

COUNTER-TERRORISM AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

NOTICE
16.3

September 21, 2016

TO: All Concerned Personnel

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

SUBJECT: AERIAL PLATFORM SHOOTING PROCEDURES - REVISED

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Notice is to revise the deployment procedures for the Aerial Platform Shooting (APS) tactic utilized by Metropolitan Division, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) personnel, and facilitated through Air Support Division (ASD). The procedures were established in Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau Notice, dated April 24, 2015.

BACKGROUND

Between December 31, 1972 and January 7, 1973, Mark Essex shot 19 people with a .44 magnum carbine rifle, killing 9, including 5 police officers in New Orleans, Louisiana. Numerous incidents since then have emphasized the need for the Department to maintain and support APS Capabilities.

Airborne use of force involves specially trained SWAT personnel shooting from inside of a helicopter. Since 2015, ASD and SWAT have successfully utilized a doors-off, benches removed configuration during training, which reduced response time, lightened the weight of the aircraft and reduced SWAT officer exposure to the environmental elements.

PROCEDURES

The APS procedures have been revised as a result of training, applications, and analysis. The following have been added to the Notice:

- Air Support Division and SWAT personnel have the option to use the Tyler Special Operations Platform configuration, which consists of a platform(s) mounted on the side(s) of the aircraft. The other option is the doors off, benches removed configuration. When time and safety allow for the use of the Tyler Special Operations Platform, this is the preferred configuration. Air Support Division and SWAT personnel may use the doors off, benches removed configuration in instances in which ASD is limited by time, equipment or environmental issues.

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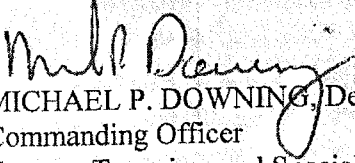
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The decision of configuration will be incorporated into the APS deployment protocol. Air Support Division and SWAT personnel shall train using both configurations to be able to use both configurations with proficiency and safety.

- Special Weapons and Tactics personnel must ensure brass catchers are properly installed and seated on the rifles prior to APS deployment. The purpose of the brass catchers is to prevent bullet casings from falling and interfering with the safe operation of the aircraft. All other procedures on the original Notice remain unchanged.

Any questions regarding this Notice may be directed to the Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division, at (213) 352-4800.

APPROVED:


MICHAEL P. DOWNING, Deputy Chief
Commanding Officer
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SEAN W. MALINOWSKI, Commander
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