



ANDERSON COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 210

GENERAL ORDERS

SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES

PURPOSE:

This policy outlines the responsibilities of users of special purpose vehicles which provide specialized equipment and a support base for technical or tactical operations.

GENERAL PROCEDURES:

The senior deputy coordinating a particular activity where a special purpose vehicle is used is responsible for ensuring the below listed procedures are followed. Unless operational concerns dictate otherwise, all special use vehicles will be parked at a location designated by the Sheriff when not in use.

Division commanders and/or special team commanders are to designate the persons or positions authorized to operate special purpose vehicles and their equipment. The appropriate Division Commander or Special Operation Team Commander will maintain a listing of designated operators. This listing will be updated, as needed.

Special team commanders are to ensure that only those special team personnel trained in the use of a special purpose vehicle assigned to their team will operate it. Training is to consist of:

1. Familiarization with vehicle maintenance needs
2. Function of the vehicle in team activities
3. Familiarization of the equipment assigned to the vehicle

Whenever a special purpose vehicle is used, users are to return it in a clean condition. The special purpose vehicle, once returned to the parking area, is to be filled with gasoline and made ready to activate. All radios and lights are to be turned-off.

MOBILE COMMAND POST:

Whenever the Anderson County Emergency Services Mobile Command Post (MCP) is activated, the supervisor in charge is responsible for the security of all equipment within the command post. The on-board equipment is owned and maintained by Anderson County.

Shift supervisors may activate the Command Post which is to be operated in a businesslike manner. On-board personnel and radio communications, used to coordinate activities with other agencies, will be kept to a minimum. The deputy assigned to the unit is responsible for the vehicle's interior cleanliness.

The Command Post will be equipped with all necessary items. Equipment inventory and replenishment is coordinated by Anderson County Emergency Services. Anderson County Fleet Services is responsible for maintaining the MCP.

HELICOPTERS:

Aerial support is available for, but not limited to, these functional areas:

- Narcotic investigations
- Marijuana eradication
- Investigative surveillance in other types of investigations
- Emergency response to “in-progress” calls
- Pursuit support
- Disaster response
- Directed or random patrol
- Search and rescue operations
- Aerial photography
- Support of SWAT operations
- Prisoner transport

Operation of any aircraft by the Air Support Unit must be authorized. Any request for the Air Support Unit is to be directed to the on-call pilot, who will authorize or seek authorization for the operation.

Direct authorization for operation by the Sheriff, Deputy Chief or appropriate Command Staff member will be acted upon immediately and the on-call pilot will be notified as soon as possible.

The Flight Unit Supervisor will normally conduct operation scheduling, with as much advance notice as possible. Whenever the Air Support Unit is activated, the following chain of command exists:

1. Sheriff
2. Deputy Chief
3. Special Operations Captain
4. Air Crew

A certified aircraft mechanic assigned to the Air Support Unit will handle aircraft maintenance.

On-board equipment for the BELL helicopter includes:

- Garmin GPS Systems
- Night Sun (spot Light)
- Canon Image Stabilizer Binoculars
- Night Vision Goggles (2 pair)
- FLIR System and Monitor
- Aviation radios & transponder
- Police radios (low band & 800MHz)
- FLIR Night Vision Camera
- Digital Video Cockpit Recorder

Further description of policies and procedures concerning the helicopter can be found in the Flight Operations Manual.

LAKE PATROL:

The purpose and primary objective of the Lake Patrol Unit is to provide for the safety and security of citizens utilizing the waters of Lake Hartwell. The unit will periodically check the property of lake front homeowners and area lake businesses.

In concert with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Lake Patrol will conduct water Search and Rescue (SAR) operations, as necessary.

The Lake Patrol is available to patrol local waterways, conduct SAR missions, drug enforcement/interdiction missions, and assist any other agency so designated by the Sheriff. Boat activation must be authorized by the Sheriff, Deputy Chief, or Special Operations Captain.

The watercraft will not be authorized for use during extreme weather conditions unless an emergency situation exists.

Those selected for lake operation duty must meet the following criteria:

- Eighteen months law enforcement experience with satisfactory work performance
- Some experience/familiarity with operating watercraft as well as some knowledge of boating regulations
- Be in good physical condition and able to perform the job duties associated with the unit

Newly assigned Lake Patrol members must complete prescribed training courses and successfully meet all requirements. Lake Patrol members must also complete all unit and agency in-service training, as assigned. Training records will be maintained in accordance with the training policy, with copies of all training records being forwarded to the Training Unit.

Each marine deputy is responsible for the condition of his/her watercraft. Any mechanical problems shall be reported to the Special Operations Captain as soon as possible. Accidents involving the watercraft should be reported to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Sheriff, Deputy Chief, or Special Operations Captain, as soon as practicable.

Each watercraft shall be equipped with an anchor line, a tow line, six fenders, mooring lines, life jackets, Global Positioning System (GPS), rescuer line, fire extinguisher, first aid kit, hand held light, flashlights, spotlight, depth finder, low-band radio and Convert-A-Com docking station for a portable 800MHz radio.

Only personnel authorized by the Sheriff, Deputy Chief or the Special Operations Captain may utilize equipment and operate watercraft owned by ACSO.

Unit members will maintain their agency-issued equipment and weapons, unless instructed otherwise. Equipment will be maintained in serviceable condition. Shortages and unserviceable equipment will be reported to the

Special Operations Captain immediately. The Special Operations Captain is responsible and accountable for all equipment inventories and quarterly documented inspections.

SWAT VEHICLES:

Two specialized vehicles are available for use by the agency's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team. The vehicles provide transportation and secure storage for the team's supplies and specialized equipment.

The vehicles are under the control of the SWAT Commander who is responsible for designating when and if a SWAT vehicle is used and the type of equipment stored and transported. Only team members are authorized to operate the vehicle(s). No special license is required.

SWAT vehicles are maintained by Anderson County Fleet Services.

There is no on-board equipment for the SWAT bus; on-board equipment for the SWAT van includes:

- Fire Extinguisher
- Stop Sticks
- First Aid Kit
- Step Ladder
- Less-lethal Shotgun

NOTE: *See General Order 212 (Special Operations) for additional information regarding the SWAT Team.*

FOUR-WHEEL ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES:

ATV's are used in the eradication of marijuana in isolated areas and for surveillance purposes. The use of these vehicles by personnel in other situations may be permitted on a case-by-case basis when approved by the Sheriff or a member of the Command Staff.

The vehicles are controlled by the Narcotics Unit commander and are authorized for use by CATCH Team members and Narcotics officers.

The ATV's have no on-board equipment and no special license is required to operate the vehicles. ATV's are maintained by Anderson County Fleet Services.

CLANDESTINE LABORATORY RESPONSE VEHICLE:

The Sheriff's Office owns a Ford F-350 Super Duty Crew Cab Truck with a special work-body designed to hold all equipment necessary for the processing of clandestine laboratory crime scenes. This Special Response Vehicle is housed in the garage bay of the Special Operations Office. This vehicle is assigned to the Anderson/Oconee Regional Forensics Laboratory and is subject to call out in the Tri-County Area of Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties and others as mutual aid requests are made.

Authorized to drive the vehicle are any ACSO clandestine laboratory certified personnel and/or those persons authorized by either the Forensics Laboratory Director or the Captain of the Special Operations Division. This vehicle may only be put into service with authorization from the Special Operations Division Captain or the Forensics Laboratory Director (or their respective designees).

This vehicle and all on-board equipment are assigned to and maintained by the Forensics Laboratory. Monthly calibration checks and operational level of all stores are performed by the Forensics Laboratory Director. When the vehicle is used, it will be returned to the Special Operations Office Garage Bay with a full tank of Diesel fuel and in a clean and ready condition for the next response. The driver of the vehicle is responsible for making the vehicle ready after a response. Any deficiencies in equipment, supplies, or vehicle maintenance will be reported to the Forensics Laboratory Director immediately upon discovery.

The following equipment is stored on and to remain on the clandestine laboratory vehicle. ***NONE OF THIS EQUIPMENT WILL BE REMOVED FOR PERSONAL USE!***

- (2) RAE Systems Air-Monitoring Devices (*monthly calibration required*)
- (6) SCOTT SWAT-PAK SCBA Systems (*monthly check required*)
- (5) Intrinsically Safe Flashlights
- (1)DELL XFR D630 Laptop Computer
- (1)Garmin Nuvii 255W GPS System
- Clandestine Lab Scene Processing Supplies/Consumables

AGENCY WRECKER:

The Sheriff's Office owns a wrecker for the purpose of towing disabled county vehicles, vehicles of evidentiary value, and vehicles that have been ordered by the court to be towed. The wrecker is self-equipped; no additional equipment is needed and no special license is required to operate the vehicle.

Only personnel authorized by the Sheriff, Deputy Chief or the Special Operations Captain may operate the agency wrecker. Wrecker services are available 24/7.

Anderson County Fleet Services is responsible for maintaining the wrecker and training any operators.

Approved by:
John S. Skipper, Jr., Sheriff