


TEXARKANA POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDERS MANUAL

SUBJECT	Hostage Situations, Barricaded Suspects and Armed Suicidal Persons		
NUMBER	1102.23	EFFECTIVE DATE	February 15, 2011
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APPROVED BY		ALEAP Standards	8.01

I. Purpose and Scope

- A. The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures and guidelines for handling hostage situations, barricaded suspects and armed suicidal persons.

II. Policy

- A. Due to a wide range of factors, the Texarkana Police Department recognizes police action in response to hostage situations, barricaded suspects and armed suicidal persons will vary significantly. Issues such as the suspect's aggressiveness, mental and emotional state and criminal background must always be considered when developing an appropriate response to incidents such as these. Generally, barricaded and suicidal persons will resist forceful actions on the part of police personnel. For this reason, it shall be the policy of the Texarkana Police Department to abstain from instituting an immediate response plan based upon offensive law enforcement tactics during these types of incidents if possible.
- B. It shall be the policy of the Texarkana Police Department to attempt to avoid confrontation with hostile barricaded suspects, armed suicidal persons or those who are holding hostages. Instead, the Agency shall practice a policy that remains in favor of controlling and containing the situation until the arrival of personnel from the SWAT Team and/or the Hostage Negotiations Team.
- C. This policy cannot address every situation and every circumstance encountered at such incidents; therefore, this policy does not negate the possibility of the initial responding officer(s) or their supervisor(s) from establishing a line of communication with the suspect should it become necessary and deemed appropriate, nor does the policy negate these officers from taking forceful action prior to the SWAT Team's response should the incident escalate to the level that necessitates immediate action in order to protect others from injury or the loss of life.
- D. All members of the Department shall recognize and adhere to the guidelines set forth within this policy.

III. Procedures ALEAP 8.01

- A. When encountered with an incident involving a barricaded suspect, an armed person threatening suicide or a hostage situation, the initial responding officer(s) are responsible for the following actions:

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1. The initial officer(s) shall assess the situation, call for additional backup, request medical assistance as deemed necessary and rendering first aid to those who have been injured.
 2. The initial officer(s) shall establish an inner perimeter located a safe distance from the suspect's location. All non law enforcement personnel shall be excluded from entry into the area.
 - a. The initial officer shall direct additional responding officers to assume positions on the perimeter. The perimeter should be constructed in a manner that denies entry by those who are unauthorized and serves as a method to block the suspect's escape. Additional officers will be utilized to establish an outer perimeter as well.
 3. The initial officer shall ensure Central Communications and his/her on-duty patrol supervisor is aware of the situation. The squad supervisor shall respond to the scene as soon as possible.
 4. If necessary and appropriate, the evacuation of persons and bystanders within the area should take place as soon as practical. Care should be taken to ensure the evacuation routes do not expose those evacuated to offensive action by either the suspect or the officers at the scene.
 5. The initial responding officer(s) should identify and isolate—in a safe location—all witnesses and/or other persons with knowledge about the identity of the barricaded person, hostages or information unique to the circumstances presented.
 6. The initial responding officer shall remain in charge of the scene until relieved by higher authority.
- B. The on-duty Patrol Division supervisor shall be responsible for the following actions:
1. The on-duty Patrol Division supervisor shall respond to the scene as soon as possible and establish command of the situation according to the guidelines set forth with [General Order 1102.31---Incident Command System](#). The initial responding supervisor shall remain the Police Incident Commander until relieved by higher authority.
 2. The Police Incident Commander will ensure the appropriate personnel—both within and outside the Texarkana Police Department—are notified as soon as practical.
 3. The Police Incident Commander will establish a command post in a safe area outside of the suspect's sight to ensure that both the inner and outer perimeters have been established. Containment of the suspect and the denial of entry into the affected area by unauthorized persons are crucial. The Police Incident Commander will direct the operation from the command post.
 - a. A minimum of one (1) uniformed officer will be assigned to maintain security of the command post.
 4. All support personnel—including members from other law enforcement agencies, fire department, EMS personnel and private sector entities—will be directed to the command post. The Police Incident Commander will coordinate the response of such personnel with the Communications Center and ensure appropriate staging areas for these personnel—as well as an area for injured personnel—have been established.
 5. The Police Incident Commander shall evaluate the situation, and if in his/her opinion, the Texarkana SWAT Team and/or the Hostage Negotiation Teams are required, he/she shall request a recall of these personnel through the Communications Center.
 - a. The notification and recall of these personnel will be conducted in accordance with the provisions within [General Order 1102.31---Incident Command System](#) that define this process.

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6. The Police Incident Commander shall ensure the Uniform Patrol Division Commander and the Chief of Police are notified of the situation. The Chief of Police, or his designee, may designate other command staff members who should be contacted.
7. Communications with other agencies may be conducted utilizing the shared radio system that allows the Department to interoperate with other agencies. Should the other agency not have the capability to monitor the shared system, the Department will—if possible—assist with providing additional portable radio equipment. For more information surrounding radio communications, refer to [General Order 1109.03---Radio Communications](#).
8. The Police Incident Commander shall coordinate with other command elements of the incident and shall ensure a comprehensive and detailed After Action Report is completed at the conclusion of the incident. All such reports should include a critique of all elements of the operation.

IV. Hostage Negotiation Function

- A. All hostage negotiation efforts will be managed and directed by the Hostage Negotiation Teams (HNT) who will communicate with the suspect(s) in a direct effort to mitigate and defuse the situation by arranging for the release of the hostages and/or the suspect's surrender without injury.
- B. Once the SWAT Team Commander determines all attempts in obtaining a negotiated release or surrender have failed and additional efforts appear fruitless, he/she will decide on the next course of action. Once the SWAT Operation begins, the Commander of the SWAT Team shall assume and maintain operational command of the incident. All authorization for increases in the use of force, chemical agents and less lethal devices shall originate from the Commander of the SWAT Team.
- C. Items that may be considered during the negotiation process may include the provision of food, drinks, cigarettes, prescribed medication or other similar items of comfort. **It shall never be a permissible option for the provision of weapons, ammunition and the exchange of a hostage for another person to become the product of any Texarkana Police Department negotiation.**

V. Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Function

- A. The Police Incident Commander—or a CID supervisor—shall be responsible to determine the number of detectives needed to assist with the on-scene and post incident investigation.
- B. The detectives assigned to the incident shall be responsible to gather intelligence, interview witnesses, process the crime scene(s) and prepare case files for the future prosecution of those persons arrested. As the SWAT Teams tactical plan changes, CID personnel should remain responsive to assist the SWAT Team Commander with additional manpower, vehicles and/or surveillance equipment.
- C. With the exception of those detectives assigned to the SWAT Team, all CID personnel will operate under the command of the CID Commander—or his designee—who will report to the Police Incident Commander until the incident has concluded.

VI. Media Access

- A. The Texarkana Police Department's PIO should be called to the scene of all incidents governed by this policy. The decision for the PIO's response shall originate with the Police Incident Commander. Once at the scene, the PIO will establish a media staging area and conduct all media management and related activity in accordance with [General Orders 1102.15---Public Information and Media Relations](#) and [1102.31---Incident Command System](#).

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- B. The PIO shall be under the command and direction of the Police Incident Commander for the duration of the incident. Other Department personnel involved in the incident will refer all media inquiries to the Department's PIO.

- C. Those media representatives who have been verified will be permitted to enter into the outer perimeter area and assemble at the media's staging area. All media representatives will be prohibited from entering the inner perimeter area without the approval of the Police Incident Commander and the SWAT Team Commander, and should such entry be authorized, a member of the Texarkana Police Department will escort them throughout all areas of the inner perimeter.

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