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| YUMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE |
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| SUBJECT: SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM ("SRT") | POLICY NO: 407.1-407.5 |
| DISTRIBUTION: Patrol | NO. PAGES: 11 |
| EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/09/96 | |
| REVISION DATE: 06/01/11 | |
| SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Replaces Policy No. 905.1-905.5. | |

407.1 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to define and describe the qualifications and conduct of the Yuma County Sheriff's Office ("Office") Special Response Team ("SRT"). The SRT is a team of experienced and specially trained officers with special tactical skills, including marksmanship and hostage negotiations. The SRT responds to critical incidents as ordered by the Sheriff or his designate.

407.2 POLICY:

Office policy mandates that the SRT priority during responses to critical incidents and during tactical operations is the preservation of human life.

407.3 DEFINITIONS:

- A. **Command Post:** The on-scene command headquarters.
- B. **Critical Incident:** An intensified police response to a contained scene for an unusual duration. A critical incident typically involves an increased threat to human life, major property damage and/or a large-scale community disorder.
- C. **Incident Command System (ICS):** A method of incident management that distributes control and responsibility among supervisors based on an established chain of command.
- D. **Field Supervisor:** The first level supervisor to whom an officer reports in the chain-of-command.

- E. **Inner Perimeter**: The immediate area of containment to which access is strictly controlled by officers.
- F. **On-Scene Commander**: The supervisory officer to whom the SRT members report in a critical incident or tactical operation.
- G. **Outer Perimeter**: The secondary control area surrounding the Inner Perimeter. During a critical incident, vehicle and pedestrian traffic is diverted from the area.
- H. **Crisis Management Unit**: Members of the Office who are specially trained in hostage confrontation and barricaded-subject situations. Negotiators are members of the SRT resource team.
- I. **SRT Commander**: The officer who commands the SRT.
- J. **SRT Team Leader**: The sergeant or officer in charge of the SRT.
- K. **Tactical Operation**: Any situation that involves actual or potential violence, such as a hostage situations, barricaded and armed subjects or sniper incidents. Tactical operations require equipment, weapons and training beyond the scope of regular patrol officers. A tactical operation usually requires a response by SRT.

407.4 **PROCEDURE**:

- A. **Tactical Operations Chain-of-Command**: During an SRT response which becomes a tactical operation, the Incident Commander has overall command responsibility. The Incident Commander shall coordinate the implementation of established procedures at the scene until command is formally relinquished to the SRT commander.
- B. **Firearms Protocol**: Strict firearms protocol is observed during tactical operations. Firearms will be discharged only pursuant to Title 13 guidelines and pursuant to the Office Use of Force policies.
- C. **Use of Deadly Force**: If circumstances warrant the use of deadly force, the use of said force will be in accordance with Office policy.

- D. Negotiating With Subjects:** During tactical operations, the demands of a subject may be negotiable **except** for the following:
1. NO additional weapons will be supplied to a subject.
 2. NO additional hostages will be given or exchanged.
- E. Attempts to Escape With Hostages:** Hostage-takers **will not** be allowed to leave the scene of an incident with hostages. If a suspect affects an escape with a hostage, the SRT Commander may employ certain tactics to ensure the safety of the hostage:
1. Chase Vehicles: The SRT Commander may deploy chase vehicles with SRT members in order to monitor the subject's actions and route.
 2. Request Assistance: The SRT Commander may request assistance from the Office and other agencies. Additional assistance includes, but is not limited to canine teams, aircraft surveillance, electronic tracking equipment, relief SRT Teams, and additional officers.
 3. Control Escape Routes: The SRT Commander will coordinate other units of the Office or additional agencies in order to control potential escape routes available to the subject.
- F. Deployment Guidelines:** The Incident Commander will make a request for the deployment of SRT. The Incident Commander maintains control and containment of the scene; orders evacuation of injured people and directs what units will respond to the scene.
1. Discretionary deployment: The following factors are considered in order to determine whether or not to deploy the SRT:
 - a. The need for special knowledge in tactical operations;
 - b. The need for special equipment;
 - c. The safety of citizens and officers within a certain response time;
 - d. Containment of the situation pending arrival of SRT;
 - e. Volatility of the situation;

- f. Confinement of the subject and subject's weapons; and
 - g. Type of crime involved.
2. Mandatory Deployment: The following situations **mandate** deployment of the SRT:
- a. Barricaded armed subjects;
 - b. Sniper attacks;
 - c. Security of visiting dignitaries as directed by the Sheriff;
 - d. Rescue operations during police-related situations, such as isolated citizens
 - e. Citizens endangered by gunfire or wounded law enforcement personnel;
 - f. Potential civil unrest situations, as directed by the Sheriff or his designate;
 - g. Civil unrest situations which require protection of fire and police units as directed by the SRT Commander; and
 - h. Assisting field supervisors in the deployment of chemical agents (except for shotgun ferret rounds.).

G. Specific Responsibilities of First Response Officers and Field Supervisors:

- 1. First Officer on Scene: The first officer on scene shall confine the suspect to the immediate area in which the suspect is located.
- 2. Additional Officers on Scene: Officers who are **not** involved in containment of the suspect will:
 - a. Evacuate any injured people and request medical assistance, if necessary;
 - b. Determine what crime has occurred;

- c. Relay all available information to Communications, including:
 - (1) Location of the incident and nature of offense;
 - (2) Number and description of hostages;
 - (3) Description of suspect(s) and weapon(s) involved;
 - (4) Potential escape routes and direction of travel; and
 - (5) Location to which additional units should respond and areas or streets which would be unsafe for responding units to enter.
 - d. Detain and segregate all witnesses to the incident for later debriefing; and
 - e. After relief personnel arrives, report to the Command Post or to the on-scene supervisor for debriefing.
3. First Field Supervisor on Scene: The first Field Supervisor on scene will establish an Inner Perimeter and an Outer Perimeter at the scene. Thereafter, the Field Supervisor will:
- a. Evacuate bystanders and debrief witnesses and/or the suspects;
 - b. Establish a temporary Command Post and notify Communications of the location and telephone number of the Command Post, if available. The Command Post should be located in a safe location within the Outer Perimeter;
 - c. Direct responding officers to report to the Field Supervisor or to report directly to a tactical position;
 - d. Direct subordinates to report to the Command Post after being relieved;
 - e. Designate a staging area within the Outer Perimeter and advise Communications of same; and
 - f. Direct Communications to include in **every broadcast** to responding units, the identity of areas or streets which may be unsafe for responding units to enter.

4. Incident Commander Duties: Incident Commanders will assume command until the arrival of the SRT Commander, Patrol Commander or the Sheriff; report to the Command Post; notify appropriate parties, e.g. subjects' relatives, news media; and coordinate intelligence-gathering activities.

H. Establishing Perimeters: Inner and Outer Perimeters will be established during the early phases of a tactical operation in order to contain the incident and any suspects. To be effective, **the situation must be isolated and the suspects must be contained as quickly as possible.**

1. Inner Perimeter: An Inner Perimeter is established in the immediate area of the objective. The Inner Perimeter is designed to isolate and contain the subjects. If available manpower allows, SRT personnel will relieve patrol personnel assigned to the Inner Perimeter depending on the circumstances of the situation and available officers.
2. Outer Perimeter: An Outer Perimeter includes road blocks and traffic control points to prevent vehicle traffic and pedestrian access into the area and also to block a suspect's possible escape routes.
 - a. Vehicles and people who leave the area of the Outer Perimeter will be searched to ensure that suspects do not escape.
 - b. The Outer Perimeter shall be established at a safe distance from the danger area to prevent exposure to sniper fire.
 - c. The Outer Perimeter is maintained until the incident has been resolved.
 - d. SRT personnel will not be assigned to guard the Outer Perimeter unless they are the closest responding unit, or if they are so directed.

I. Transfer of Command of the Inner Perimeter from Incident Commander to SRT Commander:

1. Prior to transfer of command: Prior to transfer of command, the Incident Commander shall advise the SRT Commander of the following:
 - a. The location of the incident including escape points and service connections (water, gas, electricity and phone);

- b. The identity and description of suspects, if known;
 - c. Suspect's history, including mental condition, physical condition and criminal history;
 - d. Last known location of suspects within the Inner Perimeter;
 - e. Type of weapons used by or available to the suspect;
 - f. Description of hostages, clothing, etc.; and
 - g. The suspect's relationship to the hostage, if any.
2. Formal transfer of command: After the Inner Perimeter has been established and the SRT Commander has been apprised of the situation, command of the Inner Perimeter is formally transferred from the on-scene commander to the SRT Commander.
 - a. The Incident Commander will be advised of the transfer of command and will pre-approve the transfer if circumstances permit.
 - b. The transfer of command will be announced by Communications/Dispatch so all personnel are aware and will know to whom they direct updated information or requests.
 - c. After transfer of command, the SRT Commander shall have complete control of and responsibility for the Inner Perimeter.
- J. Additional Units on Scene:** As additional units arrive on scene, they may be required to use different, unmonitored talk groups. The supervisor for the task/branch is responsible for maintaining communications with the Incident Commander.
- K. Snipers:**
1. Sparsely populated areas: If a sniper is encountered in a sparsely-populated area or building, residents shall be evacuated from the area or building via a specific exit route. People who are evacuated from a building or area must be screened and identified. Witnesses and others who are suspected of involvement with the sniper should be detained. If residents are unwilling, unable or afraid to leave the area, a second announcement shall be made to advise the remaining

residents to seek cover, remain immobile, and avoid exposed areas including windows and doors.

2. **Densely populated areas:** If a sniper is encountered in a heavily-populated area or building where evacuation is impractical, residents will be warned to seek cover, remain immobile, and avoid exposed areas, including windows and doors.

L. SRT Response:

1. **Incident Commander:** The Incident Commander shall assume the following responsibilities:
 - a. Overall command of operations at the scene;
 - b. Designate an area for the press to assemble, and provide information to the PIO;
 - c. Determine the need and availability of special equipment such as fire equipment and personnel, and surveillance teams;
 - d. Establish communications with other agencies, if necessary;
 - e. Brief the Patrol Commander and Sheriff of the status of the incident; and
 - f. Prepare a written administrative report of the entire operation as soon as practical after the incident is resolved.
2. **SRT Commander:** The SRT Commander is responsible for the overall operation of the Inner Perimeter, including positions of the SRT personnel, hostage negotiations and tactics employed by the arrest teams. The SRT Commander has final approval of all tactics employed by the SRT. The SRT Commander will:
 - a. Brief the Patrol Commander about the incident;
 - b. Monitor progress of the negotiations;
 - c. If time and circumstances permit, the SRT Commander will secure permission to use deadly force from the Sheriff or his designate;

- d. Designate someone to maintain a written record of the SRT operation;
 - e. Conduct a hotwash debrief of all involved SRT members, prepare a written report of the SRT response and provide a copy to the Patrol Commander as soon as practical.
3. The Incident Commander: The Incident Commander will assign patrol officers and/or volunteers to prevent vehicle and pedestrian traffic from entering the outer perimeter. The Incident Commander will provide support to the SRT including:
- a. Crowd control;
 - b. Locating staging area for emergency support equipment; and
 - c. Establishing the Command Post for the coordinated control of the operation.
4. First Line Field Supervisor (Patrol Supervisor): After the First Line Field Supervisor is relieved of command of the Inner Perimeter, he/she is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the Outer Perimeter. The Patrol Supervisor will assign personnel to locations prescribed by the Incident Commander. Those personnel will report directly to the Incident Commander.
5. SRT Team Leader: The SRT Team Leader will do the following at the direction of the SRT Commander:
- a. Deploy the team as directed by the SRT Commander;
 - b. Supervise all arrests and entry operations, as necessary;
 - c. Advise the SRT Commander if any SRT member needs to be relieved;
 - d. Restrict SRT members who are on a break to an area away from the media;


6. SRT Officers: SRT officers will position themselves as directed by the SRT Team Leader and advise the Team Leader of any unusual activity at the scene. In addition, the officers will:
 - a. Report directly to the SRT Commander for briefing immediately upon arrival; and
 - b. Deploy officers as directed by the Team Leader.

7. Crisis Management Unit: The CMU Team Leader will supervise the on-going efforts of the negotiators and communicate all significant information to the SRT Commander.
 - a. *Primary Hostage Negotiator*: The primary hostage negotiator will be assigned to the operation Command Post and will conduct all negotiations with the suspect, and will also:
 - (1) Report any changes in the suspect's status to the SRT Commander;
 - (2) Consult with the SRT Commander and secure The Commander's approval before making any guarantees to the suspect;
 - (3) Not interfere with the arrest or entry operation; and
 - (4) Not permit anyone else to enter into direct negotiations with the suspect without the approval of the SRT Commander.
 - b. *Secondary Hostage Negotiator*: The Secondary Hostage Negotiator is assigned to the Primary Negotiator and reports directly to the SRT Commander. The Secondary Hostage Negotiator will also:
 - (1) Maintain a log of the tactical operation;
 - (2) Maintain contact with the suspect, in person or by telephone;
 - (3) Record significant times during the tactical operation, including transporting and arrival times of members of the operation;

- (4) Coach the primary negotiator and assist as an intermediary between the Primary Negotiator and the SRT Commander; and
 - (5) Relieve the Primary Negotiator when necessary.
- c. *Intelligence Officer:* The Intelligence Officer assigned to CMU will:
- (1) Debrief any witnesses or hostages as soon as they are secure, and obtain information relating to the tactical aspect of the situation; and
 - (2) After debriefing, the SRT Team Leader will direct all witnesses and hostages to the investigating officer for further statements.
8. Investigator Assigned to SRT: An investigator is assigned to all SRT deployments in order to investigate criminal conduct. The investigator will direct all requests for additional personnel to assist in the investigation and to secure the scene to the Incident Commander.

407.5 AMENDMENT:

This policy is subject to amendment, revision and/or rescission as required.



Ralph E. Ogden, Sheriff of Yuma County
June 1, 2011