

BEAVERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 9.24.00
SUBJECT: SNIPER / BARRICADED PERSON / HOSTAGE INCIDENT
EFFECTIVE: NOVEMBER 21, 2005
REVIEW: NOVEMBER 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014

1. PURPOSE. To establish a procedure for overall response to sniper, barricaded persons and hostage incidents, and to define responsibilities for initial responders and the Tactical Negotiations Team (TNT)/Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT).

2. NOTIFICATION.

- A. As soon as an incident of this nature is known to be in progress, the dispatcher will notify the on-duty shift sergeant and all required patrol personnel.
- B. The on-duty shift sergeant will coordinate response and supervise site containment.

3. RESPONSIBILITY OF PATROL OFFICERS AND SUPERVISORS.

A. Operations.

- 1) Unless involved in other emergencies, a patrol sergeant will announce and assume the role as Incident Commander (IC). If initially unavailable, the patrol sergeant will assign that role to a senior officer. The patrol sergeant shall assume command as soon as practical. The Chief of Police or his designee will respond to the scene, and at his/her option, assume the IC role. The IC should begin to address the incident in an Incident Command System (ICS) format, establishing priorities and assigning roles.
 - a. A scribe should be assigned to maintain an event log if personnel resources allow;
 - b. A communications plan should be established;
 - c. Police dispatch can help designate a common channel for responding resources;
 - d. A contingency plan shall be prepared as soon as possible to identify special call-outs, including request for assistance from, and maintaining

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communication with, other agencies as needed. Such assistance may include K-9 units, additional Special Teams response, and hostage negotiation personnel. The Plan should also include necessary equipment needs, such as specialized surveillance equipment, and providing direction to responding personnel;

- e. If a tactical team is utilized, all tactical operations will be commanded by the tactical team commander;
- f. Fire and/or EMS resources should be staged in a safe area.

2) The containment process is a crucial element in the overall operation. No attempts should be made by operations personnel to initiate an offensive operation against the suspect unless extreme circumstances demand it. Instead, if time and personnel numbers allow, the IC should direct the formation of an immediate action team for response to either an “active shooter” scenario or surrender decision by the suspect.

- a. The containment shall be the responsibility of the IC or his/her designee and shall primarily consist of the establishment of the following:
 - 1. An inner perimeter to contain and minimize the movement of the suspect.
 - 2. An outer perimeter to prevent unauthorized persons from entering the area of operations. The IC will ensure traffic and crowd control are established, and that the routes for emergency vehicles and travel have been designated within the affected area.
 - 3. “Standard Rules of Engagement” are in effect during inner perimeter establishment.
 - 4. The IC should consider using on-duty TNT members for containment and immediate response actions and be aware of ALL personnel that make up the inner perimeter and their exact locations for later tactical replacement or relief. Perimeters should be established with resources tasked for a mobile response to a suspect breaking out of containment. Consideration will be given for deployment of pursuit and/or surveillance vehicles. After the perimeters are set, the IC will establish a command post within the outer perimeter but not within view or within weapon penetration range of the suspect.
 - 5. The IC will determine the safest approach route into the command post. This route will be relayed to police dispatch who can advise incoming personnel.

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4. USE OF CHEMICAL OR AUTOMATIC WEAPONS.

- A. Decisions to utilize chemical, automatic or high-powered weapons in situations concerning hostage takers, snipers and barricaded persons will be made by the IC or in the event TNT is on-scene, the TNT commander.
- B. Patrol personnel will not utilize these special weapons unless fully trained in their use, and directed to do so by the incident commander.

5. EVACUATIONS.

- A. If evacuation is required, it should be accomplished during the establishment of the outer perimeter. The extent of the evacuation will be determined by the IC; however, those persons within range of immediate danger will be evacuated as soon as possible. Evacuation in this type of police action is voluntary and cannot be ordered. Sheltering in place may be a viable option.
 - 1) The IC will designate an officer as the coordinator for all evacuation activities. Automated area phone alerts/notifications through police dispatch should be considered.
 - 2) Medical aid will be made available to any sick or injured evacuee. The officer assigned the responsibility of the evacuation announcement will direct these persons who have no alternative places of shelter to a designated area. This area will be outside the inner perimeter and in a designated safe zone. Emergency shelter can be, but is not limited to, TriMet busses, senior citizen centers, government buildings, high school auditoriums, community centers, and/or community churches. All persons who are evacuated from the danger zone for an extended period may be advised that the city may provide emergency food and shelter.
 - 3) The evacuation coordinator will record the address of every location evacuated and if possible, the phone number of where the evacuee will remain. All evacuees will be notified by the coordinator or his/her designee when it safe to return to the scene.

6. TACTICAL TEAM CALLOUT. Authorization to commit a Tactical Negotiation Team (TNT) must come from the Chief of Police, or in his absence the designated IC. The IC will assess the situation and advise the next in command. The Chief, or designated IC, will prepare a mission statement to provide to the TNT commander, outlining expectations and goals for resolution of the problem. If a full team tactical call out is initiated, a division commander will respond to the command post.

7. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS - HOSTAGE INCIDENTS. The initial containment of a hostage situation is critical and often a very delicate matter involving immediate danger to the hostage. If possible, the movement of the suspects and hostages should be restricted so that control

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can be maintained. When containment has successfully been completed, time becomes a most important asset. It may be necessary to begin the negotiation process immediately. If so, the officer who first establishes communication with the suspect(s) will necessarily become the initial negotiator and will remain in that position unless and until relieved by a superior officer or trained negotiator. The primary resource for negotiations is the Washington County Interagency Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT).

A. PROCEDURES FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

1) Objectives of Negotiations

- a. Primary Objectives:
 - Protect lives of hostages.
 - Protect lives of bystanders.
 - Protect lives of police.
 - Protect lives of suspects.
- b. Secondary Objectives:
 - Release of hostages.
 - Arrest of hostage taker.

8. HOSTAGE NEGOTIATION TEAM. The Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) utilizes a group of highly trained personnel skilled in crisis intervention techniques to peacefully resolve dangerous situations by establishing communications with subjects, gathering intelligence/information to aid in the resolution of a situation, negotiate the freedom of hostages and custody of hostage takers, safely facilitate the taking into custody of potentially dangerous or suicidal persons, and extricate barricaded criminal subjects through negotiation techniques.

- A. The HNT will be activated by the incident commander or his designee. In most cases the team will be activated along with a TNT call out. The hostage negotiation team will collect its equipment and will report to the location designated by the incident commander.
- B. Upon arrival, the HNT will determine a suitable location to begin or continue negotiations with the suspect(s) preferably through a closed line of communication and from a safe position. If a rapport has been established between the initial negotiating officer and the suspects, the initial negotiating officer may continue as either the primary negotiator, or remain as a member of the hostage negotiation team, upon approval of the HNT commander. The HNT commander will work in concert with the TNT commander to resolve the incident. All tactical/negotiation operations will be commanded by the tactical team commander. When the decision has been made to utilize the tactical team, their commander shall assume tactical command until the suspect has been apprehended or until their special services are no longer needed.

9. INVESTIGATIONS. Follow-up investigations will be conducted by the investigator(s) assigned. This includes the securing of search warrants and other consent to search issues.

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Investigators may be called upon to obtain all information possible concerning suspects, hostages and other related persons while the incident is in progress and to provide the information to the Hostage Negotiation Team.

10. **PRESS RELATIONS.** In the interest of safety, members of the news media, as well as any non-essential persons, will not be permitted inside the outer perimeter. Officers assigned to maintain the outer perimeter will advise the commander of the presence of the news media and will direct all news media to the department public information officer. The department public information officer, or his designee, will handle all news media releases. Information released by the public information officer will be reviewed by the incident commander prior to release; to insure that release of said information will not jeopardize the safety of anyone at the scene.

11. **NEIGHBORHOOD FOLLOW-UP.** The department recognizes that neighbors or businesses in the area will need to be reassured that conditions are back to "normal" in their area. Based on the size of the incident scene and or locations affected, the IC will either use direct contact or automated messages through police dispatch to accomplish this.

12. **AFTER ACTION DEBRIEFING.** An after action debriefing will be conducted as soon as practical, post event. The IC will determine when the debriefing is to be held and who should attend.

Chief of Police

Date

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