



Colorado Springs Police Department

Standard Operating Procedure

DL-1210-02 Public Order Response Team

Section 1200 – Critical Incident Functions

Effective Date: 10/15/2024

Supersedes Date: 11/16/2020

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to define the responsibilities associated with the Public Order Response Team (PORT) and outline the team's deployment operations.

.02 Cross-Reference

[GO 121 Fair and Impartial Policing](#)

[GO 500 Use of Force](#)

[GO 510 Reporting Use of Force](#)

[GO 1210 Assemblies & Mass Events](#)

[DL-1210-01 Assembly & Mass Event Operations](#)

[DL-1210-03 Mass Arrest Operations](#)

[DL-1860-01 Retention of Personnel in Specialized Units](#)

.03 Definitions

Community Liaison Officer: An officer trained to communicate with event organizers before and during an event to help keep an event lawful.

Grenadier: A PORT team member who is trained and certified in the proper use of less lethal munitions and chemical irritants.

Serial: A team of officers consisting [REDACTED]

.04 Procedure

PORT responds to events with the mission of protecting constitutional rights and ensuring public safety. This mission will be carried out in accordance with department policy and in the interest of mitigating the likelihood of personal injury, property damage, and other associated criminal activity.

PORT will be called upon to respond to large disturbances, demonstrations, and/or protests at the discretion of the Specialized Enforcement Division (SED) Commander or a command staff duty officer when the situation is deemed beyond the capability of the managing and monitoring resources of the Patrol Bureau.

Operational Standards

PORT is comprised of a cadre of Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) officers who have received specialized training in crowd management and crowd control using tactics adopted from public order units in the United Kingdom and US-based FEMA training. The specialized training includes tools specific to crowd control that are only available to trained PORT members. Such tools include additional specialized protective equipment and officers trained in the deployment of less lethal/chemical munitions (i.e., a grenadier). PORT personnel can be utilized to respond to events that could benefit from this specialized training and response.

Community Liaison Officers provide a benefit for public safety, participant safety, and officer safety that result from mutually cooperative communications with event organizers before and during an event. Their primary goal is to support a safer environment for everyone involved to lawfully exercise their First Amendment rights of speech and assembly.

PORT Structure

PORT will consist of:

- [REDACTED]

PORT is divided into four serials: ALPHA, BRAVO, CHARLIE, and DELTA. Working as a serial, officers will be cross trained in the various roles and responsibilities of the team to allow greater flexibility during a PORT deployment.

On-Call Responsibilities

The on-call schedule for each serial will rotate weekly throughout the year.

PORT Selection Criteria

PORT is considered an ancillary duty to a sworn member's regularly assigned responsibilities.

Openings on PORT will be posted by Human Resources to officers, who may then apply for consideration as directed in the posting. To be considered for the team, officers will be nonprobationary officers (P-3 or higher) who have achieved a rating of at least 2.0 on their last two full years of evaluations.

Selections for the team will be made by the Specialized Enforcement Division. Officers will be selected from throughout the department's sworn ranks in the interest of not only developing qualified members, but also to minimize the impact on any one bureau's/division's personnel resources when the team is deployed.

PORT Retention

PORT personnel below the rank of lieutenant are subject to the retention practices outlined in DL-1860-01 Retention of Personnel in Specialized Units.

Responsibilities

PORT Lieutenant

PORT is managed by the SED's Patrol Support Lieutenant. The PORT Lieutenant will be trained in PORT practices and will continually assess tactical trends that could benefit the team's practices.

The PORT Lieutenant or designee will oversee all PORT deployments.

The PORT Lieutenant will be responsible for:

- Recruiting team members
- Managing all equipment and resources for the team
- Attending the required training
- Ensuring team members participate in the assigned bi-annual training

PORT Team Leads

PORT Team Leads will be responsible for:

- Assisting the PORT Lieutenant in identifying training needs, developing training schedules, and maintaining the team's assigned equipment
- Maintaining all training documentation and submissions to the Training Division for entry into the officer's training file
- Maintaining all equipment and resources for the team
- Supervising the officers assigned to a serial
- Attending the required training
- Ensuring the serials are disciplined in carrying out the team's mission

- Helping develop deployment plans in connection with an event

PORT Training Officers

PORT Training Officers will be responsible for:

- Documenting all training conducted and ensuring the training records are provided to the PORT team leads and lieutenant prior to submission to the Training Division.
- Ensuring each PORT officer is issued the proper training equipment
- Attending the required training

Community Liaison Officers

This is a cadre of officers with specialized training in procedural justice, de-escalation, and negotiations.

Community Liaison Officers will be responsible for:

- Attending required training
- Being available for on-call responsibilities and responding to the SED building within one (1) hour of being notified of a call out/deployment
- Adapting to and working with a variety of communication strategies to deescalate situations
- Performing responsibilities effectively in collaboration with organizers of an assembly or mass event regardless of the content of the group's message.

PORT Officers

PORT Officers will be responsible for:

- Attending the required training
- Maintaining their assigned equipment
- Being available for on-call responsibilities and responding to the SED building within one (1) hour of being notified of a call out/deployment
- Being disciplined in carrying out the team's mission

Training

Training for PORT, up to and including the PORT Lieutenant, will take place a minimum of two (2) times a year and must include a minimum of 20 hours of instruction. This training will be focused on crowd management methods and tactics. The training will be separate from any inservice training conducted by the training academy and any training required of non-PORT team officers.

Community Liaison Officers will not be required to attend PORT training but will complete quarterly specialized training within the Specialized Enforcement Division.

Training records will be submitted to the Training Division for entry in officers' training records.

Authority to Activate

PORT will be activated as determined appropriate by the SED Commander or a staff duty officer. Activations will be conducted via Everbridge by the PORT Lieutenant.

Deployment

Prior to an event the team may be required to respond to, the PORT Lieutenant, team leads, and/or the training officer will develop a deployment strategy specific to the event.

Prior to an event, the team leads and officers assigned to the responding serial will be advised of the event and responsible for undertaking the team's mission. This notification will include the location of the event, its date/time, and the staging location. As much as reasonably possible, on-duty patrol officers and detectives should be provided with similar information about the event and the PORT team's response to it.

When necessary, on-duty officers may be assembled to support PORT. This includes, but is not limited to, the assembly of arrest teams, prisoner processing teams, and transport teams.

Based upon the size of the event, PORT may be held in reserve as a rapid response team to address more serious aspects of an event, leaving the initial crowd management and crowd control activities to the support teams.

During a PORT deployment, the PORT Lieutenant or designee will manage the team's movements and actions in conjunction with the Command Staff-level Incident Commander (IC).

PORT Officers are trained in the use of a variety of less lethal tools that are not available to patrol officers. This includes, but is not limited to, less lethal impact weapons, chemical irritants, and smoke munitions. PORT will only use smoke, chemical irritants, or other hand-thrown munitions at the direction of the PORT Lieutenant with approval from a command staff-level officer, which

will be granted in compliance with Colorado law governing the use of less lethal tools to disperse a “protest, demonstration, or assembly” (C.R.S. § 24-31-905).