


LEESBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS AND GENERAL ORDERS MANUAL		
General Order Number: 229	Section: OPERATIONS	Effective Date: SEPTEMBER 2022
Title: EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT)		
Accreditation Standards: OPR.05.01, OPR.05.03, OPR.06.01, OPR.06.02		
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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the governing regulations in the training, equipping and use of the Emergency Response Team (ERT). Recognizing that the presence of a highly trained, highly skilled police special operations team has been shown to substantially reduce the risk of injury or loss of life to citizens, police officers and suspects; and recognizing that a well-managed team response to critical incidents usually results in successful resolution of such operations, it is the intent of the Leesburg Police Department to work with other specified law enforcement agencies to provide a highly trained and skilled response team as a resource for the handling of critical incidents.

II. POLICY

A. The mission of the Leesburg Police Departments Emergency Response Team (ERT) is to support the Town of Leesburg and any other requesting law enforcement agency with a tactical and negotiator response to critical incidents. When a critical incident occurs, the Leesburg Police ERT will be activated. Critical incidents consist of, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Hostage Situations: The holding of any person(s) against their will by an armed suspect(s) or suspect(s) who is believed to be armed.
2. Barricade Situations: The stand-off created by an armed or potentially armed suspect in any location, whether fortified or not, who is refusing to comply with police orders.
3. Sniper/Active Violence Situations: The use of active violence against citizens and/or police by an armed suspect, whether stationary or mobile in support of initial officer response.
4. High-Risk Apprehension: The arrest or apprehension of armed or potentially armed suspects where the likelihood of armed resistance is high.
5. High-Risk Warrant Service: The service of search or arrest warrants where the service has a high potential for resistance, weapons, and/or narcotics.
6. Drug/Narcotics calls: If the likelihood of armed resistance or large quantity of narcotics is known, or repeat offender(s) are present.
7. Executive Protection: The security of special persons, such as VIP's, witnesses, or suspects, based on threat or potential threat to the well-being of those persons.
8. Special Assignments: Any assignment approved by the Chief of Police or the Operations Division Commander, based upon a high degree of potential threat or community relations.

B. In order to accomplish its mission, the Leesburg Police Department's ERT will:

1. Establish a Standard Operating Procedures Manual (SOP) that governs the selection, training, deployment and operational philosophy for the team. The SOP Manual will be the internal document which governs the direct control of the team. The manual will be reviewed and approved by the Operations Division Commander.
2. Maintain minimum training standards: See SOP
3. Work through the budget processes to procure equipment and funding to support ERT operations.

C. ERT Structure

1. The Leesburg ERT Tactical Element will consist of a command element (Operations Division Commander, ERT Commander), team leadership (Team Leader and Assistant Team Leaders), and

tactical members with varied specialties (marksman, medic, breaching, etc.). The organization and standards for each specialty position will be governed by current police practices (See SOP).

2. The Leesburg ERT Negotiations Element will consist of a command element (Operations Division Commander, ERT Commander), team leadership (Team Leader and Assistant Team Leader), and negotiators capable of serving in various roles (intelligence officer, primary negotiator, coach, scribe, etc.). Additionally, a Loudoun County Mental Health representative will also be assigned to work with the team. The organization and standards for each specialty position will be governed by current police practices (See SOP).

D. Team Activation

1. ERT activations take precedence over all other assignments within the Leesburg Police Department. Members who are assigned to the team become subordinate to the ERT Commander or ERT Team Leader, or designee, until competent authority determines that the activation is over. The Operations Division Commander, Patrol Commander(s), or the on-duty supervisor via the command duty officer, has the authority to activate the team for any critical incident within The Town of Leesburg jurisdiction (Mutual Aid requests must fall within the Mutual Aid Procedure, G.O. 111).
2. The activation will commence by the responsible on-duty supervisor contacting the Leesburg Police Department dispatch center and requesting that the team be activated. The on-duty supervisor will provide initial incident details to the dispatcher, who will then contact the Emergency Response Team Commander or designee providing initial details about the incident. The ERT Commander, or designee, will notify the Operations Division Commander or Chief of Police for approval, if the notification has not been made. The call-out will then commence via Dispatch and will follow the internal notification procedure.
3. The Leesburg Police Department ERT is available to any other requesting law enforcement agency, upon approval by the Chief of Police or Operations Division Commander (See Mutual Aid G.O. 111). When a request for the team is received it shall be immediately forwarded to the Emergency Response Team Commander or designee, who will determine if the situation warrants the activation of the team. If the situation warrants the activation of the team, the Emergency Response Team Commander or designee will contact the Operations Division Commander and/or the Chief of Police and will request activation of the team. Once permission is granted the team activation will follow standard procedures.
4. Any Division within the Leesburg Police Department may request the assistance of the ERT in planning or conducting special operations. The Operations Division Commander, or designee, will contact the Emergency Response Team Commander or Team Leader with the request and approval for activation. The Emergency Response Team Commander or designee will then follow the described procedures for team activation.

E. Command Responsibilities

1. The Leesburg Police Department ERT will utilize the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS). The ranking officer on-scene from the requesting agency becomes the Incident Commander and the Emergency Response Team Commander, or designee, becomes the Tactical/Negotiations Commander. However, in terms of tactical or negotiations issues, the ERT Leaders in concert with the ERT Commander is responsible for deployment, decision making, and tactical resolution of the incident as approved by or in coordination with the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander manages the overall incident; the ERT Commander manages the tactical/negotiations portion of the incident. In all likelihood, an incident that is primarily tactical in nature should be handled with a joint/integrated command. This affords the ability for the IC, Tactical CMDR, and others to maintain direct control of their units while responding to a complex incident.
2. The Incident Commander establishes a Command Post (CP) in accordance with the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS). The Emergency Response Team Commander operates out of a separate Tactical Operations Center (TOC). The ERT Commander, or designee, will ensure adequate liaison occurs with the Command Post.

F. Response to Threats/Resistance

1. The LPD General Order 104 Response to Threats/Resistance will be the governing document for all Response to Threats/Resistance incidents and investigations. However, the Leesburg Chief of Police will confer with the Chief or Sheriff for requesting agencies, for non-Leesburg Police Department

- personnel, and they will jointly decide on the make-up of the review board. This will allow all involved agencies to have their needs met without duplication of efforts, which may cause contradictory investigative results. The Officer Involved Shooting Protocol will be followed whenever a deadly force situation arises. The Leesburg ERT will meet all use of force reporting requirements listed in the LPD General Orders Manual.
2. The use of force by the LPD ERT shall be consistent with applicable local, state and federal laws on the use of force and the resulting use of force investigation protocols.