



FIELD ORDERS

Chapter

BASIC FIELD OPERATIONS

Subject

Patrol Specialty Breaching Program

DEFINITIONS

AVON Shotgun: 12-gauge shotgun specifically modified to be an entry device/breaching tool.

Battering Ram: Steel device weighing thirty-five pounds and thirty inches in length, capable of forcing open most doors. Designed for one operator.

Bolt Cutters: Multi-purpose tool used for breaching padlocks, small chains, or cables.

“Cruiser ready” Configuration: Chamber empty, bolt forward, fully loaded magazine tube, and weapon on safe.

Halligan Tool: Multi-purpose steel bar, thirty inches in length, designed for a variety of prying tasks including forcing into doorjamb, puncturing key locks, snapping padlocks, and breaking windows.

Patrol Specialty Breaching Program: Provides select patrol officers with the specialized training and tools necessary to force entry and/or bypass a variety of locked or otherwise barricaded points of entry for law enforcement purposes.

Sledgehammer: Ten-pound hammer with drop forged head.

AUTHORIZATION

The use of all breaching equipment (Battering Ram, Halligan Tool, Sledgehammer, Bolt Cutters, and AVON shotgun) is limited to those officers and supervisors specifically trained in their use.

TRAINING

Officers selected for the Patrol Specialty Breaching Program attend an initial 40-hour block of instruction.

1. An additional 10-hour block of instruction is provided quarterly.
2. All participants in the Program must attend 75% of the quarterly trainings to remain in the program.
3. Officers can be removed from the program at the discretion of the Tactical Operations Section (TOS) Lieutenant.
4. Patrol officers will be certified to use department-issued manual breaching tools after completing the department-approved training.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The TOS Lieutenant manages the Patrol Specialty Breaching Program. A sergeant will be assigned to:

- Maintain a current roster.
- Schedule training.
- Procure, issue, inspect, and ensure proper equipment maintenance.
- Ensure overall adherence to the standards outlined in this policy.

SPECIFICATIONS

AMMUNITION – Unless AVON shotgun instructors specify otherwise, the only ammunition authorized for use in the AVON shotgun is:

- Royal Arms, 12-Gauge TESAR-SF (Green Cap), 400 grain 100% frangible slug for wood door breaching.
- Royal Arms, 12-Gauge TESAR-HD (Blue Cap), 500 grain 100% frangible slug for steel door breaching.

APPLICATIONS

1. The Battering Ram, Halligan Tool, Sledgehammer, and Bolt Cutters may be used in situations deemed exigent by a sworn supervisor, which require the immediate need to force entry into a structure or other location to safeguard life or when using the equipment would likely minimize the risk of injury to officers or citizens.
2. Absent exigent circumstances, a sworn supervisor must authorize using breaching equipment and should be present during its use whenever practical.
3. The Battering Ram, Halligan Tool, Sledgehammer, and Bolt Cutters may be used to force entry into a structure when necessary to safely execute an arrest or search warrant after sworn supervisor approval.
4. The AVON shotgun may only be used when an officer reasonably believes the active loss of life is occurring or active loss of life is imminent and using the AVON shotgun is necessary to hasten entry through a locked or barricaded entryway.
5. Document any use of breaching equipment in a Department Report (DR) and notify the on-duty Watch Commander and Risk Management as soon as practical.
6. This policy does not apply to the use of breaching equipment by SWAT Team personnel during a SWAT operation.

VERBAL COMMANDS

Whenever practical, immediately before using the AVON shotgun, verbally warn subjects to move away from the item to be breached, e.g., “Scottsdale

Police. Move away from the door!”

EQUIPMENT READINESS

Officers in the Patrol Specialty Breaching Program will have their assigned breaching equipment in close proximity, and in a constant state of readiness at all times when working on-duty or in a uniformed off-duty capacity.

- Carry the AVON Shotgun in a “cruiser ready” configuration, secured inside the shotgun case. Store the AVON shotgun in the trunk of your patrol vehicle.

