



ERIE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Written Directives

Number: **160.000**

Title: <u>Barricaded Suspect and Hostage Situations</u>		Pages: 6
Effective Date: 11/02/09	Review Date: 05/18/19	Amended Date: 05/18/18

POLICY:

CACP STANDARD 160.1

Barricaded suspects, including hostage takers, pose an extreme danger, not only to innocent citizens, but to the officers who seek to resolve the incident as well. Good judgment requires a tactical plan of operation be developed to resolve the situation. The principles of a controlled response based upon isolation, containment, evacuation and elimination of the threat through patient negotiation should be followed. Offensive actions against the subject are initiated as a last resort or in the defense of life. The key is to have a disciplined and controlled response by all.

DEFINITIONS:

BARRICADED SUSPECT SITUATIONS: Incidents defined as having the following elements:

1. A subject has committed, or is suspected of committing a criminal act, or is suicidal;
2. The subject is believed to be armed;
3. There is a potential threat to lives and safety;
4. The subject is secreted in a position of advantage; and
5. The subject refuses to submit to arrest or protective custody.

COMMAND POST (CP): The field location from which the Incident Commander directs and supervises an incident.

HOSTAGE SITUATIONS: Incidents in which a person or persons is held by a suspect against their will in order to have the suspect's demands met.

INCIDENT COMMANDER (IC): The officer, typically a supervisor, responsible for all aspects of an emergency response; including developing objectives, directing operations and allocation of resources.

PROCEDURES:

I. INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Isolation and containment of the barricaded subject or hostage taker should be completed as soon as practicable. This involves locating the subject and sealing off possible escape routes. The likelihood of success of the isolation and containment process is in direct proportion to locating the subject and the speed with which tactical deployment can be completed. The smaller the area isolated and contained, the greater the chance for apprehension.
- B. The isolated and adjacent areas should be evacuated whenever tactical conditions permit. The removal of uninvolved persons not only ensures their safety, but also facilitates subsequent

- police action. If a large number of persons need to be evacuated and some do not have a place to go, other arrangements should be made.
- C. The apprehension of the barricaded suspect is accomplished whenever possible. Concern for life generally precludes direct assault on subjects who have threatened to shoot or are holding hostages. However, if human life is threatened with lethal force, steps should be taken to eliminate the threat.
 - D. The department safety priorities are established as follows:
 - 1. Hostage(s)
 - 2. Any citizen(s)
 - 3. Police officer(s)
 - 4. Suspect(s)
 - E. In hostage situations, the following objectives, listed in order of importance, should govern all actions of the officers or supervisors on scene.
 - 1. Preserve life.
 - 2. Obtain freedom of the hostage(s).
 - 3. Apprehend suspect(s).
 - 4. Recover property.

CACP STANDARD 160.10

- F. The following is a list of non-negotiable items:
 - 1. Weapons, explosives, poisons, chemical weapons, or like items in trade for hostages or for any reason;
 - 2. Trading hostages for other persons;
 - 3. Release of criminals;
 - 4. Illegal drugs;
 - 5. Intoxicants; and
 - 6. Vehicles, unless the vehicle can be controlled by officers at the scene.

II. RESPONDING OFFICERS

- A. Members responding to a scene involving a barricaded subject should locate the subject as quickly as possible and secure the immediate area to prevent an escape.
- B. The first officer on the scene is Incident Commander (IC) until relieved by a supervisor or Officer-In-Charge and deploys the initial responding units. Variables influencing deployment include:
 - 1. The time of day;
 - 2. The location of the incident;
 - 3. The danger to innocent citizens;
 - 4. The weapon(s) in possession of the subject(s) or available to the subject(s);

5. The cover and concealment available;
 6. The stability of the situation; and
 7. The weapons or tools available to the officers.
- C. The IC should obtain a dedicated tactical frequency and keep Communications updated on the situation. In addition, if the IC is not a supervisor, the officer ensures a supervisor has been notified to respond to the scene.

CACP STANDARD 160.4

- D. The initial primary function of the officers deployed is to establish an inner perimeter to contain and prevent the subject(s) escape. These officers should be aware of the danger involved in this deployment and provide themselves with adequate cover and concealment as well as a path for withdrawal. The officers deploying should do so quietly without exposing themselves to the subject.
- E. Inner perimeter officers observe and report the actions of the subject(s) and conditions relevant to the mission to the IC. This information includes, but is not limited to, the following:
1. Nature of offense;
 2. Exact location of the incident and subject(s);
 3. Number and description of subject(s);
 4. Weapons involved;
 5. Number and descriptions of hostage(s);
 6. Potential avenues of escape; and
 7. Areas or streets hazardous to responding personnel.
- F. Officers on scene make every attempt not to agitate the situation, but allow the condition to stabilize. The inner perimeter group keeps unauthorized persons out of the immediate area. Upon arrival and deployment of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT), officers positioned on the inner perimeter may withdraw under the cover of the SWAT team. They shall report to the CP for debriefing and reassignment.
- G. Once the barricaded subject is isolated, time normally benefits the department. Officers initially responding should contain the scene and take no offensive action until the arrival of supervisory personnel, unless there is an imminent danger to life. This should not be construed to restrict officers from preventing the subject(s) escape or preventing the subject(s) from harming other persons.

CACP STANDARD 160.5 & 160.7

- H. If injured victims are present at the scene, the IC arranges for their aid and evacuation to a location of safety, if possible and safe to do.
- I. Emergency medical personnel are directed to stage at a designated location of safety away from the immediate scene. Officers on scene evacuate the injured to this location under the protection of those officers deployed on the inner perimeter.

III. FIELD SUPERVISOR DUTIES

- A. The supervisor notified responds to the scene immediately.
- B. Upon arrival, the supervisor does the following:
 - 1. Obtains a situation status report from the officer in-charge.
 - 2. Assumes Command of the scene and announces same to Communications and incident personnel.
CACP STANDARD 160.6
 - 3. Establishes a temporary CP and advises Communications of its location.
 - 4. Evaluates the action taken and determines if additional personnel or resources are needed.
 - 5. Ensures the inner perimeter is established and the subject(s) are contained.
CACP STANDARD 160.2 & 150.3
 - 6. Whenever appropriate, attempts reasonable efforts to persuade the subject(s) to surrender. If the subject(s) fails to comply, initiates a call out of the SWAT and Crisis Negotiations teams.
 - 7. Arranges to clear the area of bystanders and innocent civilians including adjoining buildings, houses or apartments. Necessity, urgency, and safety factors are to be considered. Ensures witnesses and victims are identified and debriefed prior to leaving the area.
CACP STANDARD 160.4
 - 8. Establishes an outer perimeter. The outer perimeter function is to establish traffic control and prevent unauthorized persons and vehicles from entering and leaving the area. The outer perimeter group establishes routes of access and egress for emergency equipment. All citizens are courteously diverted from the area.
CACP STANDARD 160.3
 - 9. Notifies the Staff Duty Officer (SDO) of the situation and requests a Command Staff Officer to respond to the Command Post to take over Incident Command. If the Chief of Police is not the SDO, the Commander or Deputy Chief will notify the Chief of Police.

IV. INCIDENT COMMANDER DUTIES

- A. The IC supervises the overall incident.
- B. Upon arrival, the IC obtains a situation status report from the Field Supervisor, assesses the situation and takes command of the scene. The change in command is announced to incident personnel.
CACP STANDARD 160.6
- C. The IC establishes a permanent CP. The CP should be situated in such a manner to afford maximum protection from the subject. Persons responding to the CP should be able to do so

without crossing under the subject's observation. The location chosen for the CP should provide adequate facilities to include:

1. Utilities (electricity, telephones, etc.);
2. Rest rooms;
3. Parking; and
4. Staging area.

D. The IC directs Communications to notify the following to respond to the CP, or other location as appropriate.

1. The SWAT team, if not already en route or in place;
2. Emergency medical services; and
3. The fire department, if there appears to be a need.

CACP STANDARD 160.3 & 160.13

E. The IC initiates the call-out of additional personnel and resources as needed including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Command Staff Officers;
2. Other specialized function personnel, e.g., K-9 officers, SRO's;
3. Other off-duty personnel, commissioned and non-commissioned;
4. Detectives;
5. Longmont Emergency Unit (LEU) or Boulder Emergency Unit (traffic control);
6. Street department (traffic control barricades);
7. Outside law enforcement agencies (mutual aid); and
8. Chase/Surveillance Vehicle.

V. SWAT TEAM AND NEGOTIATIONS

CACP STANDARD 160.9

A. The IC authorizes the use of force and chemical agents prior to their usage. This does not preclude the immediate use of force against a subject in the defense of one's own life or the life of another or to prevent an escape of the suspect if the situation dictates.

B. The SWAT team Commander exercises control over the deployment of tactical unit members and offensive operations launched against the subject once the IC approves such operations.

CACP STANDARD 160.12 & 150.3

C. Initially, the SWAT team deploys to contain the subject in a stabilized environment to allow the Crisis Negotiations Team to negotiate a resolution to the crisis. They may also be called upon to conduct evacuations of civilians, including injured persons, in areas of immediate danger.

CACP STANDARD 160.11 & 160.12

D. The Crisis Negotiations Team Coordinator assumes control over the negotiations process. The Crisis Negotiations Team assumes control of communications with the barricaded subject(s) and provides the necessary equipment to establish and maintain such communications.

VI. NEWS MEDIA

CACP STANDARD 160.8

The release of information and media access is conducted in accordance with the department's written directive 210.004 (News Media and Release of Information).

VII. POST INCIDENT

At the conclusion of the incident, the IC ensures the following are accomplished:

1. Officers are assigned to complete the criminal investigation(s) which may require turning the investigation(s) over to Detectives.
2. Evacuees are advised when they can return to their homes, offices, etc.
3. Officers speak to area residents to allay any fears or concerns they may have as well as to make appropriate responses to questions they may have.
4. Ensure the CP staging areas, etc. is cleaned up.
5. A debriefing of the incident is conducted.

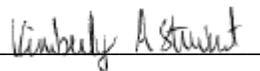
RULES:

NONE

REFERENCES:

Erie Police Department Standards of Procedure #108

Lamar Police Department Policy and Procedure sections 1900 and 1910



Kimberly A. Stewart
Chief of Police