

CHAPTER 6
LONG RANGE ACOUSTIC DEVICE

JUNE 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| <u>GENERAL</u> | 6-3 |
| <u>DEFINITIONS</u> | 6-3 |
| Long Range Acoustic Device..... | 6-3 |
| Warning/Deterrent Tone | 6-3 |
| <u>TRAINING</u> | 6-3 |
| Initial Certification Training | 6-3 |
| Documentation | 6-3 |
| <u>POLICY</u> | 6-3 |
| Voice Mode..... | 6-4 |
| Warning/Deterrent Tone Mode | 6-4 |
| <u>ANNEX</u> | |
| <u>A</u> – LONG RANGE ACOUSTIC DEVICE HAZARD AREAS PLACARD..... | 6-7 |

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

CHAPTER 6

LONG RANGE ACOUSTIC DEVICE

1. GENERAL.

a. The primary mission of the Special Response Team (SRT) is to maintain safety and security for all, including those exercising their First Amendment rights. Communication with individuals while they are exercising their First Amendment rights and during civil disturbances, riots, or natural disasters requires clear and understandable commands. The Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) provides the ability to deliver these commands and maximizes the safety of all individuals involved in an incident.

2. DEFINITIONS.

a. Long Range Acoustic Device. An acoustic hailing device capable of sending messages and warning tones over longer distances and at a higher volume than normal loudspeakers.

(1) The LRAD is used for long range communications in a variety of applications, including as a means of nonlethal, non-kinetic crowd control. The LRAD is designed to send specific instructions to crowds.

b. Warning/Deterrent Tone. A high frequency warning/deterrent tone used to disperse and discourage riotous activity.

3. TRAINING.

a. Initial Certification Training. This training is conducted during the SRT Initial Training process. Topics covered will include operation, tone and voice hazard areas, use of force training, deployment operations, and officer and suspect safety concerns.

b. Documentation. All training shall be documented in the Employee Training Records System.

4. POLICY.

a. The LRAD shall only be used by uniformed personnel trained in its deployment and used in a manner consistent with departmental policy and training.

b. The LRAD may be used to issue dispersal orders during crowd and riot control situations or to address the public in the event of:

(1) Civil emergencies.

(2) Natural disasters.

(3) Evacuations.

(4) General law enforcement incidents (e.g., missing person[s], perimeters, any other appropriate situation where mass notification is necessary).

c. When feasible, a prerecorded message shall be used to make announcements. When the use of a prerecorded message is not applicable or when additional information is necessary, the LRAD handheld microphone or remote headset may be used.

d. Consideration shall be made when operating the LRAD in an environment where acoustics may amplify the sound (e.g., indoors, around large buildings).

e. To ensure the LRAD is not damaged when mounted, with or without magnetic mount, on the outside of a vehicle, it shall not be transported at speeds greater than 15 miles per hour.

f. All officers in the immediate proximity of an operating LRAD for a prolonged period of time shall wear the appropriate hearing protection (e.g., earplugs, earmuffs).

g. When operating the LRAD, operators should ensure no targeted individuals, bystanders, or other officers are occupying the applicable tone or voice-tone hazard area before activation, as outlined in Annex A of this chapter.

h. Voice Mode.

(1) The LRAD in voice mode is used to deliver a specific message to an individual or group, such as delivering a dispersal order.

(2) Officers shall only use a volume setting that will allow the message to be heard by the intended recipient(s), not to cause discomfort with the noise.

i. Warning/Deterrent Tone Mode.

(1) The warning/deterrent tone mode is considered a use of force option; therefore, all considerations outlined in Highway Patrol Manual (HPM) 70.6, Officer Safety Manual, Chapter 1, Use of Force, shall be adhered to prior to utilizing the tone.

- (2) The tone shall only be used with the approval of the company commander or designated authority. Company commanders shall give careful consideration to the use of the LRAD due to its indiscriminate nature.
 - (3) The tone shall only be used after an unlawful assembly/use of force warning has been given. Adequate dispersal time and routes shall be provided.
 - (4) The tone mode should only be used in two- to five-second sound bursts.
 - (5) The tone mode shall only be used for individuals beyond a range of 250 feet at the MAXIMUM power and MAXIMUM volume setting.
 - (6) The tone mode shall only be used for targeted individuals beyond a range of 50 feet at LIMITED power and MAXIMUM volume settings.
 - (7) Whenever practicable, advance notification shall be provided to perimeter officers prior to activating the warning tone.
 - (8) Officers shall properly document use of the tone on an individual(s) and provide medical attention if necessary.
- j. All incidents involving the use of force shall be thoroughly documented in accordance with HPM 70.6, Chapter 1; General Order 100.39, CHP 202, Driving Under the Influence Arrest - Investigation Report, and CHP 216, Arrest - Investigation Report; and HPM 100.86, Risk Management Manual, Chapter 3, Reports of Incidents—Use of Force.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

ANNEX A

LONG RANGE ACOUSTIC DEVICE HAZARD AREAS PLACARD

DIRECTION OF TARGETED INDIVIDUAL(S)

LRAD Hail & Warning HAZARD AREAS

MAXIMUM POWER
MAXIMUM VOLUME

NOTE:
Tone Beam Width is 125' at range of 247'
Tone Beam Width is 82' at range of 165'
Tone Beam Width is 17' at range of 33'

DIRECTION OF TARGETED INDIVIDUAL(S)

LRAD

LIMITED POWER
MAXIMUM VOLUME

FRONT SIDE

WARNING: Only properly trained operators/crews should operate the LRAD. Improper use could result in hearing loss to operators and/or targeted individuals.

- ✓ The tone mode should only be used for 2 to 5 seconds as a "hail" in order to gain the attention of the individuals. This should be followed by a recorded or other voice "warning."
- ✓ The tone mode should only be used for targeted individuals beyond a range of 250 feet at the MAXIMUM power and MAXIMUM volume settings.
- ✓ The tone mode should only be used for targeted individuals beyond a range of 50 feet at the LIMITED power and MAXIMUM volume settings.
- ✓ In the **TONE** mode, operators should ensure no targeted individuals, bystanders, or friendly forces are occupying the applicable TONE or VOICE-TONE HAZARD AREA before engagement.
- ✓ In the **VOICE** mode, operators should ensure no targeted individuals, bystanders, or friendly forces are occupying the applicable VOICE-TONE HAZARD AREA before engagement.
- ✓ Operators/crew should wear hearing protection when operating this device.

GSU00584

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK