

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

GENERAL ORDER 100.49

REVISED APRIL 2013

SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS TEAM

1. PURPOSE.

a. The purpose of this General Order is to inform field commanders and supervisors of the establishment and use of a California Highway Patrol (CHP) Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team.

2. GENERAL.

a. The SWAT Team provides CHP incident commanders with a flexible and effective response to high-risk or high-threat law enforcement situations in coordination with other available resources. The use of the SWAT Team increases the likelihood of safely resolving or mitigating a high-risk or high-threat incident.

3. OBJECTIVE.

a. The objective of the SWAT Team in responding to high-risk or high threat incidents includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Protecting and/or minimizing loss of life to hostages, victims, officers, suspects, and other citizens.
- (2) Stopping or preventing criminal act(s) being committed by the suspect(s).
- (3) Apprehending suspects and securing evidence to assist with prosecution.
- (4) Protecting and/or minimizing destruction of state and public assets.

4. MISSION.

a. The primary mission of CHP's SWAT Team is to respond and resolve high-risk or high-threat incidents occurring within the Department's jurisdiction through the use of specialized tactics, equipment, and uniforms. The CHP SWAT Team can also

respond to tactical incidents where CHP support has been requested, or where allied agency support is insufficient, or not available or applicable during emergency operations. Two types of tactical incidents include, but are not limited to:

(1) Emergency Operations:

- (a) Officer extraction/rescue incidents.
- (b) Hostage rescue incidents.
- (c) Active shooter incidents.
- (d) Armed barricaded suspect incidents.
- (e) Civil disturbance incidents.

(2) Deliberate Operations:

- (a) High-risk or high-threat arrest/search warrant service.
- (b) Long-rifle/counter-sniper operations during high-risk incidents or protective services details.
- (c) Tactical support during protective services details (Counter-Assault Team).

b. The secondary mission is to serve as a training resource for the Department and provide advanced tactical training as needed for specialized departmental units, e.g., investigative services, task forces, dignitary protection, and warrant service personnel.

c. The tertiary mission is to serve as a departmental resource for tactical team issues such as personnel selection criteria, training, and equipment. The CHP SWAT Team represents the Department during interagency advanced tactical team conferences throughout California. Additionally, the team maintains an information network concerning advanced tactical training, operational techniques, and equipment analysis.

5. ORGANIZATION.

a. The CHP SWAT Team is assigned to Capitol Protection Section (CPS), Protective Services Division (PSD) located in Sacramento.

- (1) The CHP SWAT Team is comprised of a team commander (Lieutenant or above) and three specialized tactical units and one non-tactical unit:

- (a) Breaching Unit.
- (b) High Angle Apprehension Unit.
- (c) Long Rifle Unit.
- (d) Crisis Negotiations Unit.

(2) A Tactical Unit is comprised of a team leader(s) (Sergeant), perimeter operators, entry operators, and long rifle operators. A non-tactical unit is comprised of a team leader(s) (Sergeant) and trained negotiators. Team members are highly qualified and skilled to perform specialized tactical operations with the highest regard for the safety of the public and law enforcement personnel.

6. ACTIVATION.

a. Memorandums of Understanding Interagency Agreements:

(1) Should the Department enter into Memorandums of Understandings or Interagency Agreements with allied agencies, the CPS commander may call-out the SWAT Team with the concurrence of the PSD commander and the approval of the Assistant Commissioner, Field.

b. Mission Call-Outs Occurring within CPS's Area of Responsibility:

(1) The CPS commander may call-out the SWAT Team, with the concurrence of the PSD commander and the approval of the Assistant Commissioner, Field.

c. Mission Call-Outs in Support of PSD Operations:

(1) The CPS commander may call-out the SWAT Team, with the concurrence of the PSD commander and approval of the Assistant Commissioner, Field.

d. Mission Call-Outs in Support of CHP Field Commands:

(1) The CHP Incident Commander for the incident will make the initial determination of the need for CHP SWAT Team assistance. The request for CHP SWAT Team assistance should be directed to the commander of the CHP Area having geographical responsibility for the general area in which the incident is occurring or will occur. With the Area commander's or designee's approval, a request for CHP SWAT is to be made through channels to the Assistant Commissioner, Field. The Assistant Commissioner, Field, or designee will evaluate the request, and approve/disapprove the call-out of the CHP SWAT Team.

e. Allied Agency Request for the California Highway Patrol Special Weapons and Tactics Team:

(1) All requests for CHP SWAT Team assistance from allied agencies (e.g., police departments, district attorney, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration) should be directed to the commander of the CHP Area having geographical responsibility for the general area in which the incident is occurring or will occur. With the Area commander's or designee's approval, a request for the CHP SWAT Team is to be made through channels to the Assistant Commissioner, Field. The Assistant Commissioner, Field, or designee will evaluate the request, and approve/disapprove the call-out of the CHP SWAT Team.

f. An Incident/Area commander may confer with the CHP SWAT commander prior to initiating a formal request in order to determine the appropriateness of a SWAT response. The CHP SWAT commander may be reached 24 hours a day via the Capitol Communications Center at 916-445-2895. The SWAT commander may authorize mobilization of CHP SWAT personnel for the purpose of intelligence gathering, operational planning and marshalling resources, but must obtain authorization, as described in paragraphs 6.a through 6.e above, to commit or deploy the CHP SWAT Team.

7. COMMAND AND CONTROL.

a. The SWAT commander or designee reports to the incident commander.

(1) Once the incident commander has decided to deploy the CHP SWAT Team, all tactical and operational decisions regarding the CHP SWAT Team's specific mission will be made by the SWAT commander, or if appropriate, the CHP SWAT Team Leader(s). This includes, but is not limited to, the decision to use lethal, less-lethal force, chemical agents, and/or breaching procedures.

(2) The CHP SWAT Team Leaders report to the SWAT commander. The SWAT team members report to the team leaders.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

OPI: 025