
	SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL	POLICY #47.1.1
EFFECTIVE DATE 4-12-23	 Andrew Shearer, Chief of Police	ACCREDITATION REFERENCE 2.1.6

SWAT and CNT

47.1.1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Policy sets forth the protocols for utilization of SWAT and CNT resources, prescribes when the use of the units is mandatory, establishes a clear chain of command during activations, and defines individual responsibilities.

47.1.1.2 POLICY

In accordance with the Police Department's mission, members will make every effort to ensure the safety of everyone involved in an incident while attempting to de-escalate and resolve critical incidents. The Department recognizes that some incidents require the support of specially trained incident commanders as well as tactical and negotiating teams to increase the ability to safely resolve these situations.

47.1.1.3 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Activation Tiers - There are three progressive tiers of activation:

- (a) *Unit Assistance*: Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) and Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) members used to assist during incidents short of larger activations. Such assistance is limited to members utilizing equipment that is available to SWAT and CNT, and are not available for patrol operations (e.g., specialized weapons, electronics, robots, armored vehicles, etc.), and where SWAT and CNT do not provide supervisory oversight of the incident. On-duty assistance is not a substitute for a limited deployment or full activation. The Critical Incident Commander (CIC) is not required to respond for this level of activation.
- (b) *Limited Deployment*: A tactical response authorized by the CIC that includes SWAT only, CNT only, or a partial response by either or both units utilizing tools or tactics available to the CIC.
- (c) *Full Activation*: Receiving an order to report for duty. SWAT and CNT members will report to the requested location, prepare for deployment, and respond to mission requests at the direction of the On-Scene Incident Commander, CIC, or On-Scene Incident Commander until arrival and transfer of command to the CIC.

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Appropriate Initiative - The authority delegated to SWAT and CNT, unless specifically suspended during a call, to safely resolve an incident before they are able to request and receive permission from the CIC (i.e., “window of opportunity”).

Command Post - Any location, fixed or mobile, designated by the On-Scene Incident Commander or CIC from where operations are directed.

Critical Incident Commander (CIC) - SWAT Team Commander or specially trained designee who responds to all SWAT and CNT activations (other than unit assistance), high-risk warrants, and any other event designated by the Chief of Police or designee. The CIC has the authority and responsibility for all police actions related to the incident and reports to the Deputy Chief of Police during emergency activations.

On-Scene Incident Commander - The highest-ranking sworn Police Department member who assumes command at the scene of an incident prior to the CIC assuming command.

Police Action - Any circumstance, on or off duty, in which a sworn member exercises or attempts to exercise police authority.

Special Weapons - Any weapons provided or approved by the Department and authorized to be used only by trained SWAT members in a police action.

47.1.1.4 SWAT AND CNT ACTIVATIONS

SWAT and CNT Assistance: SWAT and CNT serve to provide tactical support to the Police Department. After reasonable efforts have been undertaken to resolve an incident, Department members may request SWAT and CNT assistance to de-escalate an escalating situation, devise and implement re-engagement plans, or to otherwise resolve the situation with tools and resources not available to those already on scene.

47.1.1.5 MANDATORY ACTIVATION SITUATIONS

In all situations described below, SWAT and CNT activation procedures shall be implemented after the On-Scene Incident Commander has gathered sufficient information to believe with a reasonable degree of certainty that one of the listed situations exists.

- (a) **Active Violence Incident:** An incident involving an armed person(s) who has the ability and intent to use or has used deadly force on other persons and continues to do so while having unrestricted access to additional victims. These incidents include circumstances under which the threat of deadly force may include but are not limited to a suspect’s use of knives, firearms, vehicles, and/or explosive devices.
- (b) **High-Risk Search/Arrest warrant:** Where there is a potential threat sufficient to require SWAT and CNT to execute the warrant. Requests for SWAT to execute warrants will be forwarded through the chain of command. All SWAT warrant plans require prior CIC approval and command during service. At the conclusion of the warrant service, SWAT will attach and forward the original

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assessment/planning forms along with their After-Action Report to the Chief of Police's Office.

- (c) Hostage Situation: An incident involving a person being held by a suspect who is reasonably believed to be armed, as a means of forcing compliance with some demand.
- (d) Sniper Situation: A person, usually concealed, shooting or threatening to shoot at other people.

47.1.1.6 DISCRETIONAL ACTIVATION SITUATIONS

In all situations described below, activation procedures may be implemented for SWAT and CNT, if Department members have undertaken reasonable efforts to resolve an incident and members are uncertain regarding the advisability of disengagement from the incident. Department members may consult with SWAT, CNT and CIC to determine a course of action. If the CIC deems activation is appropriate, they will initiate the proper activation tier.

- (a) Barricaded Person: SWAT and CNT response is required in cases where patrol or other units have exhausted reasonable efforts to resolve a barricade incident where a person uses an obstruction (e.g., building, car, etc.) to accomplish a criminal goal such as avoiding capture, and a determination is made that the totality of circumstances do not support disengagement from the incident.
- (b) Area Search for an Armed Individual: SWAT and CNT activation is required to support or assist patrol during incidents where a search is necessary for an armed individual(s) who has fled or is hiding from members in a respective area. Involved supervisors must evaluate whether effective containment of the suspect has likely been achieved within a suitable geographic area in order to conduct an area search. In cases where supervisors conclude that effective containment of the suspect is achieved, supervisors shall activate SWAT and CNT to conduct the area search.
- (c) Any other requests or circumstances approved by the CIC.

An On-Scene Incident Commander may contact and consult with the CIC at any point during the incident.

47.1.1.7 RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Operations Division: The Operations Division has full responsibility for the Department's initial response to a field tactical situation. However, when SWAT and/or CNT are called to a tactical operation, they shall be under the direct command of a CIC or in absence of a CIC the On-Scene Incident Commander.
 - 1. The CIC shall inform the Deputy Chief, or designee, of all full deployments and the service of high-risk warrants as soon as it is practical to do so. The Deputy Chief may respond to the scene and assume command of full deployments and high-risk warrant services in the event that no CICs are available.
- (b) On-Scene Incident Commander: The On-Scene Incident Commander has the authority and

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responsibility for all police actions during the incident unless, or until, relieved by the CIC.

- (c) Critical Incident Commander: Responds to all emergency SWAT and CNT activations and warrants. The CIC may respond to limited deployments, as needed. The CIC has the authority and responsibility for all police actions during an incident once they assume command from the On-Scene Incident Commander.
- (d) In the event all CICs are unavailable, the Deputy Chief may be responsible for responding to and managing SWAT/CNT activations and warrants. The Deputy Chief may respond to limited deployments, as needed. In the event the Deputy Chief is unavailable, a properly trained Sergeant may assume the CIC role.
- (e) If it is determined that SWAT/CNT are needed, that information shall be relayed to a supervisor (i.e., a member at the rank of sergeant or above) who can initiate an activation and immediately report to the scene, if not already present.
- (f) SWAT, CNT, and CIC activation procedures shall be implemented by dispatch upon the order of a supervisor.
- (g) The tactical functions, which shall be accomplished by the CIC, include:
 - 1. Assessment of the situation
 - a) Assume command and communicate.
 - b) Ensure adequate and appropriate resources are on-scene or en-route.
 - c) Prioritize the objectives (life/safety, containment needs, end state, etc.).
 - d) Legal standing.
 - 2. Development of the plan
 - a) The plan and subsequent supporting missions are based on the above assessment. Continually re-evaluate as the call progresses.
 - b) Create a command post that includes SWAT, CNT, and other relevant resources based on the event.
 - c) Consult with SWAT, CNT, and Patrol when time allows.
 - d) Communication: Ensure that SWAT, CNT, and Patrol all have the same situational awareness.
 - 3. Execution of the mission
 - a) Communicate clear and specific missions to each resource.
 - b) Clearly communicate the CIC's intent throughout the incident.
 - c) Communicate the results of each mission to maintain the same situational awareness by SWAT, CNT, and Patrol.
 - 4. Support
 - a) Displaced community members
 - b) Relief of members
 - c) Medical
 - d) Fire
 - e) Public Information Officer (PIO): Coordinate media message and/or community notification.

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- f) Post-incident coordination.
- (h) SWAT and CNT may be canceled only by the On-Scene Incident Commander or the CIC.
- (i) The CIC (regardless of rank) has the authority and responsibility to direct all Department resources towards the situationally appropriate resolution of an incident and reports only to the Deputy Chief or Chief during activations. When time and circumstances permit, the CIC will consult with SWAT about tactics, with CNT about negotiations, and with Patrol about resources. The CIC shall determine the objectives and approve the missions to meet those objectives of the operation, while the team leaders of each unit shall develop the specific tactics or strategies to effectively execute the missions. However, the CIC is ultimately responsible for the approval of tactics, negotiations, and the allocation of resources. The CIC will direct SWAT, CNT and Patrol resources. The CIC may, at any time, direct or stand down, tactical, negotiation, or patrol responses. SWAT and CNT shall not take action independent from the CIC direction, except when a member reasonably believes that an immediate threat of death or serious physical injury exists or as part of being delegated Appropriate Initiative.
- (j) Appropriate Initiative must meet the standard of having a high likelihood of success. This clearance to act should be used in limited circumstances. SWAT and CNT must understand the CIC's intent. Members taking action under appropriate initiative must immediately communicate whether the action was successful. Appropriate Initiative is not a substitute for requesting permission for action when time allows. SWAT and CNT supervisors and members assume responsibility for actions taken in the exercise of Appropriate Initiative.

47.1.1.8 OUTSIDE AGENCY COVERAGE

Generally, outside agency tactical and negotiation teams are authorized to provide coverage when SWAT and CNT are unavailable. In these situations, an SPD CIC will respond and command the incident.

- (a) In these circumstances, members should be aware that the conduct of the outside agency's officers is subject to their respective policies and procedures.

47.1.1.9 OUTSIDE AGENCY REQUESTS

Outside agency requests for unit assistance of SWAT and/or CNT services require SWAT or CNT sergeant approval unless exigent circumstances exist then approval may be granted by a watch commander.

- (a) Limited deployments and full activations outside the city limits must receive approval from a CIC.
- (b) Requests for SWAT and/or CNT assistance outside Lane County must receive the approval of the Deputy Chief of Police or designee.
- (c) All such requests for full team SWAT and CNT services that are approved require a CIC to respond.

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- (d) The CIC will work with the agency lead assigned to command the incident and ensure that full team SWAT and CNT resources are properly and safely utilized.

47.1.1.10 SPECIAL WEAPONS USE

SWAT shall be responsible for developing and conducting annual special weapons qualification courses and for establishing qualification and familiarization standards.

The use of special weapons is restricted to SWAT members who have successfully completed the special weapons qualification course within the last twelve months.

The Training Sergeant shall be responsible for maintaining complete training records of participating SWAT members.

The SWAT team leader shall decide when special weapons shall be deployed by SWAT members in an emergency police action.