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|  | LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE GENERAL ORDER | Distribution | General Order Number |
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| Order Title: BARRICADED PERSONS and EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM | | CALEA Accreditation Standard: | Section |
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| | | Section Title SPECIAL OPERATIONS | |
| Rescinds: | |  Angela M. Greene, Chief of Police | |

This General Order is for departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. This General Order should not be construed as creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this General Order will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish guidelines and procedures for Lexington Police Department personnel responding to the scene of calls which may involve a hostage situation, incidents involving barricaded persons, or other crisis type situations that pose imminent danger to human life.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Lexington Police Department (“Department”) that tactical response situations shall be dealt with on an individual basis. The type and magnitude of police response to the threat shall be based upon reasonable actions commensurate with all facts and evidence available. Suspects who use hostages to effect their escape are desperate individuals who, if allowed to escape, will pose a continuing threat to their hostage and to the public at large. In special emergency situations, the Department will make every effort to ensure the safety of hostages, innocent bystanders, and officers while attempting to safely arrest the suspect(s).

Should the situation involve overtly dangerous or assaultive behavior directed toward officers or citizens, or should it involve suspects wanted on serious felony crimes, the tactical element shall immediately respond and address the problem through primary and secondary resolution options. In all other cases, after the situation has stabilized, this agency shall closely examine the situation and weigh the benefits of forcing the suspect or subject from the location against the

potential costs

III. DEFINITIONS

Active Shooter: An “Active Shooter Incident” is defined as any incident in which a person or persons armed with a deadly weapon is systematically, actively, and presently employing the weapons against innocent victims upon the arrival of the police. An active shooting incident should not be confused with a hostage/barricaded suspect incident where harm is being threatened, but no active assault is taking place

Barricaded Suspect: A criminal suspect who has taken a position in a physical location, most often a structure or vehicle, that does not allow immediate police access—whether fortified or not—and who is refusing police orders to exit. A barricaded suspect may be known to be armed, thought to be armed, have access to weapons in the location, or be in an unknown weapons status.

Barricaded Subject: A person who is not suspected of committing a crime but is the focus of a legitimate police intervention effort—most often involving threats of suicide or mental illness—who has taken a position in a physical location, most often a structure or vehicle, that does not allow immediate police access—whether fortified or not—and who is refusing police orders to exit. A barricaded subject may be known to be armed, thought to be armed, have access to weapons in the location, or be in an unknown weapons status.

Cordon: To identify a perimeter, establish a barricade.

Crisis Negotiators: Members of the Crisis Negotiation Team who are specially trained in crisis intervention and negotiation techniques.

Crisis Situation: Any incident involving violence or potential act of violence in which law enforcement officers are at a disadvantage and subject to extreme danger; and/or, any situation where an individual(s) poses a danger to themselves or others.

Hostage Situation: An incident involving a person being held by a suspect who is reasonably believed to be armed, as a means of forcing compliance with some demand.

Hot Zone: The radius in which injuries and deaths could be expected.

Safety Priorities (Priority of Life): The basis for the agency’s operational and tactical decisions and comprising the following:

- Hostages
- Innocent civilians
- Police officers
- Suspects and subjects

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Hostage and Barricaded Situations/Emergency Response Team

1. Initial Notification and Response:

This phase consists of the initial response, containment, and evaluation of a crisis situation which occurs at a fixed location. In the case of a barricaded person initial responders should avoid attempts at confrontation if possible. Upon receipt of information that a crisis situation exists, the following actions shall be immediately initiated:

a. Communications shall:

- 1) Dispatch Patrol Officers and Sergeant to the scene;
- 2) At the request of the Sergeant, notify the Patrol Lieutenant
- 3) Compile a separate written log of information received and calls dispatched concerning the crisis situation;
- 4) Restrict radio communications and move other radio traffic to a different talk group, if necessary; and
- 5) Notify the Emergency Response Team and Crisis Negotiation Team, and request tactical deployment.

2. The First Officer on the Scene Shall:

- a. Determine the nature of the situation;
- b. Relay information to Communications, as necessary;
- c. Request clear radio channel;
- d. Contain the situation as much as possible;
- e. Detain all persons having information regarding the suspect(s) and circumstances surrounding the situation;
- f. Provide the Supervisor with an estimate of back-up support requirements;
- g. Give the exact location of the incident and the number of units required to establish an inner perimeter;

- h. Instruct responding units of safest access routes;
- i. If necessary, treat and evacuate any wounded persons.

3. The First Supervisor on the Scene Shall:

- a. Assume Command by identifying themselves and advising they have command and directing personnel to complete the activities listed below;
- b. Evaluate the situation and modify or affirm back-up requirements
 - 1) If the situation warrants immediate action (i.e., a sniper firing, a barricaded subject firing, an armed subject with hostages, etc.) the supervisor shall request that the Regional ERT and CNT respond immediately and make every effort to contain and de-escalate the situation.
 - 2) If there is not sufficient time for the Regional ERT to respond, and the situation has become an immediate threat to human life, the Sergeant (Supervisor) shall coordinate the immediate action necessary to stabilize the situation.
 - 3) Determine whether the situation involves a Barricaded Subject or a Barricaded Subject, as defined above, and make appropriate notifications and requests for appropriate resources.
- c. Initiate a written log of actions taken.
- d. Advise the Patrol Lieutenant of the circumstances via secure communications;
- e. Debrief initial response unit(s).
- f. Ensure an inner and outer perimeter are established and adjacent areas and hot zones are cleared of bystanders and any injured persons;
- g. Establish a command post, (i.e., a field headquarters from which the Incident Commander directs operations and from which all planning and responses to crisis situations shall be coordinated), advising all concerned units of the incident location and of any streets or areas which may be unsafe for responding units to enter. The command post should be located between the inner and outer perimeter and not within the line of fire.
- h. Direct all responding members of the Department and of any other

agency to report to the staging area.

- i. Direct members of the Department not to fire their weapons or use chemical agents unless their lives or the life of another is in imminent danger, or as directed by the Incident Commander to neutralize the situation.
- j. Request for ambulance, rescue, fire, or surveillance equipment to report to the staging area.
- k. Deploy additional personnel when they respond:
 - 1) Assign personnel to cover exits and possible escape routes being certain to position them so they are not accessible to fire.
 - 2) Assign personnel to vehicle and pedestrian control.
 - 3) Maintain a list of the location of deployed personnel.
- l. Assign personnel to compile all of the initial on-scene intelligence regarding:
 - 1) Location of suspect or subject (floor, room, roof, etc.)
 - 2) Types of weapons to which the suspect or subject may have access.
 - 3) Identification of suspect, including complete physical description, mental state, and physical condition.
 - 4) Suspect's or subject's purpose.
 - 5) The crime suspect has committed (assault, robbery, disturbance).
 - 6) In the case of a non-criminal situation, determine the imminent threat of injury the subject poses to himself or others.
 - 7) Physical description of any hostage and their physical and mental condition, communicating this information to all responding personnel.
 - 8) Intelligence officers should begin the process of applying for a warrant or involuntary committal based on the situation.

4. Call Out Procedures for Crisis Situations:

Crisis negotiators should be utilized whenever members of the Department are confronted with suicidal and barricaded individuals, as well as in hostage taking and kidnapping situations. Upon being confronted with a situation where a negotiator is needed, the officer on scene will notify their supervisor. The supervisor will direct the Communications Center to contact the Deputy Chief of Police.

5. Call Out Procedures for the Regional ERT

The Emergency Response Team shall be utilized to assist the Department when Patrol personnel cannot adequately handle an event or situation. The Shift Commander is authorized to request Regional ERT whenever it is necessary to assist with a crisis situation.

6. Command Operations:

The Incident Commander shall assign appropriate ICS roles to personnel in accordance with Directive [7.03: Response to Unusual Occurrences](#) and evaluate initial reports and insure that an attempt has been made to establish a line of communication with the crisis principal (i.e., the person(s) responsible for initiating and/or sustaining a crisis situation) and:

- a) Establish liaison with the Regional ERT Commander to determine the possible call-up of back-up and plans of action. Outside police personnel may be requested under mutual aid if necessary to assist with routine calls for service and outer traffic posts on city line, if applicable.
- b) Determine the necessity to evacuate the area (i.e., homes, apartments, businesses, schools, and churches).
- c) Establish a Command Post and Staging Area if not already established;
- d) The Regional ERT Commander is responsible for directing the actual tactical operations once the decision has been made to initiate a tactical option. The Regional ERT Commander will review the plan with the IC including the use of any chemical agents.
- e) Relay information to Communications regarding manpower deployment and information relative to the suspect and any hostage.
- f) Contact the Commonwealth Attorney's Office as soon as possible.
- g) Maintain press relations until the arrival of the Public Information Officer.

- h) Evaluate the situation and determine the degree of danger to any hostage, Officer, or citizen and whether perimeter deployment is adequate.
- i) Notify the Chief of Police to advise them of the situation.
- j) Advise the Public Information Officer/Community Relations Officer of any hostage, sniper, or other crisis situation information. The PIO shall confer with the on-scene commander prior to releasing any information to the media. Only pre-approved information by the on-scene commander will be released. Once the situation has ended, all public information can be released based on the approval of the Incident Commander.
- k) Consider establishing a mobile reserve at the staging area to relieve personnel previously assigned to other tasks.
- l) Consider the need for additional support personnel to fill ICS roles and responsibilities.
- m) Determine the need for pursuit or surveillance vehicles and security of any travel routes.
- n) Take any other action deemed necessary to resolve the situation in the safest manner possible.

7. Coordination and Cooperation Between Special Operations Teams/Hostage Negotiation Teams and Other Operational Components

Once an operation is undertaken, it will be the responsibility of the Incident Commander to establish and maintain coordination and cooperation with the Regional ERT Commander, CNT Personnel and other operational components (Patrol, Investigators, etc.) to alleviate potential misunderstandings among the various operational units and all involved personnel, to provide for the safety of involved members, and to facilitate success of the operation. These other components include:

- a. Commander/Officer-in-Charge
- b. Regional ERT members including snipers
- c. Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT)
- d. On-scene personnel
- e. Communications Center
- f. Other involved units or components (Patrol, Investigators, etc)

8. Press Procedures

- a. Media personnel will be allowed such access as safety and law enforcement needs will allow during crisis situations.
- b. Under no circumstances will media personnel be allowed into the inner perimeter during a crisis situation.
- c. Media personnel will be placed together in a designated location as designated by the scene commander.
- d. All requests by media personnel shall be coordinated through the Public Information Officer.

9. Reports

- a. Immediately following the conclusion of the crisis situation, all logs, audio and video tapes, and/or photographs shall be collected by the Incident Commander or designee.
- b. The Incident Commander shall file an after- action report and assure a copy of the report is forwarded to the Chief of Police. The report shall include the following:
 - 1) All reports relating to the incident.
 - 2) Copies of written logs relating to the incident.
 - 3) Photographs of the incident scene, if available.
 - 4) Diagram of the incident scene.
 - 5) Critique of operational tactics.
 - 6) Any suggestions for correction of operational errors or procedural deficiencies.

10. General Instructions

- a. Officers responding to a crisis situation will report to the staging area or to a designated staging area. Assisting officers will not deploy on their own.
- b. When assigned to a specific duty, officers are expected to maintain absolute control of their post to assure the safety of innocent persons and to prevent escape of the perpetrator(s).

- c. Officers will not act individually unless ordered to do so or, if failing to act, would jeopardize the safety or lives of other personnel or citizens.
- d. Units directed to respond in emergency status shall terminate the use of emergency lights/siren at a reasonable distance from the crisis scene.
- e. Upon arrival at the scene, officers shall assure their radio is on the proper talk group or channel.
- f. Officers assigned to a crisis situation shall execute containment procedures, and evacuations where necessary for public safety.
- g. Units shall refrain from radio transmission related to the crisis situation except when necessary, and then only on the designated channel.
- h. Unassigned units shall remain clear of the crisis area and shall not enter the area unless directed.

B. Regional ERT and CNT Training Requirements

1. The Lexington Police Department is a member of the a Regional ERT is managed and overseen by the Rockbridge County Sheriff's Office.
2. Regional ERT personnel shall attend a 40- hour basic training program prior to being assigned to any role involving a tactical entry or sniper assignment. They may fill a support role with the team prior to attending the basic course.
3. At a minimum, ERT personnel shall attend the required in-service training each month. Team operators with specialties such as breacher, chemical munitions, etc. will attend additional training based on the needs of their specific specialty.
4. Operators assigned a Sniper specialty will be assigned to a minimum of four (4) additional hours per month specifically related to sniper qualifications. Snipers will maintain a shot log documenting all training and "cold bore" shots.
5. Crisis negotiators will attend a 40-hour basic negotiators course before being assigned a role in an operational setting where they are negotiating with a suspect. They may fill a support role with the team prior to attending the basic course.
6. All Regional ERT and CNT training will be documented and copies of all training and attendance records will be maintained by the Regional ERT Commander.

C. Regional ERT and CNT Selection Requirements

1. The Regional ERT Team will select all prospective members from a valid selection roster created through an application process. Criteria for application will be based on the following;
 - a. Time in service of a certain length,
 - b. Satisfactory job performance in present and previous assignments;
 - c. Satisfactory physical fitness levels; and
 - d. Confidence of the team as a whole in the candidates ability to function within the team.
2. Once accepted and assigned to the Regional ERT Team, all operational team members, regardless of rank or position, must maintain acceptable standards of performance.
3. A team member may voluntarily withdraw from the team at any time, for any reason. A team member may be removed from the team, by a consensus of the leadership elements of the team and approved by the Chief of Police. Team members who leave may make an application to rejoin the team.
4. Officers interested in the CNT will notify the Chief of Police with an official written letter of interest.

D. Specialized Equipment

1. The following equipment is authorized for use by Regional ERT members:
 - a. Weapons
 - b. Ammunition
 - c. Specialty weapons and equipment

E. Active Shooter Incidents

1. The initial responding officers will form a “Contact Team” in conformance with their Active Shooter Training Program.
2. Officers should utilize department issued and/or authorized equipment such as patrol rifle to initiate the action. If shotguns are utilized, they will be loaded with department issued ammunition.
3. The objective of the Contact Team is to find and stop the shooter.
4. Units arriving after the Contact Team has entered the building will either enter to assist the officers inside or secure a perimeter and complete other objectives as outlined in this directive. If the size of the building or number of shooters

requires a second contact team, the second team will notify the first team before entering the building.

5. Command staff arriving on scene will employ the ICS system as outlined in this directive and Directive [7.03: Response to Unusual Occurrences](#) and assure the following issues are addressed:
 - a. Public notifications for awareness and safety;
 - b. Notification of additional public safety departments and other resources;
and
 - c. Public sheltering if needed and containment of the incident

6. Annually, the Administrative Lieutenant shall conduct a documented annual review of this policy and any applicable operations. The documented review shall include any training needs/deficiencies, equipment needs/deficiencies, suggestion and policy updates/revisions as needed.