

GENERAL ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Title
Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU)

Topic/Number
GO-HSC-805.01

Effective Date
December 15, 2009

Replaces:
GO-OPS-805.01 (The Civil Disturbance Unit), Effective Date
May 17, 2004

Rescinds:
TT 05-083-08 (The Civil Disturbance Unit), dated May 22,
2008

Related to:
GO-RAR-101.09 (Duties and Responsibilities of Sworn
Officials)
GO-OPS-803.04 (Emergency Response Plan)
CALEA Chapter 46 (Critical Incidents, Special Operations and
Homeland Security)

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I. BACKGROUND

The District of Columbia community relies on the Metropolitan Police Department to provide quality police service in responding to calls for service and in handling incidents and events. In order to handle incidents involving civil unrest, the Metropolitan Police Department has created a Civil Disturbance Unit that consists of specially trained personnel that can be activated and assembled rapidly. The purpose of this general order is to establish the organization and responsibilities of the Metropolitan Police Department Civil Disturbance Unit.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Metropolitan Police Department to respond to mass assemblies and civil disturbances in order to provide the proper police service to those who wish to exercise their constitutional rights of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. As necessary, Metropolitan Police Department members on the scene of a mass assembly or civil disturbance will take the proper action to prevent and/or handle acts of violence, destruction of property, and any other unlawful conduct and to restore and maintain order.

III. DEFINITIONS

When used in this directive, the following terms shall have the meanings designated:

1. Arrest Squad – Second squad of each Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU) platoon. This squad will be the primary squad deployed for making arrests when needed.

2. Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU) – Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) unit organized for the purpose of providing trained personnel to deliver service in connection with mass assemblies and civil disturbances, and, as needed, other emergencies.
3. CDU Coordinator – MPD official the rank of lieutenant or above assigned to the Homeland Security Bureau, Special Operations Division. The CDU Coordinator is responsible for coordinating CDU activities and training and for providing logistical support for activated CDU members.
4. CDU Platoon – Entity consisting of four (4) CDU squads and commanded by a lieutenant.
5. CDU Squad – Entity consisting of one (1) sergeant and seven (7) officers.
6. District CDU – Entity consisting of the four (4) CDU platoons assigned to the Police District and commanded by a captain.
7. Documentation Officer – MPD member assigned the responsibility of documenting orders and directives issued by the CDU Captain.
8. Grenadier – Third squad of each CDU platoon. This squad, absent exigent circumstances, is responsible for the deployment of munitions as directed by the Chief of Police or his/her designee
9. Incident Commander (IC) – Member responsible for the management of all operations at the incident site, including the development and implementation of strategy, approval of orders, and release of resources. Generally, the Incident Commander will be the ranking member on the scene of the incident.
10. Line Squad – First and fourth squads of each CDU platoon. These squads will be utilized for the initial CDU formation.
11. Member – Sworn MPD employee or MPD Reserve Corps member.

IV. REGULATIONS

- A. The Civil Disturbance Unit shall be staffed only by members who are in a full duty status and who have successfully completed all required initial and continuing training.
- B. Members assigned to the Civil Disturbance Unit shall work their regularly scheduled tour of duty in their respective element except when called upon for a CDU assignment or for CDU-related training.

- C. The Commanding Official, Special Operations Division, or his/her designee, shall serve as the CDU Commander whenever any CDU element is activated.
- D. The Commanding Official, Special Operations Division, shall approve or deny all written requests to be removed from service in the Civil Disturbance Unit.
- E. On-duty Civil Disturbance Unit members shall be prepared for deployment at all times. All CDU members shall have all issued personal protection equipment (PPE) readily available.
- F. When off-duty Civil Disturbance Unit members are notified to return to duty for a CDU assignment, the members shall immediately respond to their assigned element and begin preparing for deployment.
- G. All CDU members shall bring all necessary CDU equipment to roll call for daily inspection by the roll call official.
- H. All Police District Civil Disturbance Unit members shall have all CDU equipment inspected at least monthly by CDU Squad Sergeants.
- I. Each Police District; the Homeland Security Bureau, Intelligence Fusion Division, Command Information Center; and the Homeland Security Bureau, Special Operations Division shall maintain current Civil Disturbance Unit rosters in accordance with the procedures established in this general order.
- J. Following activation, Civil Disturbance Unit members shall be guided by GO-RAR-901.07 (Use of Force) and other related MPD policies, procedures, and directives, including the Metropolitan Police Department *Standard Operating Procedures for Handling First Amendment Assemblies and Mass Demonstrations*.
- K. The Chief of Police or his/her designee, absent exigent circumstances, shall, approve the use of crowd control munitions, including chemical and less lethal munitions.
- L. All Civil Disturbance Unit after-action reports prepared pursuant to this general order shall be retained by the MPD for a minimum period of five (5) years or until any litigation related to the CDU deployment has concluded.

V. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

- A. Police District Civil Disturbance Unit Staffing Requirements
 - 1. Each Police District's complement of CDU members shall be managed by a member serving in the rank of captain.

2. The CDU Captain shall be responsible for maintaining four (4) fully staffed and equipped CDU platoons.
 3. Each CDU platoon shall consist of four (4) squads each comprised of (1) sergeant and seven (7) officers.
 - a. One (1) additional officer shall be assigned as the Documentation Officer to assist the CDU Captain.
 - b. The first and fourth squads shall be the Line Squads.
 - c. The second squad shall be the Arrest Squad. The Arrest Squad shall be the primary squad deployed for making arrests when needed.
 - d. The third squad shall be the Grenadier Squad. The Grenadier Squad, absent exigent circumstances, shall be responsible for the deployment of munitions as directed by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.
 - e. The platoon shall be commanded by a lieutenant.
 4. The fourth CDU platoon shall be the Mountain Bicycle/Motor Scooter Platoon.
 5. Civil Disturbance Unit members shall report any change of home address or telephone number to the CDU Captain by providing a copy of the PD Form 73 (Personnel Action) completed pursuant to Part V.A., GO-PER-201.19 (Employee Personnel Records). The CDU Captain shall forward (electronically) one (1) copy of the PD Form 73 to the Homeland Security Bureau, Intelligence Fusion Division, Command Information Center (CIC), and one (1) copy to the Commanding Official, Homeland Security Bureau, Special Operations Division (SOD).
 6. Members shall submit any request for removal from the CDU electronically, through his/her chain of command, to the Commanding Official, SOD.
- B. Alerts and Assemblies of On-Duty CDU Members
1. When the services of the CDU are required, the initial Incident Commander shall immediately:
 - a. Notify the Watch Commander of the Police District in which the CDU will be deployed;

- b. Request, through a communications operator, Office of Unified Communications (OUC), sufficient on-duty CDU members to respond to the designated staging area;
- c. Request, through a communications operator, OUC, that the SOD Watch Commander respond to the scene of the incident to assume the role of Operations Section Chief; and
- d. Remain at the scene to serve as the Incident Commander until the situation has ended or the Incident Commander has been relieved by a competent authority.

2. The Operations Section Chief shall:

- a. Respond to the scene and be briefed by the Incident Commander;
- b. Determine, in coordination with the Incident Commander, whether the situation will require response by:
 - (1) Additional Police District personnel;
 - (2) A portion of the on-duty Police District CDU members;
 - (3) All on-duty Police District CDU members; or
 - (4) All CDU members, including off-duty CDU members by recall.
- c. In situations that will require response by CDU personnel:
 - (1) Notify the:
 - (a) CIC;
 - (b) Field Commander; and
 - (c) OUC.
 - (2) Establish a designated staging area for incoming personnel, ensuring that:
 - (a) CDU members arriving at the staging area for the incident are organized into squads, regardless of their normal CDU platoon/squad assignment;

- (b) A record of the squad assignments for the incident is maintained; and
 - (c) As full squads are assembled, the squads are deployed as needed.
- (3) When the situation allows, regroup CDU members into their regularly assigned squad/platoon assignments; and
 - (4) Recall the SOD members necessary for providing logistical support for the CDU mobilization.

C. Roles and Responsibilities

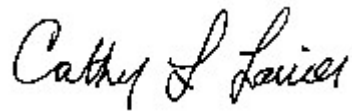
- 1. Police District CDU Captains are responsible for:
 - a. Maintaining fully equipped platoons as required by this general order;
 - b. Maintaining a current CDU roster for the District that includes each member's name, home address, telephone number(s), and scheduled tour of duty;
 - c. Ensuring that the CDU equipment of all CDU members is inspected monthly;
 - d. Ensuring that the CDU rosters, and the records and results of the monthly CDU equipment inspections, are forwarded electronically through the chain of command to the Commanding Official, SOD, by the first (1st) day of each month;
 - e. Ensuring that the Police District CDU Box is inspected on a quarterly basis (i.e., in January, April, July, and October) and that the inspection report is forwarded to the Commanding Official, SOD, by the fifth (5th) of the month;
 - f. Ensuring that the Police District CDU box is kept in a secure location and is accessed only for spontaneous incidents of civil unrest and for inspection purposes;
 - g. Ensuring that all Police District CDU members attend semi-annual CDU training;
 - h. Ensuring that the third squad (Grenadier Squad) CDU members attend the additional required annual less lethal certification training; and

- i. Ensuring that:
 - (1) Each assigned CDU lieutenant prepares an after-action report.
 - (2) The after-action reports are forwarded electronically through the chain of command to the Commanding Official, SOD, and Executive Office of the Chief of Police, Office of Risk Management, within ten (10) business days of the completion of the deployment.
2. Police District Commanding Officials are responsible for:
 - a. Appointing a CDU-trained Captain to serve as that District's CDU Captain;
 - b. When notified to recall CDU personnel, immediately initiating the call-back process; and
 - c. Ensuring that CDU members are transported to the staging area.
3. When the CDU is activated, the official in charge of the Homeland Security Bureau, Intelligence Fusion Division, Command Information Center, is responsible for:
 - a. Ensuring that:
 - (1) All Police District Watch Commanders are notified and advised to alert CDU members;
 - (2) The Assistant Chief of Police, Homeland Security Bureau; Commanding Official, SOD; and SOD Watch Commander are notified; and
 - (3) The Command Staff is notified; and
 - b. When the Chief of Police or his/her designee orders the recall/deployment of all CDU personnel, ensuring that the following personnel are notified:
 - (1) All Police District Commanding Officials and Watch Commanders;

- (2) Assistant Chief of Police, Homeland Security Bureau; Commanding Official, SOD; SOD Watch Commander; and CDU Coordinator; and
 - (3) Command Staff.
4. When the CDU is activated, the Office of Unified Communications is responsible for simulcasting a message, at ten (10) minute intervals for sixty (60) minutes, for CDU members to begin preparing to respond to the staging area with all issued equipment.
5. The Commanding Official, Special Operations Division, is responsible for:
 - a. Serving as the day-to-day commander of the Civil Disturbance Unit deployment;
 - b. Appointing a CDU Coordinator; and
 - c. Forwarding copies of the CDU rosters received monthly from the Police Districts to the Intelligence Fusion Division.
6. The CDU Coordinator is responsible for:
 - a. Maintaining supplies of crowd control munitions and ensuring the munitions are available for use;
 - b. Conducting semi-annual (i.e., in January and July) inspections of the assigned Police District CDU boxes;
 - c. Maintaining copies of all current CDU Rosters; and
 - d. Maintaining copies of all CDU-related after-action reports.
7. The Chief of Police or his/her designee is responsible for:
 - a. Ordering, when necessary, the recall of CDU members;
 - b. Ordering, when necessary, the recall of members of the Homeland Security Bureau, Domestic Security Operations Divisions, to provide logistical support for the CDU mobilization; and
 - c. Approving the use of crowd control munitions, including chemical and other less lethal devices.

VI. CROSS REFERENCES

1. GO-PER-201.19 (Employee Personnel Records)
2. GO-RAR-901.07 (Use of Force)
3. Metropolitan Police Department, *Standard Operating Procedures for Handling First Amendment Assemblies and Mass Demonstrations*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy L Lanier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy L Lanier
Chief of Police

CLL:PH:JGW:MOC:MEB:CY