

Chapter 28

TACTICAL OPERATIONS

Standards in this chapter relate to tactical operations, which are defined as including use of an emergency response team, hostage negotiation, use of tactical purpose vehicles, decoy operations, undercover surveillance/stakeouts, bomb disposal, coverage of tactical events, VIP protection, coverage of disasters, riot control, and civil defense.

28.1 Tactical Operations

28.1.1 The department has a tactical operations component for conducting:

- o deployment of emergency response teams (ERT); and
- o deployment of hostage negotiation teams.

*Comments: The intent of this standard is to require a continuing supervisory effort with respect to ERT team usage and hostage negotiation to ensure constant planning and operational readiness in view of the critical nature of these functions.
(O O O)*

28.1.2 A written directive establishes procedures for governing tactical operations, to include:

- o emergency response teams (ERT);
- o hostage negotiation;
- o tactical purpose vehicles;
- o bomb disposal;
- o bomb threats;
- o coverage of tactical events;
- o VIP protection;
- o coverage of disasters; and
- o coverage of civil disorders.

Comments: The department directive should address those tactical operations it performs. It should identify the organizational configuration of the tactical operations component as well as the position or persons authorized to activate tactical operations. The directive should also set forth procedures

governing the use of tactical operations personnel in specific situations. For those tactical operations the department does not perform, the directive should identify where such assistance is available and how it is requested. (O O O)

- 28.1.3 If a tactical operations component exists, a written directive governs procedures for deploying tactical operations component officers to supplement other operational components.**

Comments: Guidelines should be established for the use of tactical operations officers to supplement other operations, such as patrol operations, as the need arises. The directive should specify supervisory arrangements and whether tactical operations officers are to be assigned as an integral unit. (O O O)

- 28.1.4 A written directive establishes procedures for cooperation and coordination between tactical operations and other operational components.**

Comments: The intent of this standard is to establish procedures to alleviate potential misunderstandings among all components, to provide for the safety of officers, and to ensure the success of the operation. (O O O)

- 28.1.5 A written directive establishes criteria for selection of officers assigned to ERT operations or surveillance in decoy operations.**

Comments: Officers who are assigned to ERT operations should be carefully selected. Tactical criteria for selection should be identified. (O O O)

- 28.1.6 If officers are assigned full time to ERT, a written directive requires that they be tested at least annually to determine psychological and physical fitness.**

Comments: Good physical condition is a prerequisite for officer safety and the prevention of injury. Test results should be kept on file for the duration of an officer's assignment. (O O O)

- 28.1.7 If the department has an Emergency Response Team, the department provides specialized equipment for its operations.**

Comments: Tactical equipment is needed to provide ERT officers with proper protection. The equipment may be issued to officers for storage at home, in department vehicles, or in some other accessible location, such as a command post. Such equipment may include (1) a portable, hand-held radio

transceiver with earphones; (2) a flashlight; (3) a gas mask; (4) body armour consistent with the anticipated ballistic threat; (5) a dark utility uniform; (8) a side arm. (O O O)

28.1.8 If the department has an Emergency Response Team, the department maintains a secure vehicle for the storage and transportation of its supplies and specialized equipment.

Comments: Spare weapons, ammunition, and specialized equipment (such as rope, ladders, rappelling gear, maps, manhole cover hooks, pry bars, tear gas, battering ram, bull horns, lanterns, body armour, helmets, bulletproof shields, and radios) should be available for ERT use. Several sets of personal equipment items issued to ERT team members should be kept in the vehicle as backup equipment in the event a team member arrives at the scene of an incident without equipment. (O O O)

28.1.9 The department has a written plan for handling a barricaded person situation, and includes:

- o notification of ERT personnel;**
- o notification of appropriate persons within and outside the department, such as command officers, dog handlers, or helicopter pilots;**
- o establishment of an inside and outside perimeter around the scene;**
- o evacuation of injured victims;**
- o evacuation of bystanders;**
- o establishment of command post and chain of command;**
- o request for ambulance, rescue, or fire equipment;**
- o authorization for news media access, and news media policy;**
- o authorization for use of force and chemical agents;**
- o communication with the barricaded person; and**
- o interaction between ERT and hostage negotiation personnel and responsibilities of each.**

Comments: Guidelines for barricaded person situations need to be developed and tested prior to use in a real situation. Once in effect, they should be widely circulated and subject to annual review and modification. (O O O)

28.1.10 If the department has assigned officers to hostage negotiation duties, a written directive specifies criteria for selection of hostage negotiators.

*Comments: Hostage negotiators should be carefully screened and selected. Tactical criteria for selection should be identified.
(O O O)*

28.1.11 The department has a written plan for handling a bomb threat situation or bomb emergency.

Comments: The bomb threat situation or bomb emergency plan should include, (1) role of personnel in ascertaining details from the bomb threat caller; (2) notification of persons in the department chain of command; (3) establishment of a security perimeter; (4) organization of search teams; (5) search procedures; (6) equipment required by search teams; (7) if a suspected device is located, notification of bomb disposal personnel; (8) evacuation policy in schools and other buildings; (9) coordination with the fire department; (10) coordination with investigators or evidence specialists; (11) communications procedures during periods of radio silence; and (12) debriefing and documentation. (O O O)

28.1.12 The department has a written plan for assisting the security of VIPs, to include:

- o designation of a single person or position as supervisor and coordinator of any given security detail;**
- o equipment requirements, to include consideration of vehicles, body armour for VIPs and security officers, and weapons for officers;**
- o planning and reconnoitring travel routes and alternates;**
- o advance inspection of sites and facilities;**
- o arrangements for gathering intelligence information;**
- o coordination of operations within the department and with outside departments;**
- o identification of emergency first-aid, ambulance, and medical facilities;**
- o communications; and**
- o identification by designation (e.g., lapel pins).**

Comments: Generally provincial or federal police will be responsible for VIP security. The department directive should state the relationship and responsibilities of each party to avoid confusion and to act as guidance when such security is required in the department's jurisdiction. (O O O)

28.1.13 The department has a written plan for handling tactical events, to include:

- o use of tactical operations personnel, if any;**
- o designation of a single person or position as supervisor and coordinator for the coverage of a given event;**
- o written estimate of traffic, crowd-control, and crime problems expected for any given event;**
- o logistics requirements; and**
- o coordination inside and outside the department.**

Comments: The intent of the standard is to encourage the development of an overall plan setting out requirements, in turn, for specific planning and operation for each individual event. (O O M)