



Colorado Springs Police Department

Standard Operating Procedure

DL-1501-03 Acoustic Hailing Device

Section 1500 – Assigned Equipment

Effective Date: 8/30/2021

Supersedes Date: 9/29/2020

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines for the deployment and use of the Acoustic Hailing Device (AHD), also known as an LRAD.

.02 Cross Reference

[GO 450 Tactical Enforcement Unit](#)

[GO 460 Barricaded Suspects](#)

[GO 500 Use of Force](#)

[GO 510 Reporting Use of Force](#)

[GO 1210 Civil Disturbances and Demonstrations](#)

[GO 1500 Assigned Equipment](#)

[GO 1903 Body Worn Camera](#)

[DL-500-05 Long Range Acoustical Device \(LRAD\)](#)

.03 Definitions

AHD: Acoustic Hailing Device capable of emitting highly intelligible sounds at very high volumes over long distances. It is primarily a communication device used during tactical operations although it may be used to disrupt an unlawful assembly.

LRAD: A brand of AHD, which stands for Long-Range Acoustical Device used in this SOP synonymously with AHD.

.04 Procedure

It is the policy of the department to deploy the AHD when it is determined its use will maximize the safety of all individuals involved in an incident.

Equipment Description

The Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) utilizes the LRAD 450XL mounted on the Bearcat Tactical Rescue Vehicle and a portable LRAD 100X. The AHD provides volume adjustable, controlled directional sound in order to make verbal announcements, provide emergency warning, and/or emit unmistakable warning tones. The devices can produce loud, clearly intelligible voice commands that can be heard up to 1,700 meters away in ideal operating conditions.

The devices are typically used to communicate law enforcement authority during critical incidents and other high-risk police operations (e.g., natural disasters, barricaded suspects, execution of search warrants, etc.). The tool increases standoff distances thus increasing the safety of both officers and the involved individuals.

The device denotes three adjustable ranges of volume, described as:

- Green (Low)
- Yellow (Medium)
- Red (High)

Both devices allow the users to direct the sound waves, ranging from a focused cone (e.g., barricaded suspects, execution of search warrants) to a wide cone (e.g., mass demonstration situations).

If used improperly, both devices can produce sound pressure levels that can cause temporary or permanent hearing damage.

Deployment Conditions

The LRAD will only be used at the direction of the Tactical Operations Lieutenant or a staff officer. The device will not be used in the red volume zone unless specifically directed by the Tactical Operations Lieutenant or staff officer.

Users of the device, as well as those department personnel, who are near the LRAD during its use will don hearing protection to avoid hearing damage.

Communication

The LRAD may be used in the following circumstances to communicate with the public:

- Initiate communications with barricaded suspect or hostage taker
- Provide instructions during the execution of search or arrest warrants
- Issue dispersal orders or evacuation orders in the event of
 - Civil disturbances

- Natural disasters
- Evacuations of large geographic locations
- Any other critical incident as determined by the Tactical Operations Lieutenant or staff officer

When possible, the user will use a prerecorded message to make announcements. In most situations, the message will be given two times, with a reasonable amount of time given between the messages to allow for those receiving the communication to comply with the directions given. If compliance is indicated/gained during the prerecorded messages, the user may transition to giving others direction using the microphones live feed function.

When the use of a prerecorded message is not practical the user may give others direction using the microphones live feed function.

Use in Mass Demonstration Events

In a mass demonstration situation, the LRAD should be mounted in an elevated position on top of a vehicle and directed to project over the top of the crowd, rather than directly at members of the crowd.

Warning (Disruptor) Tone-area denial

Both devices can give a warning/disruptor tone and may be used at the direction of the Tactical Operations Lieutenant or a staff officer. The way the warning/disruptor tones are used dictates whether the use will be considered a reportable use of force.

Training

The LRAD will only be used by officers trained in its deployment and in a manner consistent with this procedure and department training. The simplicity of the device indicates on-going/recertification training is unnecessary.

Documentation of Use

Use of the LRAD under any circumstances will be documented by the user in a police supplement report. The report will document:

- The sound level the LRAD was set on (e.g., green, yellow, red).
- Whether it was on wide mode or focused.
- The general direction of the LRAD in regard to the intended target and approximate distance from target.
- The announcement given or duration if used on disruptor mode.

In addition to authoring a police supplemental report, the user will capture its use on body worn camera.

Equipment Inspection

The LRAD is used on a routine basis to communicate during critical incidents and other high-risk police operations, thus indicating regular inspections are unnecessary. Trained operators who believe the devices are not working as intended will immediately cease using them until they can be repaired by a competent authority.