

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 4

March 14, 2022

**SUBJECT: UNDERWATER SEARCH – RENAMED AND REVISED; AND METROPOLITAN DIVISION FUNCTIONS – REVISED**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Order is to revise and rename Department Manual Section 4/212.60, Underwater Search, as Waterborne and Underwater Investigations. The revised Department Manual Section establishes a new entity named the “Maritime Operations Team (MOT)” under Metropolitan Division. The Maritime Operations Team will consist of the Underwater Dive Unit (UDU) and a new Maritime Response Unit, due to their expanded roles and capabilities while searching and recovering criminal evidence or during a waterborne tactical apprehension or rescue operation.

**PROCEDURE:**

- I. UNDERWATER SEARCH – RENAMED AND REVISED.** Department Manual Section 4/212.60, *Underwater Search*, has been revised and renamed as *Waterborne and Underwater Investigations*. The section is attached with the revisions indicated in italics.
- II. METROPOLITAN DIVISION FUNCTIONS – REVISED.** The Department Organization and Functions of the LAPD for Metropolitan Division has been revised and is attached with the revisions indicated in italics.

**AMENDMENT:** This Order amends Section 4/212.60 of the Department Manual, as well as the Organizations and Functions of the LAPD for Metropolitan Division under the “Organization” tab on the Local Area Network (LAN).

**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.



MICHEL R. MOORE  
Chief of Police

Attachments

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**DEPARTMENT MANUAL  
VOLUME IV  
Revised by Special Order No. 4, 2022**

**212.60 WATERBORNE AND UNDERWATER INVESTIGATIONS.** *The Maritime Operations Team (MOT) within Metropolitan Division, that consists of the Underwater Dive Unit (UDU) and the Maritime Response Unit, has the responsibility of conducting and assisting in waterborne investigations. The MOT has the capability of engaging in the following activities and missions:*

- *Search and recovery of criminal evidence, both underwater and land-based, via the use of metal detectors or other special equipment (i.e., SONAR, Remotely Operated Vehicle, lift bags, surface supplied air);*
- *Any waterborne and/or sub-surface recovery of lost or stolen property, including vehicles, vessels, or aircraft;*
- *Processing of underwater crime scenes;*
- *Recovery and light salvage of submerged or in-water lost or stolen property, including conveyances;*
- *Underwater photography and videography;*
- *Search for missing persons who are suspected of drowning or were reported missing near a body of water;*
- *Waterborne recovery of bodies;*
- *Waterborne suspect apprehension/tactical rescue;*
- *Anytime a suspect or suspects have entered a body of water for the purpose of evading arrest, or where the suspect has isolated themselves and personnel need to traverse water to approach;*
- *Port security missions, including critical site surveys of piers and ship hulls, critical site threat assessments, mutual aid requests, and other duties related to waterborne homeland security issues;*
- *Waterborne transport of Department personnel or assets;*
- *Waterborne explosive ordnance searches on ships and piers, including identification and marking of suspected improvised explosives, as well as military grade ordnance;*
- *Underwater post-blast investigations;*
- *Operations related to the support of Special Weapons and Tactics, tactical waterborne elements, Metropolitan Division, and other Department tactical and/or investigative entities;*
- *Support of Hazardous Materials Devices Section during maritime related Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) and Preventive Radiological and Nuclear Detection (PRND) operations (Bomb Squad and Hazardous Materials Units);*
- *Removal of conditions which pose a threat to life and property, or where City liability exists;*
- *Search and rescue operations at the request of the United States Coast Guard or Port Dive Operations Group member; and,*
- *Critical infrastructure evaluations of City reservoirs and water related structures.*

*The MOT shall be notified in any of the above instances.*

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*When the deployment of MOT is deemed necessary, requesting personnel shall notify the MOT Office, during normal business hours; or the Metropolitan Division Desk, after hours or on weekends. In addition, the Department Operations Center (DOC) shall be notified along with the details and the urgency of the search.*

*The Metropolitan Division Desk shall:*

- *Notify the Officer in Charge, Maritime Operations Team. The Officer in Charge will determine if the request for deployment is in furtherance of Department objectives and consistent with Department policies; and,*
- *The Officer in Charge or his or her designee, shall select and notify the appropriate personnel from the MOT roster.*

**ORGANIZATIONS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE LAPD**  
**Revised by Special Order No. 4, 2022**

**METROPOLITAN DIVISION - FUNCTIONS.** Metropolitan Division is responsible for the following duties:

- Deploying a Crime Task Force to handle special crime problems that are beyond the capabilities of a particular geographic bureau;
- Providing dignitary protection;
- Conducting surveillance;
- Conducting stakeouts;
- Providing response forces to assist Department personnel during riots, natural disasters, and unusual occurrences requiring additional personnel;
- Providing personnel protection details;
- Maintaining selective enforcement in areas of high crime frequency;
- Tactical Support Element (TSE);
- Deploying the *Maritime Operations Team*;
- Providing municipal security details;
- Administering the activities of the Canine (K-9) Platoon;
- Administering the activities of the Mounted Platoon;
- Developing and administering the Department firearm instructor certification course for specialized firearms authorized for special duty assignments;
- Immediate Action/Rapid Deployment (IARD);
- Rapid Extraction and Dismantling (RED) Team;
- Developing tactics and related training to meet Department needs;
- Administering the activities of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Platoon; and,
- Deploying Crisis Negotiation Teams for incidents that are criminal in nature or for prevention of suicide.

**COMMANDING OFFICER, METROPOLITAN DIVISION.** The Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division, under the direction of the Commanding Officer, Counter Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau (CTSOB), exercises line command over the operations of Metropolitan Division, including Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Platoon, K-9 Platoon, Mounted Platoon, and *Maritime Operations Team*.

**METROPOLITAN DIVISION COMMANDING OFFICER - SPECIAL DUTY.** The Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division, may authorize the use of explosives or other Extraordinary Tactical Options (ETO) by the Special Weapons and Tactics Team upon approval from the Commanding Officer, (CTSOB). If the Commanding Officer, CTSOB, is not available, then the approval of the next staff officer of higher rank within the chain-of-command of the Office of Special Operations (OSO) must be obtained.