



**San Diego County Sheriff**

**Training Bulletin**

**William D. Gore, Sheriff**

**July 2018**

**S. E. D.**



## **SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT DETAIL**

### **HISTORY:**

In 1973, the San Diego Sheriff's Department formed two SWAT units (officially titled "Special Weapons Assault Teams") to address growing concerns of terrorist attacks, sniper attacks, and barricaded individuals. One team was assigned to North County and the other team was assigned to South & East County. The two teams were comprised primarily of Sheriff's personnel with combat experience in Vietnam. The management, training, and funding of two separate tactical teams became burdensome & not cost-efficient, so the department opted to merge the two teams into one cohesive unit. SED (Special Enforcement Detail) was formed in 1982 as a full-time tactical unit providing services and support to the entire county.

### **PURPOSE:**

SED is a part of the Law Enforcement Services Bureau under the command of the Emergency Services Division (ESD). The unit is comprised of one (1) Lieutenant, two (2) Sergeants, fourteen (14) full-time Deputy Sheriff's, twenty-two (22) SRT (Special Response Team) Deputies, and one (1) SRT Sergeant.

SED has many specialized skill sets and tools unique to the San Diego Sheriff's Department. Services SED provides include tactical support, high-risk warrant service, directed patrol, investigative support, detention facility support, court services support, chemical agent support (MFF), crowd control, dignitary protection, and special events. SED also provides specialized training to Sheriff's Department personnel and outside agencies. SED instructs all detective entry and building searches courses. The majority of SED's operations involve the service of high-risk search/arrest warrants, tactical resolution of barricaded individuals, and hostage rescue.

### **PROCEDURE:**

SED operates on a mission basis with regard to tactical operations and support services. Missions are prioritized based on the needs of the requesting units. Immediate requests for tactical response to resolve hostage situations, barricaded individuals, and/or active shooter

events supersede all other support requests. Requests for high-risk warrant service are also granted higher priority than other support service requests. All SED missions are prioritized and requests are scheduled accordingly. Because SED is a 24/7 operation, their mission tempo must be kept flexible, with the emphasis being safety: *"Let safety dictate the pace of the operation."*

Warrant service operations are governed by Sheriff's Policy and Procedure §6.111 and §6.116. The High-Risk Entry Checklist (Form SO-101) is intended to assist investigators and supervisors to determine if SED should be requested for operations which could be deemed "High-Risk."

SED would ask that units make every effort possible to allow sufficient lead time to adequately work-up their specific mission in our effort to provide the safest and most successful resolution. Advanced notice is preferred, but it is understood this cannot always be achieved.

Immediate team activation for a tactical operations response (Code-11) can be initiated by simply making the request via the Sheriff's Communication Center. As a normal operating procedure, SED monitors most radio traffic in the county during normal hours of operation. In certain volatile situations and escalating critical incidents, SED will proactively deploy personnel in anticipation of full deployment. In these events, SED will make contact with personnel on-scene to inform them of their presence. It is not the intent of these operators to assume control of the incident, but merely to be prepared for full scale deployment with the collateral duty to react as an immediate action element in case an event goes critical.

It is important to note that during extremely violent critical incidents such as active shooter events and suspect snipers firing from a position of advantage, law enforcement personnel on scene should anticipate that SED personnel will likely respond. SED personnel may rapidly deploy and operate immediately in order to mitigate any threat or loss of life.

### **TACTICAL OPERATIONS:**

Tactical operations are the most challenging missions conducted by SED. During the initial incident, it is expected that the operation is often confusing and chaotic. Deputy Sheriff's, field supervisors, and managers should familiarize themselves with this emergency response process.

- A. Incident Commander: The highest-ranking individual responsible for the jurisdiction in which the incident is occurring will ideally be the Incident Commander (IC). This position could be a sergeant or a senior deputy on-duty. IC is responsible for the overall resolution of the situation and has final authority in the operation. IC must make every effort not to become directly involved in the operation (i.e.: performing as perimeter position, traffic control, etc.). The IC should identify an adequate location to set-up operations and create an Incident Command Post (ICP).

The information in this Training Bulletin was provided by Sgt. Pat McEvoy and edited for distribution by the In-Service Training Unit. If you have any information or expertise in a specific area and would like to write a training bulletin, please contact Corporal Michael Cruz at the In-Service Training Unit via e-mail at [REDACTED]

The ICP should be away from the incident and not in the affected area of operations (line-of-sight). Considerations regarding the parking accommodations for responding support personnel to an ICP should be kept in mind. Support personnel could include the Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT), Tactical Dispatcher Unit (TDU), command staff, Public Information Officer, investigators, and the various equipment items associated with operations (lights, generators, bathrooms and vehicles). It is imperative during these operations to delegate responsibility, considering the size and complexity can quickly become overwhelming.

- B. Tactical Commander:** The SED lieutenant is normally the Tactical Commander. The Tactical Commander will receive SED's mission from the IC. The Tactical Commander will stay in close proximity to the IC, ideally at the ICP. The Tactical Commander will help by acting as an advisor to the IC and will maintain a close liaison with IC during the situation. The Tactical Commander will explain the progression of tactical resolution to the IC as the incident unfolds.
  
- C. Crisis Negotiations Team Commander:** The CNT commander shall receive their mission from IC and will stay in close proximity during the operational period. CNT will frequently operate in close conjunction with SED, necessitating the need for a liaison between the two disciplines in order to communicate critical information. CNT will work towards resolving the incident via a variety of communications techniques and sophisticated electronics equipment. An ideal critical incident leadership team will consist of the IC, SED commander, and the CNT commander.

During tactical operations, SED personnel will respond to a Tactical Staging Area (TSA). This is an area separate of the ICP, where SED and all of their vehicles (armored trucks, mobile command vehicle, equipment truck, and approximately 30-40 full size SUV's and vans) will respond to and stage prior to deploying on scene. The TSA is typically going to be located in the closest area that provides adequate parking as well as cover and concealment from the affected scene. The ICP should be located further from the active scene than the TSA. With this in mind, it is not uncommon for the initial ICP to be located too close to the scene at the onset of a critical incident. During those instances, anticipate for SED personnel to request the ICP be relocated so that the TSA can be established closer to the scene. Ideally, the ICP and TSA will not be co-located to avoid confusion. If this is not possible and the ICP and TSA are established in the same parking lot, then both areas should be located on separate ends of the lot to avoid comingling of personnel and equipment.

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**REFERENCES:**

P&P 6.38- Special Enforcement Detail

P&P 6.111- High Risk Entries

P&P 9.3- Crisis Negotiations

P&P 9.4- Critical Incidents: Tactical Assistance

P&P 9.6- Altering Telephone Communications- Hostage/Barricaded Situations

Form PAT-45: Incident Commander Tactical Checklist

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