



ANDERSON COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 212

## GENERAL ORDERS

## SPECIAL OPERATIONS

### **PURPOSE:**

This policy establishes general procedures for handling unusual operational activities and problems, such as:

- Hostage incidents
- Armed, barricaded suspects
- Use of special weapons and tactics teams
- Coverage of special events
- VIP protection and other similar tactical problems

In all tactical situations, the burden of responsibility lies with the field commander to exercise prudent judgment in dealing with hazards to human life.

### **SPECIAL OPERATIONS:**

The Sheriff's Office maintains a special tactical component that, in addition to other duties, is responsible for:

1. Providing supervision of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT)
2. Supervision of hostage negotiators
3. Undercover surveillance/stake-outs of a continuing nature

### **SPECIAL WEAPONS & TACTICS TEAM:**

**SWAT** is maintained to ensure this agency's ability to respond to hazardous tactical situations. The team is staffed by deputies on an "on-call" basis. These deputies perform their normal, primary duties until they are activated for SWAT duties.

**DEPLOYMENT** – SWAT personnel may be deployed, in special circumstances, to supplement field units on a temporary basis. This requires the concurrence of both the requesting Division Commander and the Commander for the SWAT, or an order by the Sheriff. If activated in this capacity, SWAT members are employed as a unit with their supervisors. Circumstances requiring such a deployment include:

- Stakeouts
- Saturation patrol
- Civil disorders
- Man-made or natural disasters
- Execution of search warrants

SWAT supervisors are to maintain a strong relationship of cooperation and coordination between the team and other operational units. SWAT supervisors are to brief patrol supervisors on stakeouts or decoy operations to facilitate deputy safety and ensure the success of the operations, except when disclosures could jeopardize a tactical operation.

**TEAM MEMBER SELECTION CRITERIA** – Deputies assigned to the SWAT Team must possess the following:

1. Five years of civilian law enforcement experience;
2. Exercises good decision making skills guided by sound judgment;
3. Satisfactory performance appraisal and demonstrated firearms proficiency;
4. Capable of being on an on-call status 24/7; and
5. Must possess a level of fitness and health that does not impede or compromise the mission of the team.

**NEGOTIATORS** – Deputy(s) assigned hostage negotiation duties are assigned to the SWAT Commander. Hostage negotiators are selected using the following criteria:

1. Participation is voluntary
2. Experience and performance in field operations
3. High verbal skills and problem-solving abilities

Once selected, the deputy/negotiator receives specific training for his duties.

**TRAINING** – Training for SWAT members is conducted monthly. The training is designed to maintain the unit in a state of maximum operational effectiveness.

**EQUIPMENT** – SWAT members are supplied with special equipment and weapons necessary to fulfill their mission. The SWAT Commander maintains an inventory of all weapons and equipment assigned to the team.

A secure vehicle is maintained for the storage and transportation of SWAT supplies and specialized equipment. The SWAT Commander designates the type of equipment stored in this manner.

**SWAT ACTIVATION** – The basic operational objective is **containment and apprehension**. This involves locating and isolating suspects, evaluating the area threatened, and utilizing special tactics to effect apprehension in a manner that affords minimum peril to deputies and citizens who may be directly or indirectly involved. The containment process is highly dependent upon the primary response by the initial deputies and supervisors assigned to the operations.

Successful handling of special situations requires a **total team effort** in operations. Specific duties are assigned to each element of the team and clear lines of supervision are established to ensure smooth, concise performance of each element.

**OPERATIONAL TERMS** – Generally, there are six (6) distinct areas established during a situation:

1. **Inner Perimeter** - A containment area immediately surrounding the situation location that minimizes and controls movement of a suspect within that area. The inner perimeter is to be large enough

to present no immediate danger to anyone as well as small enough to ensure control and management of the area.

2. **Outer Perimeter** - A large containment area completely surrounding the inner perimeter that inhibits unauthorized vehicular and pedestrian traffic from reaching the inner perimeter. The outer perimeter is to be positioned in a manner to afford protection and safety to anyone outside the perimeter boundaries.
3. **Control Zone** - The space between the outer and inner perimeters. Deputies manning the outer perimeter may allow authorized persons into the control zone for restricted purposes as designated by the deputy in charge. Depending upon the specific geographic circumstances, unauthorized persons should be evacuated from or secured within the control zone, including bystanders, residents, merchants, and others.
4. **Traffic Control Points** - Key intersections or other locations that restrict all unauthorized vehicular traffic from reaching the boundaries of the outer perimeter.
5. **Command Post** - A temporary location used as the on-scene command center to coordinate the activities of all operational personnel. The command post is placed outside the inner perimeter, preferably inside the control zone, and is to include both the actual command post facility and a controlled immediate area utilized for assembly and parking. Either the Mobile Command Post or another suitable structure may be used as a command post, but telephone service is mandatory except in very unusual circumstances.
6. **Public Affairs Post** - A temporary location used as a briefing point by the Public Information Officer to keep media personnel and other designated officials informed of the situation.

**FIRST RESPONDERS** – Although deputies assigned to all areas are authorized to apprehend suspects or take other action to ensure the safety of deputies and citizens, time is usually our ally particularly in cases involving barricaded subjects and hostage situations. The concept of containment requires deliberate, well-planned actions for a successful operation.

When circumstances indicate a situation may have developed to the point provisions of this General Order are to be implemented, the deputy in charge of the initial call is to ensure a supervisor is notified. The supervisor is to respond to the scene and evaluate the situation.

If appropriate, a supervisor will implement notification of all special teams, units, and other persons he determines necessary to resolve the situation.

Additionally, the supervisor will attempt to avoid further confrontation in favor of controlling and containing the situation until the arrival of trained tactical and/or hostage negotiation personnel. In addition, he is to:

1. Assume command of the situation until such command is relegated. When command is relegated, he will assume duties as support and perimeter commander.
2. Assure evacuation of injured victims and bystanders.
3. Designate a radio frequency to be used during the operation and implement procedures to establish communications with other agencies.
4. Establish the inner perimeter, outer perimeter, control zone, and traffic control points as necessary.
5. Select a location for the command post and provide for transportation of the Mobile Command Post to the scene.
6. Provide an operator for the command post.
7. Provide security in the immediate area of the command post.
8. Ensure sufficient manpower to handle call levels in unaffected parts of the jurisdiction.
9. Request fire/EMS units to standby at the scene.
10. Assign a deputy to conduct a preliminary investigation of the incident.

**Emergency conditions may require a supervisor to initiate some or all of the preceding provisions prior to arrival of a Platoon Commander.**

**TEAM NOTIFICATION** – Utilizing existing procedures, Communications is to coordinate notification of all affected persons, units, and special teams. Manpower to assist in the notification process may be provided in the Communications Center from other sources. Notifications are to be completed within thirty (30) minutes. Information provided to those notified may be brief, but will include, at a minimum:

1. Type of incident.
2. Assembly point and best route, if applicable.
3. Name of commanding officer in charge.

**SWAT COMMANDER OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES:**

1. The SWAT Commander is to, if at all possible, establish communications with the suspect.
2. The hostage negotiator is to communicate with the suspect and work under the direction of the SWAT Commander, who is to coordinate negotiations with ongoing SWAT activities.
3. The SWAT Commander maintains a list of items that are negotiable and non-negotiable with a hostage-take. This list is to be adhered to unless express permission to deviate is granted by the Sheriff.
4. The SWAT Commander, working with the on-scene Uniform Patrol Commander, is to make provisions for chase/surveillance vehicles and control of travel routes if he feels they are necessary.
5. General Order 205 governs Use of Force. Hostile fire may be responded to as a defensive measure. The decision to assault a barricaded suspect is made by the SWAT Commander.
6. The use of chemical and explosive agents is a tactical matter to be decided by the SWAT Commander.

**DISCRETION AND CRITIQUE** – The Incident Commander is authorized to take appropriate action to resolve the situation outside the parameters of this General Order, if such action is warranted to reduce or remove a threat to human life.

All action taken under the provisions of this General Order are subject to documented review. All SWAT actions are critiqued and evaluated. Written reports evaluating incidents involving death or injury are sent to the Sheriff.

**DECOY OPERATIONS:**

The Special Operations Commander is responsible for planning decoy operations. This includes the simulation of a potential crime victim, with back-up officers maintaining surveillance.

**VIP SECURITY:**

The Sheriff designates a Commander responsible for VIP security. This Commander is responsible for:

1. Preparing a list of special equipment needed for the VIP detail, to include:
  - Barricades and rope
  - Binoculars
  - Magnetometers
  - Radios
  - Protective vests to be worn by deputies assigned to the immediate proximity of the dignitary
  - Special weapons, if needed
2. Ensuring all deputies involved in the operation carry standard issue weapons and ammunition.
3. Conduct planning and scouting of travel routes and alternates.
4. Conduct advance inspection of sites and facilities.
5. Arrange for gathering intelligence information.
6. Coordinate the operation within and outside the Sheriff's Office.
7. Identify needed emergency first aid, EMS and medical facilities.
8. Determine the radio frequency to be used and verify deputies have the necessary radio equipment. All deputies are to have radio communications either by vehicle or walkie-talkie. Plain-clothes personnel are to conceal their walkie-talkies and utilize earplugs. The radio frequency used will normally be the support channel but unusual occurrences may require the use of another channel. The regional channel may be employed for multiple agency events.
9. Assign a means of identification to each team member, such as lapel pins. These may be as simple as map pins or adhesive paper provided they are identifiable and do not conflict with other agency identification.

If the situation warrants, the Sheriff will designate a commander as liaison with the U. S. Secret Service for purposes of planning and coordination.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Special events, such as parades, athletic events, public demonstrations or political rallies are normally handled with personnel from Uniform Patrol, Special Operations, or Criminal Investigations. Each event is to have a

supervisor or commander designated as the deputy in charge and he is to be responsible for the planning and coordination of the event inside and outside the Sheriff's Office.

The deputy in charge is to prepare a planning guide of the event to include:

1. Logistical requirements.
2. Estimate of traffic volume.
3. Crowd control needs.
4. Anticipated criminal incidents.
5. Contingency plans for traffic direction and control.
6. Use of special operations personnel, if any.

At conclusion of the operation, a written after-action report is to be forwarded to the Sheriff.

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