

# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 6

May 30, 2023

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS ON November 8, 2022

**SUBJECT: QUADRUPEL UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE PROGRAM  
DEPLOYMENT GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES**

**PURPOSE:** This Order establishes deployment guidelines and procedures specific to the QuadrupeL Unmanned Ground Vehicle (QUGV). As part of the Department's commitment to the Preservation of Life, the QUGV will greatly increase officer safety and minimize risks associated with life-threatening calls for service that meet the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) deployment criteria.

**PROCEDURE:**

- I. Definition.** The QUGV refers to a ground vehicle operated on four legs without an onboard human presence.
- II. Responsibilities.** The QUGV will be assigned exclusively to Metropolitan Division's SWAT team and shall be reserved for use in high-risk incidents that meet SWAT deployment criteria. Special Weapons and Tactics personnel will be responsible for the safe operation of the QUGV during approved deployments and for documenting its use during deployment of the vehicle. Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau (CTSOB) will be responsible for the oversight and evaluation of the QUGV Program.
- III. Documentation and Inspection Procedures.** The request, approval, and/or disapproval of a QUGV deployment shall be documented on the SWAT After Action Report completed post deployment for review, transparency, and tracking. Metropolitan Division will be required to provide a quarterly report to CTSOB documenting QUGV field deployments. In addition, information regarding all QUGV deployments will be included in Innovation Management Division's annual Comprehensive Technology Report to the Honorable Board of Police Commissioners and comply with California Assembly Bill No. 481.
- IV. Approval for Deployment.** Any deployment of a QUGV shall be approved by the on-scene Incident Commander in concurrence with the Commanding Officer or Designee of CTSOB. If deployment is approved by CTSOB, a notification shall be made to the Director, Office of Special Operations, and the Chief of Police. If an incident is such that it requires the response of personnel assigned to Emergency Services Division (i.e., Hazardous Devices and Materials Section), the Commanding Officer, Emergency Services Division or appropriate representative shall also respond to the scene.
- V. Permissible Uses.** The QUGV may be deployed to provide enhanced situational awareness solely during the following circumstances or types of incidents:
  1. Active shooter incidents;
  2. Assessment of explosive devices and explosions;
  3. Hostage situations;
  4. Natural disasters;
  5. Hazardous materials incidents;

6. Search and rescue operations; and
7. Barricaded suspect incidents.

**Note:** A SWAT response for a barricaded suspect requires:

- The suspect is probably armed; and,
- Probable cause exists to believe that the suspect has been involved in a criminal act or is a threat to the lives and safety of the community and/or police; and,
- Is in a position of advantage, affording cover and/or concealment; or is contained in an open area and the presence of approach of police officers could precipitate an adverse reaction by the suspect; and,
- The suspect refuses to submit to a lawful arrest.

**VI. Prohibited Uses.** The QUGV shall not be deployed or used in violation of the City of Los Angeles Municipal laws, California State laws, or the United States Constitution. When required under the Fourth Amendment or other provisions of the law, Department personnel shall obtain a search warrant or valid consent, unless another lawful exception applies.

The QUGV shall not be equipped with any weapon systems including any non-lethal or less-lethal weapon technology, shall not be equipped with or use any facial recognition software or analysis capabilities, and the QUGV shall not be used for routine patrol duties or covert surveillance operations.

**Note:** The QUGV shall not be deployed in a manner exceeding the manufacturer's recommendations.

**VII. Protection of Privacy.** Department Manual Section 1/140.15, Acquisition and Annual Reporting of Certain Information Systems and Technologies, ensures that Department personnel follow practices consistent with the protection of privacy and civil liberties.

The QUGV technology uses secured radio frequencies and/or Wi-Fi to directly transmit images, audio and video from the onboard QUGV camera to the handheld monitor(s). It does not transmit to third parties and is encrypted to prevent interception by unauthorized entities such as news outlets or public groups. Department policy ensures personnel with access to such data follow practices that are consistent with the protection of privacy and civil liberties. Digital evidence (photographs, video, or audio) captured by the QUGV's cameras during deployment shall be safeguarded in accordance with current Department policy.

**VIII. Training.** Personnel approved to utilize or manipulate the QUGV shall be trained in operations of the unit in accordance with the Manufacturer Guidelines. In addition to QUGV functionality, unit operators, and those overseeing unit operations, shall be trained in the policy and legal limitations governing the use of the unit and in strict compliance with privacy laws.

**MONITORING RESPONSIBILITY:** The Commanding Officer, CTSOB, shall have monitoring responsibility for this directive.

**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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MICHEL R. MOORE', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**MICHEL R. MOORE**  
Chief of Police

Attachments

DISTRIBUTION "D"