

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 8

May 19, 2022

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS ON MAY 17, 2022

**SUBJECT: SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS VEHICLE PURSUIT
INTERDICTION – ESTABLISHED**

PURPOSE: This Order establishes Department Manual Section 4/205.23, *Special Weapons and Tactics Vehicle Pursuit Interdiction*. This Order will address incidents when Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) personnel and equipment could be utilized for vehicle pursuit interdiction.

PROCEDURE: Attached is the established Department Manual Section 4/205.23, *Special Weapons and Tactics Vehicle Pursuit Interdiction*.

AMENDMENTS: This Order establishes Department Manual Section 4/205.23 in the Department Manual.

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

DISTRIBUTION "D"

DEPARTMENT MANUAL
VOLUME IV
Established by Special Order No. 8, 2022

205.23 SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS VEHICLE PURSUIT INTERDICTION.

Vehicle Intervention Techniques (VIT) readily available to officers are not always feasible, advisable, or effective based on the suspect(s)' actions or potential actions. When conventional VITs are undeployable or ineffective, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team resources may be considered as they deploy specialized equipment and tactics not generally implemented by other Department entities. Some techniques deployable by SWAT include, but are not limited to, the following:

- *The Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT);*
- *PIT maneuver of a suspect known or believed to be armed;*
- *Establishment of a physical barricade (road block);*
- *Establishment of a physical barrier (boxing in);*
- *Heading off the suspect(s)' vehicle;*
- *Driving alongside the suspect's vehicle;*
- *Ramming the suspect's vehicle with intent to disable it and prevent drivability; and/or,*
- *Other vehicle interdiction techniques.*

Consideration for Special Weapons and Tactics Requests During Vehicle Pursuits. *The Incident Commander may consider, the following criteria prior to requesting SWAT during a vehicle pursuit:*

- *The suspect(s) is armed or believed to be armed, and the propensity for violence exists either during, or at the termination of the pursuit (e.g. shots fired at the police or public, brandishing a weapon(s) at officers, or threats of a violent confrontation or suicide conveyed to a third-party);*
- *There is, or believed to be, a hostage in the pursued vehicle;*
- *The size or perceived weight of the suspect's vehicle would prevent pursuing units from engaging with conventional VIT tactics;*
- *The suspect(s) is actively using his or her vehicle as a weapon to harm the public or there is credible information that the suspect(s) is driving to a location to intentionally cause harm to others by using the vehicle as a weapon or delivering a potentially harmful payload in order to cause mass casualties (e.g. explosives or weaponized hazardous material);*
- *The suspect(s) is driving at a speed, direction, or in a manner where SWAT equipment can successfully engage the suspect vehicle;*
- *The pursuit has drawn sufficient public attention such that bystander interference or involvement has significantly jeopardized public safety or presents increased risks to the pursuing officers; and,*
- *The suspect is driving in a predictable, roundabout, or indirect route.*

Special Weapons and Tactics Deployment. *In circumstances where SWAT has been requested for vehicle pursuit interdiction, the Incident Commander shall continuously monitor the circumstances of the incident for any changes that may negate the need for SWAT (e.g. pursued*

DEPARTMENT MANUAL
VOLUME IV
Established by Special Order No. 8, 2022

vehicle collides and/or the suspect(s) abandon the vehicle and flee on foot, or the CHP has assumed responsibility for the pursuit).

If SWAT is unable to remain actively engaged with the suspect(s)' vehicle, responsibility and control for the pursuit shall be relinquished back to the primary unit, secondary unit, assigned supervisor, and any other authorized unit(s). Special Weapons and Tactics shall disengage from the pursuit but remain available to re-engage or respond to the pursuit termination as requested by the Incident Commander if practicable.

Incident Commander's Responsibilities. *The Incident Commander should continuously assess the situation to determine if appropriate circumstances exist for SWAT intervention. If it is determined that the circumstances exist, the Incident Commander shall notify his or her watch commander and contact Metropolitan Division's Watch Commander to request SWAT. The Incident Commander should be prepared to answer questions needed to determine if SWAT's response is warranted: who, what, why, when, where, and how.*

Watch Commander's Responsibilities. *The watch commander shall ensure the appropriate circumstances for SWAT intervention exist and shall notify his or her respective Area/division commanding officer (CO) of the request.*

Commanding Officer's Responsibilities. *The Area/division CO shall confirm the existence of appropriate circumstances for SWAT intervention during the vehicle pursuit. If SWAT intervention is requested, the Area/division CO shall obtain approval from his or her bureau CO.*

Special Weapons and Tactics Responsibilities. *If a SWAT response to a vehicle pursuit is requested, the on-duty/standby SWAT Lieutenant shall notify the CO, Metropolitan Division, and the CO (or designee), Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau.*

Note: *While notification and the approval for the Vehicle Intervention Techniques is routed through the chain of command, the Incident Commander is not precluded from contacting Metropolitan Desk to brief/consult with the on-duty SWAT Lieutenant who may direct the planning, assembly of equipment, and staging of on-duty SWAT personnel in preparation for an approval of intervention by the bureau CO.*