



GENERAL ORDER

DURHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
DURHAM, NC

NUMBER:

4087

MOBILE FIELD FORCE

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INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Durham Police Department's Mobile Field Force (MFF) is to protect lives and property by maintaining order during acts of civil disobedience, riots, or similar situations. The MFF consists of structured teams of sworn personnel that are equipped and trained to manage these events through crowd control or dispersal techniques, extracting crowd agitators or leaders, making mass arrests, or protecting large areas, crime scenes, or critical structures. This General Order aims to facilitate this mission.

DEFINITIONS

Affected Area: The area within which a riot, civil disorder, or catastrophic incident occurs.

Anticipated Incident: An event predicted to occur, likely to cause or be accompanied by civil disorder, and for which the department can prepare and respond. Examples include controversial court decisions, elections, planned demonstrations, sporting events, and celebrations.

Civil Disobedience: As defined by the Center for Domestic Preparedness - The nonviolent, often passive, refusal to obey civil laws to change government policy or legislation.

Civil Disorder: As defined by the Center for Domestic Preparedness - Any public disturbance involving numerous people who commit violent acts that cause immediate danger or injury to people or property.

Civil Disturbance: As defined by the Center for Domestic Preparedness - Group acts of violence and disorder prejudicial to public law and order.

Dispersal Order: A lawful order to disperse issued by a law enforcement officer pursuant to North Carolina General Statute [\(NCGS\) § 14-288.5](#), which states, in part, "Any law-enforcement officer or public official responsible for keeping the peace may issue a command to disperse in accordance with this section if he reasonably believes that a riot or disorderly conduct by an assemblage of three or more persons is occurring. The command to disperse shall be given in a manner reasonably calculated to be communicated to the assemblage."

Egress Route(s): Designated unobstructed dispersal route(s) which are a means of exit from an area.

Extrication Team: A team within the Mobile Field Force composed of Durham Police Department personnel and/or Durham Fire Department personnel responsible for dismantling demonstrator-made obstacles and devices.

Extrication Team members must have successfully completed the Center for Domestic Preparedness Field Force Extrication Course.

Grenadier: A designated officer that has been trained and certified in the use of Riot Control Agents (RCAs) and Less Lethal Impact Munitions (LLIMs).

Less Lethal Impact Munitions (LLIM): Kinetic energy munitions used in situations dealing with aggressive subjects when a less-than-lethal response is needed. The impact of a low-density projectile on the body inflicts blunt trauma, causing pain compliance to alter behavior.

Less Lethal Impact Munition Delivery Systems: For the purposes of this General Order, Riot Control Agent Delivery Systems are tools that are designed to deliver Less Lethal Impact Munitions. These delivery systems can be direct fired, launched, or otherwise propelled for the purpose of encouraging compliance, overcoming resistance, or preventing serious injury without posing a significant risk of death and are considered to be a less lethal option under the Durham Police Department's General Order (G.O.) [4008 - Use of Force](#).

Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD): An acoustic hailing device developed by LRAD Corporation to send messages and warning tones over longer distances or at a higher volume than a normal loudspeaker. The device is authorized for communication purposes only, such as dispersal orders, warnings, or announcements during catastrophic events.

Mobile Field Force (MFF): Officers trained and assembled to provide a rapid, organized, and disciplined response to civil disorder, crowd management, or other situations involving a tactical response.

Public Disturbance: As defined by [NCGS §14-288.1\(8\)](#), any annoying, disturbing, or alarming act or condition exceeding the bounds of social toleration normal for the time and place in question, which occurs in a public place or affects persons in a place to which the public or a substantial group has access.

Riot: As defined by [NCGS §14-288.2](#) and the Center for Domestic Preparedness, a riot is a public disturbance involving an assemblage of three or more persons which by disorderly and violent conduct, or the imminent threat thereof, results in injury or damage to persons or property or creates a clear and present danger of such.

Riot Control Agents (RCAs): Riot Control Agents are chemical compounds or organic naturally occurring substances that are used by law enforcement to control crowds and protect life and property. RCAs are used only after peaceable methods have failed or an escalation of force is justified following the law and in accordance with Durham Police Department's G.O. [4008 - Use of Force](#). RCAs are intended to cause irritation or inflammation of the eyes, mouth, throat, lungs, and skin in an attempt to stop or deter acts of violence or the imminent threat of violence.

Riot Control Agent Delivery Systems: For the purposes of this General Order, Riot Control Agent Delivery Systems are tools that are designed to deliver RCAs. These delivery systems can be direct fired, launched, or otherwise propelled for the purpose of encouraging compliance, overcoming resistance, or preventing serious injury without posing a significant risk of death and are considered to be a less lethal option under the Durham Police Department's G.O. [4008 - Use of Force](#).

Special Operations Support Officer (SOSO): A designee responsible for maintaining, preparing, and ensuring operational readiness for all equipment and supplies related to the mobile field force program. The SOSO reports directly to the Lieutenant of the Organized Crime Division.

Unforeseen Event: An unscheduled or unanticipated event that requires an immediate response and necessitates additional resources to manage.

PROCEDURE

The Mobile Field Force (MFF) consists of sworn personnel that are specially trained and equipped for crowd management operations, catastrophic events, and protecting critical structures, or large crime scenes. The Mobile Field Force is comprised of the following positions:

- MFF Commander - The Organized Crime Division Captain or designee
- MFF Assistant Commander - The Organized Crime Division Lieutenant or designee
- One (1) or two (2) Platoons consisting of the following positions for each Platoon:
 - One (1) Platoon Leader
 - Two (2) Assistant Platoon Leaders
 - Three to Five Squads consisting of the following positions:
 - One (1) Squad Leader
 - One (1) Assistant Squad Leader
 - Squad Members

**Each Platoon has three (3) to five squads (5) for general deployment consisting of approximately eight (8) to fifteen (15) Squad Members. Additional squads from other platoons can be added as needed in extreme situations when a call back of Uniform Patrol officers is necessary and authorized.*

Selective Enforcement Team (SET)

The Selective Enforcement Team is responsible for providing Grenadier support, overwatch, and acting as an officer rescue resource to the Mobile Field Force. The SET Tactical Medic is responsible for providing initial, immediate emergency medical services to any SET, MFF, or support officer in the field.

Biological Chemical Emergency Response Team (BCERT)

BCERT is tasked with providing logistical and equipment support during an MFF deployment. In the case of a device or material of unknown nature is discovered or used against citizens or officers, BCERT will handle it in accordance with the Durham Police Department's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) [Manual 3.4 - BCERT](#). BCERT personnel will act as liaisons with personnel from various responding agencies. Typically, this will include the Durham County Sheriff Bomb Squad, Durham Fire Department Hazmat Team, and Durham County Emergency Management.

Hostage Negotiation Team

The Hostage Negotiation Team will be utilized in a support role during a MFF deployment. This may include giving dispersal orders, announcements, directions, etc. This will be done through the use of an LRAD, loudspeaker, or other amplifying devices.

Extrication Team

The Extrication Team will be stood-up and deployed on an as-needed basis. If the Incident Commander determines that demonstrator-made obstacles or devices are present and need to be dismantled or removed. Officers certified in mobile field force extrication will be utilized.

The Extrication Team will be deployed with the recommended number of personnel according to procedures detailed in the Mobile Field Force Extrication course from the Center for Domestic Preparedness. This team may be supplemented with Durham Fire Department personnel.

MOBILE FIELD FORCE TRAINING

The mobile field force will train annually, with additional training as needed based on department requirements and national trends. Training will consist of classroom or online delivery and practical field exercises. All training records and certifications will be maintained by the Durham Police Department's training division.

MOBILE FIELD FORCE EQUIPMENT

MFF will provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to its officers, as well as other tools and equipment that may be necessary for the safe and effective completion of all assigned tasks.

- When activated, MFF officers will report to Durham Police Headquarters or other designated staging locations as specified by the Incident Commander to retrieve the needed MFF equipment. The Special Operations Support Officer (SOSO) or designee, will be responsible for overseeing the issuance of this equipment and maintaining issue logs during an activation. If issued equipment is damaged or lost during deployment, the individual MFF officer is responsible for notifying the SOSO of the damage. This equipment will not be altered in any way unless authorized by the MFF Commander or their designee. Post-deployment decontamination of issued equipment will be conducted by the SOSO and BCERT personnel. In the event that MFF PPE is issued to each individual officer, equipment would not need to be issued before each activation.
- MFF equipment will be inspected quarterly. The SOSO will schedule the inspections and coordinate the inspection with the MFF Commanders and Platoon Leaders.
- MFF equipment will be stored in the MFF Room, currently located at the Durham Police Headquarters. MFF equipment may be temporarily moved and stored at off-site staging locations if circumstances require.

ACTIVATION AND MOBILIZATION

The activation and mobilization of the Mobile Field Force will follow the protocols established in The Durham Police Department's G.O. [4022- Civil Disturbances and Mass Arrests](#) and [4021 - Unusual Occurrences and Incident Command](#). The MFF will be activated and/or deployed by order of the Chief of Police or their designee.

- The Organized Crime Division shall maintain the roster of all active MFF personnel and will ensure all related databases are updated as needed. This will ensure a rapid analysis of available MFF resources.
- MFF Command will be responsible for creating and providing a deployment roster to the designated incident commander and assist with any operational planning.
- MFF personnel will respond to Durham Police Department Headquarters or other designated staging locations as directed by the incident commander when activated.

At a minimum, one (1) MFF Platoon consisting of four (4) squads of eight (8) members will be mobilized. For safety concerns, these numbers will not be reduced unless otherwise dictated by the MFF Commander or their designee.

CROWD CONTROL/DISPERSAL

When the Incident Commander determines the need, they will give the order for the Hostage Negotiations Unit or designee to issue warnings to the crowd to disperse, if time and circumstances permit.

A crowd will be dispersed pursuant to [NCGS § 14-288.5](#) which states, in part. “Any law enforcement officer or public official responsible for keeping the peace may issue a command to disperse in accordance with this section if he reasonably believes that a riot, or disorderly conduct by an assemblage of three or more persons, is occurring.” The command to disperse shall be given in a manner that is clearly communicated to the intended audience.

The following procedures shall be used when issuing crowd dispersal orders:

1. Warnings will be issued with an *Electronic Amplification Device (EAD)*, preferably a LRAD. Warnings will be repeated as necessary, so as to be heard by the entire crowd. Pre-recorded dispersal orders may be utilized on the EAD in both English and Spanish. The EAD is to be used for communication purposes only. If the LRAD is not available a megaphone or loudspeaker can be utilized as the EAD.

The warning and order to disperse will be recorded utilizing Body-Worn Cameras. The person(s) issuing the warning and order to disperse is responsible for recording the warning Use of issued body-worn cameras will follow all protocols outlined in Durham Police Department’s G.O. [4083-Body-Worn Cameras](#).

2. The warning shall consist of an announcement that the assembly (or other offense) is unlawful and will include an order that the crowd disperse.
 - a. EXAMPLE: I am (name and rank) of the Durham Police Department. I hereby declare this to be an unlawful assembly and command all persons assembled at (give specific location) to immediately and peacefully disperse. If you do not disperse, you will be subject to arrest. You have (number of minutes appropriate for the size of the specific crowd present to safely disperse) minutes to disperse. You must disperse by traveling (direction) on (street name.)
3. If the crowd refuses to disperse after a reasonable amount of time following the initial warning, the Incident Commander or designee will direct additional warnings ordering the participants to disperse or be subject to arrest. Each additional warning will include an updated number of minutes remaining to disperse. Each warning will be documented with a time stamp through Durham Emergency Communications Center (DECC) in the Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD). The timestamp request will be made to DECC by the Incident Commander or designee.
4. If the crowd refuses to disperse after a reasonable amount of time following the final warning, the Incident Commander or designee will direct the MFF Command to coordinate the dispersal of the crowd or arrest of violators.
5. If the dispersed crowd reassembles at another location after a lapse of time, additional dispersal orders must be given absent exigent circumstances.
6. When a dispersal order is given, the dispersal order and egress routes will be audibly communicated repeatedly, loudly, and clearly to the crowd. Designated egress routes will not be intentionally blocked by Riot Control Agents (RCA) or physical presence.

The number of warnings given, methods used, the time intervals between warnings, and any order to disperse the crowd or make an arrest, will be documented by the Incident Commander or their designee. This information will be included in the After Action Report as outlined in Durham Police Department's G.O. [4021- Unusual Occurrences & Incident Command.](#)

DEPLOYMENT OF RIOT CONTROL AGENTS

The deployment of Riot Control Agents (RCAs) is intended to disperse unlawful individuals or crowds, stop riotous behavior, deny access to a protected area by unlawful individuals or crowds, and ensure the safety of the public and officers. Prior to deploying RCAs, dispersal orders must be given unless exigent circumstances exist.

1. Deployment of RCAs shall only be authorized by the Incident Commander unless exigent circumstances dictate and the immediate use of RCAs is critical for safety.
2. Only certified and authorized Grenadiers will deploy RCAs
3. To prevent contamination of uninvolved parties, the following shall be done:
 - Evacuation of uninvolved citizens from the affected area should be attempted in the absence of exigent circumstances;
 - Contact shall be attempted with local businesses and or residents to deactivate air conditioning (HVAC) units, close doors, etc., to avoid additional contamination of uninvolved persons unless exigent circumstances prohibit;
 - Notify Durham Fire Department and request staging near the scene of the event;
 - Evacuate other police personnel present prior to deployment of RCAs to avoid exposure of any unprotected personnel unless exigent circumstances prohibit it.
4. Prior to deployment, all vehicular traffic should be diverted or stopped unless exigent circumstances exist. In addition, wind direction, meteorological conditions, and the location of adjacent roadways to the immediate area and nearby interstates or freeways should be considered.
5. The Platoon Leader will communicate directly with the SET Grenadier(s) and MFF Commanders to positively identify any threat(s) and detail the actions committed by the individual(s).
6. Once authorized by the Incident Commander, the SET Grenadier shall not deploy munitions until he or she makes an independent assessment of the present or imminent threat. In assessing the target(s), the SET Grenadier must personally observe an articulable action by the individual or crowd that has been reported to pose an imminent threat. Once the SET Grenadier makes an independent observation that the person(s) present(s) an imminent threat, he or she may deploy RCAs as authorized by the Incident Commander in a manner consistent with their training. Officers should only use the quantity of RCAs pursuant to training that is objectively reasonable and necessary at the time, given the totality of the circumstances.

The quantity of RCAs to be used should be based upon:

- The seriousness of the incident and/or the refusal to disperse;
- The threat to the community posed by the subjects;
- The location: size, wind, weather, and type of RCAs to be used;
- The available positions and locations from which RCAs can be deployed;

- The number of certified Grenadiers available to deploy RCAs;
- The deployment will be made with consideration of the possibility of contamination/exposure to at-risk or high-risk individuals;
- The reactions of the subjects to the munitions being deployed;
- Any other relevant factors not covered in this policy;

RCAs will be delivered to suspect(s) target areas based on the circumstances, manufacturer guidelines, established safety priorities, and the level of force authorized consistent with Durham Police Department's G.O. [4008 - Use of Force](#).

7. After the scene is secure, all deployed RCAs will be removed from the scene unless circumstances dictate otherwise, such as the area becoming an active crime scene.

DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES

All persons exposed to RCAs will be provided decontamination assistance as quickly as is reasonably possible:

- Flushing with cool water for at least ten (10) minutes can relieve skin contamination for most RCAs. OC Vapor and CS (Orthochlorobenzalidinemalonitrile) RCAs are generally decontaminated by moving the contaminated person to fresh air.
- Persons in custody shall be provided medical treatment when necessary.

REPORTING PROCEDURES

Any use of RCAs or Less Lethal Impact Munitions will be reported to the Incident Commander through the MFF Commander as soon as practical. An Incident Report will be completed and a Use of Force Blue Team will be conducted pursuant to Durham Police Department's G.O. [4008 -Use of Force](#). Injury to Citizen or Officer supplemental reports will be generated as needed.

JOINT OPERATIONS WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Incident Commander will designate MFF personnel for staging area security, escort, fire scene security, and protection of Fire Department personnel as needed.

Scene Security

- Officers may be called upon to secure an area before the fire department responds to the scene and will remain in place to protect fire personnel during the deployment.

Escort

- Officers will provide escorts for fire personnel, vehicles, and equipment into and out of any hazardous zones.

When deployed together, officers and fire units will communicate on the same radio frequency established by Incident Command.

All police assignments shall be coordinated through Incident Command.

MASS ARREST PROCEDURES

Mass arrests conducted by members of the MFF will follow procedures outlined in Durham Police Department's G.O. [4022- Civil Disturbances & Mass Arrests.](#)

If possible, prior to conducting mass arrests, notification should be made to the Durham County Sheriff's Office. The Incident Commander or designee is responsible for making this notification. The Durham County Sheriff's Detention Center is the preferred prisoner processing facility for all arrests.

TERMINATION OF CIVIL DISORDER ACTIVITIES AND DEMOBILIZATION PROCEDURES

When the situation has subsided, and the Incident Commander has concluded the operation, the Platoon Commander will ensure the following procedures are followed:

Accountability of Equipment

- The Special Operations Support Officer (SOSO) and designees are responsible for ensuring all equipment issued during the deployment to Mobile Field Force (MFF) personnel is returned and/or accounted for before they are relieved from duty. Each officer may be required to assist in the decontamination of their equipment prior to returning it.
- If MFF PPE is individually issued to an officer, that officer will be responsible for cleaning and decontaminating their equipment. They will also be responsible for reporting any missing or damaged equipment to the SOSO as soon as possible.

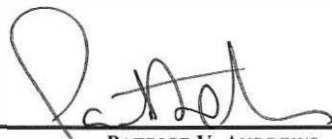
Vehicle Accountability

- MFF Commanders will account for all vehicles used by MFF personnel during the event.

Debriefing Session

- The MFF Commanders, Platoon Leaders, SOSO, and Selective Enforcement Team (SET) Supervisors will participate in any post-event debriefing session. They will be expected to share information regarding highlights of significant events, unsatisfactory conditions, injuries of citizens or officers, uses of force, and any recommendations for improvement during future events.

By following these demobilization procedures, the Durham Police Department ensures that all equipment and personnel are properly accounted for and that lessons learned from the event can be used to improve future operations.



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