

COUNTER-TERRORISM AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

NOTICE

January 8, 2024

1.15

TO: All Concerned Personnel

FROM: Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau

SUBJECT: SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS SPECIALTY VEHICLE
DEPLOYMENT PROTOCOL

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Notice is to establish deployment procedures for the Tactical Caterpillar (TacCat), which is a customized armored vehicle with tracks, maintained and operated exclusively by Metropolitan Division's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) personnel to resolve high-risk incidents that meet SWAT deployment criteria and present significant safety concerns.

BACKGROUND

The TacCat was developed to assist law enforcement in mitigating risks associated with confronting armed criminals who refuse to peacefully submit to arrest. The TacCat was funded through the Urban Area Security Initiative federal grant process and is available to our law enforcement partners within the Southern California region as stipulated in the grant.

PROCEDURES

As with all SWAT deployments, safety concerns for the public, law enforcement personnel, and the suspect(s) shall be paramount to any use of the TacCat. Consideration to deploy the TacCat in the field should be based on significant officer-safety concerns and/or threats of violence that cannot be addressed safely by other means. Factors to consider for a TacCat deployment may include, but are not limited to:

- Type of crime(s) involved;
- Potential violence with firearms or explosives;
- Number of armed suspects or potential victims/citizens requiring rescue;
- Superior weaponry or presence of body armor;
- Challenging or fortified venue;
- Unsafe or inaccessible approach with conventional armored vehicles;
- Removal of barriers, obstacles or vehicles; and/or,
- Chemical agents were, or will be, ineffective in leading to the suspect(s) surrendering.

The use of this equipment is covered by California Assembly Bill 481. The following protocols have been established to ensure proper oversight, accountability measures, and reporting when deployed.

For spontaneous or planned field deployments:

- Once the SWAT lieutenant receives information that an incident could or does require the deployment of the TacCat, supporting rationale shall be forwarded to the Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division, or designee.
- The Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division, shall notify the Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau, or designee, for concurrence and approval.
- Prior to the deployment of the TacCat during an incident, the on-scene Incident Commander shall be briefed on the nuances associated with the TacCat and approve its use toward the resolution of an incident.

TRAINING

The TacCat shall only be operated by trained SWAT personnel.

REPORTING

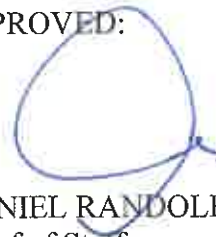
All TacCat field deployments shall be reported in the SWAT After Action report, as well as the California Assembly Bill 481 Equipment Report that the Office of Constitutional Policing and Policy prepares annually for the Honorable Board of Police Commissioners and Los Angeles City Council.

Should you have questions regarding this Notice, please contact the Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division, at (213) 352-4700.



DAVID J. KOWALSKI, Deputy Chief
Commanding Officer
Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau

APPROVED:



DANIEL RANDOLPH, Deputy Chief
Chief of Staff
Office of the Chief of Police

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