

TERRORISM – HOMELAND SECURITY

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Omaha Police Department (OPD) to participate in the regional Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and to maintain a Terrorism Early Warning Group (TEWG). The OPD recognizes that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has the primary responsibility of investigating terrorism-related incidents in the United States. However, members of the (OPD) will often be the first responders to possible incidents of terrorism. The need to quickly assess terrorism-related intelligence and direct that information to one or more organizations best suited to analyze and evaluate such information in a timely manner is critical.

PROCEDURE:

I. Liaison with other Agencies

- A. The OPD participates in the Regional JTTF which is led by the FBI. The JTTF serves as liaison with other organizations for the timely exchange of terrorism-related information.
- B. The OPD established the TEWG in September 2006. The purpose of the TEWG is to reduce the threat to public safety through a heightened level of local inter-agency and community communications, analysis, and sharing of open source information designed to anticipate and respond to terroristic criminal acts in the metro area.

II. Officer Contacts with Suspected Terrorist

- A. Initial contact with possible terrorism-related parties usually begins with “routine” police-related activities, such as radio calls for suspicious parties or vehicles or traffic stops.
- B. Officers who make contact with a subject who is suspected of terrorism-related activities will contact their immediate supervisor before releasing the individual.
- C. A thorough vehicle search and inventory is desirable on any vehicle suspected of being involved in terrorism-related activity.
 - 1. Officers shall refer to the “Searches – Vehicles” policy regarding vehicle search and seizure and, if necessary, consent, or a search warrant will be obtained.
 - 2. Any search or inspection will include photographing and forensic processing as appropriate under the circumstances.

III. Reporting

- A. Officers will use an Information Report (OPD Form 42) to document terrorism-related information that does not rise to the level of criminal activity requiring an Incident Report.
 - 1. The Information Report (OPD Form 42) shall be reviewed by a supervisor and forwarded to the Intelligence Squad/TEWG Sergeant for follow-up.
- B. If the information was developed from a crime that occurred in the jurisdiction of the OPD, the crime will be documented on an Incident Report (PortalOne/OPD Form 189).
 - 1. An initial investigation shall be conducted, and the case shall be assigned to the appropriate CIB unit for follow-up.
 - 2. Copies shall be forwarded to the Intelligence Squad.

IV. Relaying Intelligence to Other Agencies

- A. After receiving terrorism-related information, the Intelligence Squad/TEWG will determine if the information should remain in-house or be forwarded to a task force or other law enforcement agency or entity with a need and right to know.
- B. If the Intelligence Officer determines that information contained in the Incident Report (PortalOne/OPD Form 189) is of a terrorist nature, the information shall be forwarded to the appropriate task force, law enforcement agency, or other entity as necessary based on a need and right to know.
 - 1. Emergency forwarding may be necessary in cases where the Intelligence Squad/TEWG is not immediately available, or the information is extremely critical and time-sensitive.
 - 2. For emergency forwarding, the on-scene command officer can directly forward the information to the FBI JTTF via a 24-hour telephone number (See [Appendix A](#) for the phone number).
- C. The Intelligence Squad shall also take appropriate action to inform officers and command personnel, as well as other local agencies and entities, with a need and right to know of intelligence that identifies an immediate terrorist threat.

NOTE: That action may be in the form of a bulletin, telephone notification, roll-call briefing, or other available means depending on the nature of the information and type of threat.

V. Terrorism Awareness Information

- A. The role of the public in observing and reporting terrorism-related activity is essential to homeland security effectiveness.
- B. The OPD is committed to providing terrorism awareness information to enable the public to identify and report terrorism-related information. The Terrorism Early Warning Group, with input and assistance from the Public Information Office (PIO), will:
 - 1. Prepare Public Service Announcements (PSA's) for local radio and television stations at times, and containing information determined by the PIO, Intelligence Squad/TEWG Sergeant, Bureau Command, or the JTTF.
 - 2. Maintain a citizen reporting portal on the Omaha Metro-Area TEWG website (<http://www.otewg.org>) to enable online citizen reporting.
 - 3. Maintain an early warning hotline for the public reporting of any possible terrorist related information. The hotline phone number is 888-789-2616.
 - 4. Prepare and distribute terrorism awareness brochures distributed during town hall and community meetings. Brochures will be updated periodically to reflect changes in threats, preparedness, or citizen reporting procedures.
- C. Terrorism-related information reported by the public shall be processed through the Intelligence Squad/TEWG for analysis and follow up without delay.

REFERENCES:

I. Previous OPD Orders

- A. Previous OPD General Orders include #1-08 and #128-16.

II. Accreditation Standards

- A. Relevant CALEA Accreditation Standards include the following: CALEA Chapter 46.3.2.

III. Other

- A. PPM Update #5-2017.