

**POLICY  
901**

**EFFECTIVE  
DATE  
11-03-14**

**Eugene  
Police Department**



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## **Special Weapons and Tactics**

### **901.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team utilizes specialized training, expertise, and equipment to stabilize and resolve critical incidents in order to save lives and minimize risk to community members and police officers. Generally, if SWAT is activated, Crisis Negotiation Team personnel will be activated as well.

### **901.2 DEPLOYMENT RESPONSIBILITY**

The Eugene Police Department SWAT Team will deploy in any of the following situations:

- a. Sniper incidents
- b. Hostage situations
- c. Active-shooter situations
- d. Dignitary protection missions
- e. Building or area searches for armed subjects when the use of SWAT's capabilities would significantly increase safety to officers and/or the public.
- f. Barricaded subjects where it is objectively reasonable to believe the subject is armed with a firearm, explosive device, or other deadly weapon which might reasonably pose a threat to others if the suspect has committed a crime, **or** he or she poses a significant threat to others.
- g. High risk search or arrest warrant service where the level of risk indicated on the SWAT *Planned Operation Risk Assessment Form* indicates service by SWAT is recommended.
- h. Any request for SWAT by an outside agency or jurisdiction that has been approved by the SWAT Team Commander.

### **901.3 PLANNED OPERATIONS FORM**

A planned operation is any operation that SWAT undertakes that is not already in progress. The *Planned Operation Risk Assessment Form* will be used to assess the level of risk for any planned operation. The form will be filled out regardless of whether or not the person completing the form believes they will need or request SWAT assistance in any of the following situations:

- Any search warrant of a residence or building where persons could reasonably be located, regardless of the crime or classification.
- Any operation to arrest a person for a person-crime felony, or any other crime where the suspect has a history of violence, or has made credible threats of violence against police.
- Any operation where credible information exists indicating the suspect is armed and that he or she may use the weapon against the police.
- Any other operation which significantly elevates the risk to the community, officers, or the suspect(s). (An example would be the observation and conduct of a buy/bust or buy/wait of narcotics or firearms where the suspect(s) are known to be violent.)

The form will be completed by the person planning the operation, and will be approved by that individual's supervisor. (If the person preparing the form is a supervisor, no further approval is required.)

For situations where the form's point total indicates mandatory or optional consultation with the SWAT Commander, the form will be forwarded to the SWAT Commander for review. A consultation with the SWAT Commander or designee will be made to discuss the risk elements identified. The SWAT Commander or designee will determine whether SWAT will be utilized for the incident.

In all cases requiring completion of the form (even if SWAT consultation is not required) the completed form will be forwarded to the SWAT Commander for review and retention. The SWAT commander will retain the completed forms in accordance with the following schedule:

- a. For cases involving no statute of limitations, retain all materials for 75 years following the case closure.
- b. In all other cases, retain until the statute of limitations expires.

## **901.4 CALLOUT PROTOCOLS**

### **901.4.1 PRE-PLANNED EVENTS**

Requests from Patrol Division or Investigations Division for utilization should be coordinated between the requesting officer/detective's supervisor or Watch Commander and the SWAT Commander or designee. All requests should be accompanied by a *Planned Operation Risk Assessment Form* completed to the best knowledge of the requestor. Once SWAT participation in the operation has been confirmed the SWAT Commander will make the necessary notifications.

### **901.4.2 IN-PROGRESS EVENTS**

Any sworn supervisor may request SWAT Team activation for any in-progress situation where the sworn supervisor believes it necessary to resolve a situation outlined generally above, or where the sworn supervisors believes SWAT Team activation would help resolve a particular incident more efficiently or safely. If practicable, the request should be vetted through the on-duty Watch Commander. Once the sworn supervisor or Watch

Commander has presented the situation to the SWAT Commander, the SWAT Commander will decide whether or not criteria for deployment of the team has been met.

If the SWAT Commander determines that team deployment is required, the sworn supervisor on scene at the event is responsible for establishing a Patrol Command Post that will remain nearby, but separate from the SWAT Command Post.

### **901.4.3 OUTSIDE AGENCY REQUESTS FOR EPD SWAT TEAM**

Requests by other agencies for the use or assistance of the Eugene Police Department SWAT team will be routed through the Watch Commander who will notify the SWAT Commander. The SWAT Commander will evaluate the request and determine if the SWAT team will respond. The SWAT Commander will notify the Patrol Commander of any outside agency request and of the SWAT Commander's decision regarding deployment.

## **901.5 SWAT TEAM MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **901.5.1 SWAT TEAM COMMANDER**

- a. The SWAT Team Commander is responsible for everything the SWAT Team does and fails to do.
- b. Evaluate SWAT Team requests for activation, and approve or deny as appropriate.
- c. Complete reporting requirements about SWAT activations through chain of command.
- d. Maintain computerized call out lists of phone numbers and other contact methods; maintain next of kin information on all team members and emergency notification information.
- e. Plan adequate training for team members, including firearms and other weapons systems certifications, vehicle operation, first aid, and scenario-based incident training, and ensure it is properly documented.
- f. Ensure coordination and cooperation between Explosive Disposal Unit and SWAT during operations where explosive breaching will be conducted, and ensure adequate joint training is conducted.
- g. Develop tactical operations plans in conjunction with team leaders/scouts and oversee their implementation.
- h. Designate a unit armorer and ensure their proper training and certification. Maintain strict accountability of weapons and ammunition.
- i. Coordinate and ensure the completion of *Affidavits for Search Warrant* during in-progress incidents.

- j. Compile the post-event incident report and ensure completion of a separate after-action review. After-action reviews and *Planned Operations Risk Assessment Forms* are to be maintained by the SWAT Commander in accordance with the schedule listed in 901.3.
- k. Compile a single post-incident report that includes narratives from individual SWAT team members to be retained by the SWAT Commander. The SWAT commander will complete a short post-event narrative describing the participation of the SWAT Team in any arrest/scene-security event, whether pre-planned or not. This narrative will be submitted into Mobile Field Reporting (MFR) using the normal report submission protocols.

#### **901.5.2 SWAT TEAM SECTION LEADERS**

- a. The SWAT Section Leaders are responsible for everything their section does and fails to do.
- b. Maintain accountability of assigned operators, equipment, and vehicles at all times.
- c. Assist the Team Commander in planning adequate training of assigned operators, and ensure that training is properly documented.
- d. Designate members of their section to become trained in and/or use specialized equipment.
- e. Execute the operations plans developed for the team in pre-planned and in-progress incidents.
- f. Complete and submit any Blue Team entries for assigned team members when events requiring an entry are carried out, (i.e. *Use of Force, Firearms Discharge, etc.*)

### **901.6 SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT AND METHODS**

#### **901.6.1 NOISE and LIGHT DIVERSION DEVICES (FLASHBANG)**

- a. Only federally-approved and department issued noise and light diversion devices will be deployed by members of the Eugene Police Department SWAT Team.
- b. Only members trained in the use of noise and light diversion devices are authorized to deploy them in situations outside of training.
- c. Noise and light diversion devices should always be placed in a location that has been visually cleared. The intended location where the noise and light diversion device will be placed must be free of vulnerable persons, fire hazards, and explosion hazards **before** its placement.

- d. Noise and light diversion devices may be deployed at elevations above the ground if used in conjunction with a “Bang Pole.”

#### **901.6.2 CHEMICAL MUNITIONS**

- a. Only federally-approved and department issued chemical munitions will be deployed by members of the Eugene Police Department SWAT Team.
- b. Only members trained in the use of Chemical Munitions are authorized to deploy them in situations outside of training.
- c. Delivery methods include: 40mm extended-range launcher, hand-deployed canisters, aerosol expulsion canisters, and the “Hot Gas” deployment box.
- d. The use of “Hot Gas” in the interior of a residence or building will be deployed only when deadly physical force is warranted, *unless* used in conjunction with:
  - 1. A “Gas Safe”, which significantly reduces the risk of a fire, and window ports, that significantly reduce the displacement of oxygen, or
  - 2. A munition which has been specifically designed to burn but comes in a manufacturer designed housing that allows it to be inserted into a residence or building.
- e. The introduction of gas into a building or residence is considered a “seizure” and therefore should only be introduced when an exception to the warrant requirement is present, or a warrant has been obtained and the introduction of gas is objectively reasonable to gain the surrender of the subject or to maintain safety of officers and the public.
- f. All deployments of chemical weapons should be done in accordance with *Policy 800 – Use of Force*.

#### **901.6.3 BALLISTIC BREACHING**

- a. Only high-quality, factory-loaded ammunition specifically designed for ballistic breaching of doors, and firearms specifically adapted by the department for ballistic breaching of doors will be used by the Eugene Police Department SWAT Team.
- b. Only members trained in the use of ballistic breaching shotguns are authorized to deploy them in situations outside of training environments.
- c. Before deploying the system, members trained in the use of the breaching shotgun will ensure all ammunition contained and deployed with the system is specifically designed for ballistic breaching and of the proper caliber, and no cross-contamination of ammunition has occurred. The operator will ensure this a second time when the weapon is cleaned and stored following its deployment into the field or training environment.
- d. A member trained in the use of the ballistic breaching shotgun may deploy the system as a part of his patrol duties; however, the deployment must be specific

to a life safety situation. This requirement is not necessary for pre-planned events the SWAT Team will be conducting.

- e. If a member deploys and discharges the system in a setting outside of a training environment, the operator will be required to complete an incident report and turn it in to the SWAT Team Commander. The report should capture any property damage and other actions taken by the operator.

## **901.7 SELECTION AND TRAINING**

### **901.7.1 SELECTION**

SWAT team members will be selected from a qualified pool of non-probationary sworn police officers. Prospective team members will be evaluated as they perform tasks that are designed to assess their ability to shoot accurately under stress, demonstrate an appropriate level of physical fitness, operate as a team member, and demonstrate solid judgment when stressful variables are introduced to a situation. Examples of tasks a prospective member could be asked to perform include, but are not limited to:

- SWAT obstacle course completion for time
- A firearms qualification and proficiency test
- Tactical scenario-based testing
- An interview consisting of three - five panelists selected by the SWAT Commander

Following a tabulation of the scores from testing events, the prospective members and their recent work product and performance will be evaluated to determine if they possess or have exhibited the following qualities:

- A positive mental attitude
- Teamwork abilities that are responsible and supportive
- A healthy work ethic
- Integrity
- Selfless service
- An understanding and commitment to the department's crime reduction strategy
- Good judgment
- A professional appearance

### **901.7.2 TRAINING**

The SWAT team will train each month throughout the year ensuring the following training topics are addressed: firearms proficiency with all assigned weapon systems, building

searches, vehicle takedowns, hostage rescue situations, dignitary protection, and any other special training deemed necessary by the SWAT Commander. The training will consist of individual training and scenario-based training designed to incorporate all members of the team in the training scenario.

The SWAT team will organize its training in the following manner:

- Two, 10-hour training days per month
- One, 40-hour training week per calendar year
- Any other specialized training deemed necessary by the SWAT Commander
- Non-department hosted training available to individual members of the SWAT team