


GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE	Transmittal # 23-5	Policy # 8.32
Applicability: { } All DJJ Staff { } Administration { } Community Services {x} Secure Facilities	Related Standards & References: ACA Standards: 4-JCF-2A-19, 27, 29, 3-JDF-3A-26, 27, 30 DJJ 3.12, 8.1, 8.5, 8.17, 8.30	
Chapter 8: SAFETY, SECURITY, AND CONTROL	Effective Date: 8/17/23 Scheduled Review Date: 8/17/24 Replaces: 1/11/21 APPROVED:  <hr/> Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Commissioner	
Subject: SECURITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS		
Attachments: A – Physical Fitness Assessment		

I. POLICY:

Department of Juvenile Justice secure facilities may operate a Security Emergency Response Team (SERT) to assist other staff and enhance facility safety and security.

II. DEFINITIONS:

Security Emergency Response Team (SERT): A team of trained, POST-certified Juvenile Correctional Officers who enhance facility safety and security.

SERT Commander: A Lieutenant who commands the SERT team.

Use of Force Munitions: Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray and the Pepper Ball Munitions are the only authorized chemical agents with use of force munitions.

III. RESPONSE TEAM:

H. Selection Process:

The selection of SERT members will be a planned and structured interview process overseen by the facility Director. The selection process will include a Physical Fitness Assessment (Attachment A) coordinated and conducted by the Director or designee to assess the physical fitness. The applicant must be able to perform physically to a standard of 60% or better as SERT duties require a certain level of fitness.

I. Criteria to Remain a SERT Member:

1. Each SERT member must meet the following criteria to remain on SERT:

a) Pass an annual Physical Fitness Assessment;

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- b) Maintain job performance which is deemed suitable and compliant with DJJ policies and procedures, rules and regulations; and
- c) Maintain satisfactory mental and physical fitness for duty
- d) In addition to Basic Juvenile Correctional Officers Training (BJCOT), selected members must successfully complete the following training within 12 months of hire to maintain a position as a SERT member:
 - i. Use of Force Technique;
 - ii. Specialized SERT; and
 - iii. Use of Force Munitions.

2. Any SERT member who does not satisfactorily meet the criteria to remain on the SERT team will be placed on a 90-day probationary period. At the end of the 90 days, the member will be reassessed to determine continued SERT team eligibility. Any member who fails to satisfactorily meet SERT team criteria at the end of the 90-day period will be removed from the SERT team.

- J. The Facility Director will establish a post order for SERT in accordance with DJJ 8.1, Security Management.
- K. The SERT Commander will be supervised by the facility Director.
- L. Members are responsible for being knowledgeable of the POST orders, all facility LOPs, DJJ policies, and all Emergency Management Plans (e.g., escape, riot, disaster, and fire plans).
- M. SERT will maintain and document its daily activities in a logbook.
- N. SERT will comply with uniform guidelines in accordance with DJJ 3.12, Dress Code for Uniformed Staff:

IV. GENERAL PROCEDURES:

- A. Each member of SERT will be trained in the Use of Force and receive additional specialized training. The SERT Commander will conduct drills and training with SERT team monthly.
- B. The Office of Professional Development and Standards will coordinate and schedule quarterly trainings with the facility Director. These trainings will not replace the monthly SERT Commander training for that month.

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- C. SERT members will use approved use of force techniques as taught by the Office of Professional Development and Standards.
- D. The SERT Commander will document all training.
- E. SERT members will possess a body camera and/or a video camera at all times. Anytime the SERT team is involved in the anticipated use of physical interventions with a youth, the incident will be recorded with the body camera and/or video camera.
- F. SERT members who have successfully completed the OC Certification course shall be issued and carry a canister of OC Spray while on duty as part of his/her required equipment. All SERT members shall be authorized to use OC Spray in accordance with their training. (See DJJ 8.30, Use of Force.) All instances of OC Spray use will be documented with video and an SIR will be completed.
- G. The inverted shield may be used while conducting a room/cell extraction on an aggressive youth in order to increase the safety and security of both the youth and staff. The inverted shield may also be used when a youth has some object or fluid in his/her possession that could cause physical harm to youth or staff.
- H. The facility Director will receive immediate verbal notification when any use of force is used.

V. LOCAL OPERATING PROCEDURES REQUIRED: NO