

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 11

December 20, 2018

SUBJECT: ELECTRONIC SATELLITE PURSUIT SYSTEM – REVISED

PURPOSE: This Order establishes procedures for the use, response, and accountability of Electronic Satellite Pursuit (ESP) trackers and alarms, and supersedes existing Operations Order No. 7, *Electronic Satellite Pursuit System*, dated July 9, 2008.

In 2007, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) implemented the use of the ESP system, in order to increase the likelihood of suspect apprehension during the commission of a crime. The ESP system provides web based global positioning information indicating the location of tracking packs that are generally included in money or other property stolen from banks, financial institutions, or other business establishments.

Since 2007, the use of ESP system trackers has expanded beyond these types of businesses. As technology improved and the size of tracking packs have decreased, devices may now be affixed to a variety of property. The Department is expanding the use of these tracking packs to focus on the reduction of property crimes.

The use of these “3SI” ESP trackers can be monitored and tracked by Communications Division. 3SI is a leader in innovative solutions used to combat crime through a variety of technologies including GPS tracking. 3SI is currently the only vendor that can be linked to Communications Division. 3SI has also provided the Department handheld radio-beacon locators for precision locating.

PROCEDURE: The Department’s use of ESP system trackers currently includes the Electronic Robbery Surveillance (ERS) tracker and the Electronic Stakeout (ESO) tracker, each of which serves a different purpose. Electronic Robbery Surveillance trackers are packs generally used in money or other property stolen from banks, financial institutions, or other business establishments. The activation of ERS trackers will generally generate a “211 Just Occurred” radio call. The ESO trackers are mainly affixed to Department-controlled property used as “bait.” The use of this tracker is designed to apprehend theft suspects. The activation of ESO trackers will generally generate a “484 Just Occurred” radio call.

Both trackers have a web-based monitoring system that alerts Communications Division when a tracking device has been moved. The tracking information is updated every six seconds with the initial activation occurring approximately 30 seconds after the tracking device is moved. Communications Division can provide direction of travel, speed, accuracy, time lag, contact information and the type of activation.

I. OFFICER’S RESPONSIBILITIES. Officers are responsible for responding to ESP activations to apprehend the suspect(s) and recover property. Officers shall provide a proportionate response to the seriousness of the offense. As such, the following procedures shall be followed:

A. Officers dispatched Code-3 to an ERS alarm for a robbery just occurred (e.g., from a bank or other financial institution) shall:

- Handle the call in the same manner as they would a “211 Just Occurred” radio call;
- Request the assistance of Air Support Division (ASD) and monitor the radio for any pertinent crime information broadcasted that may assist in identifying the suspect and/or device;
- Ensure one unit responds to secure the scene of the initial incident, conducts a brief interview with the victim and/or witnesses, and broadcasts all preliminary crime information to the communications operator without delay;
- As responding units approach the location of the ERS tracker, they should shut down their lights and sirens to avoid alerting a potential suspect;
- Upon identifying a potential suspect, ensure sufficient assistance is requested to address all tactical concerns;
- In situations where it has been determined that the tracking device has become stationary, but the exact location of the suspect is unknown, officers should establish a perimeter or observation post;
- If a perimeter is established, request a supervisor, as well as a handheld radio-beacon locator;

Note: Each Area kitroom has a handheld radio-beacon locator that can pinpoint a more accurate location for all 3SI ESP trackers.

Note: If officers arrive at the location of the ERS tracker prior to obtaining a suspect description, officers shall consider reasonable suspicion prior to stopping/detaining any person(s) in the area.

- Consult with detective personnel on appropriate investigative steps, as needed;
- If the victim is a bank and tracking is initiated, Robbery-Homicide Division, Robbery Special Section, shall be notified as soon as possible;
- Once both the suspect and device are in custody, broadcast a “Code-4” and advise Communications Division that it is appropriate to deactivate the tracking device; and,
- Book all recovered property, including the ERS tracker, as evidence.

B. Officers dispatched Code-2 to an ESO alarm for a stakeout tracker (e.g., “bait bike” or “bait package”) shall:

- Handle the call in the same manner as they would a “484 Just Occurred” radio call;
- Request the assistance of ASD and monitor the radio for any pertinent crime information broadcasted that may assist in identifying the suspect and/or device;
- Respond to the last known area of the ESO tracker from the initial broadcast and monitor the frequency for updates on suspect/device location;
- Determine if additional resources are necessary to apprehend the suspect;
- In situations where it has been determined that the tracking device has become stationary, but the exact location of the suspect is unknown, officers should establish a perimeter or observation post;
- If a perimeter is established, request a supervisor, as well as a handheld

radio-beacon locator;

Note: Each Area kitroom has a handheld radio-beacon locator that can pinpoint a more accurate location for all 3SI ESP trackers.

- Consult with detective personnel on appropriate investigative steps, as needed;
- Once both the suspect and device are in custody, broadcast a “Code-4” and advise detective personnel or 3SI that it is appropriate to deactivate the device tracking;
- Ensure one unit responds to the location of the staged property to canvass for additional evidence (such as a cut bicycle lock or torn packaging), surveillance video, and any potential witnesses;
- Complete an Arrest Report, Form 05.02.00, documenting the circumstances of the arrest; and,
- Return the ESO tracker to the investigative detectives if available, or the watch commander if detectives are not available. Officers shall not book the ESO tracker as evidence.

II. INVESTIGATOR’S RESPONSIBILITIES. Detectives or their designees wanting to deploy ESO trackers shall:

- Identify areas of concern for theft-type offenses and determine the best type of “bait” property to deploy;
- When feasible, reasonably secure bait property (e.g., using a bike lock to secure a bicycle). This practice will increase the likelihood of apprehending chronic offenders, such as those who possess burglary tools on their person. It is not the goal of this program to apprehend purely opportunistic thieves;
- Notify the concerned Area Watch Commander; and,
- Provide information to field personnel regarding the description of the bait property, as well as other pertinent information.

In general, the bait property with the ESO tracker should meet the threshold for felony filings. When possible, the bait property should also be valued at an amount to avoid filing deputy discretion.

Note: When the specific property deployed does not qualify for a felony filing, or is referred for misdemeanor consideration, detectives should liaise with the City Attorney’s Office to include conditions in the summary probation that are favorable to crime prevention.

Additionally, Department assets should be deployed in a location with surveillance cameras. The Department need not control the cameras directly; however, detectives are encouraged to engage in community partnerships which will allow them to access business or residential camera footage.

After the bait property is deployed to a specific location, detectives shall:

- Activate the device for monitoring by Communications Division;

- After each use, maintain and charge the devices, as well as assist in obtaining any necessary surveillance footage or evidence; and,
- Respond to any situation resulting in the need for a search warrant; and, when feasible, respond to all incidents where a suspect is in custody to ensure appropriate evidence is obtained.

III. SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES: Supervisors shall:

- Monitor the broadcast initiated by Communications Division; and,
- Ensure the assigned patrol unit, and any additional backup units, are responding in conformance with existing policy and this directive.

If containment is established for a suspect, supervisors shall:

- Respond and ensure appropriate actions are taken for subsequent apprehension (e.g., ensuring sufficient units, any necessary search warrants, or the handheld locator beacon is obtained from the kitroom); and,
- Consider the totality of the circumstances as incident commander and determine whether patrol officers, K-9, or Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) officers should assist with the entry and/or search.

IV. WATCH COMMANDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES: Watch commanders or their designees shall:

- Review all arrest reports to ensure the incident is appropriately documented;
- Ensure officers return ESO trackers from bait property to the Detective Commanding Officer and that ERS trackers from financial institutions are booked into property along with any other evidence recovered; and,
- Become available to assume tracking duties from Communications Division upon their request.

Note: It is recommended that watch commanders inform personnel during roll call of currently outstanding bait property.

V. AREA DETECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

Area Detective Commanding Officers shall:

- Maintain all ESO trackers;
- Authorize each use of a tracker and require a dated sign-out/sign-in log for each tracking device's deployment. The log shall include the investigating officer's contact information and reason for checkout;
- Maintain a new log each Deployment Period;
- Initial and date prior logs after all devices have been returned; and,
- Maintain the logs for records retention.

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- VI. **COMMANDING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES:** Commanding officers shall ensure the handheld radio-beacon locator provided by 3SI is barcoded and stored in the Area kitroom. Additionally, they shall be responsible for providing periodic inspections of the tracking device sign-out log.

AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY: The Commanding Officer, Audit Division, shall review this directive and determine whether an audit or inspection shall be conducted in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.

Should you have questions regarding this matter, please contact the Evaluation and Administration Section, Office of Operations, at (213) 486-6050.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Arcos", with a stylized flourish to the right.

ROBERT N. ARCOS, Assistant Chief
Director, Office of Operations

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