



BARRICADE & HOSTAGE SITUATIONS

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I. POLICY

A. An incident involving a barricaded person requires the on-scene direction of the Special Operations Division (SOD) Commander, as the Incident Commander, or in his/her absence, a police captain or above, who will serve as Incident Commander. In the absence of the SOD Commander, the commander of the Special Operations Section (SOS) or his designee will be responsible for tactical and strategic operations within the inner perimeter. Decisions to use force against the suspect requires the approval of the Special Operations Division Commander, or in his absence, the Incident Commander, except when the use of force is necessary for the defense of human life, including the officer's own life, or in defense of any person who is in immediate danger of serious physical injury. The Use of Force Policy applies (see Index Code 401).

B. A barricaded person incident does not require activation of the EOC. The Police Department is in charge of the incident, and support will be requested from other agencies as it becomes necessary to do so.

C. In resolving barricade incidents, it is the policy of the Anne Arundel County Police Department to preserve lives of hostages, the public and the police while apprehending the suspects. The SOD Commander, or in his/her absence, the Incident Commander, bears responsibility for establishing and maintaining control of the situation at all times. In doing so, he/she will employ the following principles:

- 1. Effective utilization of time
- 2. Negotiation
- 3. Orderly command and control
- 4. Firearms discipline
- 5. Assignment of tasks

D. *Unless exigent circumstances exist (i.e., active shooter, the prevention of death or serious bodily injury, etc.) tactical entries should only be made by trained members of SOS.*

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Barricaded Suspect

A criminal suspect who has taken a position in a physical location, most often a structure or vehicle, fortified or not, that does not allow immediate police access and is refusing police orders to exit. A barricaded suspect may be known to be armed, thought to be armed, have access to weapons in the location, or be in an unknown weapons status.

B. Barricaded Subject

A person who is not suspected of committing a crime, but is the focus of a legitimate police intervention effort, most often involving threats of suicide and/or self destructive behavior of the mentally ill. The subject has taken a position in a physical location, most often a structure or vehicle, fortified or not, that does not allow immediate police access and is refusing police orders to exit. The barricaded subject may be known to be armed, thought to be armed, have access to weapons in the location, or be in an unknown weapons status.

C. Staging Area

The assembly point for officers responding to barricade incidents. The staging area should be conveniently accessible. The staging area should also be of sufficient size to accommodate the large number of responding personnel and equipment.

D. Hostage Incident

An incident where a suspect is holding a person against their will as security for a certain demand or pledge; OR a victim held against their will by threats or the actual use of force.

E. Command Post

A secure location away from the scene of the incident. The Command Post may be located in a vehicle or building.

III. FIRST OFFICER ON THE SCENE

A. Evaluate the situation and gather as much information as possible. Take offensive action only if: (1) the officer is reasonably certain the action will quickly bring the incident to conclusion without increased danger to hostages or other innocent persons; or (2) the action is necessary to save a human life, including the officer's own life or in defense of any person who is in immediate danger of serious physical injury.

This does not preclude the officer from negotiating an early end to the incident, if possible. However, the officers' primary concerns must be for the lives of the victims, the suspect, emergency personnel, and the officer's own life.

B. Maintain a safe position which permits viewing of any possible areas of escape and yet provides for the confinement of the suspect(s) to as small an area as possible. Maintain covered positions until properly relieved, and then report to the command post or staging area for further instruction. All personnel responding to the scene will report directly to the field commander for instructions. This includes off-duty personnel who might respond on their own initiative. All personnel not assigned to specific duties will remain at the staging area.

C. Maintain firearms discipline. Gunfire by a barricaded suspect in the general direction of officers who are adequately covered does not justify the indiscriminate return of gunfire. Return of fire should be limited to self-defense, or to the defense of another. Firearms may not be discharged when it appears likely that an innocent person may be injured.

D. Notify Communications of the following information to the extent it is known:

1. Location and physical description of the barricade.
2. Number, description, and names (when known) of barricaded *persons*.
3. Reason the *person* is barricaded.
4. Whether or not the *person* is armed and type of weapon.
5. Number and description of hostages being held.
6. Any areas or streets which may be unsafe for additional units responding to the scene.
7. Advise if there are known injuries involved and request medical assistance if necessary.

E. Request that Communications dispatch a patrol sergeant and platoon commander to the scene. Upon arrival of field supervisors, brief them on the status of the situation.

F. Responding officers, not assigned to traffic control duties, should park their PPV's in a manner as to allow access by additional responding emergency vehicles and equipment.

IV. PATROL SERGEANT

A. Establish a perimeter around the area of the barricaded location, utilizing cover for protection from hostile fire/threat. Citizens and unauthorized vehicles will not be allowed within this perimeter.

B. Evaluate evacuation needs as they apply to:

- * Injured persons
- * Occupants of neighboring buildings
- * Bystanders

1. Establish a list documenting the evacuation efforts of affected buildings/residences.
2. Request any equipment or additional personnel needed to effect the evacuations.
3. Provide a copy of the list to incoming Special Operations Section supervisors and brief them on the status of the evacuation.
4. Provide the location of each officer positioned on the perimeter to the Special Operations Section supervisor and account for their presence upon completion of the incident.

C. Ensure that all personnel maintain firearms discipline.

D. Designate a staging area at a safe location to which additional units can respond, and inform Communications of its location. The staging location should be as close as possible, but out of sight of the barricade location.

E. Arrange to hold any witnesses in a safe area for identification and debriefing by detectives.

F. Gather available intelligence on barricade location (i.e., diagram, obstacles, signs of children and pets, tags of vehicles on property, etc.)

V. PLATOON COMMANDER

A. Upon arrival, the platoon commander will carry out the duties of the Special Operations Division Commander/Incident Commander until their arrival. The platoon commander will initiate the tasks listed in Section V. below.

B. Contact the Communications Section, and request the Special Operations Section, a hostage negotiation team, and the Special Operations Division Commander, or in his/her absence, a Captain or above.

C. Once relieved, the platoon commander will serve as the Special Operations Division Commander's/Incident Commander's assistant, and will remain at the scene until relieved by the SOD Commander/Incident Commander.

D. Evaluate the need to implement an Alert Phase I (see Index Code 2306.1).

E. Ensure that the Communications Section makes the appropriate Command Staff notifications.

VI. INCIDENT COMMANDER

In case of a hostage/barricade situation, the Special Operations Division Commander will normally serve as the Incident Commander. If the Special Operations Division Commander is not available, the following duties will be performed by a command level officer of the rank of Captain or above.

A. Upon arrival at the scene of the hostage barricade situation, the Special Operations Division Commander/Incident Commander will assume responsibility for all operations concerning the incident.

- B. Debrief the Platoon Commander and Special Operations Section Commander. Evaluate and update or revise, if necessary, any preliminary control and containment procedures that have been established.
- C. Establish a field command post out of sight of the barricade location, at the outer perimeter. Establish an on-scene chain of command and make key personnel designations. As soon as practical, assign an officer to serve as recorder to maintain a written log of all activities.
- D. Deploy pursuit/surveillance vehicles and equipment, and personnel to control travel and escape routes.
- E. Have all units switch to a clear monitored channel, advising Communications of the change and requesting non-involved units be cleared from the selected channel.
- F. Establish the following as required:
 - 1. Press Information Center - request the presence of the Public Information Officer to coordinate press matters at the scene.
 - 2. Advisory Group - this group, consisting of personnel from C.I.D., *Administrative* Services, and those members of other agencies, and the public who may be of assistance in developing strategy or contingency plans for dealing with the situation.
- G. The Incident Commander will determine the need for and role of hostage negotiators. Negotiations will be initiated as soon as possible and continued until it becomes clear that negotiations are not beneficial to resolving the situation, or an opportunity presents itself that will enable a conclusion to the incident with little or no risk to the hostages or departmental personnel. Hostage negotiators will work under the command of the SOD Commander/Incident Commander.
- H. Request ambulance, rescue, fire, and surveillance equipment respond to the staging area to standby, if needed.
- I. Request Criminal Investigation Division or District Team Police personnel for debriefing witnesses, interviewing, intelligence gathering, and similar duties.
- J. In the absence of the Special Operations Division Commander, the Incident Commander will relinquish authority for the containment and apprehension of the suspect(s) to the Special Operations Section Commander or his designee. The Incident Commander will approve or disapprove operational/tactical plans formulated by the Special Operations Section Commander. After Special Operations personnel are in place, the Incident Commander will coordinate all activity outside the inner perimeter.
- K. After the situation has been resolved, complete and submit an Event/Incident Cost Analysis form (PD 70).

VII. SPECIAL OPERATIONS SECTION COMMANDER

- A. Assume responsibility for securing the inner perimeter and all operations within. Debrief Platoon Commander, evaluate and update or revise, if necessary, any preliminary control and containment procedures that have been established.
- B. Assure that Special Operations personnel arriving at the scene are briefed prior to deploying to their positions and ensure that they are positioned properly.
- C. Ensure that patrol personnel on the INNER perimeter ~~only~~ and Special Operations personnel operate on the same radio channel until the patrol personnel are relieved of their positions. This will likely require a separate radio channel for outer perimeter personnel to ensure that critical radio communications regarding the suspect/inner perimeter are not delayed or interrupted.
- D. Identify and request specialized equipment and additional patrol personnel to be assigned directly to the Special Operations Division Commander/Incident Commander. This additional assistance will be coordinated through the Special Operations Division Commander or in his absence, the Incident Commander.

E. Formulate and be prepared to place into operation a plan of tactical action against the barricaded position. The Special Operations Division Commander, or in his absence the Incident Commander, will be briefed on all tactical plans before they are placed into operation. *Absent exigent circumstances*, no tactical plan will be executed without the prior approval of the Special Operations Division Commander, or in his absence, the Incident Commander. Tactical plans should fully consider the stated policy of the department to preserve life and apprehend the suspect(s).

F. Use of chemical agents is appropriate in circumstances where a serious danger to life and property exists and other methods of control or apprehension would be ineffective or more dangerous.

The Special Operations Division Commander, or in his absence, the Incident Commander, is responsible for authorizing the use of chemical agents. This decision will be based on advice from the SOS Commander.

The actual deployment of chemical agents will be done only by officers assigned to the Special Operations Section who have been trained in their use.

G. At the conclusion of the barricade incident, it will be the responsibility of the Special Operations Section Commander to ensure that a Critical Incident Report is completed. This after-action report is in addition to any required Incident Reports or Supplements prepared by Patrol or CID.

VIII. INVESTIGATIVE PERSONNEL

A. Investigative personnel from CID or District Team Police will be responsible for debriefing and for obtaining written statements from those persons who are interviewed. All information gathered and statements taken will immediately be forwarded to the SOD Commander or in his/her absence, the Incident Commander.

B. Assist the SOD Commander/Incident Commander in gathering intelligence information on the suspect(s) and hostage(s) as follows:

1. Suspect(s):

- a. General background
- b. Likes and dislikes, habits
- c. Relatives
- d. Arrest and criminal history information
- e. Weapon(s) involved
- f. Current mental state (alcohol/drug influence)

2. Hostage(s):

- a. General background
- b. Relatives
- c. General health
- d. Any weapon(s)

3. Location of barricade:

- a. Floor plan or layout of structure and outside curtilage if possible
- b. Location of utility shut offs
- c. Any information useful to negotiators or Special Operations

IX. PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Keep abreast of all information and activity at the scene. Consult with the SOD Commander/Incident Commander regarding information to be released to the media. Conduct briefings for the media as indicated by the circumstances of the emergency. Establish a media briefing area at a location away from the command post. Whenever possible, members of the media should be kept at a distance to ensure their safety, and to prevent the media from furnishing information concerning specific police actions and the position of the barricaded suspect(s).

X. COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

A. Call Taker

Upon receipt of a call indicating the possibility of a barricade situation, the Police Communications Operator will take the following actions:

1. Immediately inform the Communications supervisor of the details of the call.
2. Enter the call into the CAD system according to procedure, obtaining as much information as possible.
3. Maintain communications with the caller until patrol units arrive on the scene. Interview the caller and attempt to obtain all pertinent information, giving special consideration to facts directly affecting the safety of the persons on the scene.

B. Dispatcher

1. Notify the primary unit, secondary unit, patrol supervisor, and the platoon commander of the call and issue a 10-3 on the radio channel.
2. Notify responding units of a safe route of approach when one is known.
3. Inform the Communications supervisor of all reports from the scene.

C. Communications Supervisor

1. Establish a command post at the supervisor's console in the Communications Section for the duration of the incident, maintaining information to update the Chief of Police and other concerned commanders.
2. Notify local law enforcement and public safety agencies whose operations may be affected by the emergency.
3. At the direction of the Special Operations Division Commander/Incident Commander, notify and request assistance from other agencies whose services may be required, such as the appropriate telephone and power companies.

XI. COMMUNITY RELATIONS SECTION

At the direction of the SOD Commander/Incident Commander, Community Relations Section personnel will make personal contact with citizens and community leaders in the incident area to make them aware of the situation, and department policy in resolving such incidents. Actual police tactics will not be discussed. The final decision as to the information to be disseminated will be made by the Incident Commander.

XII. REVIEW & REVISION OF PLAN

The commander of the Special Operations Division will review this plan at least annually, and recommend any necessary changes to the Field Operations Bureau Commander.

XIII. PROPONENT UNIT: Special Operations Division.

XIV. CANCELLATION: This directive cancels Index Code 2308, dated 07-10-06.