

## Mobile Field Force

### 347.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Santa Monica Police Department has established the Mobile Field Force (MFF) Cadre for the purpose of utilizing specially trained and equipped personnel to provide an organized and disciplined response to facilitate First Amendment assemblies, demonstrations and/or address civil disturbance, or protests.

### 347.2 POLICY

The MFF Cadre aims to facilitate a publicly safe environment for people to engage in their constitutional rights to assemble, voice their opinion, rally, demonstrate or otherwise express their views. The MFF cadre will monitor public gatherings or demonstrations to ensure the event remains peaceful and nonviolent while balancing the need for public safety and the welfare of the public at large. If any volatile situations arise, the MFF will attempt to deescalate the situation; however, the principal goal of the MFF is to safeguard lives and property; meanwhile, maintaining public order.

The MFF Cadre will adhere to the guidelines set forth in this policy in addition to the First Amendment Assemblies policy, Use of Force policy, and the Control Devices and Techniques Policy.

### 347.3 ORGANIZATION

The Mobile Field Force Cadre is assigned to the Special Operations Division and is under the supervision of the Special Operations Division Commander or his/her designee.

### 347.4 SELECTION AND QUALIFICATIONS

Interested sworn personnel shall submit a memorandum of interest through their chain of command to their Division Commander. MFF Cadre will be selected at the discretion of the Chief of Police and Special Operations Division (SOD) Commander. MFF members may be assigned from any division, unit, or detail within the Department except for personnel from SWAT, Motor or K-9 Units. The cadre will fall within the command structure of the SOD.

A Mobile Field Force Cadre member shall be:

- (a) Be a full time sworn officer who has completed probation.
- (b) Meet overall standards or higher on their his/her most recent performance evaluation.
- (c) Agree and understand work hours are subject to change in accordance with the Department's mission and request for mutual aid assistance.

### 347.5 ACTIVATION

The Mobile Field Force Cadre may be activated at the approval of the Chief of Police, Deputy Chief of Police, or Special Operations Division Captain. An activation may also result from

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a request by the SMPD Watch Commander to assist with any potential situations in which the use of MFF team will be best utilized.

The Mobile Field Force Cadre may be activated to the following situations:

- Planned Protest
- Unplanned Protest
- Civil Disturbance
- Crowd Management/Intervention/Control
- Outside Agency / Mutual Aid Request
- Any other mission designated by the Chief of Police, Deputy Chief of Police or SOD Division Commander

#### **347.6 EQUIPMENT**

MFF personnel should be equipped with the following when activated:

- Helmet
- Face Shield
- Gas mask
- Baton (not ASP or collapsible)
- Flexible handcuffs
- Medical type shears

They may also be equipped with the following specialized items (not limited to):

- Less-Lethal Launchers/Munitions
- Shields
- Pepper-ball munitions
- Sting-ball munitions
- Oleoresin Capsicum Spray Fogger
- 36" Baton
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#### **347.7 USE OF FORCE GUIDELINES**

In order to control persons who are violent or who demonstrate the intent to be violent, the Santa Monica Police Department authorizes officers to use control devices in accordance with the guidelines in the Control Devices and Techniques policy, Use of Force policy, and First Amendment Assemblies policy.

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When using force or control devices and techniques, including oleoresin capicum (OC), the action should be directed toward individuals engaged in violent acts and not toward groups or crowds, unless specific individuals cannot reasonably be targeted due to extreme circumstances.

Any use of force by a member of this Department shall be reported to a MFF supervisor, documented promptly, completely, and accurately in the appropriate report. The type of report required may depend on the nature of the incident.

Any MFF Supervisor made aware of any use of force by a team member must adhere to the reporting requirements per the Use of Force Policy (300.8 - Supervisor Responsibility).

#### **347.7.1 DEPLOYMENT LESS LETHAL**

MFF members authorized and approved to deploy less lethal munitions shall obey all rules governing the deployment of these launchers/munitions in accordance with existing law, policy and less lethal training guidelines.

MFF members trained and certified to utilize certain less lethal launchers/munitions may deploy less lethal munitions. The less lethal munitions may only be deployed at the direction; if practical, of the MFF Commander or their designee.

MFF members trained and certified to deploy 37/40mm weapons/munitions containing 2-Chloroacetophenone (CN), o-chlorobenzylidene malonitrile (CS) gas and smoke may do so only at the direction and approval of the Incident Commander.

#### **347.8 TRAINING**

All MFF team members must maintain adequate levels of performance, based on the individual, team and skills determined by the MFF Commander. MFF training will be organized by the MFF Commander or his/her designee. The MFF members shall participate in bi-annual refresher training and any preparation training for a foreseeable event in which the cadre may be activated.

Any MFF team member, who is placed in non-deployable status twice in a one-year period, starting with the date of the first period of non-deployable status, will be reviewed by the MFF Commander for dismissal. Any MFF team member may be dismissed from the team by the SOD Commander, or his/her designee, at any time with or without cause.

#### **347.9 OUTSIDE AGENCY ASSIST/MUTUAL AID**

When responding to another law enforcement agency request for assistance, MFF personnel must conform with all applicable laws and be consistent with all policies of this Department. The MFF Commander or his/her designee will maintain, if practical, operational knowledge and control of the MFF's actions. See Outside Agency Assistance policy.