


Atlanta Police Department Policy Manual		Standard Operating Procedure
Effective Date April 1, 2013		APD.SOP.4043 Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)
Applicable To: All sworn employees		
Approval Authority: Chief George N. Turner		
Signature: Signed by GNT		Date Signed: 4/16/13

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1. PURPOSE

The intent of this directive is to establish procedures, guidelines and composition of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team of the Atlanta Police Department.

2. POLICY

The Atlanta Police Department shall have a SWAT Team to protect the lives of innocent citizens and police officers, as well as suspects. The presence of a highly skilled and trained police tactical unit has been shown to substantially reduce shooting incidents as well as the risk of injury and loss of life to citizens, police officers, and suspects.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 The SWAT Commander reports to the Special Operations Section (SOS) Commander or his/her designee in matters related to administrative functions. This does not infer that the SWAT Team Commander or his/her designee must report to the SOS Commander as tactical duties are carried out. Recognizing that SWAT operations are fluid and dynamic, the SWAT Commander as well as the SWAT Team members shall have the autonomy to make timely decisions that may positively impact the overall command and control of the situation.

4. ACTION

- 4.1 Recognizing that SWAT operations are hazardous and that a successful resolution of an incident may involve the need for decisions that may affect the lives and safety of persons involved.



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- 4.1.1 The following is the priority of life during SWAT operations:
1. Hostages;
 2. Civilians in the involved areas;
 3. Police officers;
 4. Suspects.
- 4.2 Organization
- 4.2.1 The SWAT Team is to be a full time tactical unit. All team members are assigned to SWAT and report to the SWAT Commander, who is appointed by the Chief of Police and reports to the SOS Commander. He/she along with the SOS Commander shall appoint an Assistant SWAT Commander.
- 4.3 Command Responsibility
- 4.3.1 All units responding to a SWAT incident shall utilize the Incident Command System (ICS). Section commanders or his/her designee shall serve as the Incident Commander for any SWAT call outs, other than planned warrant service, that occur within their assigned zone until the SWAT Commander or his/her designee arrives on the scene. Incident command shall be transferred to the SWAT Commander or his/her designee upon their arrival.
- 4.3.2 The Incident Commander shall have the overall responsibility and authority concerning the crisis situation. The SWAT Commander and Section Commander shall discuss viable options to resolve the crisis.
- 4.3.3 Once the decision to tactically resolve the situation has been made, the final option of which tactical plan to implement shall reside with the SWAT Commander. The decision shall be based upon training, experience, intelligence data, suspect information, weapons involved, actual or potential hostages, and location.
- 4.4 Activation of SWAT Team
- 4.4.1 SWAT Team personnel shall remain available for assignment at all times. An activation roster designating officer's name, work phone, radio number, and home/cell numbers shall be maintained by the SWAT Commander and the Communications Section.
- 4.4.2 In situations where a suspect is refusing to surrender and/or is threatening suicide by means other than the use of a deadly weapon, the SWAT Commander or Watch Commander may request a member of the Crisis Negotiation Team.
- 4.4.3 The SWAT Commander shall ensure that the Atlanta Fire Rescue Tactical Emergency Medic Service (ATEMS) is requested.
- 4.4.4 The SWAT Team may be requested by a watch commander or person of a higher rank in the following situations:
1. Planned high-risk arrest situations or search warrants. Form APD 659 Threat Assessment shall be completed by a supervisor. Regardless of the score on Form APD 659 (Threat



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Assessment For Warrant Service), the SWAT team shall execute the requested warrant. The Threat Assessment for Warrant Service (Form APD 659) will provide the SWAT Team the following pertinent information:

- a. The location in question is barricaded against entry or the suspect is inside a location, vehicle, or hidden from view and refuses to cooperate with officer's on the scene and to be taken into custody;
 - b. There is reason to believe the suspect(s) is/are armed and shall use the weapon against law enforcement officers or citizens;
 - c. The suspect's background reveals a propensity towards violence;
 - d. There is no practical way the suspect can be arrested outside the location;
 - e. And a Threat Assessment Score (Form APD 659).
2. Barricaded subjects;
 3. Hostage situations;
 4. Civil disorders, riots, and mob actions (SWAT is not a Mobile Field Force (MMF), but can be activated to support the MMF);
 5. Sniper fire:
 - a. Police officer or citizen under attack by sniper fire;
 - b. Anticipated sniper fire.
 6. Special events where the possibility of violence exists;
 7. Disasters and civil defense emergencies;
 8. Dignitary protection details;
 9. Patrol high crime areas as identified by data provided by the Tactical Crime Analysis Unit four (4) days per week unless otherwise directed by the SWAT Commander or a training conflict exist;
 10. Upon proper request, execute high risks warrants for the Atlanta Police Department; and
 11. Incidents determined by departmental command to be beyond the scope or capability of uniform patrol elements.

4.4.5 Upon activating the SWAT Team:

1. The Communications Section shall contact the SWAT Commander, who shall contact the on-scene commander and receive a briefing. He/she shall either approve or disapprove the continued SWAT activation. If the activation is approved, the SWAT Commander shall advise the SOS Commander and all SWAT Team members via push-to-talk mobile phone, who shall acknowledge the call and provide an estimated time of arrival (ETA).



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2. The on-scene supervisor shall:
 - a. Contain and isolate the incident by establishing an inner perimeter, as time and resources permit, and an outer perimeter to control pedestrian and vehicular traffic;
 - b. Whenever possible, evacuate occupants of affected residences and businesses to a location outside the outer perimeter;
 - c. Establish a command post and initiate ICS (Incident Command System); providing the command post location to the Communications Section and responding SWAT Team members. The command post should be out of line of sight of the crisis location;
 - d. Establish a staging area for SWAT. This is an area usually near the command post. The area should be a place to freely go over options and plan tactics in a secure environment that is large enough to accommodate personnel, vehicles, and resources;
 - e. Keep lanes of traffic open including a clear path from the staging area to the crisis location. Numerous types of emergency vehicles may be moving into the area (Fire Apparatus, TAV, and Ambulances). It may be necessary to remove and transport injured officers, hostages, and suspects from the scene.
 - f. Upon the arrival of the SWAT Commander, provide a briefing as to the nature and circumstances surrounding the incident.
 - g. At the direction of the SWAT Team Commander, coordinate the efforts involving the outer perimeter (staging area, media briefing area, traffic and crowd control, and the evacuation of civilians).
- 4.4.6 Responding SWAT Teams members shall comply with Department policy in the use of emergency equipment. The first team member to arrive, regardless of rank, shall report to the command post for a briefing of the incident. All team members shall report to the command post or other designated staging area for their assignment.
- 4.4.7 Upon completion of SWAT activation, members shall conduct a debriefing. Whenever possible, members of the effected units, other than SWAT, should also be included. This is an effort to reinforce the positive actions, correct any action that could have been done differently, and to get a complete understanding of the incident and the actions taken.
- 4.4.8 All responding team members shall complete an individual after-action report documenting their actions at the incident. This after-action report shall be forwarded to the designated SWAT Team member within five working days of the incident. The designated supervisor shall complete a Form APD 238 Significant Event Report, Form APD 809 Supervisor's Use of Force Supplement, and Form APD 669 Taser Use Supplement Report (when applicable) within 24 hours of the incident.
- 4.5 Selection Criteria for SWAT Team Personnel
 - 4.5.1 When SWAT Team member vacancies are identified, the SWAT Commander, with the approval of the SOS Commander, shall place an announcement in the APD Weekly Bulletin requesting the submission of candidate memoranda of consideration for a minimum of 10 days. Eligibility shall be based on the candidate's ability to meet the following criteria:



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1. Candidates must have completed three years as a sworn police officer prior to an assignment to SWAT;
2. Candidates should be in excellent physical and psychological condition and must pass a physical fitness test and a psychological examination. The standards for the physical fitness test shall be determined by the SWAT Commander, but must not exceed the physical fitness requirements of the current SWAT Team members;
3. Candidates should possess the ability to interact well with others in a strict team environment in the achievement of common goals in extremely high stress conditions;
4. Candidates must have achieved a minimum annual average of 90% during the last three years of in-service firearms qualification;
5. Candidates' performance evaluations shall be reviewed and must average "effective" for the last three years prior to applying for assignment to SWAT;
6. Candidates' disciplinary files from the Office of Professional Standards (OPS) shall be reviewed. The candidate must not have a sustained "Category 1" offence within the three years prior to applying for assignment to SWAT. A pattern of complaints, regardless of final disposition, shall be examined closely and a factor in the determination of eligibility. All open use of force complaints must be resolved with a favorable disposition prior to an assignment to SWAT. An open use of force complaint shall not preclude a candidate from future consideration.

4.6 Selection Process

4.6.1 The following selection process is designed to provide a verifiable system, which results in the highest quality of personnel being recruited on the SWAT Team.

1. Periodically the SWAT Commander or his/her designee shall provide departmental personnel with notification of openings on the SWAT Team. The applicant shall then provide the SWAT Commander or his/her designee with a memorandum expressing their interest in the position.
2. All SWAT Team members who are not on assignment probation shall participate in the selection process.
3. The applicant shall complete:
 - a. Atlanta Police SWAT "30 Round Quick – Fire" handgun qualification course with a minimum score of 90%.
 - b. Atlanta Police SWAT Team Semi – Annual Physical Qualification Test.
 - c. The SWAT Team's assessment exercise including an oral interview and practical force-on-force scenarios. Candidates shall be evaluated on situational awareness, demeanor and decision making under stress, and use of force decisions.
4. The SWAT Commander and team members shall then conduct an applicant review process and develop an eligibility list. The applicants shall be given an overall rating score based on



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but not limited to the results of the above listed phases: prior work performance, training, experience, and supervisor's recommendations.

5. Upon completion of the applicant review process, the results shall be forwarded to the SWAT Commander and/or the Chief of Police for final approval.
6. The applicants that are selected from the eligibility list shall then be required to successfully complete a psychological screening evaluation before gaining admission to the team.
7. The selected applications shall then be assigned to a SWAT training officer. The training officer is required to submit monthly evaluations on the officer's progress during their first six months on the team. The officer shall remain in a probationary status for a period of one year.

4.7 Performance Standards – Physical Fitness

4.7.1 SWAT Team members are expected to physically perform at uncompromising levels within a myriad of operational conditions. SWAT Team members are expected to maintain a high level of physical conditioning. SWAT Team members are not permitted to participate in on-duty physical fitness training activity during their shift. SWAT Team members are required to pass all phases of the semi-annual physical fitness test which is comprised of the following:

1. Pull – ups (Body weight manipulation);
2. One mile run (Cardio – respiratory endurance);
3. Push – ups (Muscle endurance);
4. Sit – ups (Muscle endurance);
5. Dummy drag course with APR (Practical application of strength and balance);
6. Incline sprint (Cardio – respiratory).

4.7.2 Times and repetitions on all phases shall be established by the SWAT Commander. In the event that a tactical team member fails to achieve the minimum rating on each phase, they shall be allowed to retest once within 60 days of their initial failure. If a tactical team member cannot successfully complete the physical fitness assessment within 60 days, SWAT supervisors shall review the circumstances and made recommendations for possible dismissal from the team to the SWAT Commander. If the failure is a result of a documented injury or illness, the SWAT Commander may grant a waiver or an extension.

4.8 Firearms Qualifications and Tactical Skill Set

4.8.1 All SWAT Team members shall be required to achieve a minimum score of 90% on all SWAT firearms qualification courses.

4.8.2 Tactical skill sets are fundamental skills that each SWAT member must master to effectively respond to every possible situation. They are not always specific or inclusive and may change as tactics change. All SWAT Team members shall be required to demonstrate and maintain adequate performance levels for all tactical skill sets. Examples of skill sets include, but are not



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limited to: entry/room clearing techniques, judgmental shooting, NLDD/chemical agent deployment, chem-bio operations, breaching and linear assaults.

- 4.8.3 When a team member fails a performance skill or a qualification course, the procedure is immediate remedial training followed by a retest. Failure to pass the retest shall result in the team member being placed in a non-operational status. Within 30 days of the failure, the team member shall receive a minimum of 4 hours of structured remedial training and be allowed to retest. Failure to take or pass a retest shall result in the dismissal from the team.
- 4.9 Dismissal from the SWAT Team
- 4.9.1 The authority to dismiss team members from SWAT Team rests with the SWAT Team Commander and/or the Chief of Police.
- 4.9.2 Team members may be dismissed from the team for the following reasons:
1. Failure to meet physical fitness requirements;
 2. Failure to respond to SWAT Team activations without prior approval by the SWAT Team commander or designee;
 3. Failure of tactical personnel to maintain a minimum 90% on all SWAT firearm qualification courses;
 4. Failure to maintain adequate levels of performance on any tactical skill set;
 5. Failure to attend training sessions;
 6. Failure to successfully complete the POST certified 40 hour Basic SWAT course (Level I);
 7. Failure to successfully complete the POST certified 120 hour Atlanta Police SWAT School (Levels I, II & III);
 8. Any team member may be dismissed from the team upon the recommendation of team leaders and the approval of the SWAT Commander.
- 4.10 Training
- 4.10.1 All Tactical SWAT members shall be required to complete a 40-hour P.O.S.T. certified basic SWAT course within 12 months of their appointment to the SWAT Team. In addition, all SWAT members are required to complete the Atlanta Police Department's 120 hour SWAT school. The Team Commander and Assistant Team Commander are required to attend the SWAT commander course offered by the NTOA (National Tactical Officers Associate) or the IACP (International Association of Chiefs of Police). Either course should be attended as soon as possible upon being assigned to either of these positions.
- 4.10.2 All SWAT Team members must attend all training exercises unless excused by the SWAT Team Commander or his/her designee. All SWAT members (bomb technician and other specialist included) shall receive a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours per month of SWAT related training and a maximum of thirty-two (32) hours of SWAT related training per month. Members who are absent from training, or who arrive late/leave early due to department-related duties shall submit



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the circumstances in writing. Members who fail to attend training and whom the SWAT Team supervisors have not excused shall be deemed to be absent without leave.

4.11 SWAT Equipment

4.11.1 The SWAT Team Commander, or his/her designee, shall be responsible for the issuance of all equipment. Tactical team members shall be issued the specified minimum equipment as listed below upon selection to the team. Additional equipment such as precision long rifle, shotgun, and Noise Light Diversion Devices (NLDD) shall be based on the officer's specialty, training, and needs of the Team.

4.11.2 Each SWAT Team member assigned to a tactical function should, at a minimum, be equipped with the following "basic load." The listed equipment shall be properly maintained:

1. One green tactical uniform;
2. One pair black tactical boots;
3. One pair of nomex entry gloves;
4. One pistol belt;
5. One tactical holster;
6. One ballistic helmet;
7. One set of protective eyewear;
8. One radio headset;
9. One set of tactical body armor;
10. One issued handgun with three (3) magazines;
11. One primary weapon with three (3) magazines;
12. One Taser ECD with two (2) cartridges.

4.11.3 All personnel are subject to a monthly line inspection conducted by a SWAT supervisor to ensure all equipment is accounted for and in good working condition. Some equipment is elective in nature and as such may be purchased and carried by individual team members, subject to approval by the SWAT Commander.

4.12 SWAT Vehicles

4.12.1 Authorization for the use of vehicles or equipment within the command and control of the SWAT Team shall come from the SWAT Commander or his/her designee.

4.12.2 The SWAT Commander shall issue instructions, specify conditions, and outline limitations of usage of the tactical command vehicle and tactical armored vehicle based on his/her analysis of the situation, task or objective, and communicate such information to the personnel who are responsible for the operation of the vehicle.



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- 4.12.3 The armored rescue vehicle is limited for utilization during SWAT Team activations or other events approved by the SWAT Commander. The vehicle is primarily used to provide transportation of tactical personnel from the staging area to the operational area or to conduct officer/citizen rescues. No equipment is permanently assigned to this vehicle.
- 4.12.4 The equipment vehicle is limited for utilization during SWAT Team activations or other events approved by the SWAT Commander.
- 4.12.5 Team members are designated as primary operators of SWAT vehicles. Other personnel who have received training may be authorized to operate SWAT vehicles. A designated SWAT Team Leader shall be responsible for the condition and maintenance of all SWAT vehicles. The Team Leader shall provide familiarization and training in the operation and care of all SWAT vehicles. All equipment stored or maintained on each vehicle shall be identified by the SWAT Commander.
- 4.13 Noise Light Diversionary Device (NLDD)
- 4.13.1 NLDDs are low explosive, non lethal, mechanical devices that upon initiation emit a loud noise, bright light, and heat. They are intended to distract and/or divert the attention of suspects during high-risk situations. Noise Light Diversion Devices can act as a deceptive diversion, physiological diversion, or both, depending on how they are deployed. They are used to provide a tactical advantage and to save lives.
- 4.13.2 NLDDs are authorized under the following situations:
1. To rescue hostages;
 2. To arrest and/or secure potentially dangerous suspects;
 3. During high risk warrants where the suspects are potentially armed;
 4. To control and/or suppress a riot;
 5. To discourage dangerous animals from attacking;
 6. During incidents where their usage could reduce the likelihood of deadly force or save lives.
- 4.13.3 Authorization
1. Noise Light Diversion Devices shall only be used by officers that have been properly trained in their usage. Officers should also receive follow-up training and practice on a regular basis.
 2. Except in emergency situations, the planned use of an NLDD shall require the approval of a supervisor.
- 4.13.4 Potential Hazards of Deployment
1. NLDDs can cause injury and therefore shall be deployed utilizing caution. The following are some of the potential hazards:



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- a. Children and the elderly - When there are known infants, children, or elderly people present NLDDs should not be deployed unless other aggravating circumstances justify their usage. The possibility of negative consequences should be balanced with the negative consequences should a gun battle occur. The decision to use a distraction device in the presence of children and/or the elderly should be made with great care and consideration for the following reasons:
 - (1) Some children may become hysterical while others may be stoic.
 - (2) Infants' auditory organs are still under development during their first year, therefore there is a possibility of hearing damage.
 - (3) Elderly people are often afflicted with a variety of health problems that may be aggravated by exposure to an NLDD.
- b. Fire - Although it is uncommon, NLDDs may start a fire, therefore care should be taken to avoid deployment in explosive environments and/or near flammables and highly combustible items. A fire extinguisher should always be available. Some environments, such as methamphetamine labs, shall rule out the usage of an NLDD.
- c. Secondary projectiles - The blast pressure from a NLDD can create projectiles from small items such as rocks or broken glass. The presence of these projectiles should be considered prior to deployment and may exclude their usage.
- d. Smoke - NLDDs also emit some smoke. In small confined areas this smoke can impair the officer's visibility. This is a factor that an officer must consider prior to deployment. As soon as it is practical, after deployment, officers should vent confined areas by opening windows and/or doors.
- e. Hearing - It is highly unlikely, except in the case of an infant, that one exposure to a distraction device shall cause any permanent hearing damage; however, multiple exposures without any protection can cause hearing loss. As a result, hearing protection is mandatory during training exercises. The use of hearing protection is not recommended during tactical operations.
- f. Failure to initiate - Some devices fail to initiate. Their failure can cause additional risks for the officers involved. Therefore officers should train for this possibility. They must make decisions whether to continue the entry/operation or to deploy a second NLDD. As soon as reasonably possible, team members should notify a team leader and proper render safe procedures should be followed based on the type of malfunction encountered.

4.13.5 Methods of Deployment

1. NLDDs may be hand thrown or initiated on one of the department's NLDD poles. Regardless of the method used officers should always LOOK to make sure the area where the device shall initiate is safe. Officers should also advise other officers that an NLDD is being deployed.
2. Hand deployment is the most common method. During this type of deployment the officer should:



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- a. Remove the device from the carry pouch;
 - b. Place the spoon in the web of their hand with the pull ring facing the officer; (Note: If you are holding the device in your left hand this requires the device to be held upside down)
 - c. Grip the device firmly;
 - d. Prepare the pins by adjusting the bend to 45 degrees;
 - e. Step to an area that allows visualization of the deployment zone and a clear path to toss the device;
 - f. With the pull ring around one of the fingers of the opposite hand, pull the pin and retain it;
 - g. Look at the intended target area ensuring that it is free of hazards and people;
 - h. Throw the device in a controlled and deliberate manner attempting to place it in the target area observed;
 - i. Step back into the entry stack or away from the opening.
3. In the event that an operator determines he/she cannot safely deploy a prepped NLDD, the operator shall never attempt to insert the pin back into the device. The operator shall announce, "no bang" and deploy the NLDD into a pre-determined safe area.
 4. The NLDD poles were designed to place a distraction device at a precise location. They are the preferred means of deployment of NLDD through windows and for the initiation of a distraction device outside of second story windows.

4.13.6 Safety Equipment

1. During pre-planned NLDD deployments, officers are required to wear eye protection, Nomex gloves, and long sleeves. Portable fire extinguishers must also be available during these deployments.
2. Hearing protection is required during training exercises involving the initiation of NLDDs.

4.13.7 Reporting

1. The SWAT Commander and his/her designee are responsible for the purchasing and distribution of NLDDs. They are also responsible for meeting ATF (U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms) requirements including the maintenance of a log for each device. The log should contain: who it was issued to, when it was used, and for what purpose.
2. Supervisors are required to complete a Form APD 809 Supervisor's Use of Force Incident Supplement after the deployment of an NLDD. All other required reports shall be completed by the deploying officer whenever a NLDD is deployed inside a structure or in close proximity to any individual. Form APD 809 Supervisor's Use of Force Incident Supplement is not required when a NLDD is deployed on the exterior of a structure for the sole purpose of causing a mental or psychological distraction.



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4.14 Explosive Breaching

4.14.1 The utilization of explosive breaching charges can be a safe and viable tactic when supporting Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) personnel during the resolution of certain critical incidents. These events may include, but are not limited to:

1. Terrorist events;
2. Hostage rescue operations;
3. Service of high-risk search/arrest warrants;
4. Barricaded gunman;
5. Pre-detonate booby traps;
6. Civil disaster scenarios.

4.14.2 Tactical breaching charges commonly used by law enforcement are not "weapons"; as they are neither designed nor intended to be used as such. Tactical breaching charges are specialized tools that are deployed in the furtherance of legitimate law enforcement duties. Tactical explosive breaching/entry, the use of explosive materials to affect an entry, can be an advantageous tactical option. Effective breaching techniques allow immediate entry with minimal risk to victims, tactical officers, and the suspect(s). This technique enhances the speed and shock effect required for dynamic rescue or entry operations. Explosive breaching may also be useful to pre-detonate any emplaced booby-traps known to be present at the crisis site. An effective breaching device utilizes the minimum amount of explosives required to achieve successful penetration of a target.

4.14.3 Criteria for Explosive Breaching

1. Situations where explosives are the only means capable of physically breaching the locations barriers/fortifications.
2. Situations where the suspect possesses or has demonstrated a propensity for violence.
3. Situations where the breach point has an unusually risky configuration.
4. Situations where a penetration/compromise of the structure is desired (regardless of whether entry is being made at that time, i.e. Breach and Hold).

4.14.4 Procedure

1. The option to utilize an explosive breach shall be at the discretion of the SWAT Commander or his/her designee.
2. The construction of all explosive breach devices shall be constructed or supervised by an EOD (Explosive Ordinance Disposal) Technician and/or the tactical explosive entry trained Breacher.



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3. Scouting a target analysis is an important pre-breach responsibility of the Breacher and/or Assistant Breacher.
4. Construction of the specific device to be used shall vary from situation to situation. It shall be designed based on the known target intelligence, experience, and training of the Breacher. A variety of certain pre-made charges shall be on-hand at all times and available for immediate deployment.
5. With the exception of exigent situations, a "Breacher's Brief" shall be conducted. Prior to setting the explosive charge/breach, the breacher shall present this brief to the SWAT Commander, entry team leader, entry team members, and others involved in the situation.
6. Placement of the explosive breaching devices shall be preformed by the Breacher or the Assistant Breacher.
7. The safe and tactically sound location of the entry team's "stack" shall be determined by the SWAT Entry Team Leader in consultation with the Breacher.
8. Once the explosive breaching device(s) are set and the entry team positioned, the firing device shall be readied.
9. The Entry Team Leader shall direct the Breacher and/or Assistant Breacher when to initiate the charge(s).
10. At the conclusion of the mission, it shall be the responsibility of the Breacher and/or Assistant Breacher to submit a report which details the specific composition of the explosive charge(s) used and their performance. This shall be attached to the SWAT after-action report.

4.14.5 Explosive breaching charges are useful tools; however, they may not be appropriate in all situations. An explosive breach should not be employed when:

1. The construction of the doors, walls, or target to be defeated is not known;
2. There is a known presence of unstable chemicals or other incendiary materials in close proximity to the crisis site;
3. Other means of mechanical breaching would be more effective to provide positive entry, officer safety, and mission success.

4.14.6 Safety Procedures

1. Emergency Medical personnel shall be present during operations and training where explosive breaching techniques are preformed.
2. The Breacher and/or Assistant Breacher shall be in control of the firing device at all times to prevent an unintentional detonation by other persons. All explosives shall remain in control of the EOD Unit and be stored as appropriate to ensure their security.
3. Dual-priming shall be the standard procedure used to ensure positive detonation of breaching charges. Shock tube initiation systems shall be used. Any misfires shall be handled only by EOD Technicians.



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4. All members of the tactical unit shall wear safety clothing and equipment during explosive entry training and operations. This includes, but not limited to, Nomex uniform, gloves, eye protection, hearing protection, helmet, ballistic/load bearing vest and boots.

4.14.7 Training and Documentation

1. Explosive breaching training shall be conducted with all members of the tactical unit. The total training shall not exceed thirty-two hours per month.
2. Breachers and Assistant Breachers shall conduct additional on-going training to test and evaluate the types of charges best suitable for various targets.
3. Explosive entry training and operations shall be documented in writing. This documentation may be used as a database for future use when determining the most appropriate type of charge.

4.15 Chemical Munitions

4.15.1 It is the purpose of this section to establish guidelines for the use of chemical agents and munitions by SWAT to effectively deal with barricaded suspects or other incidents that pose a threat to citizens, hostages, or officers, and are believed to be armed and/or violent. Chemical agents and munitions are used by SWAT to force suspects out of a barricaded position, or to physically incapacitate suspects to a point where SWAT can more safely approach and apprehend them.

4.15.2 Barricaded suspects pose a significant threat to the safety of the neighborhood or area of occurrence and are a threat to the lives of citizens and officers. The refusal to submit to arrest and exit a barricaded position should be considered an indication of irrational behavior and/or violent criminal intent. Officers called upon to respond to barricade events shall follow the procedures of containment, communications, SWAT channel communications, evacuation, command and control, use of force, and use of chemical agents and munitions as enumerated in this policy (APD.SOP.3180 Unusual Occurrences, Section 4.2).

4.15.3 Considerations for deployment:

1. As soon as reasonably possible, an effort should be made to establish communications with the suspect, directing him/her to exit the location and surrender to police. The barricaded suspect should be told that he/she is resisting arrest by failing to surrender.
2. A tactical deployment (to include containment based upon the terrain or environment, long rifle positions, arrest team, entry team, emergency entry team or mobile option team) should be in place prior to chemical agent deployment.
3. An evacuation of citizens from the affected area should be accomplished to prevent contamination of uninvolved persons in the absence of exigent circumstances.
4. If pyrotechnic chemical agents are to be used, the fire department should be notified and requested to stand by near the scene of the incident.
5. Only police personnel who are trained and certified should deploy chemical agents.



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6. Prior to deployment of chemical agents, when practical, notification to police personnel present should be given to avoid exposing unprotected personnel and citizens to the agents.
7. Chemical agents may be deployed as deemed necessary by the SWAT Commander.

4.15.4. Volume of chemical agent to be used:

1. Officers should use only the amount of chemical agent or OC (Oleoresin Capsicum) that is objectively reasonable and necessary. CN (Chloroacetophenone) and CS (Chlorobenzalmalononitrile) in sufficient quantities in an enclosed area can result in the displacement of enough oxygen to cause a hazard to person(s) inside the area. If CN or CS is used in an enclosed area, trained personnel should closely monitor the amount introduced so as to minimize this hazard (formulas for this are available from the manufacturers).
2. The type and amount of chemical agent to be used should be predicated upon:
 - a. The seriousness of the offense;
 - b. The threat to the community posed by the suspect;
 - c. Location size, single level or multi-level, available windows or areas for insertion of chemical agents, wind and weather;
 - d. The available positions and locations from which chemical agents can be deployed;
 - e. The available team members that can be used to deploy agents.;
 - f. The potential for injury to persons inside the location such as hostages who are elderly or under the age of twelve years; and
 - g. Potential reaction of the suspect to the agents utilized.
3. Basic deployment of chemical agents dictates that its use is most effective when it is a surprise to the suspect(s). Therefore, no announcement of its use is required, although it is not necessarily prohibited if the SWAT Commander deems it necessary.
4. Chemical agent deployments shall fall into two categories: (1) Systematic Gas Out and (2) Total Gas Out. Systematic Gas Out's introduce the agents in gradually increasing amounts and/or areas. These can be used if it is believed that small amounts of the agent may immediately force the suspect(s) out, or if trying to move a suspect(s) in a structure from one part to another. Total Gas Outs would entail the introduction of large amounts of chemical agents into as many parts of the affected area as quickly as possible. When actually deploying the agents, the following guidelines should be used:
 - a. Munitions shall be fired using trajectory to minimize injury to subjects inside the location.
 - b. When practical, the upper corners of windows shall be used in conjunction with upward trajectory.



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- c. Chemical agent projectiles shall not be directly fired at a human target unless an immediate deadly force situation exists.
- d. Where feasible, verbal directions should be used with the insertion of chemical agents; i.e., "Exit the front door, unarmed, with your hands up, and you shall not be harmed."
- e. Where practical, cover and/or concealment should be used when deploying chemical agents.
- f. After the scene is secure and the suspect is in custody, all deployed munitions, undepleted munitions, and fragments should be removed from the scene.
- g. In the event the scene is a crime scene, nothing should be moved or altered until the scene has been processed by investigators or Crime Scene Investigations.

4.15.5 Persons exposed to chemical agents shall be provided with decontamination assistance as soon as it is safely feasible to do so.

1. Officers shall Flush the suspect's effected area with cool clear water for at least ten minutes. This process can relieve excessive skin contamination.
2. Arrestees shall be taken to a medical facility and given treatment when necessary. A medical facility can be an emergency room, ambulance, EMT provider, or nurse in a correctional facility.

4.15.6 The use of any chemical agent of any type shall be documented by the SWAT Commander or his/her designee as part of the official after-action report summary. If suspects or civilians were exposed to any agent, a Use of Force Report should also be completed. The Use of Force Report should be completed by the supervisor of the officer that deployed the agent. The After-Action Report should include:

1. Type(s) of chemical agents used;
2. Number of devices used;
3. Justification for use;
4. Names of officers who dispersed the chemical agents;
5. Medical treatment and decontamination provided; and
6. Reported injuries.

5. DEFINITIONS

5.1 TAV: Tactical Armored Vehicle - An armored vehicle used to transport heavily-armed SWAT team members. These vehicles are often armored and can also be used to transport specialized equipment (for example, tactical equipment and breaching tools), as well as being in situations where armed confrontation is likely.



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- 5.2 ECD: Electronic Control Device - A less than lethal force option that projects two probes into the target and transfers electrical pulse into the target, causing the muscles in the targeted area to constrict.
- 5.3 Cartridge: A magazine fitting on the front of the ECD which contains two probes and high voltage insulated wires that are propelled with a non – flammable nitrogen propellant.
- 5.4 Explosive Breach: A technique of employing explosive materials to create an opening through a door, window, wall, or other barrier to allow access.
- 5.5 Breacher: A member of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit or Tactical Unit who is specifically trained in the construction, placement, and firing of explosive breaching charges.
- 5.6 Assistant Breacher: A member of the Tactical Unit or designated tactical operator who works with and trains under the direction of the Breacher who assists with the construction, placement, and firing of explosive breaching charges.
- 5.7 Explosive Breaching Device: A target-specific device constructed with explosives and non-explosive materials for the purpose of gaining entry into a structure.
- 5.8 Breacher's Report: A detailed form used to document the use of explosive breaching charges during training and tactical operations.
- 5.9 EOD: Explosive Ordnance Disposal -_The detection, identification, on-site evaluation, rendering safe, recovery, and final disposal of unexploded explosive ordnance. It may also include explosive ordnance which has become hazardous by damage or deterioration.
- 5.10 Barricaded Suspect(s): A person(s) who is known or believed to be armed in a position of hiding, such as any shelter, conveyance, structure, or building used as a barrier against law enforcement and refuses to exit and submit to custody or arrest.
- 5.11 Chlorobenzalmalononitrile: The defining component of a "tear gas" commonly referred to as CS gas, which is used as a riot control agent. "CS gas" is actually an aerosol of a volatile solvent (a substance that dissolves other active substances and that easily evaporates with it) and chlorobenzalmalononitrile, which is a solid compound at room temperature. CS gas is generally accepted as being non-lethal. In 1959 the US Army adopted this substance for combat training and riot control purposes. Different forms of CS had different persistence characteristics, due to their formulation, dissemination, and rate of hydrolysis. CS is normally used either as a pure powder in bulk forms or as pellets in a pyrotechnic mixture for employment in burning grenades and bomblets. A yellowish powdered solid in pure form, CS has a characteristic pungent pepper-like odor. Employed in aerosol form, CS irritates the eyes, nose, and throat.
- 5.12 Chloroacetophenone: a chlorine derivative of acetophenone; especially: the alpha derivative C₈H₇ClO used especially in solution as a tear gas—abbreviation CN
- 5.13 Oleoresin Capsicum: OC - is a lachrymatory agent that is used in riot control, crowd control and personal self-defense, including defense against dogs and bears. Its inflammatory effects cause the eyes to close, taking away vision. This temporary blindness allows officers to more easily restrain subjects. OC is technically not a chemical agent. It is a naturally occurring organic substance that acts as a strong irritant to human eyes, mucous membranes, and skin. For the purposes of this section it shall be treated the same as other chemical agents deployed.



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6. CANCELLATIONS

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) signed May 24, 2012 and effective July 1, 2012

7. REFERENCES

APD.SOP.3030 Arrest Procedures
APD.SOP.3040 Weapons
APD.SOP.4040 Special Operations Section
APD.SOP.6110 Communications