

# Medina Police Department

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| Subject: <b>Barricaded Persons / Sniper Attacks</b> |                                 | Policy Number: <b>2290</b>    | <b>Barricaded Persons<br/>2290</b> |
| Reference: <b>Procedures and Directive</b>          |                                 | Pages: <b>3</b>               |                                    |
| Personnel: <b>Sworn Personnel</b>                   |                                 |                               |                                    |
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## **2290.1 - OBJECTIVES**

- A. The objectives of this department in dealing with these situations are to:
1. Secure safe release of hostages (when involved);
  2. Minimize risk to uninvolved people and police personnel;
  3. Apprehend perpetrator(s) with the least possible use of force;
  4. Secure available evidence to assist in the appropriate disposition of the perpetrator(s).

## **2290.2 - GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- A. The following procedure is presented as a guideline which personnel should use when initially confronted with a confirmed barricaded person, sniper, or hostage situation. It is based on the premise that safety is paramount and the application of force is to be considered as the last alternative within a range of reasonable resolutions.
- B. It is impossible to set forth the exact procedures personnel should follow in every situation. It is, however, expected that they will exercise their best judgment in applying these guidelines to specific cases. It is possible that a given situation may not require the implementation of all the provisions which follow.

## **2290.3 -DEFINITIONS**

- A. A Hostage Situation is one in which one or more persons take and unlawfully hold other persons against their will with the use or threat of use of force. The perpetrator (s) may subsequently make demands to secure freedom or other items using the hostage(s) as a bargaining tool. Generally, the location of the hostage(s) and perpetrator(s) will be known (contrasted with a kidnap situation).
- B. A Barricaded Person/Sniper Situation is one in which one or more persons take refuge at a location and either use or threaten to use force to repel attempts to apprehend them. The person may subsequently make demands to secure freedom or other items. Generally, this situation differs from a hostage situation only in that a hostage has not been taken.

- C. A Temporary Mobilization Point is some location strategically located, but isolated from direct contact with the actual situation. It will be used as a temporary base of operations for the field commander in deploying personnel, setting up communications and, generally, managing the situation. Changing conditions or discovery of better facilities may cause a change of location. A protracted situation may require establishment of a more permanent command post with more complete facilities and amenities.

#### **2290.4 - ACTIONS OF FIRST RESPONSE OFFICERS**

- A. Officers subjected to an attack should make personal safety their primary consideration. If not injured or incapacitated, they should remove themselves (and vehicles) from the immediate vicinity and take cover where they can observe the scene, utilizing vehicles, buildings, trees, etc.
- B. The officer should then contact and inform the dispatcher of the incident, giving the exact location of the incident, as well as his/her position. They should request a tactical channel for this incident.
- C. The individual officer should not attempt to apprehend the perpetrator unless circumstances indicate apprehension can reasonably be made.
- D. All non-uniform personnel shall advise the dispatcher when responding to the scene and will report to the mobilization area for assignment.
- E. Officers' actions should be directed toward sealing off the area from pedestrian and vehicular traffic and containment by establishment of an inner perimeter until relieved by emergency response team personnel, or the operations commander, or responsible command officer.
- F. Officers should attempt to obtain as much intelligence information as possible; i.e., identity and description (physical and clothing) of perpetrator(s) and hostages (where involved), location, evolution of the incident, possible communication, and physical access to the location.
- G. Officers should attempt to hold (for a thorough debriefing by the hostage negotiation team or other investigators) anyone with firsthand knowledge about the persons involved, location, or situation.

#### **2290.5 - ACTIONS OF THE OFFICER IN CHARGE**

- A. The incident manager should respond to and assume control of the scene of the incident.
- B. The incident manager should establish a secure inner (emergency response team personnel) perimeter and a secure outer (patrol personnel) perimeter.
- C. The incident manager should designate some person to keep a log of all transactions.
- D. The incident manager should quickly establish a temporary mobilization point.

E. The incident manager shall provide overall command control and coordination of efforts by patrol and other support personnel including the hostage negotiation team and emergency response team in the absence of their supervisor.

#### **2290.6 – HOSTAGE NEGOTIATION TEAM**

Actions of the hostage negotiation team will be in accordance with their training and current negotiation techniques.

#### **2290.7 – ACTIONS OF OTHERS**

Actions of other departmental personnel and personnel from other jurisdictions not previously mentioned will be governed by the direction given them by the officer in charge.

#### **2290.8 – DEBRIEFING**

A thorough debriefing and clinical study will be performed after any incident is completed. The evaluation will be conducted in a positive way so as to elicit the maximum benefit.