


<b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE</b>	Transmittal # 23-4	Policy # 8.35
Applicability: {x} All DJJ Staff { } Administration { } Community Services { } Secure Facilities	Related Standards & References: O.C.G.A. §35-8-1 ACA Standard: 4-JCF-2A-19, 4-JCF-2A-20, 4-JCF-2A-28, <b>4-JCF-2A-29</b> , 3-JDF-3A-19, 3-JDF-3A-27, 3-JDF-3A-29, 3-JDF-3A-30 DJJ 4.2, 8.5, 8.33, 8.34, 8.40	
Chapter 8: SAFETY, SECURITY, AND CONTROL	Effective Date: 8/8/23	
Subject: SECURITY MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TEAMS	Scheduled Review Date: 8/8/24	
Attachments:  A – Physical Fitness Assessment	Replaces: 1/11/21	
	Division of Special Operations  APPROVED:  _____ Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Commissioner	

## I. POLICY:

Department of Juvenile Justice may operate a Security Management Response Team (SMRT) in order to support all staff with enhancing facility safety and security, assist community staff with recovery of absconded youth, as well as perform any task(s) relating to all matters of safety, security, and accountability of property and persons within the agency.

## II. DEFINITIONS:

**Basic Law Enforcement Mandate Training:** A 408-hour basic course that satisfies the requirements of O.C.G.A. §35-8-1 that states a candidate complete the mandated course of instruction to be eligible for certification.

**Child Abduction Recovery Team (C.A.R.T.):** Sponsored by the Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI), this is a team of individuals from various state agencies who are trained and prepared to respond to a missing/endangered or abducted child/children.

**Deadly Force:** Deadly force is defined as physical force which is readily capable of causing death or serious physical injury. In order for deadly force to be justified there must be an immediate, otherwise unavoidable threat of death or grave bodily harm to yourself or other innocents. Deadly force is that force which could reasonably be expected to cause death or grave bodily harm.

**Firearm:** Small arms weapon, such as a pistol, from which a projectile is fired. Assigned to SMRT Team members who have successfully completed the POST certified Parole Basic Training Course or the POST certified Probation/Parole Basic Training Course Basic Law Enforcement Mandate Training.

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**Georgia Semi-Auto Pistol Qualification Course:** A 30 round qualification course for all Law Enforcement Officers in the State of Georgia. Officers must score 240 points or an 80% or better to qualify with their weapon.

**Grenadier:** Certified Pepperball Officer. This Officer is assigned the responsibility to maintain the pepperball launcher when activated.

**Metro Atlanta Child Sexual Exploitation Task Force (M.A.T.C.H.):** The task force sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Investigations which is comprised of several agencies within and around the metro Atlanta area. Their primary mission is to stop the sexual exploitation of children.

**Night Fire:** A series of weapons training involving low light, flash light, and emergency light firing. This simulates the use of a firearm during these situations.

**O.C.G.A. §35-8-1:** Georgia Law which covers Employment and Training of Peace Officers.

**Parole/Probation Basic Training Course:** The POST certified Parole Basic Training Course or the POST certified Probation Basic Training Course.

**Security Management Response Team (SMRT):** A team of highly trained, POST certified Juvenile Correctional Officers who respond to incidents to enhance the DJJ facilities and community to ensure safety and security and restore normal order.

**Special Operations Training Course:** A 64-hour advanced course of instruction in Leadership, Team Building, Professionalism, Mobile Field Force, Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) and Pepperball Certification.

### III. RESPONSE TEAM:

- A. The Division of Special Operations may operate a Security Management Response Team (SMRT), as authorized by the Commissioner, to be supervised by the Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Special Operations.
- B. Selection Criteria:
  - 1. Care will be exercised in the selection of SMRT team members to ensure that DJJ is represented with members of integrity, excellent work experience, ethics, fitness for duty, and professional development within the agency.
  - 2. Prospective members must be in good standing with the POST Council as POST certified officers.

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C. Selection Process:

1. The selection of SMRT team members will be a planned and structured process in collaboration with the Assistant Deputy Commissioner and the Director of Special Operations.
2. The selection process consists of:
  - a) Physical Fitness Assessment (Attachment A) coordinated and conducted by Special Operations Commander to assess the physical fitness for special duty. The applicant must be able to perform physically to a standard of 60% or better as SMRT duties require a certain level of fitness.
  - b) Satisfactory completion of a psychological evaluation with a selected DJJ vendor.

D. Criteria to Remain a SMRT Member:

1. Each SMRT member must meet the following criteria to remain on the SMRT team:
  - a) Participate in physical fitness training and assessments;
  - b) Maintain satisfactory mental and physical fitness for duty;
  - c) Maintain job performance which is deemed suitable and compliant with DJJ policies and procedures, rules, and regulations; and
  - d) In addition to Basic Juvenile Correctional Officers Training (BJCOT), selected members must successfully complete SMRT Basics, be POST approved for Basic Law Enforcement Mandate Training(BLE), and successfully complete BLE within 18 months of the application approval date by POST Council. Team members may satisfy the POST certification requirement if they successfully completed POST certified Parole Basic Training Course, or the POST certified Probation Basic Training Course. SMRT members will comply with all other training requirements in accordance with DJJ 4.5, Staff Training Requirements, including but not limited to:
    - i. American Heart Association (AHA) CPR; and
    - ii. Special Operations Training Course to include Aikido Control Techniques, Mobile Field Force, Oleoresin Capsicum, and Pepperball Certification Course.

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- E. Any SMRT member who does not satisfactorily meet the criteria to remain on the SMRT 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 eligibility. Any member who fails to satisfactorily meet the criteria at the end of the 90-day period will be removed from SMRT.
  - 1. Any member receiving an involuntary removal from the Basic Law Enforcement Mandate Training or any POST mandate training course as a result of a weapons safety violation or misconduct will be immediately reassessed to determine continued eligibility with SMRT.
- F. Members are responsible for being knowledgeable of the Post Orders, all facility and DJJ rules, and all Emergency Management Plans, such as escape, riot, disaster, and fire plans.
- G. SMRT will be given a weekly schedule which will serve as documentation of daily activities.
- H. SMRT duties shall include, but may not be limited to:
  - 1. Coordinating and conducting systematic, yet unscheduled searches of the facility for contraband;
  - 2. Preventing escapes, controlling contraband, and maintaining order within the facility;
  - 3. When approved, transporting youth outside the facility who have been classified as a high risk;
  - 4. Responding to any leads pertaining to contraband in or entering the facility and taking action to remove and/or prevent contraband from entering the facility;
  - 5. Assisting the community in recovery of absconded youth; and
  - 6. Participating in any other activities deemed necessary by the Commissioner, Chief of Staff, Deputy Commissioner of Investigations and Special Operation, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, and the Director of Special Operations.

#### **IV. GENERAL PROCEDURES:**

- A. Each member of the SMRT will be trained in the use of deadly force, force, and approved Use of Force Munitions in accordance with DJJ 8.30, Use of Force. Additional specialized training will be provided as needed.

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- B. The SMRT Commander will conduct training with SMRT at least 8 hours per month.
- C. The Office of Professional Development will coordinate and schedule approved quarterly trainings. This training will not replace the monthly SMRT Commander training for that month.
- D. SMRT will use Aikido Control Techniques as taught by the Office of Professional Development.
- E. The SMRT Commander will document all training.
- F. Each SMRT member will possess a body camera at all times. Anytime SMRT is involved in the anticipated use of force with a youth, the incident will be recorded with the body camera. (See DJJ 8.33, Body Cameras.) SMRT members will make every reasonable effort to ensure that incidents are also recorded with a handheld video camera.
- G. Each SMRT member shall be issued and carry the department issued weapon and ammunition. The weapon will be carried while on duty, when appropriate. The use of firearms will be in accordance with the DJJ 8.34, Firearms.
- H. Each SMRT member upon successful completion of the OC Certification course shall be issued and carry a canister of OC Spray while on duty as a part of required equipment. All SMRT members shall be authorized to use OC Spray in accordance with their training. (See DJJ 8.30, Use of Force.)
- I. The SMRT team will be issued Pepperball Systems for deployment after completion of required training.
  - 1. The Pepperball Systems will be stored in the Grenadier's assigned state vehicle.
  - 2. The Pepperball Systems will be inventoried and inspected for proper functionality once per month.
  - 3. Each Grenadier shall maintain a log of inventory and inspection of Pepperball Systems.
  - 4. All instances of Pepperball Systems use will be documented using assigned video cameras and an Special Incident Report (SIR) will be completed.
- J. The use of the least amount of force necessary to maintain control will be permitted in the following circumstances:
  - 1. Defense of self;

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2. Protection of youth, staff, or others;
  3. Prevention of substantial damage to property;
  4. Escape prevention; and
  5. Enforcement of lawful orders and directives when other lesser intervention techniques have failed.
- K. The SMRT Commander will ensure immediate notification of any use of force to the Director and Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Special Operations. All persons verbally notified will have their names recorded in the involvement section of the Special Incident Report.
- L. Staff with direct knowledge of the incident must complete an SIR, and the SIR must be administratively reviewed, in accordance with DJJ 8.5, Special Incident Reporting.
- M. Professional Appearance and Dress:
1. SMRT will comply with uniform guidelines in accordance with DJJ 3.12, Dress Code for Uniformed Staff.
  2. When wearing Black BDU the pants will be bloused at the top of the boots.
  3. When wearing the Black BDU uniform, collar rank (JCO I, SGT, LT) will not be worn on the uniform.
  4. Authorized black puncture resistant protective gloves will be issued. Gloves will not be routinely worn except when performing duty specific details (e.g. searches, cell extractions, etc.). However, during cold temperatures, the wearing of the issued gloves is authorized.
- N. Firearms (see DJJ 8.34, Firearms):
1. SMRT Members will be issued a department approved firearm upon successful completion of Basic Law Enforcement Mandate Training, the POST certified Parole Basic Training Course, or the POST certified Probation Basic Training Course.
  2. Firearms will be carried on SMRT Members during Youth Recovery, C.A.R.T., M.A.T.C.H. call outs, and any other time as directed by the Commissioner, Chief of Staff/Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner of Investigations and Special Operations, and Assistant Deputy Commissioner or the Director of Special Operations.

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3. Firearms will only be carried in the Department issued holster.
4. Back-up firearms or other weapons, not issued for carry by DJJ, will not be authorized.

**V. LOCAL OPERATING PROCEDURES REQUIRED: NO**