

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



Standard Operating Procedures

Policy Name: Tactical Squad Standards and Selection

Policy Number: 205.13

Effective Date: 04/22/2025

Page Number: 1 of 4

Authority:
Commissioner

Originating Division:
Facilities Division

Access Listing:
Level I: All Access

I. Introduction and Summary:

The Warden or Superintendent of each facility shall be responsible for the care, secure detention, and control of all offenders assigned to his or her charge. The Warden/Superintendent is responsible for the overall security of the facility and the effective accomplishment of assigned tasks. Therefore, certain employees may be selected and trained for special duty as members of a facility's Tactical Squad, which shall be activated during emergencies and for other purposes.

In addition to Wardens and Superintendents, the Special Operations Director shall be responsible for maintaining any additional Specialized Tactical Squads located throughout the State.

II. Authority:

A. Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R.: 125-2-1-.01 (d) and 125-3-1-.01;

B. Standard Operating Procedures SOP(s): 104.29 Salary Regulations; 205.14 Scheduling Special Operations Training; 207.05 Providing Assistance for Local Governments; 104.39.03 Injury Leave with Pay; 225.02 Emergency Plans; 205.03 Personal Appearance of Uniformed Personnel, and 225.01 Escape Plans; and

C. ACA Standard: 1-CTA-3A-22 and 5-ACI-1D-18.

III. Definitions:

As used in this SOP, these terms are defined as follows.

A. **Interdiction Response Team (IRT)** - Tactical Squad that is assigned to a region that assists with shakedowns, special details, and emergency situations.

B. **Tactical Squad Response Team** (Tactical Squad) – Correctional officer with additional duties at their assigned facility to assist with shakedowns, special details, and other emergency situations.

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IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:

A. Caution must be exercised in the selection of Tactical Squad members. All Correctional Staff assigned to a Tactical Squad shall:

1. Be an employee in one of the following classes of:
 - a. Correctional Officer I;
 - i. IRT must have a minimum of 10 months as COI;
 - b. Correctional Officer II;
 - c. Correctional Sergeant; and
 - d. Correctional Lieutenant.
2. Meet the standards set forth in the pre-employment physical examination for a Correctional Officer I.
3. Pass Tactical Squad Physical Fitness Test (Agility and Stamina) including:
 - a. Thirty (30) Sit-ups in one (1) minute;
 - b. Twenty-one (21) Military Style Push-ups in one (1) minute;
 - c. 400-meter run in 120 seconds; and
 - d. A fifteen (15) meter one hundred fifty (150) -pound dummy drag.
NOTE: Members of the IRT Physical Fitness requirements are: twenty-five (25) Military Style Push-Ups in 1 minute; thirty (30) Sit-Ups in 1 minute; 400-Meter run in 90 seconds, and fifteen (15) meter one hundred fifty (150) -pound dummy drag. IRT members must meet this requirement annually.

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4. Pass the required weapons qualifying courses. Current GDC courses are:
 - a. Shotgun: Minimum score of eighty (80%) percent to pass.
 - b. Rifle: Minimum score of eighty (80%) percent to pass.
5. Annual re-qualification shall be required with the departmental approved weapon:
 - a. Semi-Auto pistol: Minimum score of eighty (80%) percent to pass; and
 - b. Annual re-qualification shall be required with an eighty (80%) percent score.
6. Complete Probationary Member Performance Appraisal as set forth by the Office of Professional Development;
7. Be a permanent employee who has passed the Departmental Training Program for new employees and is registered or certified with P.O.S.T., also to include:
 - a. Forty (40) hours of orientation (pre-service);
 - b. BCOT one hundred sixty (160) hours;
 - c. Twelve (12) months of experience as a Correctional Officer. Prior law enforcement, military or civilian corrections may be substituted for the twelve (12) months. Other staff must have at least twelve (12) months of experience in their specialty within a correctional setting, unless otherwise specified by the Assistant Commissioner of Facilities, Director of Field Operations, or Director of Special Operations, and
 - d. Must have completed the forty (40) hours of Special Operations Basic Training.

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8. Once selected, each member shall:
- a. Participate each month in eight (8) hours of Tactical Squad Training;
 - b. Participate quarterly in eight (8) hours of Specialized Tactical Squad Training;
 - c. Participate in eight (8) hours of annual training for all Tactical Squads; and
 - d. Meet all requirements set forth by the GDC Tactical Squad Special Operations Manual.

V. **Attachments:** None

VI. **Record Retention of Forms Relevant to this Policy:** None