

TEXARKANA, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDERS MANUAL

<i>Effective Date</i> February 1, 2008		<i>Amended Date</i> June 22, 2022		<i>Directive</i> 8.06.1	
<i>Subject</i> Emergency Response Team Equipment					
<i>Reference</i>					
<i>Distribution</i> All Personnel City Manager City Attorney		<i>TPCA Best Practices Recognition Program Reference</i> 8.06.1 Emergency Response Team Equipment		<i>Review Date</i> November 14, 2023	
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This Operations Directive is for internal use only and does not enhance an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as a creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this Operations Directive, if proven, may only form the basis for a complaint by this Department, and only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

SECTION 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to specify the types of equipment employed by the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team and to require the documented inspection of the equipment at least quarterly.

SECTION 2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Department that only approved equipment will be employed by the SWAT Team and there must be a documented inspection of all SWAT Team equipment at least quarterly.

SECTION 3 PROCEDURES TACTICAL UNIT EQUIPMENT

A. AUTHORIZED FIREARMS

1. SWAT Team Members are authorized to utilize special firearms, including automatic weapons, suppressed weapons, short-barreled firearms, and rifles. All weapons used will be of a type with which a member has been trained and qualified pursuant to the Department's policies.
 - a. Handguns - The primary duty handgun for SWAT is the department issue Glock Model 22 .40 pistol. The pistol may be equipped with a light system.
 - b. Automatic Weapons - The primary duty automatic weapon for SWAT is the Colt or Bushmaster M-16, M-4, or AR-15 (models may vary) 5.56 NATO Assault Rifle. These rifles may be equipped with various sights as approved by the SWAT Commander.
 - c. Marksmen Rifles - The primary duty weapon for SWAT marksmen is the H&S precision bolt-action rifle. The weapon may be customized by a qualified reputable armorer with the approval of the SWAT Commander. The weapon may be equipped with a scope, sling, bipod, or other accessories as approved by the SWAT Commander.
 - d. Firearms Not Specified - Due to the unpredictable and evolving nature of SWAT operations, it is not possible to predict the needs of the SWAT Team with regard to weapon selection. On occasion, a weapon system not specifically outlined in this policy may be utilized. The SWAT

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Commander must approve any weapon system not specifically outlined in this policy if time and circumstances permit. Such approval should be documented in writing if time permits. The SWAT Team member utilizing the weapon must be familiar with the operation of the weapon.

2. Ammunition

All ammunition utilized by members of SWAT Team will be approved by the SWAT Commander. Ammunition includes, but is not limited to pistol, rifle, less lethal impact munitions, and chemical munitions.

3. Knives

Members of the SWAT Team are authorized to use knives with blades in excess of 5 ½ Inches in length and with double-edged blades. Knives are intended for use as utility tools.

4. Less Lethal Impact Projectiles

For the purposes of this policy, less lethal impact projectiles are defined as those munitions, which can be fired, launched, or otherwise propelled for the purpose of encouraging compliance, overcoming resistance, or preventing serious injury without posing a significant potential of causing death. Examples of less lethal impact projectiles include beanbags, launchable wood, foam, or rubber batons, rubber pellets, and like items. Only personnel who have successfully completed a Department approved training course in the proper use and deployment of less lethal impact weapons shall be authorized to use them during an actual operation.

5. Diversionary Devices

For the purposes of this policy, diversionary devices are defined as those munitions, which can be deployed during high-risk operations for the purpose of encouraging compliance, overcoming resistance, causing diversion of attention, or preventing serious injury without posing a significant potential of causing death. Only personnel who have successfully completed a Department approved training course in the proper use and deployment of diversionary devices shall be authorized to use them during an actual operation.

6. Irritant Gas Munitions

For the purposes of this policy, irritant gas munitions are defined as those munitions, which can be fired, launched, or otherwise propelled for the purpose of encouraging compliance, overcoming resistance, or preventing serious injury without posing a significant potential of causing death. Examples of irritant gas munitions include CN, CS, and Oleoresin Capsicum products, either gas, foam, liquid, and / or micro pulverized forms. These munitions come in a variety of deployment systems such as launchable, burst, or hand deployed. Only personnel who have successfully completed a Department approved training course in the proper use and deployment of irritant gas munitions shall be authorized to use them during an actual operation.

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B. DRONES

Definition: An unmanned aircraft, watercraft, ground vehicle, or robotic device that is controlled remotely by a human operator or operates autonomously through computer software or other programming. (CCP ART. 2.33)

1. Unmanned Robotic Ground Vehicle

- a. For the purposes of this policy, Unmanned Robotic Ground Vehicle is defined as a remotely controlled vehicle (direct wired (tethered) or wireless (radio frequency)) directly operated by a sworn law enforcement officer, which can be used to search an area for combative subjects that pose a serious threat to the health and safety of the Public and responding Law Enforcement personnel. Example; Barricaded subjects, high risk building clearing, observation, and communication with dangerous subjects.
- b. Unmanned Robotic Ground Vehicles utilized by the Department will not be of a type that can be programmed to operate autonomously or without the complete control of sworn law enforcement officer. Robotic Ground Vehicles will only be operated by sworn Law Enforcement officers that have successfully completed a Department approved training course in the proper use and deployment of Robotic Ground Vehicles.
- c. Unmanned Robotic Ground Vehicles will be assigned and operated by members of the Special Weapons and Tactics team.

2. Unmanned Aerial Drone (Reserved for future use)

C. RESPONSIBILITY

- 1. All members of the Department shall know and comply with all aspects of this directive.
- 2. All Division Commanders and supervisory personnel are responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions and intent of this directive.