



# Colorado Springs Police Department

## General Order

### 1200 Tactical Enforcement Unit

#### Section 1200 – Critical Incident Functions

Effective Date: 12/9/2024

Supersedes Date: 5/6/2021

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## .01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines for the use of the Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU).

## .02 Cross Reference

[GO 1206 Bomb Threats and Explosives Incidents](#)

[GO 1210 Assemblies & Mass Events](#)

[GO 1220 Incident Command System](#)

[GO 1223 Hazardous Materials Incidents](#)

[GO 1535 Unmanned Aerial Systems & Unit](#)

[GO 1841 Staff and Personnel Notifications](#)

[DL-1000-02 Law Enforcement Decision-Making](#)

[DL-1840-02 Callout Criteria for Tactical Enforcement Unit](#)

[TEU-01 Tactical Enforcement Unit](#)

## .03 Discussion

The TEU was first established in 1976 when it was determined there existed a need for a flexible, well-trained, and well-equipped unit to handle certain exceptional circumstances. The department continues to maintain a highly trained and mobile team of officers who provide specialized support in managing high-risk operations that are beyond the training, techniques, or tools available to other police personnel, with the purpose of preserving life.

## **.04 Policy**

When department personnel become aware of an incident that may require the deployment of TEU, the responding patrol sergeant should notify the on-call TEU supervisor, as soon as possible.

After notification, the TEU supervisor must be kept informed of the developments of the incident to ensure that the most current information is used in making decisions.

- 1) The TEU on-call supervisor, or designee, in consultation with the tactical operations lieutenant, will authorize the response of the team via the Communications Center which will issue a page.
- 2) TEU operations will utilize the Safety Priorities Decision Making model as outlined in [DL1000-02 Law Enforcement Decision-Making](#).

## **.05 Definitions**

*Specialized Response Team:* A cadre of patrol officers who support the TEU as an ancillary duty to their normal patrol shift and assignment.

*Tactical Commander:* The tactical operations lieutenant, or in their absence, the designated Specialized Enforcement Division (SED) back-up lieutenant.

*Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU):* In common law enforcement language the TEU is a special weapons and tactics team, commonly known as SWAT.

## **.10 Utilization Guidelines**

As a guideline for decision-making, the following represents some typical situations where the TEU may be of assistance:

- High risk fugitive apprehension
- Execution of high-risk search or arrest warrants
- Response to serious crime-in-progress call
- Sniper or suspected snipers
- Barricaded or suspected barricaded gunman
- Hostage or suspected hostage situations
- Large fights, gang fights, fights with weapons, or civil disturbances/riots
- VIP security
- Security for large crime scenes posing a risk to community safety (e.g., bomb threat area, plane crash, mass shooting scenes, etc.)

- **Hijackings** or suspected hijackers when the vehicle is in the city, or the aircraft is on the ground
- “Officer needs help” calls
- Any situation where the supervisor on the scene determines the TEU can provide tactical advice or assistance to abate the situation with the least amount of danger to persons or damage to property as possible.

## **.20 Unit Structure/Personnel**

TEU is assigned to Investigations and Special Operations Bureau (ISOB), Specialized Enforcement Division (SED).

The chain of command is as follows:

- ISOB Deputy Chief
- SED Commander
- Tactical Operations Lieutenant
- **Three (3)** TEU supervising sergeants

Team personnel consist of:

- [REDACTED]

In addition to the above-mentioned chain of command, three TEU officers are designated as "team leaders." The role of the team leader and unit operations is defined in [TEU-01 Tactical Enforcement Unit](#).

## **.30 Command and Control During Operation**

Upon arrival of the TEU, the tactical commander does not assume the role of the incident commander (IC). The tactical commander is the decision-making authority for all tactical operations to achieve tactical objectives. The IC remains responsible for all other aspects of the incident which may include, but are not limited to, traffic control operations, maintaining crime scene integrity, the collection of evidence, and investigative process including the interview of witnesses or victims, and crime scene processing. It is important that the IC is with the tactical commander to ensure continuity of command and communications while the event is resolved.

TEU sergeants are responsible for executing the decision of the tactical commander. They determine how to deploy the personnel and establish team member assignments, directly supervising the TEU officers and SRT personnel. Members may be assigned to various positions, duties, or tasks that may include:

- Containment or perimeter teams
- Sniper/observer teams
- Arrest, rescue, or entry teams
- Less lethal and/or chemical teams
- Designated team leaders may be assigned to oversee specific duties or responsibilities as noted above.

Other teams may support the TEU and remain under the command of the tactical commander. These teams may include the following, depending upon the nature of the emergency/operation:

- Regional Explosives Unit
- Crisis Negotiators Unit
- Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS)

## **.40 Professional Membership**

The TEU is a member of the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA), an association of more than 40,000 members to establish an information-sharing network among tactical teams in order to enhance team performance, promote professionalism, and “improve public safety and domestic security through training, education, and tactical excellence.”

The TEU is also a member of the Rocky Mountain Tactical Team Association (RMTTA). Similar to the NTOA, it is a regional membership of SWAT team members in Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Kansas. The purpose is for an informal gathering of interested SWAT team members to share pertinent information and display new equipment, techniques, and training.

## **.50 Crisis Negotiators Unit**

The Crisis Negotiators Unit (CNU) regularly supports TEU during high-risk barricaded subjects or hostage situations. Membership on the team is an ancillary assignment for officers regularly assigned to other units. The unit’s command and coordination is the responsibility of the Tactical Operations Lieutenant of the SED. During an incident, the CNU reports to the tactical commander.

## **.52 Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS)**

The CSPD TEU partners with the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD). The CSFD provides trained emergency medical technicians and/or paramedics as a TEMS Unit to respond and provide medical support for TEU. TEMS members receive training to assist TEU officers within the tactical environment and will, when feasible, respond with TEU to emergency calls.