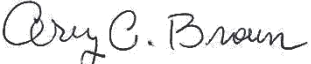


LEESBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS AND GENERAL ORDERS MANUAL			
General Order Number: 231		Section: OPERATIONS	Issue Date: SEPTEMBER 2013
Title: BREACHING			
Accreditation Standards: OPR.06.01, ADM.19.03			
Effective Date: SEPTEMBER 2013	Review Date: SEPTEMBER 2014	Total Pages: 4	Chief of Police: 

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. Breach: Opening or access into a secured or defended area established to facilitate the entry. The four breaching techniques are:
- B. Mechanical Breach: a technique of employing mechanical tools or means to breach an obstacle or barrier.
- C. Ballistic Breach: a technique of employing specialized shotgun rounds to breach structural or locking mechanisms of a barrier.
- D. Explosive Breach: technique utilizing the minimum amount of explosives to breach a barrier with the minimum amount of collateral damage.
- E. Thermal Breach: a technique utilizing a cutting torch to breach a barrier.
- F. Qualified Breacher: any member of the Leesburg Police Department who has successfully completed approved breacher training for one or more of the above techniques. The qualified breacher is only authorized to serve in the breacher capacity for the techniques they have mastered through training.
- G. Assistant Breacher: any member of the Leesburg Police Department who has been designated as an assistant breacher and is authorized to assist under the direct supervision of a qualified breacher.

II. PURPOSE

- A. The mission of a qualified breacher is to identify, plan, and execute the breach of an obstacle or barrier in an effective and efficient manner in order to facilitate the establishment of an access point(s) into a secured or obstructed area. The utilization of training, experimentation, task specific tools and technology make this possible. The operating environment and situational needs will determine the breaching technique to be used.

III. POLICY

- A. The Emergency Response Team has the responsibility to provide tactical response for the department. Based on this operational function, it is the policy of the Leesburg Police Department's Emergency Response Team Tactical Element to utilize mechanical, ballistic, and explosive breaching as approved techniques of forcible entry when appropriate.
- B. A shift supervisor is authorized to approve the use of mechanical breaching. The shift supervisor is required to coordinate the use of this technique with other officers on scene and ensure that a qualified mechanical breacher is assigned and that approved mechanical breaching tools are utilized.
- C. The Chief of Police, the Operations Division Commander, or the Emergency Response Team Commander are the only persons authorized to approve the use of ballistic or explosive breaching. Any approval shall be coordinated by the approving authority with the incident commander to ensure overall safety of all personnel deployed to the incident. If neither approving authority is available the Command

Duty Officer may authorize the use of explosive breach for rapidly deteriorating incidents or high risk operations.

- D. The decision to use any form of breaching to facilitate entry is a serious one and the approving authority should consider the totality of circumstances for the incident. Factors which should be considered included, but are not limited to:
1. Type of incident
 2. Nature of warrant
 3. Threat level
 4. Criminal history of suspects
 5. Fortifications of the structure
 6. Officer Safety/Public Safety

IV. PERSONNEL

- A. Only qualified members of the Leesburg Police Department who have successfully completed an approved mechanical breaching course will be authorized to perform mechanical breachers.
- B. Only qualified members of the Emergency Response Team Tactical Element who have successfully completed an approved ballistic breaching course will be authorized to perform ballistic breaches.
- C. Only qualified members of the Emergency Response Team Tactical Element who have successfully completed an approved explosive breaching/handling course will be authorized to handle, construct, place, and detonate any explosive charge. Under no circumstance will an unauthorized person handle any type of explosive.

V. EQUIPMENT

- A. Only approved mechanical breaching tools, ballistic breaching munitions, and explosive breaching ordinance and tools will be utilized by qualified breachers.
- B. Clearly marked and lockable containers or magazines shall be utilized to store and transport all breaching munitions and ordinance.

VI. INVENTORY

- A. Inventory and inspection of mechanical breaching tools will be incorporated with the existing monthly RAP inventory and inspections completed by the designated supervisors.
- B. Inventory of ballistic breaching munitions will be completed by qualified ballistic breachers and their supervisors on a monthly basis.
- C. Inventory of explosives will only be conducted by a certified breacher and will be conducted on a monthly basis. If there is evidence that any explosive materials has been tampered with or missing:
1. It will be immediately reported to the Emergency Response Team Commander.
 2. If explosive are found to be missing:
 - a. It will be reported to the ATF by telephone within twenty- four hours [REDACTED].
 - b. Additionally, ATF form 5400.5 will be completed and sent to the nearest ATF office. Copies of all documents will be maintained by the Emergency Response Team Commander, or designee.
 3. An internal investigation shall be initiated upon notification to the Chief of Police.
- D. Inventory and inspection of all non-explosive materials will also be conducted on a monthly basis. All materials will be replaced as needed.

VII. STORAGE

- A. Mechanical breaching tools will be stored in designated police vehicles and equipment lockers.

- B. Ballistic breaching munitions will be stored in clearly marked and lockable containers in the armory. They may be staged in designated police vehicles with the approval of the Operations Division Commander or the Emergency Response Team Commander.
- C. Explosive breaching ordinance:
 - 1. Certified breachers will utilize several different storage bunkers/magazines. The bulk of the explosive materials will be stored in the Loudoun County Fire Marshall's bunker located at 16600 Courage Court Leesburg, VA. Only select members of the Fire Marshall's Office will have access to this facility.
 - 2. Two explosive magazines will be stored at 65 Plaza Street, NE Leesburg, VA. These magazines will store explosives / explosive devices that will be used during training exercises and operational use. The primary purpose of this magazine is for quick access to supplies. As aforementioned, the bulk of the explosives will be stored off site, and may not be immediately accessible.
 - 3. One explosive magazine will be stored in a designated Leesburg Police vehicle. This magazine will be used to transport explosive materials to and from storage facility, training grounds, operations, and the purchasing site of explosives.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION

- A. Mechanical breaching tools and ballistic breaching munitions may be transported by officers qualified to use them and any supervisor or above.
- B. Only a qualified breacher will conduct the transportation of explosive components from the storage facility to a training site or operational area. The transportation will be in compliance with all local, state and federal regulations. (Dept. of Transportation / Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, parts 100-185).

IX. TRAINING

- A. Only qualified members of the Leesburg Police Department who complete approved mechanical breaching training will be authorized to perform mechanical breaches and utilize mechanical breaching tools.
- B. Only qualified members of the Emergency Response Team Tactical Element who complete approved ballistic breaching training will be authorized to perform mechanical breaches and utilize breaching munitions and weapons.
- C. Only Emergency Response Team members who successfully complete an approved explosive handling and breaching course (TEES, Forced Entry, or North Vector) will conduct explosive breaches. Breachers will also be required to attend the quarterly Explosive Breachers Training hosted by the National Capital Region SWAT Association. Certified Explosive Breachers will also be required to conduct training for the Emergency Response Team Tactical Element on Explosives Safety and Response.

X. MISFIRES AND FAILED BREACHES

- A. If a misfire occurs during training the following steps will be taken:
 - 1. Try to fire the device again.
 - 2. Shout "MIS-FIRE" so all team members are aware and stay in position.
 - 3. If you did not hear the primer, replace the primer and fire again.
 - 4. If the primer fired and the lead line flashed then you must assume you have a bad blasting cap.
 - 5. Disconnect the lead line from the firing device.
 - 6. Notify the Loudoun County Fire Marshall's Office for proper disposal.
- B. Failed breaches during training.
 - 1. Record the shot used on an Explosive Breaching Form. Note the reasons why the breach failed.
 - 2. Select a different charge and repeat.
- C. If a misfire occurs during an operation the following steps will be taken.
 - 1. Try to fire the device again.
 - 2. If it does not fire, notify the team of a misfire and remove the lead line from the device.

3. The certified explosive breacher will remove the cap from the device and take control of the explosive.
 4. The Emergency Response Team will then use mechanical breaching to gain entry on the primary entry point or attempt a breach at an alternate entry point utilizing an appropriate and approved breaching method.
- D. Failed breaches during an operation.
1. The Emergency Response Team member at the front of the stack will notify the Emergency Response Team leader of a failed breach.
 2. The Emergency Response Team will then go to the alternate breach point, if available.
 3. If there is no alternate entry point, then entry will be made through the primary entry point using a mechanical or ballistic breaching method.

XI. DOCUMENTATION

- A. A breach plan will be drafted for all breaches by the designated breacher and submitted before the end of shift or assignment. A breaching file will be maintained by the Emergency Response Team Tactical Element to retain all records of mechanical, ballistic, and explosive breaches.
- B. Inventories and inspections of the designated breaching materials and tools will be completed monthly by the designated persons identified to handle each type of breaching tools and materials.
- C. All shot, whether training or operation will be recorded on the TEES formatted Explosive Breaching Report (LPD Form #631). Each completed report will be stored in the Explosive Breacher's Shot binder, maintained by the certified breachers.
- D. When used operationally, a Breacher's Brief (LPD Form #632) should be used to document all necessary components of the pre-event. Completed Breacher's Brief will be stored in the Explosive Breacher's Shot binder, maintained by the certified breachers.
- E. A breachers log shall be maintained by the breachers with the following information:
1. Type of barrier/obstacle
 2. Breach method selected
 3. If explosive breach is utilized then the record shall also include
 4. Charge selection
 5. Charge placement
 6. Method of initiation
 7. Outcome of breach
 8. Photographs
 - a. If possible, pre-breach photographs should be taken or obtained if available from other sources.
 - b. Shall always be taken following a breach attempt regardless of method used or outcome.