



Cincinnati Police Department General Orders

12.175 Use of Special Weapons and Tactics Unit

Reference:

Procedure 12.700 - Search Warrants/Consent to Search

Procedure 12.180 - Use of Crisis Negotiations Team

Standards Manual - 1.3.5, 12.1.2, 33.6.2, 43.1.6, 46.1.5, 46.2.1, 51.1.1

Purpose:

Provide guidelines for the use of Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) personnel and equipment.

Definitions:

Passive Category - The subject has not, and is not presently, engaged in offensive action.

Active Category - The subject has engaged, is engaged, or is preparing to engage in offensive action.

Introduction:

SWAT personnel are trained to assist Division personnel in managing volatile situations. Supervisors should utilize this resource whenever faced with any high risk condition.

Policy:

In the event of a hostage situation, or an active barricaded person, the Cincinnati Police Division will use every available means to preserve the welfare of the hostage and provide an expeditious rescue.

The primary objective in a hostile situation is to preserve the safety of the officers, hostages, and innocent persons, while effecting the eventual rescue of the hostage. The secondary objective is the apprehension of the perpetrator.

Procedure:

A. Duties and Responsibilities:

1. The first officer(s) on the scene will:

- a. Ascertain the exact location of the incident while staying within a safe area.
- b. Conduct an immediate tactical evaluation of the scene.

- c. Notify Police Communications Section (PCS) of any pertinent information. Request the presence of a supervisor and necessary assistance. Suggest safe routes of response and keep the subject under surveillance.
 - d. Locate witnesses, and attempt to identify suspect, hostages, objective of suspect, and weapons.
2. Field personnel will not engage in offensive action except for immediate self-defense or the defense of others.
3. The district officer in charge (OIC) will respond, take control of the scene, evaluate the circumstances, and, if needed:
 - a. Request a SWAT call-up through PCS.
 - b. Establish an outer perimeter to keep pedestrian and vehicular traffic out of the area.
 - c. Establish an inner perimeter to contain the subject.
 - d. Establish a command post, staging area, and an observation post, if possible.
 - e. Contact the district commander or Night Chief if applicable, by telephone if possible, and report all pertinent facts, including:
 - 1) The recommended number of additional personnel and equipment required, and the location of the command post and staging area.
 - f. Order an immediate evacuation of citizens from the affected area. Evacuation routes should not expose evacuees to any offensive action.
 - 1) If evacuation is not feasible, warn the occupants of the area with a public address system or telephone to remain indoors and away from windows.
 - g. Brief the SWAT supervisor of all information and pertinent data, who will then take command of scene.
 - h. Cooperate with any request made by the SWAT supervisor.
 - i. Appoint a recorder to keep a chronological log of events, posts, personnel, and action taken.
4. Upon verification by the district supervisor of a hostage or active barricaded person, PCS will:
 - a. Notify the SWAT Commander or Coordinator.
 - b. If available, dispatch an on-duty SWAT supervisor or officer to assist in evaluating the incident.
 - c. Activate the "Situational Occurrences Notification List."
 - 1) Initiate a SWAT call-up or follow the specific directions of the SWAT Commander or Coordinator.

2) Direct all involved district and SWAT personnel to go to a specific radio channel. PCS will monitor this channel to receive and act on directives from field units.

3) Dispatch a Fire Division paramedic unit and notify the unit of a safe location to respond and to whom they should report.

5. Duties of SWAT personnel:

a. The first SWAT supervisor to arrive at the scene will confer with the ranking on scene field supervisor.

b. The ranking SWAT supervisor is the tactical OIC of the operation and will command all personnel involved, in cooperation with district supervisors.

c. SWAT personnel will replace district personnel assigned to the inner perimeter as soon as possible.

d. The SWAT supervisor will maintain a chronological log of events, posts, personnel, and actions taken.

e. The SWAT Commander will notify the Police Chief and Safety Director as needed.

1) The Safety Director has requested to be notified of all SWAT incidents.

6. The district commander will respond to the command post and assist with the coordination of personnel and services from other City/County departments.

a. Assess the situation and request as needed:

- 1) Additional personnel.
- 2) Fire Division personnel.
- 3) Mobile Command Vehicle.
- 4) County prisoner wagon.
- 5) Red Cross.
- 6) Mobile Crisis Team.
- 7) Police Clergy.

B. Other Uses for SWAT:

1. Obtain the aid of the SWAT Team in the service of high risk search warrants.

a. A high risk search warrant is one where the officers expect:

- 1) Fortified locations.
- 2) Armed subject.
- 3) Subject has an outstanding warrant for Homicide, Rape, Felonious Assault, Aggravated Robbery, or Aggravated Assault.

4) Any other situation where the potential for violence is great.

5) A Search Warrant Service Risk Assessment Matrix is to be completed to assess the need for obtaining the aid of SWAT for the service of the search warrant.

b. Intelligence Section may be contacted for pre-raid and actual raid surveillance, video taping, and cagis.

c. When possible, submit requests to use SWAT through the SWAT Commander or Coordinator before preparing the search warrant.

d. When advance notice is not possible, notify the district commander, or Night Chief if on duty, for approval to request SWAT.

e. Request SWAT by calling PCS.

1) PCS will use the standard SWAT notification procedure.

f. SWAT personnel will handle the entry phase of the search and secure the premises. The unit obtaining the search warrant is responsible for the actual search.

2. Consider SWAT personnel for containing demonstrations occurring within a specific location or confined to a specific area.

a. The SWAT Commander or Coordinator will assign SWAT personnel.

b. SWAT personnel are best used as arrest teams.

C. Post Action Reports:

1. The district shift OIC will submit a Form 17 and log of events fully describing the action taken. Route reports to:

a. Police Chief.

b. Patrol Bureau Commander.

c. SWAT Commander.

d. Unit of occurrence.

2. The SWAT Coordinator will submit a SWAT incident report to the Police Chief, fully describing the tactical operation.

D. Equipment Inventory:

1. The SWAT Commander or his designee will:

a. Inventory and inspect SWAT equipment after each training session and call-up.

E. SWAT Rifles:

1. SWAT rifles are issued to SWAT team leaders and kept under their immediate control at all times. When carried in a vehicle, the SWAT rifle will be secured in the locked storage

compartment.

- a. A separate locker will be issued to each SWAT team leader for the storage of the SWAT rifle when the team leader is off duty.
 - b. Locker access is available only to the team leader, SWAT Commander, and SWAT Coordinator. The district/section commander will not be provided a key to the locker.
2. In a situation where a rifle could assist the police mission, a supervisor may request a SWAT team leader to respond.
- a. PCS will request a SWAT team leader to identify and respond by using all radio channels and the MDT.
3. The SWAT team leader will assess the situation upon arrival. The decision to use or not use the SWAT rifle rests with the SWAT team leader unless otherwise directed by the Police Chief, SWAT Commander, Deputy SWAT Commander, or SWAT Coordinator. No other command officer or supervisor may overrule the SWAT team leader.
4. The deployment of SWAT rifles is intended for short term, immediate need situations. It is not intended to replace the use of SWAT in tactical situations.

F. Recall Roster:

1. SWAT members will immediately notify the SWAT Commander or Coordinator of any change of address or phone numbers.
2. The SWAT Coordinator will provide an updated personnel recall roster to PCS following any changes.

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