

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
COURT SERVICES BUREAU
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

DATE	DISSEMINATION	CATEGORY	NUMBER
January 1, 2003	BUREAU-WIDE	FIELD SERVICES	D.6
SUBJECT: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY CONVOYS			PAGE 1 of 4

Purpose:

To provide members of the Court Services Bureau (CSB) with guidelines in the event they encounter a Department of Energy (DOE) Convoy in an enforcement situation.

Policy:

CSB personnel shall use restraint when deciding whether enforcement action should be taken against any vehicle in a Department of Energy convoy. The deputy must document the circumstances surrounding the encounter and any actions taken. Deputies will respond to calls for assistance from DOE convoys and render any aid requested, within department policy and state law.

Procedure:

- I. Whenever a DOE convoy is encountered during enforcement action, a report will be initiated.
- II. If no enforcement action is taken, a deputy's report directed to the area command will be initiated describing the circumstances of the contact.
- III. If Federal and State crimes occur at an incident with a DOE convoy, reports of the state violations will be prepared and submitted through normal reporting channels. If the Federal agency wants a copy of a state report for their investigation, they should be instructed to contact the area command the next business day.
- IV. If a DOE convoy is encountered during routine enforcement, the deputy should request a cover unit. This is to ensure the deputy's safety because of the other vehicles that will stop with the convoy.
 - A. Good judgment should be used in not delaying the convoy any longer than necessary. DOE convoys are not exempt from California Traffic Laws.
 - B. Direct any queries into a DOE convoy's legitimacy and/or status by calling DOE Central Communications at (505) 845-6952.
- V. The deputy should have in mind that DOE couriers have their own procedures, as outlined below, and should take these into consideration during the stop.

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- VI. If a DOE convoy is attacked or threatened, assistance may be requested. All assistance possible will be given to these couriers. The couriers will defend their cargo against unlawful interference or theft. Examples of these requests are:
- A. An immediate search for a convoy which is overdue in making a routine check;
 - B. Establishment of roadblocks around an emergency site.
 - C. Joining the on-scene courier-in-charge in establishing a joint command post;
 - D. Initiating calls or medical assistance as needed;
 - E. Assisting in recapturing devices lost to attackers;
 - F. Assisting in defending the convoy from attack;
 - G. Sheriff's policies and procedures regarding the use of force and/or firearms shall be adhered to while rendering aid to DOE convoys.
- VII. An emergency call from a DOE convoy will go to the DOE dispatch center in New Mexico. That dispatch center will call the California Highway Patrol in Sacramento. CHP Sacramento will then call CHP San Diego. CHP San Diego will relay the call to the Sheriff's Communications Center.
- A. At the scene of a convoy being threatened or attacked, the DOE couriers will probably be on foot in the area defending the convoy. Since the couriers are in an undercover mode, it may be difficult to distinguish them from those persons threatening the convoy. Deputies responding to such a scene must exercise extreme caution. Self-protection should be of primary concern in deciding on any course of action;
 - B. When approaching such a situation, DOE will have a liaison in a position to contact the responding deputy, if at all possible. The DOE convoy commander will establish a sign and counter sign. This information will be relayed to the responding deputy via CHP. This sign and counter sign

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should help identify you and the real DOE couriers. This is a cumbersome procedure at best and should not be relied upon to be foolproof.

- VIII. The number of vehicles in a convoy varies, depending on the size and material shipped. One or more escort vehicles will accompany each transport vehicle. All vehicles in a convoy will be unmarked and display U.S. Government license plates.
- A. The carrying vehicle is a specially built tractor-trailer. The escort vehicles will be multi-passenger vehicles; such as Chevrolet Suburban or Ford Vans. The escort vehicles will be equipped to restrict view into the cargo areas.
 - B. Each DOE vehicle is equipped with a nationwide communications system enabling that vehicle to talk with DOE headquarters in Albuquerque, New Mexico. An outside speaker is located near the driver's door of a DOE truck.
 - C. The number of armed couriers with a convoy varies. They do not wear uniforms. They are issued a badge and identification card that contains their photograph. All couriers have a variety of weapons available to them.
 - D. DOE personnel are instructed to obey all traffic laws. During normal enforcement stops, DOE drivers are instructed to respond in the manner of a regular motorist. However, the driver and couriers in a tractor will remain in the vehicle until the deputy approaches. The driver/courier will display his identification card against the truck window closest to the deputy. He will then make the following statement on his outside P.A. "I am a Federal Officer with the U.S. Department of Energy in custody of sensitive material. I will remain stopped while my assistant dismounts for discussion."
 - E. The courier on the side opposite the deputy's position will dismount the tractor and handle the contact. If deputies approach both sides of the vehicle, a courier from the escort vehicle will approach the deputies and no one will dismount from the tractor.

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- F. Couriers have been instructed to keep their hands in sight of the deputies and to make no movements that can be construed as "going for a gun." Escort vehicles will stop at a position where they can monitor the stop of the tractor-trailer.