

<b>DATE:</b>	MAY 9, 2022
<b>NUMBER:</b>	I.3
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	HOSTAGE POLICY
<b>RELATED SECTIONS:</b>	<a href="#">I.32</a> , SDCSD P&P ADDENDUM F, 6.38, 8.1, 9.3, 9.4

**PURPOSE**

To provide guidelines for detention personnel involved in a hostage incident and the protection of human life, including the hostage, innocent bystanders, law enforcement officers, and the suspect.

**POLICY:**

Sworn staff should effectively control and terminate a hostage situation using decisions predicated upon a logical evaluation of the totality of circumstances involved in the incident.

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.

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). Once the incident commander, who is ultimately responsible for the incident announces their decision to neutralize the hostage-taker(s) by deadly force, special weapons personnel will be utilized. 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.

Authority of Hostage: No personnel, regardless of rank or position within this department, will retain their authority if taken hostage.

Surrendering Weapons: No deputy shall surrender their weapon(s) upon demand of a hostage-taker(s).

Hostage Exchanges: No deputy shall feel compelled to exchange their person for one or more hostages.

**PROCEDURE:**

- I. Experience has proven the successful termination of hostage situations is predicated upon adherence to the following general guidelines:
  - A. Contain the hostage-taker(s) and hostage(s) unless forced by circumstances to take other action.
  - B. Control assisting personnel movements, strategic placement, and use of weapons.
  - C. Communicate with supervisors, subordinates, suspects, and others as appropriate.

- II. Contact the Communications Center for the assistance of the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) and/or Special Enforcement Detail (SED).
- III. Unless directed by the facility commander or a representative of the Office of the Sheriff, hostage-taker(s) who are incarcerated persons must not be set at liberty. To gain time and to establish interim communication with hostage-taker(s), the on-duty watch commander shall designate an appropriate spokesperson to initiate communication with the hostage-taker(s) in an effort to secure the safety and/or release of hostages, and the capture or surrender of the incarcerated person(s) who have seized hostages.
- IV. The primary objective of a negotiator is to change the attitude of the hostage-taker(s) from hostility to trust. Time is on the side of the negotiator and is the principal tactic used in the negotiating process. During the negotiations, the negotiator should command the respect of all personnel involved but should not portray themselves as the ultimate decision-maker. The hostage-taker(s) should be made to understand there is another authority over the negotiator. The technique will allow the negotiator to employ further delaying tactics.
- V. If CNT negotiators are dispatched to the facility, they will be immediately briefed by a spokesperson designated by the incident commander. This individual will have a full understanding of the situation and provide a thorough synopsis to CNT personnel. If CNT personnel believe the individual who initiated communication with the hostage taker has established a good rapport and is maintaining control of the situation, CNT will assume a secondary, supportive role to assist.