



Colorado Springs Police Department

Standard Operating Procedure

DL-500-05 Long Range Acoustical Device (LRAD)

Section 500 – Use of Force

Effective Date: 1/10/2022

Supersedes Date: N/A

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to outline the processes for using and documenting the department's Long Range Acoustical Device (LRAD) when used as a compliance tool.

.02 Cross Reference

[GO 500 Use of Force](#)

[GO 504 Body Worn Camera](#)

[GO 510 Reporting Use of Force](#)

[DL-1210-01 Assemblies and Mass Events](#)

[DL-1501-03 Acoustic Hailing Device](#)

.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.

Active Aggression: A threat or overt act of an assault, coupled with the present ability to carry out the threat or assault, which reasonably indicates that an assault or injury to any person is imminent. Threatening body language includes but is not limited to blading the body, assuming a boxer stance, circling officer, or marshal's position, clenching of the hands from an open to closed position, forming a fist, etc. Active Aggression is a higher level of resistance than Active Resistance.

Active Resistance: Physically evasive movements to defeat an officer or marshal's attempt to control, including but not limited to bracing, tensing, pushing, flailing arms, running away, or verbally signaling an intention to avoid or prevent being taken into or retained in custody. Active Resistance also includes attempting to avoid apprehension and failing to comply with an officer

or marshal's order to reveal themselves from concealment or surrender. Walking away may be considered active resistance if the person continues to walk away from an officer or marshal after having been given a lawful order or having been told the person is under arrest. Active Resistance is a higher level of resistance than Passive Resistance.

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

Passive Resistance: Physical actions that do not prevent the officer or marshal's attempt to control; for example, a person who remains in a limp, prone position, or passive demonstrators.

.04 Procedure

It is the policy of the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) that officers use only the force reasonably necessary to effectively bring an incident under control.

Use of Warning/Disruptor Tones

While the devices are most often used as an enhanced communication tool, both are capable of delivering warning/disruptor tones. The warning/disruptor tone can be used in an attempt to gain someone's attention (e.g., directing the tones at a residence during the execution of a search warrant) or by emitting high-decibel focused sound waves intended to cause pain/discomfort (e.g., directing the tones directly at a person).

Adjustable Ranges of Volume

The warning/disruptor tones can be delivered in three adjustable ranges of volume, described as:

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

These ranges are used to represent the adjustable volume and are not used as a measure of escalating/de-escalating a use of force.

Circumstances for Warning/Disruptor Tone Use

The warning/disruptor tone is an effective tool that may be utilized to:

- Gain attention of persons prior to issuing a verbal message
- Disperse or redirect crowds
- Distract, overwhelm, or confuse a suspect who is providing active resistance or active aggression

- Create a distraction
- Other incidents as determined by the Tactical Operations Lieutenant or staff officer

Situational Awareness Prior to Warning/Disruptor Tone Use

The operator will be aware of others in the area that may be affected and focus the sound appropriately. Prior to activating the tone, advanced notice should be provided to perimeter officers when possible in order for them to don hearing protection.

Authorized Use of Warning/Disruptor Tones

Trained operators are authorized to use the LRAD's warning/disruptor tones:

- When they have grounds to arrest or detain a person or group, **and**
- The person's/group's actions are at a level of active resistance or active aggression **and**
- When directed to do so by the Tactical Operations Lieutenant or a staff officer

Warning Given Prior to Using Warning/Disruptor Tones

Prior to using the warning/disruptor tones, the operator will:

- Identify themselves as a police officer
- Give clear verbal warnings of their intent to use force **and** allow for sufficient time to comply

The officer is not required to give this warning when doing so would unduly place officers at risk of injury and/or would create a risk of death or injury to other persons. When a warning cannot be given in a situation where force is used, the officer will document the reasons why in the case report.

Warning/Disruptor Tone Use in Crowd Dispersal Warning

Prior to the warning/disruptor tone being used to disperse or redirect a crowd, the LRAD's communication function will be used to order the crowd to disperse. The dispersal order will be repeated until it can be reasonably calculated that the order was heard by the entire assemblage.

Once sufficient time has been given to allow the crowd the opportunity to disperse, the Tactical Operations Lieutenant or a staff officer may authorize the use of the warning/disruptor tone.

Use of the Warning/Disruptor Tones

The warning/disruptor tone will only be deployed in continuous durations ranging from two (2) to no longer than five (5) seconds. If necessary, the tones can be delivered in this range until the use

of the device no longer meets the conditions for authorized use (*Authorized Use of Warning/Disruptor Tones*).

The warning/disruptor tone should only be used when a person/group is more than approximately 30 feet (10 meters) in front of the LRAD. The device's effectiveness may be decreased when an individual is closer than 30 feet (e.g., the sound is likely to be directed over their head) or when they are outside of the sound cone (e.g., behind the device, off to the side of it, etc.).

Reporting

Only those situations where the devices are used to cause pain/discomfort will be documented as a reportable use of force. While the authorization to use the warning/disruptor tones is given by the Tactical Operations Lieutenant or the staff officer, the operator who uses the device will be responsible for documenting the use of force.

In addition to reporting these situations as a reportable use of force, the officer deploying the warning/disruptor tone will also complete a police supplement report. At a minimum, the report will document:

- The person's/group's actions that constituted active resistance or active aggression
- 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
- The approximate distance from the target
- The announcement given
- The number of warning/disruptor tones given
- The duration of each warning/disruptor tone

Training

The warning/disruptor tone will be used in accordance with the manufacturers recommendation and department policy. Only those trained in the use of the LRAD and in the warning/disruptor tone function will use the warning/disruptor tone function.