

GENERAL ORDER



Title

The Special Threat Action Team

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B

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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I. BACKGROUND

Law enforcement is one of the first responding agencies in situations that threaten public safety. The community depends on the Metropolitan Police Department to ensure the protection of lives and property. An act of terrorism committed against the District of Columbia must be mitigated, the crime scene protected and, if appropriate, later investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). A terrorist event is criminal in nature, and all traditional law enforcement functions, e.g., evidence collection, disposition of dead bodies, protection of emergency medical responders, access and egress control, apprehension of criminals etc., must be performed.

The purpose of this order is to establish procedures for utilization of the Special Threat Action Team. (CALEA 46.1.8-e)

II. POLICY

The policy of the Metropolitan Police Department is to respond to any criminal hazardous materials incident or other act of terrorism. Further, acts of violence, destruction of property or other unlawful conduct shall be prevented. If illegal acts cannot be prevented, swift police intervention shall be instituted to quell such acts.

III. DEFINITIONS

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

1. Activities Documentation Officer – The member assigned responsibility to document all orders and directives given by the Incident Commander, and monitor the radio for the Incident Commander.
2. Cold Zone – An area not contaminated and not considered dangerous or hazardous.

3. Command Post – The location where primary command functions are executed.
4. Criminal Hazardous Materials Incident – an event where dangerous materials have been purposely released into the air.
5. Domestic Security Operations Branch (DSO), Special Operations Division (SOD) – unit responsible for the coordination of Special Threat Action Team (STAT) activities and providing logistical support for activated members of STAT (formerly known as the CDU Storeroom).
6. Hot Zone – An area considered Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH).
7. Incident Commander (IC) – Individual responsible for the management of all operations at the incident site, including the development and implementation of strategy, and for approving the order and release of resources. This will be the ranking member of the Department on the scene of an incident.
8. Field Commander – The command official designated to act as the Chief of Police.
9. Logistics Officer – The member assigned responsibility for designating a staging area supervisor, making notifications and obtaining resources.
10. Operations Officer – The member assigned to identify goals for all MPD units on the scene, assist the IC with briefing all incoming units, and preparing the Incident Action Plan.
11. Personnel Control Officer – The member assigned to document the entry and exit of all personnel into the hot zone, and to monitor and document on/off air times for personnel in personal protection equipment.
12. Safety Officer – The assigned member responsible for the safety of police personnel on the scene. He/she is required to overrule the actions of the IC or Operations Officer for acts that violate safe conduct.
13. Science Officer – The member assigned responsibility to prepare the site safety plan, determine the level of personal protection equipment, research hazards, including signs and symptoms, wind and weather conditions and assist the IC with briefing all incoming units.
14. Site Control Officer – The member charged with responsibility to assign personnel to control all persons entering and exiting the scene, ensure

restricted Hot, Warm and Cold zones are adequate and clearly marked and that emergency access routes are established and maintained.

15. Special Threat Action Team – A team organized for the purpose of providing trained personnel for service in connection with suspected terrorist events or criminal hazardous material contaminations. It is comprised of volunteer members from throughout the Department, who have been specially trained and equipped to provide police services in hazardous environments.
16. Terrorist Event – Violent or dangerous acts affecting human life, that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State, that appear to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping.
17. Warm Zone – An area of contamination or other dangerous condition. The area can be entered only when wearing proper personal protection equipment.

IV. REGULATIONS

- A. The STAT Command Group (STAT-CG) shall be responsible for all operations surrounding MPD response to a terrorist event. The STAT-CG shall be comprised of:
 1. The Special Services Officer,
 2. The Commander, SOD,
 3. The Commanding Officer, DSO, and
 4. Those SOD members appointed by the SOD Commander.
- B. The STAT shall be comprised of volunteer members of the Department who have been trained in terrorist response and received Hazardous Material Handler Certification, under the Federal Code of Regulations, CFR 1910.120 (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response).
- C. Except when called for STAT assignments or training, members assigned to the STAT shall continue to work their regularly scheduled tour of duty at their respective unit.

- D. On-duty STAT members shall be available and prepared for deployment with all issued personal protection equipment readily available at all times.
- E. When notified to return-to-duty for a STAT assignment, STAT members shall immediately respond to the staging area, unless otherwise notified, and begin preparation for deployment. See, GO-OPS-803.01 (Emergency Notification of Personnel to Return to Duty). (CALEA 46.1.8-a)

STAT members assigned to SOD shall follow established procedures for the recall of SOD personnel.

- F. To continue participation with the STAT, all STAT members shall:
 - 1. Remain clean-shaven to assure compliance with Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA) respirator fit testing requirements;
 - 2. Maintain all certifications. Execute two copies of the re-certification document. One copy of the re-certification shall be forwarded to the DSO/SOD. One copy of the re-certification shall be forwarded to the Institute of Police Science for inclusion in training records.
 - 3. Complete all monthly equipment inspections as required by the DSO and manufacturer's recommendations; and (CALEA 46.1.6)
 - 4. Maintain attendance at STAT training functions.
- G. STAT members shall maintain a working telephone, (hard-line or cell phone), as required in GO-PER-201.14 (Residency Requirements). (CALEA 46.1.8-a)
- H. When a member of the STAT reports any change in his/her address or telephone number to his/her commanding officer, he/she shall execute 3 copies of the PD Form 73 (Personnel Action). Each copy shall be denoted "STAT Member" at the top. One copy shall be forwarded to the Synchronized Operations Command Complex (SOCC). The second copy shall be forwarded to the Domestic Security Operations Branch (DSO), Special Operations Division (SOD). The third copy shall be forwarded to Human Services, Office of Corporate Support. (CALEA 46.1.8-a)
- I. A STAT roster reflecting the member's name, home address, telephone number and scheduled tours of duty shall be maintained at the SOCC. Additional copies of the roster shall be maintained by DSO/SOD. (CALEA 46.1.8-a)

V. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

A. Alerts and Assemblies of STAT Members

1. Upon receipt of a recall notification, all STAT members shall: (CALEA 46.1.8-b)
 - a. Immediately begin monitoring the SOD zone;
 - b. Telephone the SOD station clerk to acknowledge receipt of the page;
 - c. Respond, with all issued equipment, directly to the staging area to check in with the staging operations official; and
 - d. When en route to the staging area, go in service utilizing their four-digit Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) number.
2. In any situation that may require the specialized services of the STAT, the Incident Commander shall immediately: (CALEA 46.1.8-b)
 - a. Notify the District Watch Commander;
 - b. Request that the SOCC Commander notify:
 - (1) The STAT-CG members;
 - (2) The Department Field Commander;
 - (3) The Executive Assistant Chief of Police; and
 - (4) The Chief of Police;
 - c. Remain at the scene, acting as the Incident Commander until the situation has ended or he/she is relieved of his/her post.
3. The SOCC Commander shall ensure: (CALEA 46.1.8-b)
 - a. All SOCC personnel adhere to the procedures outlined in GO-OMA-803.06 (Activation and Operation of the Command Information Center).

- b. Each member of the STAT-CG is paged regarding the incident. The page shall be issued three times.
 - c. Each STAT-CG member is briefed of the nature of the incident.
 - d. The name of each STAT-CG member acknowledging the page initiated by the SOCC is recorded.
 - e. Upon authorization of a STAT recall by a STAT-CG member:
 - (1) All SOD and non-SOD personnel assigned to STAT are paged with the following message: (CALEA 46.1.8-a)

"This is not a drill; all members of STAT are hereby recalled. Respond to (enter the name of the staging area) with all issued protective equipment;"
 - (2) The page to recall STAT members is issued three times.
 - f. Notification to the SOD station clerk that a criminal hazardous release or other suspected terrorist event may have occurred.
 - g. Notification to the SOD station clerk with the name of any STAT-CG member who has not acknowledged the page within 15 minutes of issuance;
 - h. Notification to the supervisor, Public Safety Communications Center, (PSCC) that STAT personnel are being recalled to duty;
 - i. SOCC personnel assume the duties of the JOCC until it is activated.
 - j. The establishment of a running resume outlining all activities surrounding the incident.
4. Upon receipt of a page issued by the SOCC, the receiving STAT-CG member shall: (CALEA 46.1.8-b)
- a. Telephone the SOCC at (202)-727-9099, to request a briefing on the situation;
 - b. If sufficient information is not available, direct the SOD Watch Commander to respond to the scene of the event and gather

sufficient information to determine whether STAT members should be recalled.

c. If sufficient information is available at the time of the briefing, the STAT-CG member shall:

- (1) If appropriate, authorize the recall of STAT members; and
- (2) Personally advise the SOCC of the recall.

5. The SOD station clerk shall:

a. Starting with the time of notification and information received from the SOCC or other source begin a chronology of all events; the log should include, but not be limited to:

- (1) The time of the event;
- (2) The type of information; e.g., telephone notification of page receipt;
- (3) The location if appropriate;
- (4) The name of the person providing the information; and
- (5) The name of the person entering the information.

b. Record the time the call is received, when a STAT member calls to acknowledge the page.


c. Make a telephone notification to any STAT-CG member who has not acknowledged the page from the SOCC. (CALEA 46.1.8-a)

6. The Communications Division Supervisor shall:

a. Ensure that the recall message for STAT members is simulcast over all radio zones.

b. Ensure that STAT members are placed "in service" as they report they are responding to the staging area.

7. The SOD Watch Commander shall:
 - a. When directed, respond to the scene and be briefed by the Incident Commander.
 - b. Advise the STAT-CG member requesting the information.
 - c. If a recall occurs during the day or evening tour of duty, assign two non-STAT trained members of SOD, to assist the SOD station clerk. He/she shall answer telephone calls and log all calls relative to the incident, among other duties.
 - d. If a recall occurs during the midnight tour of duty, assign two canine officers to the station to provide assistance.

8. The First Arriving Special Threat Action Team Official shall: (CALEA 46.1.8-i)
 - a. Establish a Command Post for Department operations;
 - (1) In a safe area; and
 - (2) 
 - b. Ensure that the STAT-CG has been notified. If not, have the SOCC issue a page.
 - c. If not on the scene, request that the DC Fire Department Hazmat unit be dispatched to the scene.
 - d. Establish Unified Command with all city agencies that may be present at the scene. The ranking MPD official on the scene shall assume the Unified Command position. (CALEA 46.1.8-g)
 - e. Upon arrival of the Emergency Management Agency's command vehicle, situate the Unified Command within this vehicle.
 - f. If appropriate, assure that the STAT is recalled.
 - g. Establish strict personnel accountability.
 - h. Identify all personnel on the scene.
 - i. Know where all personnel are located.

j. Establish the Incident Command System. Key positions include:
(CALEA 46.1.8.i, 46.1.11-a)

- (1) Incident Commander,
- (2) Operations Officer,
- (3) Safety Officer,
- (4) Science Officer,
- (5) Logistics Officer,
- (6) Site Control Officer,
- (7) Personnel Control Officer, and
- (8) Activities Documentation Officer.

9. Commanders/Directors shall:

- a. Ensure that members being deployed are transported to the staging area.
- b. Evaluate manpower and resources; if appropriate:
 - (1) Initiate an interim-staffing plan, i.e., twelve-hour shifts for employees;
 - (2) Create a projected staffing plan.

B. Supervisory Responsibilities

1. Supervising Officials shall inspect STAT members' equipment during roll call inspections. See, GO-PER-101.09 (Responsibilities of Sworn Officials) and GO-PER-110.11 (Uniforms and Equipment).
2. The Commander, Special Operations Division shall:
 - a. Be continuously updated by members responding to a criminal hazardous materials incident;
 - b. Select STAT personnel;
 - c. Ensure the maintenance of all STAT rosters;
 - d. Ensure the maintenance of all After Action Reports;
 - e. Ensure that STAT members are removed, as necessary, for failure to meet retention criteria.

3. The Director, Human Services shall ensure that information contained in the PD Form 73 is entered into the personnel information database.
4. The Director, IPS shall ensure that information relative to certification and/or re-certification training is entered into the personnel information database.
5. The Chief of Police or his/her designee shall authorize activation of the JOCC, where appropriate. See, GO-OMA-803.06 (Activation and Operation of the Command Information Center).

VI. CROSS REFERENCES

A. General Orders

1. GO-OPS-803.04 (Emergency Response Plan)
2. GO-PER-201.14 (Residency Requirements)
3. GO-OPS-803.1 (Emergency Notification of Personnel to Return to Duty)
4. GO-PER-110.11 (Uniforms and Equipment)
5. GO-RAR-101.09 (Responsibilities of Sworn Officials)
6. GO-OMA-803.06 (Activation and Operation of the Command Information Center)

B. Related Materials

Code of Federal Regulations, CFR 1910.120 (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response)

// SIGNED //
Charles H. Ramsey
Chief of Police

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