
	ROSENBERG POLICE DEPARTMENT	
	General Order 8.04 Special Threat Situation Plan	
	Effective Date: 05-20-2013	Replaces: N/A
	Approved:  Chief of Police	
	Reference: TBP 8.01	

I. POLICY

All officers shall be governed by the following policy guidelines when dealing with a special threat situation.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to provide an organized methodology for dealing with special threat situations, such as; Barricaded Actor, Hostage-taking and Sniper situations, or other life-threatening situations that are beyond the scope and resources of the Patrol response.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Special Threat Situation is any situation involving:

1. A sniper.
2. Any barricaded suspects known to be armed or not, with or without hostages.
3. High-risk warrants where actors are suspected to be armed, have a violent history, or the location is known to be hardened by anti-police measures.
4. Violent-fugitive apprehension.
5. Armed suspect(s) that do not immediately surrender.
6. Other life-threatening situations that may be beyond the scope and resources of the normal Patrol response.

B. Barricaded Suspect is any person who:

1. Has demonstrated capability and/or stated the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury to any person, including himself, and
2. Has achieved tactical superiority by the use of a physical obstruction (a building, an open field, a vehicle, any natural or manmade barrier, etc.).

C. Hostage Situation is any incident where the possibility exists or the available information indicates that a barricaded suspect may be holding a hostage.

- D. Terrorist Activity is any in-progress act that creates or is designed to create the fear of death or imminent bodily injury in the minds of others.
- E. Debriefing is the presentation of all pertinent information for a formal report.
- F. Inner Perimeter is that area of containment nearest the actor.
- G. Outer Perimeter is that area of containment that prevents outsiders from interfering with or being endangered by the Threat Situation.
- H. Objective is the physical location where a barricaded suspect or hostage is believed to be located.

IV. PLAN DESCRIPTION

This plan establishes the Police response, generally, to situations requiring containment and negotiation. In essence, buying time through the use of personnel specially trained in weapons, tactics and negotiations. As a general rule, the more time a hostage-taker spends with the hostage the less likely he is to take the hostage's life. Also, the more time spent negotiating with a barricaded suspect the better the chances of surrender without endangering any life.

The success of any special threat situation plan hinges on a team approach, good communications, and coordination of tactical operations under one commander. In this plan, the team consists of Field Officers, Supervisors, Investigators, S.W.A.T. personnel, Hostage Negotiation Team personnel (when available), and other Departmental members at the discretion of the Chief.

This team shall be under the direction and control of the S.W.A.T. Team Commander or designee. The S.W.A.T. Team Commander shall be responsible for all activities and operations related to the mission of successfully resolving the Special Threat Situation and shall report directly to the Chief of Police.

Field Officers, the first officers on the scene, shall be well ingrained with the philosophy and the policy of restraint and containment as established by this Special Threat Situation Plan. The theme that permeates this plan is the safe release of the hostages and successful termination of the operation without loss of life.

Other members of the Department are necessary to the success of this plan. The Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division, or designee, may be utilized as an intelligence officer. The Public Information Officer may also be utilized. Other Departmental personnel may be utilized as situations arise that require the expertise of individually acquired skills. Furthermore, the senior on-duty Patrol Supervisor shall maintain and control the outer perimeter.

When officers on the scene believe that a Special Threat Situation has developed, they shall refrain from any weapons fire that would endanger hostages or bystanders and they

shall seek to confine the suspect(s) to the smallest possible area that is consistent with their own safety. The Communications Section shall be immediately notified to initiate a SWAT call-out.

The Communications Section will direct a Patrol Supervisor to respond, if not already on scene, to assess and either confirm or cancel S.W.A.T. Communications shall, upon request from a field unit, immediately notify the S.W.A.T. Commander and effect call-out procedures for all S.W.A.T. personnel, as well as Admin Notification.

S.W.A.T. personnel will relieve the field officers who are containing the situation and establish the inner perimeter. S.W.A.T. officers will be the primary persons authorized to discharge firearms after the inner perimeter is established.

V. SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

A. First Officers on the scene (normally patrol officers):

1. Determine that a Special Threat Situation exists and advise Dispatch to initiate call-out procedures for the S.W.A.T. personnel.
2. Confine the suspect by establishing a perimeter and maintaining firearm discipline.
3. Safely determine the facts of the situation by attempting immediate voice or visual contact. Maintain communications with the suspect only if it stabilizes the situation. Avoid constantly contacting the suspect who refuses to communicate or answer.
4. Determine the necessity of evacuating the area.
5. Relay all available information as soon as possible to the Communications Center. This will include, but not be limited to, location of any hostages, description of suspect(s), their weapons, possible avenues of escape, the location to which additional units should respond, and any areas or streets which may be unsafe for responding units to enter.
6. Detain all witnesses for debriefing.
7. Report to a designated Command Post for debriefing immediately upon being relieved. This particularly includes the officer responsible for completing the original offense report.
8. Remain at the scene until debriefed by the Investigator assigned as the operation's intelligence officer.

B. Patrol Supervisor first on-scene:

1. Assume overall command of operations until relieved by the S.W.A.T. Team Commander or a Team Leader.

2. Responsible for insuring that the S.W.A.T. Team has been dispatched to the scene.
3. Direct all responding units to report to him for assignments and debriefing. Establish a marshaling point distant from the affected area for all responding units.
4. Determine and effect any necessary evacuation of citizens from possible danger areas.
5. Establish and control an outer-perimeter.
6. On-scene S.W.A.T. personnel shall advise the on-duty Supervisor in the tactical positioning of officers.
7. Provide to the SWAT Team Commander a diagram of the outer perimeter showing the locations of all patrol units along the perimeter.

C. Communications Personnel:

1. Upon being advised by field officers of a Special Threat Situation, the Communications Section shall immediately direct a Patrol Supervisor to respond if one is not already on-scene. Upon request for S.W.A.T. to respond, Communications shall initiate call-out procedures for S.W.A.T. personnel.
2. Advise responding units of streets or areas that may be unsafe.

D. Officer, Special Weapons and Tactics Team (Immediate Action Responsibilities):

1. First team member responding will be responsible for the loading and deployment of the S.W.A.T. van.
2. Set up the Team's temporary command post and monitor the dedicated radio frequency.
3. Assume immediate inner perimeter and fire support positions to provide fire-cover to field officers being relieved.
4. Relieve field officers and assume inner perimeter containment positions.
5. Maintain firearm discipline throughout the operation.
6. Prepare intelligence information and scouting reports.
7. Follow and relocate perimeter containment if the suspect(s) moves from the original location

E. Team Leader, S.W.A.T.:

1. Develop plans that allow clear, decisive action to be taken when conditions are most favorable and act as advisor to the Team Commander regarding the capabilities and resources of the S.W.A.T. Unit.
2. Be in command of personnel manning the inner perimeter and limit access to only those persons specifically authorized by the Team Commander.
3. Provide Search & Clear, Arrest and Containment Teams positioned to insure an immediate response to the affected area.
4. Ensure that the Team's specialized equipment is brought to the scene.
5. Ensure that all civilian and unauthorized Police personnel have been evacuated from within the inner perimeter.
6. Provide all drawings and scouting reports of location where suspect(s) and, if any, hostages are located.
7. Develop plans in order that clear, decisive action can be taken when conditions are most favorable.

8. Assume role of Team Commander if the S.W.A.T. Commander is not at the scene.

F. Intelligence Officer (Commander Criminal Investigations or designee):

1. Gather all intelligence from debriefings (officers and witnesses) and other sources for the S.W.A.T. and Negotiations Teams.
2. Obtain area maps and floor plan of the location.
3. Ensure availability of technical skills or persons with pertinent knowledge associated with the operation.

G. Press Officer (Public Information Officer):

1. Provide accurate information, which does not violate operational security, to the news media.
2. Provide "rumor control" by utilizing news media representatives.

H. S.W.A.T. Team Commander:

1. Assume overall command of operations at the scene.
2. Maintain liaison with concerned agencies and other jurisdictions.
3. Ensure the establishment of the Tactical Command Post.
4. Once the inner perimeter has been established by S.W.A.T. the S.W.A.T. Commander is the only person who can authorize the discharge of firearms, except to save a life.
5. Provide the Chief of Police or designee a detailed assessment of tactical options to successfully resolve the situation and, when time allows, make specific recommendation as to the most favorable.
6. Conduct critique after the termination of the operation.

I. Chief of Police (or designee):

1. Determine the most favorable tactical option to resolve the situation and so instruct the S.W.A.T. Commander for the execution of those options.
2. Ensure the availability of Departmental resources for the successful conclusion of the operation.
3. May alter the operation at will.

VI. JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

When the hostage victim is a foreign official or an official guest of the United States of America, as defined by section 1116 (b) Chapter 51 of Title 18, United States Code, jurisdiction is shared concurrently by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the local law enforcement agency. When control of the situation has been initiated by the local agency, Operational Command is retained until, or unless, the Federal Bureau of Investigation clearly indicates that they wish to assume command of the situation. Responsibility for the termination of the operation will shift to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this circumstance.

If the Special Agent in Charge of the Houston Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or his designee (Senior Agent on the scene), indicates that jurisdiction

remains concurrent, joint decision-making will be undertaken by the S.W.A.T. Commander and the Senior FBI Agent at the scene. This will permit the successful integration of the operation. Since concurrent responsibility exists, efforts shall be made to ensure mutual agreement by both agencies in decisions prior to the conduct of tactical operations.

If the hostage situation results from the commission of a federal crime the jurisdiction is concurrently shared by the local Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. If the initial control of the operation is by the local Department, it will be retained until such time as the Senior Agent of the FBI indicates that he wishes to assume exclusive responsibility.