an event deconfliction system that may be affected when feasible.

3. The lead detective or assisting detective should also communicate with other units involved in similar types of specialized investigations within the Department.

C. Qualifying Events

The lead detective or assisting detective shall ensure that the following types of events are entered into the event deconfliction system either online or by telephone. All events requiring entry into the event deconfliction system should be made as soon as information is available, but at least two (2) hours prior to the event taking place, if possible.

1. The service of a search and/or arrest warrant;

2. The planned arrest of a person immediately following an operation/action by law enforcement personnel;

3. Taking delivery of contraband from an individual who is not intended to be arrested;

4. Conducting an operation whereby law enforcement personnel approaches an individual at his or her residence and requests permission to search for any contraband;

5. Predetermined surveillance operations, whether stationary or mobile;

6. Covert activity by law enforcement personnel, or by confidential sources acting under the direction of law enforcement personnel, that could cause a response from citizens or local police who may reasonably believe a crime is in progress;

7. Any other high-risk or specialized law enforcement activities identified in state or local regulation or protocol that would benefit from event deconfliction; or

8. Any other circumstances or investigations deemed necessary by a Special Operations Division supervisor, other Department supervisor, or chain of command.

D. Authorized Sworn Personnel

1. Generally, the lead detective or assisting detective of the Special Operations Division are authorized to contact HIDTA for event deconfliction.

2. In the event that another division in the Department determines the need for event deconfliction, a Special Operations Division supervisor, or designee, may be required and sought for guidance.

E. Information Provided to HIDTA

Information entered into the event deconfliction system shall include all information required by such system, to include, but not limited to, the following:

1. Case number;

2. Type of event (e.g., surveillance, arrest, search warrant, buy-busts, buy/walk, controlled buys, reverse sting operations, etc.);

3. Date and time of the planned event;

4. Location of the event, including the exact street address and any staging areas;

5. Lead agency name(s);

6. Name and agency of the contact person for the event, including cellular telephone number and a secondary point of contact for the event;

7. Search radius, if not preset by the event deconfliction system; and

8. Any other information deemed applicable to such event or investigation. [CALEA 46.2.8 (c)]

F. Event Deconfliction Number

An event deconfliction number shall be obtained from HIDTA and incorporated into the corresponding case file(s). In addition, any written *Action Plan(s)* related to the investigation shall include the event deconfliction number.

G. Discussion and Distribution of Deconfliction Information

1. After an event deconfliction number has been obtained and a conflict with another law enforcement agency or operation exists or arises, the lead detective or assisting detective shall take all steps necessary to resolve the conflict prior to the date and time of the event, including, but not limited to, contacting the other party identified in the event notification.

    All known details of the conflict(s) will be discussed with a concerned supervisor to make a decision regarding the continuation of the investigation and/or any further law enforcement action by this Department.

2. Prior to taking any action directed at a target, and in addition to writing an *Action Plan*, the lead detective or assisting detective, in conjunction with a concerned supervisor, shall conduct an operational briefing for all involved personnel. The briefing will include the fact that event deconfliction was completed and any known event conflicts will be discussed. [CALEA 46.2.8 (d)]

3. Employees who receive an event conflict notification and fail to make a good faith effort to resolve such conflict may be subject to civil, administrative, or criminal sanctions.

H. Authorized Users

Authorized users are personnel with assignments that may require them to perform event deconfliction.

1. Detectives assigned to the Special Operations Division shall establish an EPIC internet account.

2. Any other officer or detective who routinely initiates qualifying events should establish an EPIC internet account. In order to do so, officers and/or detectives not assigned to the Special Operations Division will need to obtain authorization from their immediate supervisor. When authorized, the supervisor will forward the request to the appropriate authority for final approval. [CALEA 46.2.8 (b)]

I.   Data Retention

The underlying information and files used by this Department to submit information to an event deconfliction system are subject to the same data retention policy as all other similar information held by law enforcement personnel in accordance with the Georgia Records Retention Schedule, and are subject to public inspection pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Act. In addition, nothing in this Act shall be deemed to change or supersede any purge, validation, or records retention policy established by an event deconfliction system for information submitted to and held by such system.

J.   Confidentiality and Misuse of Information

1.   Information submitted to an event deconfliction system is confidential and is not subject to the federal Freedom of Information Act or the Georgia Open Records Act, nor is it subject to civil, criminal, or administrative subpoena.

2.   Personnel authorized to submit information to or access information held by an event deconfliction system shall not:

a.   Submit information regarding any individual or address for any purpose not related to a legitimate criminal investigation; or

b.   Access information regarding any individual or address for any purpose not related to a legitimate criminal investigation.

3.   No person who is not authorized to submit information to or access information held by an event deconfliction system shall make such a submission or query such system for any purpose.

4.   Any misuse, as described in the above subsections (i.e., 2. and 3.) of this section by an employee, shall subject him or her to disciplinary action up to and including termination, and/or criminal action.

K.   Supervisor Responsibilities

Supervisors of employees involved in qualifying events shall ensure that deconfliction has been completed, both through the Special Operations Division and HIDTA, and that any conflicts are resolved before any qualifying events commence.

V.   **CANCELLATION**

A.   This procedure amends and supersedes the following standard operating procedure: *A12: Event Deconfliction*, dated November 30, 2015.