

	Operational General Order	13.03 Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team	ORIGINATOR/REVIEW Special Operations
	SUBJECT <b>Virginia Beach Police Department General Order</b> Chapter 13 - Unusual Occurrences and Special Events		DISTRIBUTION ALL
	CALEA: 33.6.2, 46.1.8, 46.2.1, 46.2.3,		
BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE POLICE CHIEF: PWN			

**Definitions:**

High-risk warrant service - any search or arrest warrant where armed resistance is likely to be encountered during the execution of such warrants or where the service of such warrants may require the use of specialized equipment not available to other officers.

High-risk stakeouts – surveillance for any crime of violence where the suspects are known or suspected of being armed and where the use of specialized equipment not available to other officers may be required.

**Purpose:**

To establish a policy for the utilization of the SWAT Team in situations other than those specified in the Hostage/Barricade policy.

**Policy (CALEA 46.2.1 A,B,E:)**

The SWAT Team shall be utilized where the possibility of a life-threatening situation or an armed encounter is likely. The SWAT Team shall be used for incidents involving high-risk warrant service and stakeouts as well as hostage barricade situations. The SWAT Consultation Threat Assessment form and the Search Warrant Check Sheet (PD58) should be used as a guide by supervisors to methodically review an event or planned action to determine if it may benefit from the inclusion of tactical resources to assist in managing the event with an enhanced level of safety.

For details regarding the responsibilities of first responders to potential SWAT situations and the SWAT response to these situations refer to Virginia Beach Police Department field guides. (Hostage/Barricade and Raid Operations)

**Operational Support Role**

During times when the SWAT team is not training or deployed on assignments, the team will support the Police Department mission as determined by the Commanding Officer of Special Operations. These activities may include but are not limited to: supplemental staffing of precincts, vulnerability assessments for critical resources, warrant task force operations, extraditions, Academy training (both recruit and in service), and traffic operations.

## **Requesting SWAT Assistance**

SWAT Team assistance may be requested via any supervisory member to an ongoing or planned incident. All requests will be made to the SWAT Team Commander and approved by the Special Operations Commander or his designee. SWAT Team responses will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of General Order 13.01 (NIMS / ICS). Incident commanders requesting SWAT Team assistance will turn control of the tactical aspects of operations over to the SWAT Team Commander at the time of arrival, and will support operations as necessary.

## **SWAT Command and Control**

The SWAT Team Commander may establish a Command Post while the event is on going. This will be at his discretion depending on the nature of the circumstances. The Team Leaders may secure a separate radio channel if needed. In any event where the SWAT Team is utilized, the Team Leaders will finalize an operational plan, brief all officers involved and supervise the incident. All officers involved in the event will debrief at the conclusion. Unusual events, problems encountered and training issues will be discussed. The SWAT Team Leader will write an after-action report including all pertinent information, operational plans and outcomes. This will be forwarded to the Commanding Officer of Special Operations for review.

## **Training (CALEA 33.6.2)**

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team is under the command and responsibility of Special Operations. All SWAT Team members shall have specialized training in areas that include, less-lethal weapon systems, high risk building searches, tactical breaching, crowd management, rapid deployment, sniper/counter-sniper operations, high-risk vehicle take-downs, bus and airplane interdiction, specialized weapon systems, hostage rescue and barricaded suspects.

The SWAT team will conduct operational training exercises at least monthly for the purpose of maintaining skills necessary to respond to tactically demanding incidents. All specialized training, weapons qualifications, and operational exercises will be planned and documented in accordance with General Order 3.05, Specialized Training. Commanding Officer of Professional Development and Training shall be responsible for documenting the training conducted by or attended by the team.

## **Equipment (CALEA 46.2.3, 46.1.8)**

SWAT Team members shall be issued protective gear and specialized weapons for their use in SWAT operations. The Commanding Officer of Special Operations shall be responsible for maintaining an accurate inventory of such equipment and shall conduct line inspections to ensure operational readiness in accordance with General Order 1.08 (Inspectional Services). The inspection will be at least quarterly.