



GENERAL POLICE ORDER CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE



EFFECTIVE DATE: MARCH 01, 2002	REVISED DATE: JUNE 23, 2008	NO. PAGES: 1 of 3	NUMBER: 3.2.09
SUBJECT: USE OF SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS UNIT (SWAT)			
ASSOCIATED MANUAL: EMERGENCY OPERATIONS		RELATED ORDERS: 3.2.04	
CHIEF OF POLICE: <i>Michael McGrath</i>			

Substantive changes are initials

PURPOSE: To set guidelines for use of the Special Weapons and Tactics Unit (SWAT).

POLICY: *The Cleveland Division of Police shall use the Incident Command System (ICS) to manage SWAT incidents. The SWAT Unit shall be used in the following situations:*

- Barricaded suspects armed or suspected to be armed with weapons
- Suicidal persons armed or suspected to be armed with weapons
- Hostage incidents
- Sniper attacks
- Incidents involving gang violence if gang members are *suspected of being* armed
- High risk felony warrant service if there is a strong indication of armed resistance
- Crowd control where there is the potential of a riot *or other civil disturbance*
- A command or superior officer believes that SWAT has an advantage in resolving an incident due to their special training or equipment, i.e., less-lethal and chemical munitions
- As stated in General Police Orders and the Emergency Operations Plan

DEFINITION: *The incident commander is any officer in charge on the scene of a riot, catastrophe, disaster, serious police incident, large scale event or other multiple unit operation. The initial incident commander may be any officer from the district of occurrence. Dependent upon the scale and seriousness of the incident, the role of the incident commander may transfer to other officers within the chain of command. In circumstances that require the activation of an ICS response, the role of the incident commander may be transferred to either of the following as operational necessity requires: Deputy Chief of Special Operations, Deputy Chief of Homeland Security, or Commander of the Bureau of Special Services.*

PROCEDURES:

- I. *Requesting the SWAT Unit when appropriate.*

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- A. *Incident Commanders* shall notify the Communications Control Section (CCS) for **emergency** SWAT Unit response.
- B. *Non-emergency requests for SWAT Unit assistance may be made only by superior officers. Non-emergency requests for SWAT Unit can be made by contacting the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the SWAT Unit by telephone or via CCS.*

II. Prior to the arrival of SWAT, the *incident* commander shall:

- A. Establish perimeter control to restrict the movement of criminal suspects and ensure the safety of persons.
 - 1. *Use the ICS to maintain the appropriate span of control.*
 - 2. *Use the ICS to establish branches, divisions, groups, strike teams, task forces and single resources as needed.*
- B. Ensure that personnel have adequate cover and concealment.
- C. Relay observations to the CCS radio dispatcher.
- D. Advise those who respond of safe and unsafe approach routes.
- E. Establish access and egress routes from the scene.
- F. Designate a staging area outside of the inner perimeter.

III. Upon arrival of the SWAT Unit OIC, the *incident* commander shall:

- A. Brief the SWAT OIC on all available information.
- B. *Assign supervision (but retain command) of the inner perimeter to the SWAT OIC.*
- C. Command the outer and inner perimeter.
- D. Provide support requested by the OIC of SWAT.

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- IV.** The preceding Section III does **not** apply in situations that require the Chief to designate an *incident* commander as part of an Emergency Operations Plan.
- V.** The *incident* commander shall establish a command post and staging area for prolonged operations. The *incident* commander shall provide for parking and security for Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) vehicles, and equipment.
- VI.** The originally assigned unit shall make arrests and seize evidence. They shall also conduct evidentiary searches, book and transport prisoners, and complete RMS reports. Field commanders may delegate these tasks.
- VII.** The *incident* commander shall direct the completion of reports.
- VIII.** SWAT shall cooperate with investigative personnel and provide statements, reports, and testimony.