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Sheriff

San Diego County

SHERIFF

LINE-UP TRAINING

Hostage Procedures

Topic #07

After discussing/reviewing the below training material in line-up (briefing), sworn staff shall sign off as completed in LMS. In the event a staff member is not present when this topic is discussed in line-up, they shall independently read, review, and complete the training.

By clicking "Yes" to "Have you completed this activity?" in LMS, you are attesting that you have viewed, read, and completed the training activity.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this training is to familiarize sworn staff with policy and procedures in the event of a hostage situation.

II. POLICY

To effectively control and terminate a hostage situation predicated upon a logical evaluation of the totality of circumstances involved in the incident and appropriate handling by detentions security staff. This training is conducted in adherence to [DSB P&P Section I.3 - Hostage Policy](#).

III. DISCUSSION

Sworn staff shall review and discuss the following topics and procedures related to inmate escapes as described in [DSB P&P Section I.3 - Hostage Policy](#), related facility specific green sheets, and facility emergency operations manuals (EOM).

A. GENERAL TERMS

1. DEMANDS: Demands by the hostage-taker(s) should be carefully considered and evaluated as to the impact upon the immediate and subsequent circumstances, or the overall situation, before agreement to, or denial of, such demands.
2. USE OF DEADLY FORCE: In addition to the Department's policy on the use of deadly force, the application of deadly force in a hostage situation must be considered when all reasonable negotiating alternatives have been presented and the immediate threat to human life has not diminished or when a human life has been taken by the hostage-taker(s).
 - a. In such instances, the hostage-taker(s) has perilously limited consideration of other options.

- b. Once the deputy, who is ultimately responsible for the incident, announces his decision to neutralize the hostage-taker(s) by deadly force, special weapons personnel will be utilized.
- c. The selected marksman shall be fully briefed concerning the incident and specifically instructed as to their mission. Thereafter, and until advised otherwise, they shall have the sole authority to utilize approved tactics and procedures to accomplish their mission.

█ [REDACTED]

█ [REDACTED]

█ [REDACTED]

B. BASIC PROCEDURES

Experience has proven that the successful termination of hostage situations is predicated upon adherence to the following general guidelines:

█ [REDACTED]

C. RESOURCES

Utilization of the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) or Special Enforcement Detail (SED);

- 1. Contact Communication Center to request resources
- 2. Review and discuss when to use these resources

D. COMMUNICATION

- 1. Unless directed by the facility commander, or a representative of the Office of the Sheriff, hostage-taker(s) must not be set at liberty.
- 2. To gain time and establish communication, the on-duty watch commander shall designate an appropriate spokesperson to initiate communication with the inmate hostage-taker(s) in an effort to secure the safety and/or release of hostages, and the capture or surrender of inmates who have seized hostages.
- 3. Discuss the role of the negotiator
 - a. Establish means of communication
 - b. Change the attitude of the hostage-taker(s)
 - c. Establish trust

- d. Time is on the side of the negotiator and is the principal tactic used in the negotiating process.
 - e. Command the respect of all personnel involved but should not portray themselves as the ultimate decision-maker.
 - f. The hostage-taker(s) should be made to understand that there is another authority over the negotiator
 - g. Employ techniques to further delaying (time for response)
4. When, and/or if, trained hostage negotiators are dispatched to the facility, they will be immediately briefed by the interim spokesperson that initiated communication with inmate hostage-taker(s). Any further negotiations with hostage-taker(s) will be conducted by those negotiators dispatched to the facility, unless otherwise directed by the scene commander.

IV. ONGOING TRAINING

Hostage training/drills will be conducted in accordance with the Detention In-Service Training Unit Quarterly Training Plan. Each team should have training in place to practice response to inmate hostage situations. How often and efficient training is accomplished will have a direct effect on the success of the operations in the event a hostage situation occurs. Utilize existing facility green sheets and the emergency operations manual checklists to cover all pertinent information.